

Banting House National Historic Site of Canada

Commemorative Integrity Statement

February 2002

Signature Page

This Commemorative Integrity Statement for Banting House National Historic Site of Canada will guide the Field Unit in its relations with Banting House.

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Banting House National Historic Site of Canada Commemorative Integrity Statement

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Banting House National Historic Site of Canada, a brick two and one half storey house with a modern addition on the back, located in London, Ontario, is owned by the Canadian Diabetes Association. The Association operates the first and second floors of the original structure as a museum with the modern addition containing offices and meeting rooms. The small park in which the house stands contains a statue of Sir Frederick Banting, a time capsule entombed on the site in 1989 and a perpetual gas flame. The Association acquired the site in 1981 because the house, owned by Dr. Frederick Banting between June 1920 and August 1921, witnessed what was to be the defining moment of his life, and the beginning of a dramatic research trajectory that led to the discovery of insulin. In 1997, Banting House was designated a national historic site because it is importantly associated with an event and a person recognized to be of national significance. Additionally, it is the only extant structure associated with Banting between 1920 and 1921 and it is the site of a defining moment in Canadian medical history.

1.2 National Historic Site Objectives

Under the national historic sites program Parks Canada has the responsibility:

- to foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration;
- to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources; and
- to encourage and support owners of national historic sites in their efforts to ensure commemorative integrity.

1.3 Commemorative Integrity

1.3.1 Definition of Commemorative Integrity

Commemorative integrity describes the health and wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity:

- when the resources that symbolize or represent the reasons for designation of the national historic site are not impaired or under threat;
- when the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public; and
- when the site's heritage values, including those not related to national historic significance, are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

1.3.2 Definition and Purpose of the Commemorative Integrity Statement

A Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) is an elaboration of what is meant by commemorative integrity for a particular national historic site. The CIS provides the benchmark for planning, managing, operating, reporting and taking remedial action. The document is divided into three elements:

- *Resources that symbolize or represent the reasons for designation of the national historic site are not impaired or under threat* - This section of the CIS identifies the resources that relate directly to the sites' national historic significance (level 1 cultural resources). It also describes the historic values of these resources, which can be symbolic as well as physical. These values must be safeguarded and communicated. The CIS provides guidance, through objectives, about the meaning of "not impaired or under threat" in the context of the site.
- *Reasons for the site's national significance are effectively communicated to the public* - This section of the CIS identifies messages of national significance, as well as any additional, essential information required to ensure their understanding. It provides guidance, through objectives, on integrity in presentation and effective communication with audiences.
- *Site's heritage values (including those not related to national significance) are respected in all decisions and actions affecting the site* - This section of the CIS covers heritage resources and values that are not directly related to national significance, as well as any other matters not covered under the other two elements of commemorative integrity. These are described as level 2 values, level 2 resources and level 2 messages). It provides guidance, through objectives, on what is meant by "respect" in the context of the site.

2.0 Designation and Context

2.1 Designation

In 1945, Sir Frederick Grant Banting was included in a list of distinguished Canadians whose services were to be commemorated. In 1947, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada declared Banting a person of national significance. In 1956, the Board passed a recommendation to remove his name from the list of distinguished Canadians, but he was reaffirmed as of national significance in 1970. Banting House in London went before the Board several times in the 1980s, but it was not until 1997 that it was finally recognized to be of national historic significance because of its association with an event, the discovery of insulin, and a person of national significance.

In November 1997, the Board recommended that Banting House be designated a national historic site because it is importantly associated with an event and a person recognized to be of national historic significance and it is the only extant structure of its kind that is associated with Dr. Frederick Banting between 1920 and 1922. Further, Banting House is documented and recognized as the site of the defining moment of the most consequential medical discovery in Canadian history.

