



Acknowledgements

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WHAT IS HERITAGE MONTREAL?

Since 1975, Heritage Montreal has worked to promote and to protect the architectural, historic, natural and cultural heritage of Greater Montreal, its neighbourhoods and communities. This private non-profit organization is at the heart of an extensive network of partners, working through education and representation to celebrate, develop and preserve Montreal's identity and uniqueness.

Heritage Montreal pursues its role as an informed, non-partisan and independent actor.



1. ArchitecTours Guided Tours



2. International Day for Monuments and Sites

WHAT DO WE DO?

Heritage Montreal works through education and representation, with both the general public and the actors who are directly and indirectly responsible for protecting and enhancing heritage—including institutions, public agencies, owners and property managers.

Advocacy

Influencing the decisions of the various responsible agencies on the basis of the authority the organization enjoys due to its expertise in heritage issues.

Acting as a catalyst within the milieu to encourage coherent interventions and to maximize the possibility of tangible and sustainable results.

Education

Sensitizing and educating residents to increase their sense of responsibility and to improve the quality of their actions.

Websites

Heritage Montreal
Montreal InSites
H-MTL Platform



WHAT IS HERITAGE?

According to Conseil du patrimoine de Montréal

Heritage refers to any object or ensemble, natural or cultural, tangible or intangible, that a community values for its historical significance and memory by highlighting the need to protect, conserve, appropriate, enhance or transmit it.

According to Heritage Montreal

Types of heritage

Heritage Montreal is interested primarily in the type of heritage that can be described and located on a map.

While Heritage Montreal focuses its efforts on built heritage, there are five facets to Montreal's built heritage of concern to the organization:

- Sites of commemorative interest (places or buildings associated with historical people or events, place names)
- Sites of archeological interest (sites or vestiges, buried or not, related to stages in Montreal's history)
- Sites of architectural interest (buildings that are exceptional in some way or typical of periods, works of civil engineering, public works of art, landscape architecture)
- Sites of landscape interest (urban views and landmarks, the river, the mountain, topography, street trees, major parks, the canal, architectural characteristics of the neighbourhoods)
- Sites of ecological interest (sites identified in terms of natural science, hydrology (water), geological evidence, forest ecosystems, migratory stopovers)



WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD?

The Oxford Dictionary defines neighbourhood as: "A district or community within a town or city; the area surrounding a particular place, person, or object; neighbourly feeling or conduct." While a particular neighbourhood may be defined by its geography, it is also true that a neighbourhood can be defined by a sense of belonging by the people who live there. How do buildings, streets, parks and trees make a place a neighbourhood? Sometimes the built environment is distinctive – when walking down a street the architecture of the buildings is unmistakably specific to that part of the city. Sometimes it is how the buildings sit on the street – tight together with front doors giving onto the sidewalk, for example; sometimes it is because of a building or public space that is the focal point of a neighbourhood – a church, a dépanneur, a small park with a fountain in the middle.

We want students to look around them where they live, and to learn to look at a neighbourhood of the city. Why was a building built? Who designed it and who owned it? What was it built of – stone or brick or metal and glass? Is the building still used as it was first built – perhaps it was a home but is now used as offices.

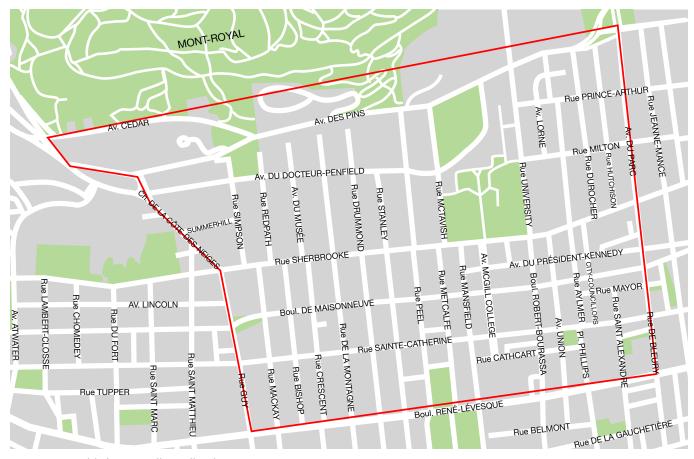
The Square Mile was a neighbourhood made up mostly of opulent houses – it is still a neighbourhood but of a different character as those houses now serve another purpose. How we care for this neighbourhood is the focus of this pedagogical module. We encourage teachers to consult <u>Understanding a Neighbourhood</u> – <u>Activities: a document for students and teachers</u> for a series of activities designed to raise students' awareness of Montreal's neighbourhoods and their urban heritage.

