

# Speaking of BOUNDARY STONES

BY T. P. JONES, O.L.S.

**F**URTHER TO THE article "Surveys of the Past" by C. Fairhall, OLS, that appeared in the Winter 1983 quarterly, and the follow-up letter by W. J. Daniels, OLS in the Summer 1983 edition:-

Because of construction taking place in Ottawa, the old boundary stone that had been marking the north-west corner of the Rideau Street - Dalhousie Street intersection was about to be destroyed. Forewarned, the contractor removed the stone from the corner, and it was subsequently brought to our office.

From the photographs, it will be seen to be approximately 34 inches high, and only the top ten inches has been sculptured into an eight inch square. The initials B S and the broad arrow have been cut into one side. It seems to weigh about 300 pounds.

The former position of the stone in the field has been adequately referenced. When the part of the stone that marked the corner has been decided upon, it can be witnessed in the new concrete sidewalk. At this time, we don't really want to make four cut crosses all 8" apart each on a two foot offset from the stone's corners, and let everyone take their choice.

In Mr. Fairhall's article, it was mentioned that the City of Ottawa Survey Division declined to assist in the search for these old monuments because of lack of funds. While this was true, we were also hesitant to begin on a project that could well disrupt established street lines, true or not, that have been accepted by land surveyors for many, many years.

I recalled seeing a long time ago a remark in one of our field books that concerned one of these stones. A thorough search has just relocated this note, in a book kept by Mr. C. D. Wight, OLS between May 30 and August 26, 1933.

This note refers to a similar stone located at the north-east corner of King Edward Avenue and St. Patrick Street on an adjoining plan (Plan #43586). It says that in order to permit the erection of forms for the foundation of a new building, the stone was removed by the builders and

then "carefully" replaced!!! so that the corner would be correct. The quotes and exclamation marks are copied from the field notes.

From 1859 to today, one hundred and twenty-four years, is quite a long time, and I wonder sometimes how many of these stones have been moved and then replaced. Just because one of these monsters is in a vertical position, does not mean that it is in its original and true position and has never been disturbed. ●