In July 1999, the Board approved the following plaque text:

“ Here, in the early morning hours of October 31, 1920, Dr. Frederick Banting conceived an idea for research that led to the discovery of insulin. He believed that diabetes, then a fatal disease, could be treated by a substance extracted from a dog’s atrophied pancreas. Banting was the pivotal member of the Toronto team that isolated and refined this extract, now known as insulin. In January 1922, insulin showed spectacular test results and became a lifesaving therapy worldwide. Banting House, known as the “Birthplace of Insulin”, reminds us of the most important Canadian medical discovery of the 20th century.”

2.2 Commemorative Intent

2.2.1 Definition of Commemorative Intent

Commemorative Intent refers specifically to the reasons for a site’s national significance, as determined by the Ministerially-approved recommendations of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. A site’s CIS contains a *Statement of Commemorative Intent (SOCI)* which provides the answer to the question - when and for what reason was this site designated by the Minister responsible for the Historic Sites and Monuments Act as being of national historic significance?

2.2.2 Statement of Commemorative Intent

Banting House was designated a national historic site in 1997. The reasons for national significance, as identified in the 1997 Board minute, are:

- it is importantly associated with an event and a person recognized to be of national significance;
- it is the only extant structure of its kind that is associated with Dr. Frederick Banting between 1920 and 1922; and
- Banting House is documented and recognized as the site of the defining moment of the most consequential medical discovery in Canadian history.

2.3 Designated Place

2.3.1 Definition of Designated Place

Designated place refers to the place designated by the Minister of Canadian Heritage on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Information on what constitutes the designated place for a national historic site is drawn from the minutes of the Board.

2.3.2 Description of Designated Place

The place that was designated by the Board includes the historic section of Banting House NHS of Canada as well as the modern additions in place at the time of designation. The values of the designated place, however, are concentrated in the historic house, as this was the place that Banting knew. During Banting's residency, the area around the house was composed of an intermixing of commercial, industrial and residential buildings.

The designated place is Banting House on its footprint.

2.4 Historic Context

In 1920, Dr. Frederick G. Banting purchased the house at 442 Adelaide Street in London Ontario, where he opened his new medical practice. He had graduated from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1916¹, and, after serving in World War I, interned as an orthopaedic

¹ Coincidentally, Banting was in the same class in medical school as Dr. Norman Bethune, another person of national historic significance.

surgeon at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children. His new practice did not immediately flourish, and he used his copious free time to engage in a number of different pursuits - among other things, he became a part-time assistant to Frederick Miller, a professor of physiology at Western University (now known as The University of Western Ontario). This series of events and circumstances led to what is the most monumental medical breakthrough in Canadian history, the discovery of insulin.

Banting was preparing a lecture on carbohydrate metabolism on October 30, 1920. Taking himself and the November issue of *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics* to bed, he read an article entitled "The Relation of the Islets of Langerhans to Diabetes with Special Reference to Cases of Pancreatic Lithiasis" by Moses Barron. In 1940, Banting wrote the following to express what happened after reading that article:

It was one of those nights when I was disturbed and could not sleep. I thought about the lecture and about the article and I thought about my miseries and how I would like to get out of debt and away from worry.

Finally about two in the morning after the lecture and the article had been chasing each other through my mind for some time, the idea occurred to me that by the experimental ligation of the duct and the subsequent degeneration of a portion of the pancreas, that one might obtain the internal secretion free from the external secretion. I got up and wrote down the idea and spent most of the night thinking about it.

What he wrote was: "Diabetes.² Ligate pancreatic ducts of dog. Keep dogs alive till acini degenerate leaving Islets. Try to isolate the internal secretion of these to relieve glycosurea."²

Western University in November 1920, did not have the kind of facilities or expertise he would need to carry out research on his idea. Thus, Banting took his idea to Professor J.J.R. Macleod of the University of Toronto. After some persuasion, Macleod found lab space, an assistant (Charles H. Best) and a supply of dogs for Banting. In May of 1921, Banting and Best, with the advice and guidance of Macleod, started on the path that would lead to the discovery of insulin.

