



MAIN ENTRANCE
of the High Commission.

The Canadians lost no time transforming the internal spaces from their original exclusive sacred role to more pragmatic and diplomatic uses. With the passing of time the Canadians and their guests have all surmised that the persistence of the original architecture only lends to the austere beauty and function of the Chancellery. The ambience of an exhibition of Canadian products in 1999 jostled playfully with the affluent show of stained casement windows, once the source of light to the very Chapel.

Understandably major internal remodeling has taken place, and later external additions show that effort has been made to retain and maintain the former glory of the original elevations. The restored Convent structures have been acknowledged by the surviving Sisters of Mercy as 'heartwarming ...to see how beautifully well preserved and enhanced have been both the buildings and the grounds.' The High Commission has also caught the eyes of the Heritage and Preservation agencies and in 2002, through UNESCO and the Center for Architectural Heritage, Research and Documentation (CAHRD) of the University of Guyana the Canadians were awarded the prestigious '*Aubrey Barker Award*' for their contribution to the preservation of a fine example of Guyanese architecture. They share this annual award with the Brazilian Embassy.

William Harris,
Architect.