

CHÂTEAU LAURIER PROPOSED ADDITION

# HERITAGE INVENTORY & CONTEXT REVIEW

APPENDIX 'A' FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE  
IMPACT STATEMENT SPA SUBMISSION

JANUARY 2017

FOR  
CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD







**CHÂTEAU LAURIER**  
**PROPOSED ADDITION**  
**HERITAGE INVENTORY & CONTEXT**  
**REVIEW**

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## APPENDIX A INVENTORY OF HERITAGE SITES IN THE VICINITY

**LEFT** Looking south at the upper levels of the Chateau Laurier inner court.

**COVER** Image source Bing Maps.

**IMAGE CREDITS** All images ©MTBA Associates Inc. unless otherwise noted.



# INTRODUCTION

The Château Laurier National Historic Site, was originally constructed in 1908-1912 as Ottawa's pre-eminent hotel, a title which it has arguably retained to this day. It is the most visible of a handful of four-star hotels in Ottawa and is well-equipped to host a wide range of accommodations, social events and public gatherings. This historic place is much more than just an iconic hotel and its heritage. Its place within its significant surrounding context and its public-at-large recognition all reflect a broader role within the nation's capital.

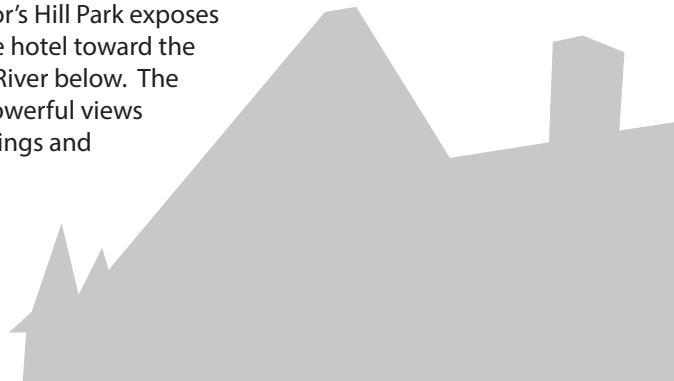
Since its original construction and as the property has evolved over time, the Château Laurier has developed key aspects that define the historic place's character. These elements, together with their interrelationships, should be well understood before building modification concepts are developed. Further, the Château Laurier is located within the Capital's most significant historic district, above the entrance locks of the Rideau Canal World Heritage Site, across from Parliament Hill National Historic Site, on Confederation Square, National Historic Site and overlooking Major's Hill Park. Urban and historic relationships within this significant and complex cultural landscape must also be well understood before major intervention additions are developed.

MTBA has been retained by Capital Holdings Ltd. to prepare this Heritage Inventory and Context and to assist the design and development team for the proposed expansion of the building. The majority of the change proposed to occur is at the north end of the property, in the area of the existing multi-storey parking garage which was added during the 1960s, adjacent to Major's Hill Park.

## CHÂTEAU LAURIER: CHARACTER COMPONENTS

### RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OTTAWA RIVER, RIDEAU CANAL & PARLIAMENT HILL

The Château Laurier rests atop the east wall of the flight of gateway locks of the Rideau Canal, with a significant pride of place above the Ottawa River. The landscape of Major's Hill Park exposes the open-ended north section of the hotel toward the mouth of the canal and the Ottawa River below. The view from here is one of the most powerful views of the Parliamentary Precinct's buildings and silhouette, with Major's Hill Park, the Château Laurier and mouth of the Rideau Canal each contributing to Parliament's east setting. In



fact this is one of the most picturesque combinations of natural and built landscapes in the country. Any changes to the north end of the hotel should consider the impact of modifications on a variety of scales, from relating to the Rideau Canal to the west, Major's Hill Park to the north and to Mackenzie Avenue on the east (along with the "Mile of History" on Sussex Drive). As well, this north parking garage location of the Château can be seen directly from Confederation Square and Parliament Hill National Historic Sites.

The picturesque quality of the Château Laurier's Château style roofscape relates well to the Gothic Revival roofscape and pavilions of Parliament Hill. Although its facades are less articulated than those of Parliament Hill, the hotel's honed Indiana limestone walls, copper roofing, its silhouette variation as it meets the sky and separation of the building from Parliament Hill by the Canal cut allow the two compositions to relate to each other across the gap, contributing to a larger iconic Canadian view. The Château Laurier's role within the viewsapes of the Parliamentary Precinct and in all directions should be understood and addressed when considering modifications to the property.