THE SQUARE MILE STORY



3. Plan of the city of Montreal, Plunkett & Brady, 1873





4. 2018 map with Square Mile outlined

The Square Mile sloped from the flanks of Mount Royal down to Dorchester (now René-Lévesque) Boulevard and stretched from Park Avenue / Bleury Street in the east to Côte-des-Neiges / Guy Street in the west. The name 'Square Mile' – perhaps an echo of the Square Mile, the financial area of London also known as the City - was probably not used until the 1930s. Journalists in the 1950s added 'Golden' to the name, but it would not have been used by the people who lived there at the turn of the 20th century.

1830-1880



5. Montreal from the Mountain, 1839-1842

In the 18th and early 19th century, market gardens and orchards flourished on the south-facing slopes of Mount Royal on large plots of land bought by fur traders like Desrivières from the Sulpicians, seigneurs of the island of Montreal since 1663. The Sulpicians farmed land on the extensive Domaine des Sulpiciens to the west of the Square Mile.



McGill University opened in 1828, in what had been fur trader and businessman James McGill's country house Burnside, a bequest specifically for that purpose. The first building on the former farmland was the Arts Building, completed in 1843. But the neighbourhood was still resolutely rural in character with no more than a sprinkling of houses until the 1850s.

6. Gates to McGill University, 1869



7. Sir Hugh Montague Allan's house, "Ravenscrag", 1902

The first houses were truly villas in the country. Newly affluent merchants – most of them Scots – left the densely-built, industrialised area of the formerly walled city (now the site patrimonial Old Montreal), and sought out the healthier climate of the mountain slopes. Sir Hugh Allan, who had amassed a significant fortune in shipping, built Ravenscrag in 1863.



8. Duncan McIntyre house, about 1880

On the southern edge of the Square Mile, the semidetached Shaughnessy House was built for Messrs. Brown and McIntyre in 1874.



Christ Church Cathedral was the one of first churches to be built in the area on Sainte-Catherine Street in 1857.

9. Christ Church Cathedral, 1869



Speculative development of a terrace-housed 'New Town' in the 1860s pushed Sherbrooke Street to the fore as the fashionable street in the neighbourhood.

10. Prince of Wales Terrace, 1860



11. Dominion Square, Montreal, 1895

The creation of Dominion Square in 1872 was a civic gesture that confirmed the importance of the neighbourhood. Elegant greystone houses were built around the square in the 1870s and no fewer than seven churches. The construction of Windsor Station in 1889 established the square as the gateway to the city.



1880 to 1930

From 1880 to 1930, Montreal was the metropolis of Canada and the Square Mile was where the men who had built both the country and the city lived. The 1885 completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway meant the return of many who had been involved in its construction to the city. By 1900, the Square Mile was home to 25,000 people who, it has been said, controlled 75% of the wealth of Canada.



to Eagle Pass, turned his energies towards building street railways in Canada and abroad and, like many of his peers, became deeply involved in finance. His house built on Peel Street in 1893 became the social centre of the Square Mile, now rapidly growing as lots on Drummond and Stanley streets were divided and sold.

James Ross, who had built the railway line through

12. James Ross house, about 1910



13. Mount Stephen Club, 1934-1935

In 1883, George Stephen, the first president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, hired architect William Tutin Thomas to design a substantial house on Drummond Street. The highly ornamented greystone exterior is matched by a lavish interior using exotic woods and marbles.



