

Painting

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Painting on rue Honoré-Beaugrand, War Time Housing.

Accession Number 2017.02.131

Artiste / Auteur Barcelo, Michel

Date 2007-11

Medium and Support watercolor, cardboard

Measurements 30,5 x 40,5 cm

Historical context

Michel Barcelo (1938-2013), Montreal urban planner, professor of architecture and member emeritus of the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec, was also a watercolorist. He studied painting with his uncle, Marc-Aurèle Fortin, and strove through his art to faithfully depict Montreal's streets and boulevards. This watercolor depicts Honoré-Beaugrand Street, in the Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve district. The houses on this street, and on a few neighboring streets, were built in the 1940s by the state-owned Wartime Housing Limited to house workers in armaments and munitions factories and, after victory, Canadian soldiers returning from the front. These houses were inspired by the Cape Cod model, and were laid out according to the North American suburban plan in vogue at the time. This plan – low, differentiated single-family homes set back from the street, in contrast to the typical semi-detached dwellings – would become widespread in the following decade. In the Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve district, these “veterans’ houses” are almost all found between De Rouen and Hochelaga streets on the north-south side, and Bennett and Viau streets on the east-west side.