The current parking garage is low in scale, finished in the same limestone as the rest of the hotel, buffered by the western terraces and 1 Rideau Street along its western edge and features architectural motifs like arch-topped openings on the west side (echoed by similar but bas-relief, arches currently shrouded by park vegetation on the north side) that provides a comfortable visual relationship with the Canal and a foundational visual volume for the north part of the hotel structure. Finally, the public connections between Major's Hill Park and the lower west terrace is a key existing element that is

intimately connected to the parking garage location.

## CHÂTEAU STYLE FORM

Sharing a stylistic relationship with other railway hotels built during this period, the Château Laurier is massed and detailed using predominantly a Château style. Characteristics of the “Château” style include an irregular silhouette, significant scale, steeply-pitched roofs, notable gable and dormer detailing, towers, turrets and a high level of durable material finishes. All of the above elements are used to great effect, across the two main portions of the building, including the original south and west wings and the later east wing. The flexibility of the architectural approach is illustrated in the ability for the overall composition to accept subtle modifications to the detailing from the original section to the later addition. This is accomplished by employing the same stone and overall geometries to create an integrated composition while adding distinctive elements and detailing that were more of their own time.

The use of the Château style is not slavish. There are also Gothic Revival and Mannerist elements that add texture to the architectural composition along with localizing detailing such that the building “shaft” (main volume) is largely unadorned, heightening the attention and importance of the roofscape and associated eaves.



## MATERIAL FINISHES

Indiana limestone, used in the construction of many high quality and notable institutional buildings of the period (and in continued use today) was used to finish the exterior walls of the Château Laurier. The limestone matches the stone of the Neoclassical former Union Station directly across Wellington Street which was built at the same time as, and directly connected to, the hotel. By matching stone type, the hotel responds to the Station, while the copper roofscape responds to its more picturesque neighbours on Parliament Hill. Founding the roof of the Château Laurier are decorative eaves, projecting upper storeys complete with corbeling and vertical



elements.

## SILHOUETTE

Like other Château and Gothic style buildings, the hotel's silhouette is a critical element of the building's character. The silhouette is ideally suited to the different types of contextual environments that the building relates to, including the landscape of Major's Hill Park, Rideau Canal and Ottawa River, and the more urbanity of Wellington Street and Mackenzie Avenue. Architecturally, the Château's silhouette is the result of the use of a wide range of medieval-inspired detailing including turrets, machicolations, and finialed and crocketed gables.

IN THE EARLY 1900S, OTTAWA WAS A ROUGH LUMBER TOWN, UNLIKELY TO WIN ANY BEAUTY CONTESTS! IN 1904 PRIME MINISTER SIR WILFRED LAURIER DECLARED THAT THE 20TH CENTURY WOULD BELONG TO CANADA. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHÂTEAU LAURIER HOTEL AND UNION STATION ACROSS THE STREET (NOW THE GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE CENTRE) BROUGHT A TOUCH OF GLAMOUR TO THE CITY AND WAS THE FIRST STEP IN CREATING A WORTHY CAPITAL FOR THE NEW CENTURY.

— CAPITAL WALKING GUIDE, CANADIAN HERITAGE

## BRIEF HISTORY

The Château Laurier was originally constructed by the Grand Trunk Railway as one of their earliest attempts to provide deluxe hotels associated with their railway stations across the country, similar in stature to those provided by the competing Canadian Pacific Railway. Eventually, the network of grand hotels associated with railway stations would include the Hotel Vancouver (1888, CPR), Banff Springs Hotel (1888, CPR, reconstructed 1926), Château Frontenac (1893, Quebec City, CPR), Place Viger (1898, Montreal, CPR), Empress Hotel (1908, Victoria, CPR), Château Lake Louise (1911, CPR), Royal York (1929, Toronto, CPR), Château Laurier (1912, Ottawa, GTR), Fort Garry Hotel (1913, Winnipeg, GTR), Hotel Macdonald (1915, Edmonton, GTR) and finally the Queen Elizabeth Hotel (1958, Montreal, CNR). In 1920 the Grand Trunk Railway was integrated into the Canadian National Railway. While these grand hotels were constructed by different railway operators they all generally shared the same architectural style: Château style.