Architects of Square Mile houses drew from a wide palette of architectural styles. Craguie, the house designed by William Tutin Thomas – the same architect as the Mount Stephen House – was a strong example of Scottish baronial architecture, a romantic mix of arches, towers and conical roofs.

14. Duncan McIntyre's house, 1890



Residents of the Square Mile pressured the City of Montreal to acquire the land on the mountain which it did in 1872. Mount Royal Park, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, was inaugurated in 1876.



16. Henry Morgan's Store, about 1890

As Morgan's clients moved up the hill and away from their store on Victoria Square, the Morgan family followed. In 1891, they built the handsome red sandstone building on Sainte-Catherine Street facing Phillips Square. The department store sold everything from carpets to shoes and provided services to its Square Mile clientele. It was enlarged twice over the course of seventy-five years, to occupy the whole block.



17. Looking East along Sherbrooke St., about 1929

In 1900, Sherbrooke Street was an elegant avenue shaded by mature over-arching elms. Houses like the ones built for Louis-Joseph Forget, Reid Wilson and Lord Atholstan now shared the street with churches that included the Erskine and American, St. Andrew and St. Paul.



18. The Chateau Apartments, 1925-26

By the start of the First World War in 1914, the composition of Sherbrooke Street had shifted with the construction in 1912 of both the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. By the 1920s, apartment buildings such as the Acadia and the Chateau, now a socially acceptable alternative to a Square Mile mansion, took advantage of new by-laws that allowed the construction of buildings greater than ten stories.



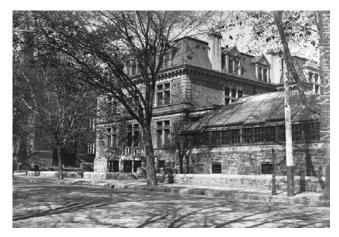
1930 to 1983

In the Depression of the 1930s, building ostentatious houses was no longer possible—or appropriate—and the domestic staff necessary to run large Square Mile houses no longer available. Those who had owned the great houses moved away and many were transformed into flats and rooming houses.



Zoning changes in the 1950s and 1960s permitted construction of highrise buildings on the north side of Sherbrooke Street; developers bought and built on all available land. Many houses including the Van Horne house on Sherbrooke Street were demolished and apartment and office towers constructed.

19. Le Cartier apartments



20. Van Horne's house, Sherbrooke Street, about 1900



21. Demolition of the Van Horne Mansion, 1973



By the 1970s, only 30 percent of the Square Mile houses to the north of Sherbrooke Street remained. By adapting many of these late 19th-century houses to serve as classroom, office and research spaces, McGill University has contributed significantly to conservation of the buildings of the Square Mile.



22. Chancellor Day Hall, McGill University, 2015



23. Hosmer House, McGill University, 2015



24. Purvis Hall, McGill University, 2015



25. Triplexes on Parc Avenue

Equally, the citizen-driven Milton-Parc project which started in the mid-1970s adopted an innovative cooperative formula allowing more than 700 residents to become homeowners while saving their dwellings from demolition.



1983-the present day



26. Maison Alcan, 2015

In 1983, one project marked a major turning point in attitude towards the inherent value of the built heritage of the Square Mile – Maison Alcan. Three Square Mile houses – the Atholstan, Béique and Holland – and the 1928 Berkeley Hotel were linked to a contemporary seven-storey pavilion behind. The restoration, renovation and reuse of these buildings as offices demonstrated respect for the architectural heritage of Sherbrooke Street and that a corporation could build its head office without building a tower.

The site and the complex of buildings was classified by the Quebec Ministère de la culture in 2016.



27. McCord Museum, 2018

The McCord Museum building originally housed the McGill University Student Union. Designed by architect Percy Nobbs in 1906, the building was renovated in 1967 to house the collection of Canadian history. Renovated and extended in 1991, the addition is built out of the same stone as the original building.



28. Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 2018

The 1894 Erskine and American Church has found a new use as a concert hall, part of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. A marble-clad pavilion for the collection of Canadian and Quebec art has been inserted and married to the greystone church. The interior of the church, which dates from a major 1938 modification, has been conserved and its Tiffany window restored.

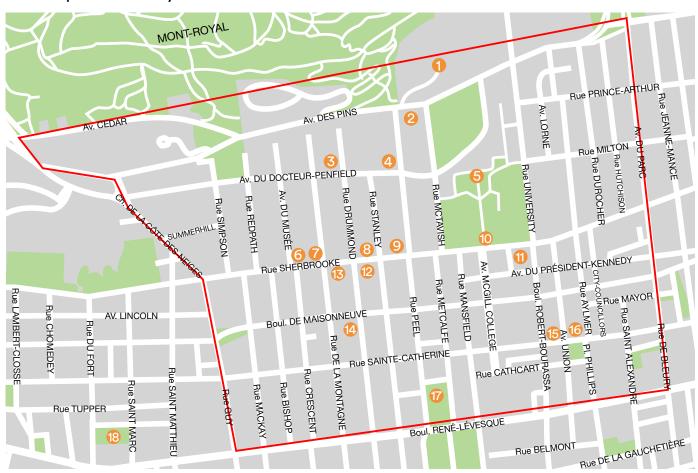




The elegant 1912 hotel built of Indiana limestone was renovated extensively from 2008 to 2012. Some of the hotel rooms were converted to condos and a glass-clad pavilion of condos built on the western end of the building. The architects were Provencher_Roy.

29. Ritz-Carlton, 2018

The Square Mile today



LEGEND

- 1 Allan Memorial Institute (Ravenscrag) 6 Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion,
- 🙆 Purvis Hall, McGill University (Mortimer Barnett Davis House)
- 🔂 Hosmer House, McGill University
- 🙆 Chancellor Day Hall, McGill University 🤨 Le Cartier Apartments (James Ross House)
- Arts Building, McGill University
- Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
- 7 Le Chateau Apartments
- 8 Louis-Joseph Forget House
- Roddick Gates, McGill University
- McCord Museum
- Maison Alcan

- 🔞 Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- 🙆 Le Mount Stephen Hotel (George Stephen House)
- (5) Christ Church Cathedral
- (6 La Baie (Morgan's Department Store)

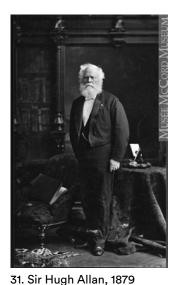
30. Square Mile Map, 2018

- Dorchester Square (Dominion Square)
- (B) Canadian Centre for Architecture (Shaughnessy House)



THE BUILDERS OF THE SQUARE MILE AND THEIR HOUSES

Sir Hugh Allan (1810-1882)



Scottish-born Sir Hugh Allan was a hard-driving mid-19th century businessman who established the transatlantic Allan Line of steamships. He expanded his business interests to include railways and was very influential in Canadian politics; in 1873 he was involved in the 'Pacific Scandal' which caused the defeat of Sir John A. Macdonald's government.

His house Ravenscrag was the unofficial epicentre of the social life of the Montreal élite in the 1870s welcoming politicians, royalty and the wealthy.



32. Sir Hugh Montague Allan's house, "Ravenscrag", 1902



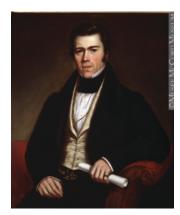
33. Ravenscrag, Allan Memorial Institute, 2015

One of the earliest of the Square Mile houses, Ravenscrag sits almost on top of Mount Royal, surveying the city below. Built in 1864 of Montreal grey limestone, it is remarkable for the many different cuts and finishes of the stone. Its style – its architectural language – is that of a villa in Tuscany, characterised by its towers and by its irregular volumes. The architect was Victor Roy.