Banting House NHS of Canada today remains much as it was when Banting had his seminal idea there. The architectural integrity of the House has remained basically intact except for the modern addition on the east side. It is owned and operated by the Canadian Diabetes Association, and the first and second floors of the original structure are managed as a museum.

² Spelling as entered by Banting in his hypothesis.

The house attracts visitors from all over the world, and is particularly significant to those visitors who suffer from diabetes or do research in the field. Known since 1923 as “The Birthplace of Insulin”, it is the only extant historic structure connected with Banting and the discovery of insulin. The house has become something of a shrine to sufferers from and doctors concerned with, diabetes. The small park in which it stands contains a statue of Banting, a time capsule entombed on the site in 1989 and a perpetual gas flame. This flame, called the Flame of Hope, was kindled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on July 7, 1989. It will be extinguished when a cure for diabetes is found.

3.0 Resources Directly Related to the Reasons for National Significance

3.1 Designated Place

Refer to section 2.3.

3.1.1 Historic Values for the Designated Place

The historic values of the designated place are:

- its association with Dr. Frederick Banting from 1920-22;
- its association with the event which led to the discovery of insulin, the most consequential medical discovery in Canadian history - that event being Frederick Banting’s conception of an idea during the night of October 30, 1920;
- it is the only extant structure of its kind that is associated with Dr. Frederick Banting between 1920 and 1922.

3.2 Buildings and Structures

3.2.1 Description

The brick, two and one half storey house, with a gable end facing Adelaide Street, was built in 1900 for Dr. J. A. Wright, the son of Dr. Sam Wright who lived next door at 440 Adelaide Street North. He lived there until 1913, when he sold the house to Rowland Hill. The Hill family continued to live in the house until the summer of 1921, although in July of 1920, negotiations started to sell it to Frederick Banting. The final transaction of the sale of the house to Banting took place in January 1921.

Banting moved into the house in July 1920 and set up practice as a physician. The Hills, who were having a new house built, made an arrangement with Banting to stay in his house until their new home was completed. Thus, in return for board, Banting occupied the front rooms of the

house and occasionally joined the Hills for dinner during much of the period he occupied the house. Banting left London for the University of Toronto in the spring of 1921, and returned in September of that year only to sell his house to James H. Clark and Lila Shaw.

From all accounts, Banting did not make any great changes to the house. He used the front two rooms (a large room and a pantry area) as his consulting office, and possibly the two front rooms on the second floor. There is some debate about the use to which he put the front room, but it is generally agreed that he slept in the second room.

After Banting's residency, the house was used for nearly sixty years as a boarding house, until it passed into the possession of the Canadian Diabetes Association. Some changes have been made to the house, the most notable being the addition of a three storey wing on the rear of the building. A garage, built by Banting during his time there, was dismantled to make way for the modern addition. A great-nephew of Banting, Mr. Douglas Curwood, requested that he be allowed to have the garage. He subsequently removed it and rebuilt it on his property in Stratford, Ont. Some other original fabric from the property, such as some iron fencing and light fixtures, are held by the Boussey family in Clinton, Ontario.

3.2.2 Historic values

The historic values of the built resource are:

- that Banting made direct use of at least three rooms - a bedroom on second floor, apothecary and office on main floor;
- because of his relationship with the Hill family Banting was familiar with other parts of the house;
- the house is associated with his early struggling medical practice; his lack of immediate financial success led him to teaching, which provided the circumstances that would lead to the discovery of insulin;
- that large amount of the original fabric (flooring, walls, ceilings, etc.) remain in the three rooms mainly occupied by Banting;
- that a large amount of the original form and fabric of the original house is still intact (such as the original stairs and windows);
- that this is an appropriate house for a doctor; its size, location and character of the house reflected his profession and status as a new and ambitious doctor in the community; and
- the original house has the same relationship to the street and the property line as it did during Banting's residency.

3.3 Landscapes and Landscape Features

3.3.1 Description

There are no cultural landscape resources associated with the site.

3.4 Archaeological Sites

3.4.1 Description

There are no archaeological resources associated with the site.

