

In 2004 we moved to a house very near another group of farm buildings designed by the Maxwell brothers. On left side of Senneville Rd, the 'Workshop' is shown. This is what I photographed over a period of 15 years or so.

What was very exciting for me was that this put us within dog walking distance of yet more Maxwell buildings, which were built as part of the Bois de la Roche property. Our former property was located at one end of this 'Golden Mile' The Bois de la Roche property was at the other end. They were much like the book ends of this amazing collection of properties.







In all the years that we had lived in Senneville I drove this road at least once a week. This little barn with the old truck in front and the sheep in the adjoining field, might have been one of the reasons why I made this weekly drive. It made such a perfect picture, and I assumed it would always be there.





I didn't know at the time but there was a 'custodian' who was caring for this property. She trimmed the grass, planted flowers, made paths through the fields and had a garden. They were her sheep and it was her Fargo truck. She embellished this magical setting.













The stone walls were very much part of the 'Footprints' of this era, and they defined the many fields on the 500 acre estate.









F A R G O





The roof over the northern end of the building was fairly good when I started this photographic series in 2005. The interior was still intact.



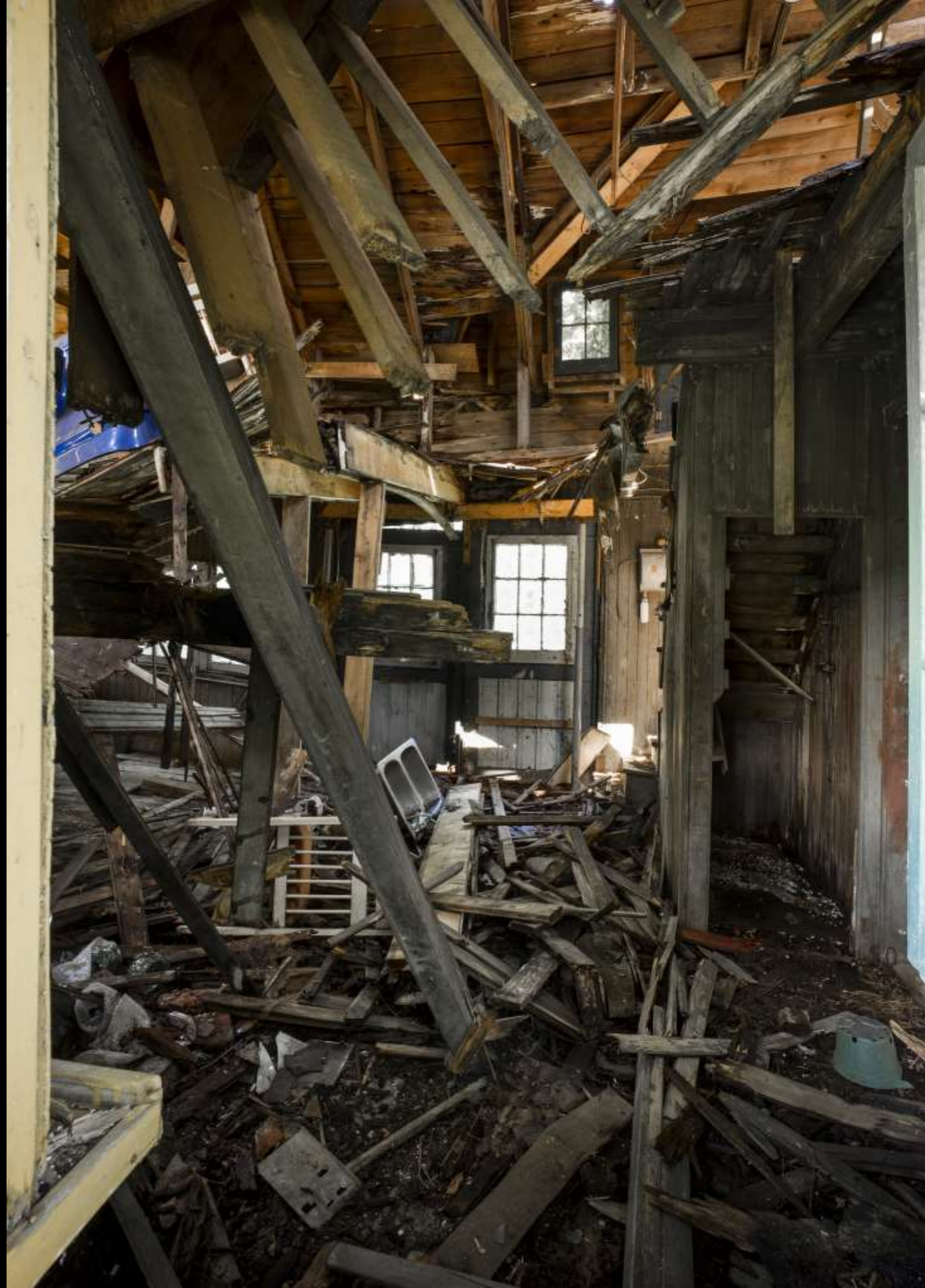
Unfortunately, the southern end was not as good, and water was penetrating the roof. A simple re-roofing job a few years earlier might have saved this Maxwell or at least extended its life.





Water intrusion finds its way into the structural parts, in this case, the ceiling beams. They start to break under the load of what is stored on the floor above, and the whole structure is soon compromised.

When water gets into a building because the roof is not maintained rot starts to set in and very soon the structure lets go, bit by bit. In this case the ceiling beams break and the ceiling eventually comes down. Naturally this includes everything that was stored up there as well.



Not only did the ceiling collapse but parts of the roof started to fall down.

There was not much structure left to support the side walls so they would be the next part of the building to go.

