

Ottawa, Ontario
George Sparks House
936 - 940 River Road

FHBRO 83-43

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Sparks House is a late example of a rural residence built around 1868 in the British classical tradition to which have been added elements of the Picturesque style of design: a fine example of a relatively rare form of rural building, the semi-detached stone house. It is a well designed and well built 2 1/2 storey cut stone structure with plain wall surfaces, a balanced facade and restrained decoration, enhanced by the compatible front verandah added in 1963. The building is six bays wide with two unusually large windows flanking the centre doorways which are single doors, each with elegant sidelights and transom. The first floor windows along the main elevation are topped by segmental arched and radiating voussoirs, while all the other windows are of a more standard scale and marked by flat arches. The corners are finished by quoins of dressed stone. Although the building has been renovated it retains much of its original character and architectural elements. Even though the inhabitants of the Sparks House, as individuals, played a modest role in regional affairs, the house is nevertheless associated with the Sparks family which has been influential in the development of Ottawa in the 19th century.

November 4, 1983