3.5 Objects

3.5.1 Description

The site holds some moveable objects (including artifacts and archival material) associated with Banting from his period of occupancy in the house. These include:

- his office desk;
- a family cabinet;
- a stool;
- a photograph of a patient; and
- 12 books belonging to Banting.

There are also a number of moveable resources from his period of occupancy of this house held elsewhere. These include:

- his idea notebooks held at the Canadian Museum of Health and Medicine, and
- Rowland Hill's diary, kept during the time Banting lived here, held at J.J. Talman Regional Collection, The University of Western Ontario.

3.5.2 Historic values

The values of these resources are:

- their direct association with Banting from the period of occupancy;
- the idea notebook he kept during his occupancy of the house is directly associated with the defining moment in the search for insulin; and
- the information on Banting's daily life during this period, as well as information on and impressions of Banting's professional life, that is present in Mr. Hill's diary.

3.6 Objectives

The cultural resources (designated place, buildings, structures, and objects) will not be impaired or under threat when:

- the cultural resources and their associated values are respected;
- management decisions are based on adequate and sound information and are made in accordance with the principles and practice of CRM Policy;
- the cultural resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened due to human actions within or outside of the site;
- the resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened due to natural processes, for example erosion and decay, within or outside of the site;
- the historic values of the resources are communicated to visitors and the general public; and
- partners and 3rd parties respect the cultural resources and significance of place which make it a national historic site.

4.0 Messages of National Significance

4.1 Messages of National Significance

4.1.1 Definition of Messages of National Significance

Messages of national significance are those messages which convey the reasons for the site's designation, that is, for its national significance. They devolve directly from the statement of commemorative intent.

4.1.2 Messages of National Significance

As many people as possible should understand that the primary messages regarding the national significance of Banting House are as follows:

- Banting House NHS of Canada is importantly associated with an event and a person recognized to be of national significance;
- Banting House NHS of Canada is the only extant structure of its kind that is associated with Dr. Frederick Banting between 1920 and 1922; and
- Banting House NHS of Canada is documented and recognized as the site of the defining moment of the most consequential medical discovery in Canadian history.

4.2 Context Messages

4.2.1 Definition of Context Messages

Context messages are messages that are essential to an understanding of the reasons for the national significance of the site.

4.2.2 Context Messages

As many people as possible should understand the following contextual messages:

It is importantly associated with an event and a person recognized to be of national significance:

- The event of national significance was the conception of the idea which led to the discovery of insulin.
- Banting's idea and its consequences marked a milestone in the treatment of diabetes.
- The person of national significance is Sir Frederick Banting.
- Insulin has saved, and continues to save, millions of lives worldwide and continues to be the only effective treatment for Type 1 diabetes.
- Until 1922, upon diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes, life expectancy was less than a year. Thanks to the work leading from Banting's idea, life expectancy now can be upwards of 50 years.
- The discovery of insulin became a benchmark for later breakthroughs in medical research.
- Diabetes is a major health concern worldwide, as it still leads to death and complications such as heart disease, adult blindness, serious kidney disease and non-traumatic limb amputations.

It is the only extant structure of its kind associated with Dr. Frederick Banting between 1920 and 1922:

- Banting bought this house in 1920 and owned it for almost two years.
- Other buildings associated with Banting in this period have been demolished.
- Banting came to London as a new, young doctor, and experienced a period during which his practice was slow to become established. While lecturing at Western University to supplement his income, he conceived an idea which led to the eventual discovery of insulin.

Banting House is documented and recognized as the site of the defining moment of the most consequential medical discovery in Canadian history:

- Since 1923, this house has been known as the “Birthplace of Insulin”.
- The idea conceived here led to Banting’s work with “The Toronto Team”: J.J.R. Macleod, Charles H. Best, and James B. Collip.
- The research process involved four key players who were all instrumental in producing the first useable insulin for humans, but Banting was the driving force behind the discovery of insulin.
- Banting and Macleod shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of insulin. Banting, the first Canadian and the youngest Nobel Prize winner to that point, shared his prize money with Best and Macleod shared his with Collip.