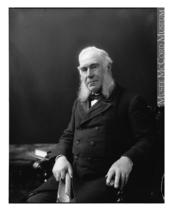
The house was extended a number of times – a ballroom was added in the 1870s, more space for domestic staff in the 1890s. It is rare amongst Square Mile houses in that its outbuildings (stables and gatehouse) still exist. It was donated to McGill University in 1943 by Sir Hugh Allan's son, Sir Hugh Montagu Allan, becoming the Allan Memorial Institute. Two additions were built to serve the psychiatric hospital. It continues to function as the Day Hospital for the Mental Health department of the McGill University Health Centre.



The Redpath Family: John Redpath (1796-1869) / Peter Redpath (1821-1894)







33. Peter Redpath, 1892

John Redpath trained as a mason in Scotland. After immigration to Montreal around 1816, he became a building contractor involved in the construction of the Lachine Canal and Église Notre-Dame. A wealthy and successful businessman, he founded Redpath Sugar and built the refinery on the Lachine Canal starting in 1854.

Peter Redpath, eldest of John Redpath's 17 children, was president of Redpath Sugar and like his father, a notable philanthropist. He donated money to McGill University to build both the Redpath Museum and the Redpath Library in the 1880s.



34. Frederick Redpath house, 1890



35. Redpath House, 2014

Architect Andrew Thomas Taylor designed a pair of semi-detached houses for Francis Redpath and Emily Redpath Bovey, both children of John Redpath, in 1884. The two houses were built in the Queen Anne style, meaning that they were picturesque, colourful - red brick walls, greystone base and slate shingles – and had many gables and tall chimneys. The southernmost house of the two was used by a religious community until the 1980s when it was bought by a businessman, who secured a demolition permit that was not compliant with regulations. Heritage Montreal and Save Montreal obtained an injunction in 1986 to save the mansion but no project that would conform to the character of the neighbourhood and incorporate the mansion was ever built, leaving the structure exposed to the elements. Despite independent reports attesting to the soundness of the structure, the City allowed its demolition – citing public security – in 2014.

Find out more about Redpath House



George Stephen, Lord Mount Stephen (1829-1921)



36. George Stephen, 1871

Scots by birth, George Stephen immigrated to Canada in 1850. By 1876, he had risen to become the President of the Bank of Montreal. At the same time he was involved in the financing and promotion of railways across North America - he was the first president of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1888, he retired and moved to England.

A generous philanthropist, Lord Mount Stephen and his cousin Donald Smith (Lord Strathcona) were the principal donors responsible for the construction of the Royal Victoria Hospital.



37. Robert Meighen's house, 1903



38. George Stephen House, 2017

One of the most opulent of the Square Mile houses, the George Stephen house was designed by architect William Tutin Thomas in 1880. Built of Montreal greystone, it is exceptional for the ways in which the stone is carved, creating a front façade that is richly ornamented. The imposing entry centred on the house evokes the architecture of the Italian Renaissance. The interior was an exercise in extravagance with exotic woods and marbles vying with each other.

When George Stephen retired to England, the house was first lent to, then in 1890 bought by Stephen's brother-in-law Robert Meighen. It was bought for use as a private club for businessmen in 1926, and its use as a private club meant that the interior was in large measure kept intact, despite a number of additions on both sides and to the rear. The club closed in 2012 and the site was sold to become a hotel. In 2016, the construction process affected the foundations requiring urgent measures to stabilise the walls. The Le Mount Stephen Hotel opened in 2017, including the reuse of the house interior.

Find out more about George Stephen House



Louis-Joseph Forget (1853-1911)



39. Mr. Louis Joseph Forget, 1893

Within the elite that ran Montreal at the turn of the 20th century and lived in the Square Mile, Louis-Joseph Forget was unusual in that he was francophone. A stockbroker, he became president of the Montreal Stock Exchange in 1895. He was involved in many Montreal companies, serving as president of the Montreal Street Railway Company from 1892 to 1910 and overseeing, with Herbert Holt, the merger that created Montreal, Heat, Light and Power in 1901. Forget was appointed a Senator in 1896.