The Château Laurier was constructed between 1908 and 1912, concurrently with the Union Station across Wellington Street. Situated adjacent to the Parliamentary Precinct and on land originally belonging to the government (Major's Hill Park), the construction created a great deal of controversy locally, especially with an architectural style that deviated from the Gothic Revival style that characterized other government buildings constructed in the area. It is fortunate for the constructors that the Prime Minister of Canada at the time when the hotel was being considered was very interested in improving the

**OPPOSITE** West elevation of the east wing highlighting the high-pitched copper roof and the architectural flourishes that combine to create the building's character-defining roofscape. Also visible is a rooftop mechanical unit.



conditions of the capital, to reflect the growing nation and its seat of government. A deluxe railway hotel, appropriate for visitors, dignitaries and politicians was seen as a highly desirable element by Laurier, so much so that he personally championed its construction.

The original portion of the hotel includes the west and south wings, with 350 rooms, along with a series of banquet and social spaces. It is interesting to note that the hotel did occupy land within the park, but its open L-shape was restricted to the edge, allowing the park to continue into this area (Refer to the Historic Images section below).

A 240-room addition, fronting onto Mackenzie Avenue, provided an east wing along with convention and ballroom space situated within the resulting U-shaped plan on the lower levels. Along with these elements the hotel also gained another notable feature, an indoor pool and therapeutic spa finished in an Art Deco style. The last major addition occurred during the 1960s with the construction of the structured parking garage at the north end of the hotel's site.

Over time the hotel has been home to a range of notable figures including Prime Ministers R.B. Bennett and Pierre Elliot Trudeau, internationally noted portrait photographer Yousef Karsh and a CBC Radio studio. To mark his stay at the Château Laurier, Karsh presented 8 portraits to the hotel, which were augmented by an additional eight portraits by his wife. These images are housed in the Reading Lounge and the Karsh Suite.

Centrally located within Ottawa's downtown core, at a key location where town and crown intersect, the Château Laurier has played host to a "who's who" of ceremonies, celebrations and guests over the years. It is common to encounter parliamentarians or those on government business in the halls of the hotel or in one of the restaurants. With its impressive banquet spaces the hotel is also a sought-after location for a range of events, all of which adds to the building's place and role within the city.

## THE PARKING GARAGE

Constructed during the 1960s, during a period of shifting transportation and access priorities in downtown, primarily associated with the implementation of the Greber Plan that included the removal of passenger and freight rail traffic from downtown Ottawa. To respond to this loss the Château Laurier needed to provide a means of accommodating more customers arriving by car, resulting in the construction of a 4-storey parking garage at the north end of the building where the hotel meets Major's Hill. **The parking garage is not part of the National Historic Site of Canada designation.**

Walking along Mackenzie Avenue, the parking garage is set well back from the street to provide a surface parking forecourt and delivery marshalling area adjacent to the parking garage. Finished in the same limestone as the rest of the hotel the garage's height tops out at a height matching the lowest string course on the hotel marking the top of the building's mezzanine level. This masonry course is an important marker as it identifies the junction between the base of the Château Laurier with its restaurants, ballrooms, meeting space and ancillary spaces and the hotel rooms that rise from this base and extend to the underside of the high-pitched copper roof. Separating the parking garage from the building's lower levels is a lightwell providing natural light into the largest ballroom that extends across the hotel's rear. When constructed this ballroom would have had impressive views towards Major's Hill Park, the loss of which changed the character of the space, which nevertheless is still impressive.

Along the north elevation of the structured parking garage there is a three-and-one-half storey high continuous wall of limestone with inset stone arches, facing visitors in Major's Hill Park. While the wall is finished in the same material as the rest of the hotel, it provides an interface that is very abrupt, eliminating the opportunity for the hotel to interact with the park. This is somewhat mitigated by heavy landscaping along this edge.

Facing the UNESCO World Heritage Site Rideau Canal, the parking garage, while functionally necessary, and fitting reasonably well, is not a use that takes advantage of its noble site. Its impact is mitigated by the multi-level terraces on the western edge of the hotel along the Rideau Canal, marking the presence of the former location of the railway tracks leading to Gatineau.