4.3 What is a National Historic Site?

Banting House is a national historic site, that is, a place designated by the Government of Canada as a site of importance to all Canadians for historical reasons.

4.4 Objectives

The reasons for the site’s national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public when:

- the overall heritage presentation experience conveys the reasons for national significance of the site;
- visitors and non-visitors who experience heritage presentation and the site stewards, understand the reasons for the national historic significance of this site; and
- the effective communication of messages and their understanding is monitored.

5.0 Heritage Values

The term, **Heritage Values**, refers to the full range of resources, messages and values present at the site in addition to those resources and messages that are of national significance. Safeguarding and respecting the heritage values of the site is essential to achieving the commemorative integrity of the site.

5.1 Resources Not Related to National Significance and Their Values

5.1.1 Moveable Resources

There are a number of moveable resources, associated with the discovery of insulin and/or Banting after his period of ownership of Banting House, that are located in the collection of the Museum. These include;

- the various pieces which make up a memorial to Banting in the adjacent park - the statue of Banting, the Flame of Hope, and the time capsule;
- a rocking chair;
- Banting's academic hoods;
- A number of replica bronze Nobel prizes, military medals, and awards;
- Banting's sketches, drawings and oil paint tubes, and
- personal papers and diaries (some held at site, some held at University of Toronto), and the Nobel prize (held by the University of Toronto).

5.2 Messages Not Related to National Significance

Messages which contribute to the understanding of the site, are:

- Banting has a certain mystique within the medical research community. The mythology that has grown up around him is centred on his relative youth at the time of his work with insulin, as well as the fact that he was not at the time part of the Canadian research establishment. Because of his role in the discovery of insulin, Banting became an influential member of the medical hierarchy in Canada, and particularly in the field of research. In 1935, the Banting Institute, an office and research facility, was established in Toronto.
- Banting contributed to building the importance of Canada in the world wide community of medical researchers and practitioner.
- Banting House NHS of Canada is a member of the family of national historic sites in the London area which include Middlesex County Court House, Ridout Street Complex (Anderson residence, Bank of Upper Canada, and Gore Bank of Canada) and Wolseley Barracks.
- Other sites associated with Banting and medical research in Canada include the site of the airplane crash that killed him in Newfoundland (Museum at Musgrave Harbour), the Banting Institute, the recreation of his lab at the Ontario Science Centre, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque at University of Toronto, Toronto's Mount Pleasant Cemetery, his burial place, and plaques at Alliston, Ontario, his birthplace.
- The Canadian Diabetes Association has played an instrumental role in preserving Banting House and presenting Banting and the story of the discovery of insulin.
- Banting House NHS of Canada has been designated under the Ontario Heritage

Act and has been plaqued by the Historic Sites Committee of the London Public Library Board.

- Sir Frederick G. Banting Square, the time capsule buried there and the Flame of Hope are all part of the continuing story of the search for the cure for diabetes.
- Banting House NHS of Canada is an international pilgrimage destination point for people affected and connected to diabetes and has been visited by The Queen Mother, two Governors-General of Canada, two Lieutenant Governors of Ontario, families of persons with diabetes, persons with diabetes, researchers, and doctors.
- Both the municipality and the local community have been involved in preserving the site.
- Banting House NHS of Canada is the only place dedicated to interpreting the life and career of Banting.
- Banting started painting while he lived in this house. He painted with and was influenced in his style by members of the Group of Seven, most notably A.Y. Jackson. His art work became more important to him as he aged.
- Banting was a person of principle, tenacity, stubbornness, and altruism. One of the examples of this was his initial refusal to sign the first patent for insulin.
- Banting saw service in both the World Wars, as a medical officer in WWI and as a researcher in WWII.
- He was the recipient of the Military Cross in WWI, a knighthood and the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
- He was killed in a plane crash in 1941.