Married to Maria Raymond, the couple and their four children had a country house, Bois-de-la-Roche, in Senneville designed by the architects responsible for the 1902 renovation of their Square Mile house, Edward and W.S. Maxwell.



40. Sherbrooke St. W., looking West, about 1920



41. Louis-Joseph Forget House, 2015

The 1884 Forget house, the Reid-Wilson house on one side and the Mount Royal Club on the other together paint a picture today of what Sherbrooke Street looked like in the early part of the 20th century. Formal, elevated above the sidewalk, the architecture of the greystone Forget house with its slate roof was intended to impress passers-by. The original interior was relatively simple; the 1902 renovation of and additions to the house by the architects Edward and W.S. Maxwell made it elegant and stylish – particularly the salon and the billiard room on the ground floor.

The house was sold to the United Services Club in 1927 and a succession of modifications changed the layout of the house. The Macdonald Stewart Foundation bought the house in 1975 and after the club closed in 1994, started restoration work in 1996. The ground floor was restored by the architects Fournier Gersovitz Moss, using the Maxwells' drawings as a guide, as was the exterior of the house.

Find out more about Louis-Joseph Forget House



THE SQUARE MILE TODAY

Once the values of a building have been determined (<u>Heritage, Let's talk about it!</u>) the appropriate way of modifying that building can be chosen. To consider the decisions that have been made – or that will be made – about intervening in buildings in the Square Mile, here are some key definitions.

Conservation: all actions or processes that are aimed at safeguarding the character-defining elements of a historic place so as to retain its heritage value and extend its physical life. This may involve one of the following actions or processes or a combination of them:

Preservation: the action or process of protecting, maintaining, and/or stabilizing the existing materials, form, and integrity of an historic place, or of an individual component, while protecting its heritage value.

Rehabilitation: the action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of an historic place, or an individual component, while protecting its heritage value.

Renovation: the process of making changes to objects, especially buildings or other structures, with the intention of improving their physical condition and returning them to a good state of repair.

Restoration: the action or process of accurately revealing, recovering or representing the state of an historic place, or of an individual component, as it appeared at a particular period in its history, while protecting its heritage value.

Issues facing the Square Mile today:

Conservation – Choosing how to intervene in a building is governed by zoning regulations and building codes but also by cost. Far too often, decisions are made to do the minimum amount possible and still meet the regulations.

Negligence – It is always a threat to a neighbourhood. When a building has been left vacant, neglect is obvious but failure to maintain a building can over time produce similar problems. From painting a window frame to checking a roof drain, good maintenance of a building makes for a healthier building, a building which can be more easily conserved.

Transformation – It is challenging when the existing buildings are houses and even more so when they are Square Mile houses which are large and difficult to reuse in other ways. It can be done – McGill University has done so successfully. Transforming other kinds of buildings is also demanding but not impossible – one of the best examples in the Square Mile is the transforming the Erskine and American Church into the Salle Bourgie.

How a neighbourhood transforms – The best transformation is respectful – it changes how a building is used so that it respects the values of that building. Good transformation contributes to a neighbourhood; at its best it can be the catalyst that brings new life to a neighbourhood.



COMPLEMENTARY RESOURCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY

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IMAGES LIST

Page 3

- 1. ArchitecTours Guided Tours © Heritage Montreal
- 2. International Day for Monuments and Sites © Heritage Montreal

Page 5

3. Plan of the city of Montreal from a trigonometricasurvey made by Plunkett & Brady, Engineers, Montreal: Burland, Lafricain & Co., 1873 © Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

Page 6

- 4. 2018 map with Square Mile outlined
- 5. Montreal from the Mountain, William Henry Bartlett (1809-1854), 1839-1842, M20074, © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/M20074/)