A fifth elevation that is often overlooked is the roof of the parking garage, presenting open parking to those with views from above including from the hotel and from Parliament Hill. Open parking, similar to the unadorned roof of the banquet and service spaces is not considered to be in keeping with the natural location and dignified character of the Château and its surroundings.

**OPPOSITE TOP** Wellington elevation of the former Union Station located directly south of the Château Laurier.  
**OPPOSITE BOTTOM** West terrace highlighting the relationship between the form of the parking garage and the west wing of the Château Laurier beyond.





**TOP** North elevation of the parking garage fronting onto Major's Hill Park with the hotel proper beyond.

**BOTTOM** View north from the upper level of the parking garage towards Major's Hill Park, the National Gallery of Canada and the Ottawa River and Gatineau beyond.





**TOP** West elevation of the parking garage (center, mid-background) integrated into the lower portion of the hotel and somewhat buffered by a series of terraces along the edge of the Rideau Canal.

**BOTTOM** View west from the upper level of the parking garage towards Parliament Hill.





**TOP** East elevation of the parking garage fronting onto Mackenzie Avenue complete with its parking and service forecourt.

**BOTTOM** View east from the upper level of the parking garage toward the Connaught Building.

**OPPOSITE** Looking west from the lower terrace adjacent to the parking garage, towards Parliament Hill with the fall colours of the heavily treed escarpment.







# NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**LOCATION** 1 Rideau Street, Ottawa

**COMPLETED** 1912

**ORIGINAL ARCHITECTS**

Ross and MacFarlane

**DOCUMENT AVAILABLE FROM**

[http://historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/  
place-lieu.aspx?id=14549&pid=0](http://historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14549&pid=0)

The Château Laurier National Historic Site of Canada is an early-20th-century hotel located across from the Former Union Railway station in downtown Ottawa, Ontario. It sits atop the banks of the Ottawa River, overlooking both the river and the Rideau Canal. This picturesque hotel, constructed in the Château style is a commanding presence in Confederation Square, a national historic site of Canada encompassing some of the most recognizable historic buildings in the downtown core of the capital. Official recognition consists of the hotel building on the legal property on which it sat at the time of recognition.

## HERITAGE VALUE

The Château Laurier was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1980 because:

- It is a Château-style hotel, which is of national significance as an architectural type.

The Château Laurier, built between 1908 and 1912, was the first in a series of hotels constructed by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company (GTPR) to encourage tourists to travel its transcontinental routes. From Quebec to Victoria, these Château-style hotels can be found near the railway stations in their urban environment, often in a dramatic location. The Château-style vocabulary used by the railway hotels evolved as a distinctly Canadian architectural type, and came to symbolize fine hotel accommodation. When the Château style began to evolve into a distinctly 'national' style of architecture, the physical proximity of the Château Laurier to the seat of the federal government led the hotel to serve as a model for the style. The constant reinforcement of this architectural image across the country provided a powerful visual expression of the bond that links these cities and regions of diverse cultural and geographic characters into a national unity.

The Montreal architectural firm Ross and MacFarlane designed the Château Laurier, and based their plans on designs created by New York's Bradford Lee Gilbert. The pale Indiana limestone walls of the Château Laurier harmonized with the nearby Grand Trunk railway station, and the steep roof, turrets, and Gothic details of the structure ideally suited the character and climate of Canada. From 1916 to as late as the 1950s, the federal government insisted that all federal architecture in Ottawa conform in some way to this style. This is demonstrated in buildings such as the Confederation Building and the roof structure of the Supreme Court Building.

Sources: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, June 1980, January 1981.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that contribute to the heritage character of the site include:

- ❑ Its romantic setting atop the banks of the Ottawa River and overlooking the Rideau Canal;
- ❑ Its proximity to Parliament Hill and to other federal government buildings in the Ottawa downtown core;
- ❑ Its irregular L-shaped plan;
- ❑ Its elements which typify Château-style railway hotels, including its massive scale, irregular silhouette, steeply-pitched copper roofs, ornate gables and dormers, towers and turrets, high-quality materials, and dramatic setting;
- ❑ The smooth finish and pale tone of the exterior Indiana limestone walls, contrasting sharply with the ornate detailing above the eave-line;
- ❑ Its symmetrical front façade, defined by two octagonal pavilions, vertically accented by a strip of oriel windows;
- ❑ Its picturesque silhouette, created by a broad range of medieval detail, including turrets, machicolations, and finialed and crocketed gables;
- ❑ Its whimsical and delicate corner tower, inset deep into the wall;
- ❑ Its arcaded entrance loggia;
- ❑ Its close physical relationship with the former Ottawa Union Station, also constructed using pale, Indiana limestone, and its proximity and relationship with the Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada and its affiliated buildings of national historic importance.