5.3 Objectives

5.3.1 Resources

The cultural resources will not be impaired or under threat when:

- the cultural resources and their associated values are respected;
- management decisions are based on adequate and sound information and are made in accordance with the principles and practice of CRM Policy;
- the cultural resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened from human actions;
- the resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened from natural processes, for example erosion and decay, within or outside of the site;
- the historic values of the resources are communicated to visitors and the general public; and
- partners and 3rd parties respect the cultural resources and significance of place which make it a national historic site.

5.3.2 Messages

Effective communication of the messages related to the site's heritage values will be achieved when:

- part of the heritage presentation experience conveys the messages related to the heritage values;
- the messages related to heritage values and their presentation do not overwhelm or detract from the presentation and understanding of the site's national significance;
- both visitors and non-visitors, who receive messages related to heritage values understand them; and
- the effectiveness of the communication of messages related to heritage values and their understanding are monitored.

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Board Minutes and Plaque Texts Minutes of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada re Banting House

1945

SIR FREDERICK G. BANTING

Sir Frederick G. Banting be included in the list of distinguished Canadians whose services are to be commemorated

Carried

1947

SIR FREDERICK G. BANTING

That the public services of Sir Frederick G. Banting be declared of national importance, to be commemorated by the erection of a standard tablet.

Carried

1948

SIR FREDERICK GRANT BANTING, ALLISTON, ONTARIO.

the following inscription for the proposed standard tablet be confirmed:

SIR FREDERICK GRANT BANTING

Scientist, Surgeon, Soldier.

By his discovery of insulin he eased the sufferings of millions of his fellow men and by his example he inspired many younger men in his field of medical science. During two great wars he served his country well. Born near Alliston, 14th November, 1891, he was fatally injured, while on active service in an aeroplane accident in the wilderness of Newfoundland, and died, probably 21st February, 1941.

Carried

1956/06

The Board agreed to delete the following from the list of sites recommended as being of National Historic Importance:

1947 Sir Frederick G. Banting, Alliston

1970/11

That the recommendation of the Board in 1947 that Sir Frederick Banting is of national historic significance be reaffirmed and that his career be commemorated by a plaque at the Banting Institute in Toronto.

1971/10

English text only approved:
SIR FREDERICK BANTING
1891 - 1941

Soldier, surgeon, and scientist, Banting in 1920 became convinced of the existence of a substance now known as Insulin. A laboratory provided by Dr. J.J.R. Macleod of the University of Toronto enabled Banting and Charles H. Best, in 1921, to prepare an active anti-diabetic extract of pancreas, purified by Dr. J.B. Collip. This was first used successfully on January 11, 1922, by Doctors W.R. Campbell and A.A. Fletcher. Banting shared with Macleod the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1923 and was knighted in 1934. Born near Alliston, Ontario, he died in the crash of a military aircraft in Newfoundland, on February 21, 1941.

1972/05

The unveiling of a plaque commemorating Sir Frederick Banting, co-discoverer of insulin is planned for June 2 near the Banting Institute, Toronto.

1972/10

The unveiling of the plaque to Sir Frederick Banting took place on June 2 in the auditorium of Medical Services Building, University of Toronto. The Honourable Martin O'Connell represented the Minister for the occasion.

1982/11

Save for the recommendation regarding Banting House, 422 Adelaide Street, West, London, the Minutes of the November 1982 Meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada were approved by the Honourable John Roberts, Minister of the Environment, on March 18, 1983.

Banting House, 422 Adelaide St. West, London, Ontario

The Board recommended that:

"the Banting House is not of national historic or architectural significance."

1983/06

Banting House, 422 Adelaide Street West, London, Ontario

The Board reaffirmed its recommendation, of November 1982, that:

"the Banting House is not of national historic or architectural significance".