It had transformed itself into a little building that was just full of itself









The fortunate sheep had a more secure habitat.

The little building seemed desperate to maintain appearances, and some sense of dignity. It always amazed me that the front remained fairly intact, but the rear was something different.









In desperation this little Maxwell building is trying to rebrand itself into a Frank Gehry design. It won't work.





It obviously feels humiliated and does it's best to hide behind a healthy growth of weeds





One way to preserve and protect a building is to put a stout fence around it.



However one must be patient when you are letting nature do your work for you.



What was amazing to me during all this time was how it slowly came apart, bit by bit.

Leo Viau told me that this building was once called the 'Work Shop'. His father used to do his work there and let Leo play in the space with him when Leo was just a little boy. His father most likely was the one who created the *yellow panel* to help organize his tools. If so he was quite an artistic man.

*Correction;
Leo has since informed me
that it was he who could have painted
the yellow panel for the tools.*

After the complete collapse of the building I found a team of architects who were sorting through the rubble. They were trying to document and record what had been there in case the city ever decided to rebuild the Workshop. I made them aware of this yellow panel that was mostly covered by debris, but still very much intact. Who knows; It could live again.

I sent them a number of photos that showed the interiors as it had been once been. They said this could be very helpful.





















**After every big wind storm I return expecting to see more of it down,
but the building is a fighter.**









**The prevailing winds do not go unnoticed however.
The structure is showing a tendency to go left.**





The Maxwell is now reduced to a shadow of it's former self



August 2020



October 10 2020

..... and it finally gives in

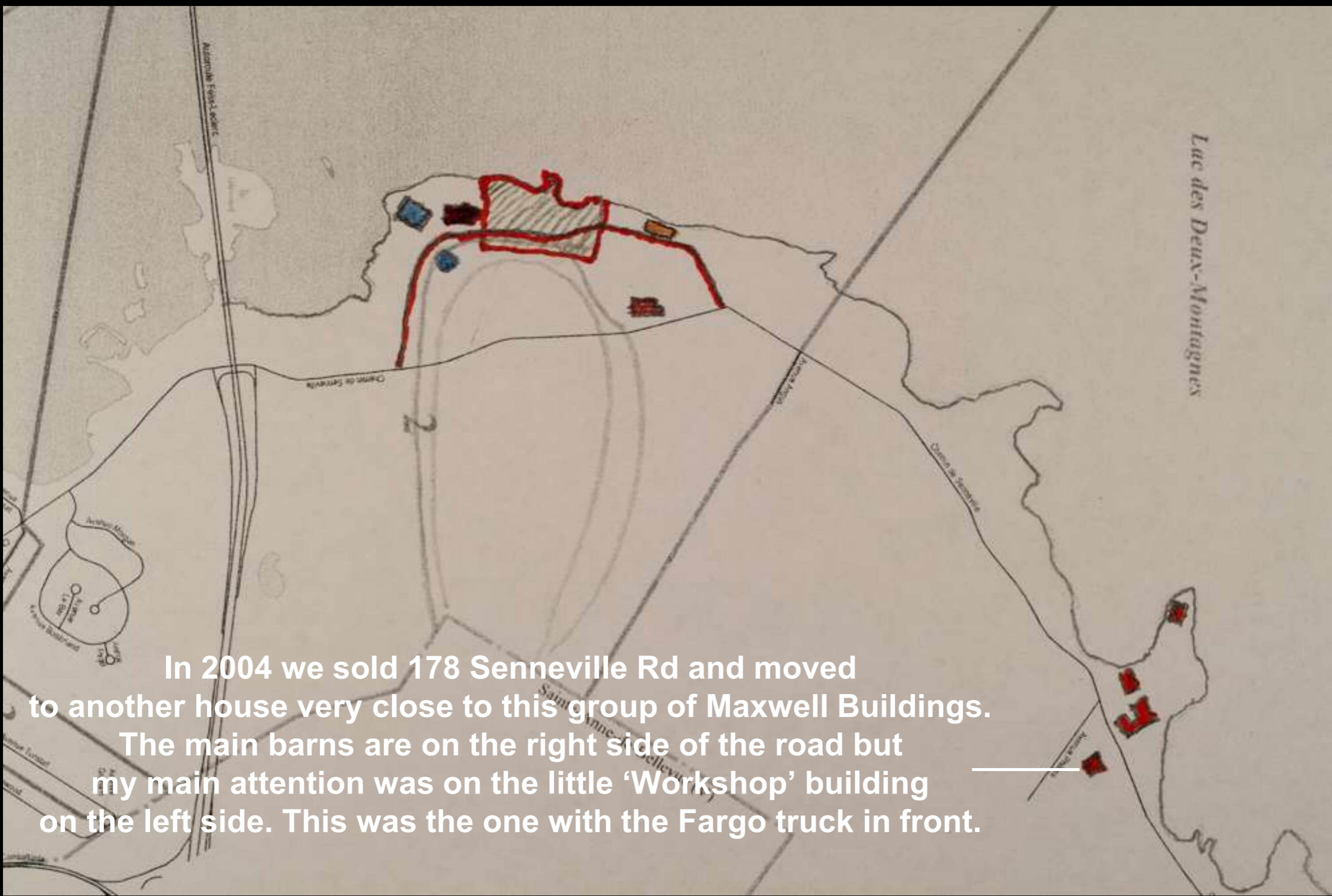


November 23 2020



August 09 2005

The 'Workshop'



In 2004 we sold 178 Senneville Rd and moved to another house very close to this group of Maxwell Buildings. The main barns are on the right side of the road but my main attention was on the little 'Workshop' building on the left side. This was the one with the Fargo truck in front.