

The Moore Farm Estate, Gatineau



From Farm to Equestrian Estate

From the Wright Family to the Parker-Moores, 150 Years of History

Synthesis Report



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Executive Summary

From Farm to Equestrian Estate

The study of the evolution of the Moore Farm site reveals an area rich in history and considerably older than it appears at first glance. The background of the evolution of the Moore Farm provides an impressive amount of information on the development of the Aylmer Road, and the Outaouais and Canadian equestrian sectors. The site offers a rich, 150-year-old history, with the first developments dating back to the first quarter of the XIX century.

Initially an agricultural property linked to the first Wright family settlements, the site gradually evolved to become an equestrian farm in the mid-XX century, specifically linked to the development of activities involving racing and hunting with hounds in the National Capital Region. The history of the Moore Farm site unfolded within the particular context of the development of the area around Aylmer Road in Gatineau.

Before it was bequeathed, through the National Capital Commission (NCC), to the Government of Canada in 1973, the land on which the Moore Farm estate is located was occupied successively by four families:

- Wright, 1824 to 1872;
- Moore, 1872 to 1906;
- Slater, 1906 to 1951;
- Parker-Moore, 1951 to 1973.

Wright Family, 1824-1872

The history of the site began with the purchase of the lot by Philemon Wright (1760-1839), the quintessential pioneer of the Outaouais area.

The Wright family owned the present site of the Moore Farm from 1824 to 1872. Three generations were involved with the property.

Owners of Present Site of Moore Farm under Wright Family

Philemon Wright	1824-1825
Ruggles Wright, father	1825-1863
Ruggles Wright, son	1863-1872
Frances M. Russell, wife of Ruggles Wright, son	1872

Upon his death, Ruggles Wright bequeathed the farm on Lot No. 8A to his son who bore the same first name. The latter died in 1872. His wife, Frances M. Russell, inherited the farm and sold it to David Moore, a lumber dealer and owner of the neighbouring lots to the east.

Moore Family, 1872-1906

The Moore family owned the present Moore Farm estate (Lot No. 8A) from 1872 to 1906. Two generations were involved in the property. David Moore, father, farmed Lot No. 7 located east of Lot No. 8A.

Owners of Present Site of Moore Farm under David Moore

David Moore, son	1872-1891
Frederick David Moore, son of David Moore, son	1891-1895
Louisa Augusta Moore, daughter of David Moore, son	1895-1906
William Balmer McAllister	1906

Slater Family, 1906-1954

The Slater family owned the present Moore Farm estate from 1906 to 1951. Two generations were involved in the property. At the time of the Slaters, specifically in 1923, the vast Lot No.8A was subdivided. In the early 1930s, the château Stoneleigh (Monsarrat) was built southwest of the present Moore Farm estate.

Owners of Present Site of Moore Farm under Slaters

Robert Nicholas Slater	1906-1921¹
Nicholas James Slater	1923-1937
Dorothy Willina Small, wife of Nicholas James Slater	1937-1951

¹ Settlement of the estate lasted two years.

Virginia Parker and Thomas Alexander Gzowski (T.A.G.) Moore, 1951-1973

On June 12, 1951, under the name of Rosalie Securities, an Ottawa couple, Virginia Rosalie Parker and Thomas Alexander Gzowski (T.A.G.) Moore bought the farm that would bear their name. Born in Janesville, Wisconsin in 1902, Virginia Rosalie Parker was the daughter of George Safford Parker, the founder of the famous Parker Pen Company.

In 1973, the Parker-Moores transferred the estate to the government of Canada, through the National Capital Commission (NCC), with the wish that it be preserved as a public estate accessible to all. The Parker-Moores requested that the estate be managed by the NCC in order to make it available to the entire population.

Current Buildings on Moore Farm estate

The Moore Farm estate currently contains four buildings:

- the stable;
- the arena;
- the manager's house;
- the ice house.

A Very Rare Estate with Exceptional Potential

To our knowledge, the Moore Farm estate is the only remaining preserved equestrian property in the region, and one of the rare estate properties on Aylmer Road that has largely retained its original acreage. The XIX century estate properties throughout the area have been broken up and their buildings have mainly disappeared or are hemmed in by contemporary developments.

Although the built framework of the present Moore Farm estate has also evolved and undergone changes, the site's buildings have their own history and features. The architectural quality and rarity of the stable are clearly evident. Buildings such as the arena, however, are also of great interest. As well as being built on foundations dating back to the XIX century, the arena offers interesting features, such as the roof framing that is a fine example of the technology used for buildings after World War II. In addition, the ice house was found to be older than believed at the outset.

Giving a New Life to the Site in Compliance with Wishes of Final Owners

Although a great deal remains to be done to complete the biographies of the Moore Farm owners, those of Virginia Parker and T.A.G. Moore reveal their interest not only for horses, but also for children and young people. It is obvious that the Parker-Moores had a deep understanding of pedagogy.

It is therefore easier to understand the significance of the Parker-Moores bequest of the Moore Farm to the Government of Canada. In future, thanks to Virginia Parker's legacy, Canadians will have access to an extremely rare site with great potential in the heart of the National Capital Region.