1984/06

Banting House, 442 Adelaide Street, West, London, Ontario

In May 1984, Dr. Michael Bliss, author of *The Discovery of Insulin* wrote expressing his view that the Banting House, London, merits commemoration at the national level. The Board had previously considered Banting House twice (November 1982 and June 1983) and had on both occasions recommended that the house was not of national significance. Nonetheless, the Board once more reviewed the matter in light of Dr. Bliss' comments and stated that:

"upon review of the points raised by Dr. Bliss, undoubtedly the leading present authority on the

discovery of insulin and the career of Sir Frederick Banting, the Board stated that it did not feel he had conveyed sufficient new information of weight to lead it to alter its previous recommendation that the house itself is not of national historic or architectural significance."

The Board did indicate, however, that:

"if requested to do so, it would be pleased to consider other aspects and individuals involved in the process whereby insulin was developed."

1997/11

Banting House, 442 Adelaide Street North, London, Ontario

Background

In November 1982, the Board recommended that the house was not of national historic or architectural significance. The Minister of the day, the Honourable John Roberts, requested the Board to reconsider its recommendation in the matter. The Board did so in June of 1983 and reaffirmed its negative recommendation of the previous autumn.

Then in 1984, Dr. Michael Bliss, author of *The Discovery of Insulin*, wrote saying that in his view the building deserved national recognition. In November of that year, the Board reviewed the question again, in light of comments made by Dr. Bliss in his correspondence, and again recommended that the Banting House was not of national significance.

At the request of the Curator of the Banting Museum and Education Centre which is housed in the London House, the matter is again before the Board. This time, however, the house is being examined as a site associated with an individual of national historic significance - Banting, the man, having been recommended for commemoration in 1947. The Board adopted guidelines to permit it to evaluate the values of residences associated with nationally significant individuals in 1996.

Recommendation

In Committee, Hilary Russell, the author of the paper on the Banting House, presented a short video on Banting and his associates and the events leading to the discovery of insulin. Following a brief discussion, the Board recommended that:

"Banting House in London is of national historic significance and should be commemorated by means of a plaque."

The Board recommended that the Banting House be designated a national historic site because it is importantly associated with an event and a person recognized to be of national significance and it is the only extant structure of its kind that is associated with Dr. Frederick Banting between 1920 and 1922. Further, Banting House is documented and recognized as the site of the defining moment of the most consequential medical discovery in Canadian history.

The Board also asked that as resources permit a paper be prepared on Charles Best, J.J. McLeod and J.B. Collip who are generally recognized as the co-discoverers of insulin.

The Board also requested that the current inscription of the Board plaque to Banting at the Best Institute be reviewed and redrafted if necessary in order to ensure that it and the plaque at the Banting House complement each other. It might also be wise to consider relocating the Banting plaque to a more appropriate site.

1999/06

BANTING HOUSE

LA MAISON BANTING

Here, in the early morning hours of October 31, 1920, Dr. Frederick Banting conceived an idea for research that led to the discovery of insulin. He believed that diabetes, then a fatal disease, could be treated by a substance extracted from a dog's atrophied pancreas. Banting was the pivotal member of the Toronto team that isolated and refined this extract, now known as insulin. In January 1922, insulin showed spectacular test results and became a lifesaving therapy worldwide. Banting House, known as the "Birthplace of Insulin", reminds us of the most important Canadian medical discovery of the 20th century.

(619 spaces)

Approved by the Chair of the Board on behalf of the Board; April 19, 1999.

C'est dans la maison Banting que se produisit la plus grande découverte médicale canadienne au XXe siècle. A l'aurore du 31 octobre 1920, Frederick Banting eut l'intuition du processus qui allait mener à la découverte de l'insuline: à savoir que l'on pourrait soigner le diabète, maladie jusque-là fatale, grâce à une substance extraite du pancréas atrophié d'un chien. Il fut le principal artisan de l'équipe de Toronto qui a isolé et raffiné l'insuline. Après de fructueux essais réalisés en janvier 1922, la production de l'insuline permit aux diabétiques du monde entier de bénéficier d'une thérapie salutaire.

(614 espaces)

Approuvé par le Président de la Commission au nom de la Commission; 19 avril 1999.

6.2 Map of Banting House National Historic Site of Canada