**LEFT** Looking east along Wellington Street towards the Château Laurier and the Union Station with Connaught Square acting as a parking lot (circa 1936).  
Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 334822



# PROVINCIAL STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Château Laurier at Rideau Street and MacKenzie Street, is recommended for designation as being of historical and architectural value. Erected 1908-1912 by the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and subsequently enlarged in keeping with the original architectural style, the hotel was built in the late Victorian French Château style, as designed by Montreal architects Ross and MacFarlane. This was in contrast to the initial Gothic Revival proposal. The romantic attractiveness of the Château Style became incorporated in a series of hotels across Canada. Sir Wilfred Laurier was the first to sign the register. From 1930-35 R. B. Bennett resided here. Over the years, the Château has served as a second home for many M.P.s and Senators, providing a dignified, hospitable and lively Ottawa residence.

By-law 265-78  
Plaque 1982

**RIGHT** Looking north from the west drive along the Rideau Canal just south of Wellington Street (c. 1930s). Foreground landscape since modified is today less lush and more urban on this south side. Library and Archives Canada MIKA 3518016





# EVOLUTION OF THE BUILDING



LAC MIKA 3325303

## SOUTH & WEST WINGS

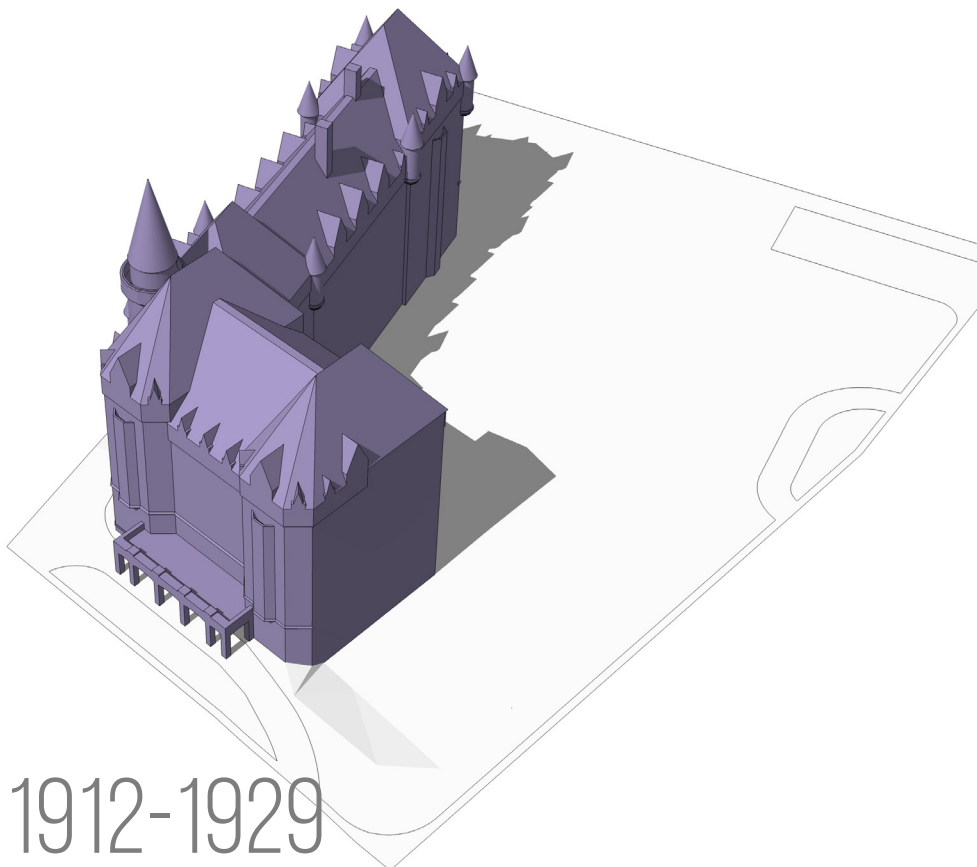
**CONSTRUCTED** 1908-1912

**ARCHITECTS**

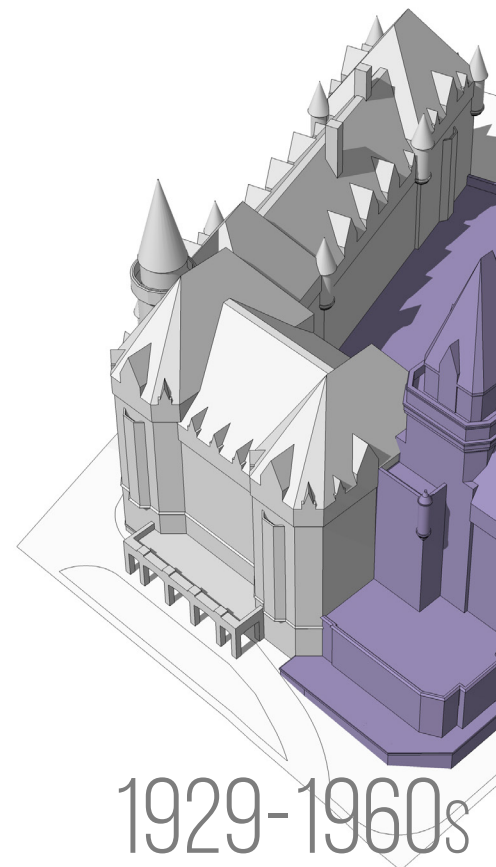
Ross and MacFarlane



LAC MIKA 3349304



1912-1929



1929-1960s



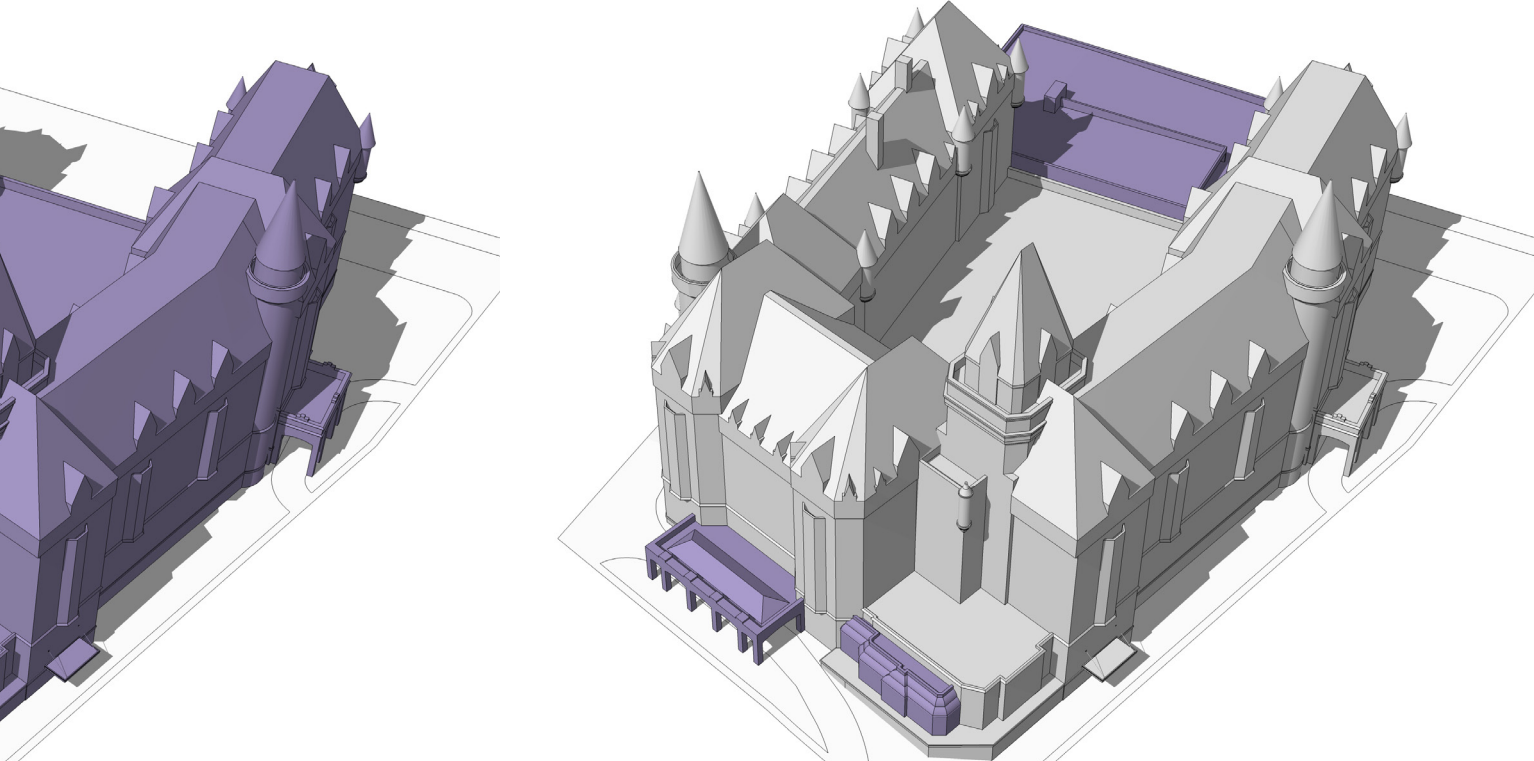
# EAST WING

CONSTRUCTED 1927-1929  
ARCHITECTS  
John S. Archibald & John Schofield



# PARKING GARAGE

CONSTRUCTED 1960s  