Page 7

- 6. Gates to McGill University, McGill College Avenue, Montreal, QC, 1869, Alexander Henderson, 1869, MP-1982.92
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- 7. Sir Hugh Montague Allan's house, "Ravenscrag", Pine Avenue, Montreal, QC, 1902, Wm. Notman & Son, 1902, II-143394, © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/II-143394/)
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Page 8

- 9. Christ Church Cathedral, St. Catherine Street, Montreal, QC, 1869, Alexander Henderson, 1869, MP-0000.1452.16 © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.gc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/MP-0000.1452.16/)
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Page 9

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Page 10

- 14. Duncan McIntyre's house "Craigruie", McGregor Street, Montreal, QC, about 1890, Wm. Notman & Son, about 1890, VIEW-2547, © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/VIEW-2547)
- 15. Montreal from Mount Royal lookout, QC, about 1890, Wm. Notman & Son, about 1890, VIEW-2505, © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.gc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/VIEW-2505/)
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 VIEW-2539.1, © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/fr/collection/artefacts/VIEW-2539.1/)

Page 11

- 17. Looking East along Sherbrooke St. from Redpath St, Montreal, QC, about 1929, Anonyme Anonymous about 1929, MP-1985.31.81, © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/MP-1985.31.81/)
- 18. The Chateau Apartments, Sherbrooke Street, Montreal, QC, 1925-26, Associated Screen News Ltd., 1925-1926, MP-0000.2081.5, © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/MP-0000.2081.5/)



Page 12

- 19. Le Cartier apartments, © Jeangagnon Wikimedia Commons
- 20. Van Horne's house, Sherbrooke Street, Montreal, QC, about 1900, Wallis & Shepherd, about 1900, MP-0000.27.38 © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/MP-0000.27.38/)
- 21. Demolition of the Van Horne Mansion, La Presse, September 10, 1973 © La Presse

Page 13

- 22. Chancellor Day Hall, McGill University (formerly James Ross House), 2015 © Jean-François Séguin
- 23. Hosmer House, McGill University, 2015 © Jean-François Séguin
- 24. Purvis Hall, McGill University (formerly Mortimer Barnett Davis House), 2015 © Jean-François Séguin
- 25. Triplexes on Parc Avenue © Heritage Montreal

Page 14

- 26. Maison Alcan, 2015 © Jean-François Séguin
- 27. McCord Museum, 2015 © Jean-François Séguin
- 28. Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 2018 @ Sophie Lamarche

Page 15

- 29. Ritz-Carlton, 2018 © Sophie Lamarche
- 30. Square Mile Map, 2018 © Heritage Montreal

Page 16

- 31. Sir Hugh Allan, Montreal, QC, 1879, Notman & Sandham, 1879, II-51521 © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.gc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/II-51521)
- 32. Sir Hugh Montague Allan's house, "Ravenscrag", Pine Avenue, Montreal, QC, 1902, Wm. Notman & Son, II-143394 © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.gc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/II-143394/)
- 33. Ravenscrag, Allan Memorial Institute, 2015 © Jean-François Séguin

Page 17

- 32. John Redpath 1796-1869, Antoine Plamondon, 1836, painting, M994.35.1 © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/M994.35.1/)
- 33. Peter Redpath, Montreal, QC, 1892, Wm. Notman & Son, 1892, II-99021 © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.gc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/II-99021/)
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- 35. Redpath House, 2014 © Heritage Montreal

Page 18

- 36. George Stephen, Montreal, QC, 1871, William Notman (1826-1891), 1871, I-63346, © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/I-63346/)
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- 38. George Stephen House, 2017 © Thomas1313 Wikimedia Commons

page 19

- 39. Mr. Louis Joseph Forget, Montreal, QC, 1893, Wm. Notman & Son, 1893, II-101302 © McCord Museum (http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collection/artifacts/II-101302/)
- 40. Sherbrooke St. W., looking West, circa 1920 © Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec http://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/9885
- 41. Louis-Joseph Forget House, 2015 © Jean-François Séguin