The 1980s saw a new porte cochère entry and conservatory addition (1985) to the south side.



1960s - PRESENT

Illustrations by MTBA



# SELECT HISTORIC IMAGES

1912-1927



**TOP** Château Laurier with the Daly Building (demolished 1991) visible to the right of the image (circa 1915-1927).

Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 3325320

**BOTTOM** Looking south towards the Château Laurier's original south and west wings that hugged the edge of Major's Hill Park (circa 1912).

Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 3325297





**TOP** Southeast corner of the Château Laurier prior to the construction of the east wing. Note the lower level horse and vehicle access at the front of the building (circa 1916).

Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 3325303

**BOTTOM** Looking south from the Rideau Canal locks where they meet the Ottawa River up towards the Château Laurier. By this point the railway tracks along the western edge of the hotel have been decked over (circa 1912).

Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 3325297

1929-1940



**TOP** Looking northeast towards the Château Laurier with the former Post Office (demolished 1938) in the foreground (circa 1938).  
Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 3319278

**BOTTOM** Looking northwest at the Château Laurier with the interface between the new east wing and existing south wing (circa 1937).  
Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 3353637







**TOP** Aerial view of the Château Laurier with Parliament Hill's East Block in the foreground and Union Station and the associated industrial accouterments visible on the right side of the image (circa 1939).

Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 3358800

**BOTTOM** Looking towards the north end of the Château Laurier from Parliament Hill, with a train car traveling along the tracks (since removed) located to the west of Major's Hill Park. The Château's upper west terrace is in place by this point decking over the railway tracks, while the lower west terrace is not. The newer East Wing is showing cleaner stone and less oxidized copper than the original West Wing. The Connaught Building is visible beyond the park (circa 1930).

Library and Archives Canada  
MIKA 3325342

# KEY CONTEMPORARY VIEWS



**TOP** Looking south from the Ottawa River at the mouth of the Rideau Canal with Major's Hill Park's bluff on the left and the Château Laurier in the background.

**BOTTOM** Interface between Major's Hill Park and the Château Laurier. Currently this interface is limited to a largely unadorned stone wall and 'buffer' landscaping.







**TOP** West elevation of the Château Laurier where it interfaces with Confederation Square, Parliament Hill and Rideau Canal, each of which possess significant recognized heritage value.

**BOTTOM** View of Major's Hill Park and Château Laurier from the northeast corner of Parliament Hill.



# MAJOR'S HILL PARK

Major's Hill Park has existed as open space in the heart of the National Capital Region since 1826 and was home to Colonel By during the construction of the Rideau Canal. As Bytown evolved into Ottawa and the Nation's Capital, Major's Hill Park continued to gain importance as a critical landscaped space in downtown Ottawa. The park is currently characterized by large trees, rolling lawns and winding paths that contribute to its picturesque quality with expansive views in multiple directions. From the Ottawa River, the Park provides an appropriately natural bookend to the mouth of the Rideau Canal along with its companion, the heavily naturalized escarpment of Parliament Hill.

This site's prominence above the Ottawa River, was recognized early by Colonel By when selecting a site for his own home as, "on the eastern side of the bay, is delightfully situated the residence of Colonel By, the commanding royal engineer on that station. From his veranda the most splendid view is beheld that the magnificent scenery of the Canadas affords."<sup>1</sup> By's Residence would remain as the primary built structure within the Government Ordinance Lands that would eventually become Major's Hill Park until 1848 when the structure was destroyed by fire.

This 5.06 hectare green space was formally established as a park in 1875, initially leased to the City of Ottawa, after numerous failed attempts by the City to acquire Major's Hill, for use as a centrally located greenspace. During this period, the release of Crown lands and military reserves to local governments for use as exhibition grounds and green spaces was becoming more common. Examples of this type of transfer include: Toronto's Exhibition Park (1848), Kingston's City Park (1852), Halifax's Point Pleasant Park (1866), each preceding the transfer of Major's Hill in 1874.

Built structures within the park include the remains of Colonel By's house as well as the header house associated with a greenhouse complex that was removed in 1937-1938. Over the years the Major's Hill lands were considered for a number of prominent buildings including a Governor General's "palace" in 1859 as part of the Dominion Parliament Buildings project and a National Museum in 1901. Eventually the National Museum was constructed at the foot of Metcalfe Street, while the Governor General would take up residence in Rideau Hall. It was not until 1909, when the Government of Canada sold a portion of Major's Hill Park, at its southern end, to the Grand Trunk Railway for \$1 million that another significant building would be constructed within the park borders. The original Château Laurier hotel was completed along with the new Union Station in 1912. Plaza Bridge was constructed during the same

**OPPOSITE PAGE TOP** Looking southeast from the Ottawa River, towards Major's Hill Park and the mouth of the Rideau Canal with the Château Laurier beyond.

**OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM** Looking north from the Château Laurier parking garage across Major's Hill Park today.

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<sup>1</sup> David Gordon, Town and Crown: An Illustrated History of Canada's Capital (Ottawa: Invenire, 2015) 48.

THE FIRST EMBELLISHMENTS TO THE NEW CAPITAL BEYOND PARLIAMENT HILL WERE AN INITIATIVE OF THE NEWSPAPERS AND CITY GOVERNMENT. THE MAJOR'S HILL, EAST OF THE RIDEAU CANAL, HAD BEEN RESERVED BY THE CROWN FOR ORDNANCE PURPOSES AND THEN FOR THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S 'PALACE.' AFTER RIDEAU HALL BECAME THE PERMANENT VICE-REGAL RESIDENCE, CITY COUNCIL LOBBIED TO BE GRANTED THE LAND AS A SITE FOR A NEW CITY HALL, WITHOUT SUCCESS. HOWEVER, A PROPOSAL FOR A PUBLIC PARK ON THE MAJOR'S HILL RECEIVED FEDERAL SUPPORT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS LEASED THE LAND TO THE CITY IN 1874. CITY ENGINEER ROBERT SURTEES DESIGNED THE ORIGINAL PARK, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1876 AT A COST OF \$10,000. UNFORTUNATELY, SOME OF SURTEES' RUSTIC CEDAR EMBELLISHMENTS BEGAN TO DECAY WITHIN SIX YEARS. CITY COUNCIL HAD LITTLE INTEREST IN FUNDING THE OPERATIONS OR MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC PARKS, AND RETURNED MAJOR'S HILL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN 1885, A MERE NINE YEARS AFTER IT OPENED.

TOWN AND CROWN: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF CANADA'S CAPITAL, 107

period to replace Sappers Bridge and Dufferin Bridge, to create Connaught Place.

Another significant event in Major's Hill Park's evolution was the construction of the Inter-provincial bridge and its south run-up running along the western border of the land, completed in 1901. The run-up was cut from solid rock with retaining walls that reached a height of 50 feet in places. The run-up and bridge would remain in use by railways until 1966 when rail traffic was diverted from the downtown proper. Streetcar service on the trackage was discontinued in 1946 after a fire destroyed a trestle at the north end of the Inter-provincial Bridge (currently known as the Alexandra Bridge). Eventually these tracks were removed and the bridge became an automobile and pedestrian bridge. The stone retaining walls associated with the run-up remain in place marking the western edge of Major's Hill Park.



## CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR'S HILL PARK & ADJACENT LAND

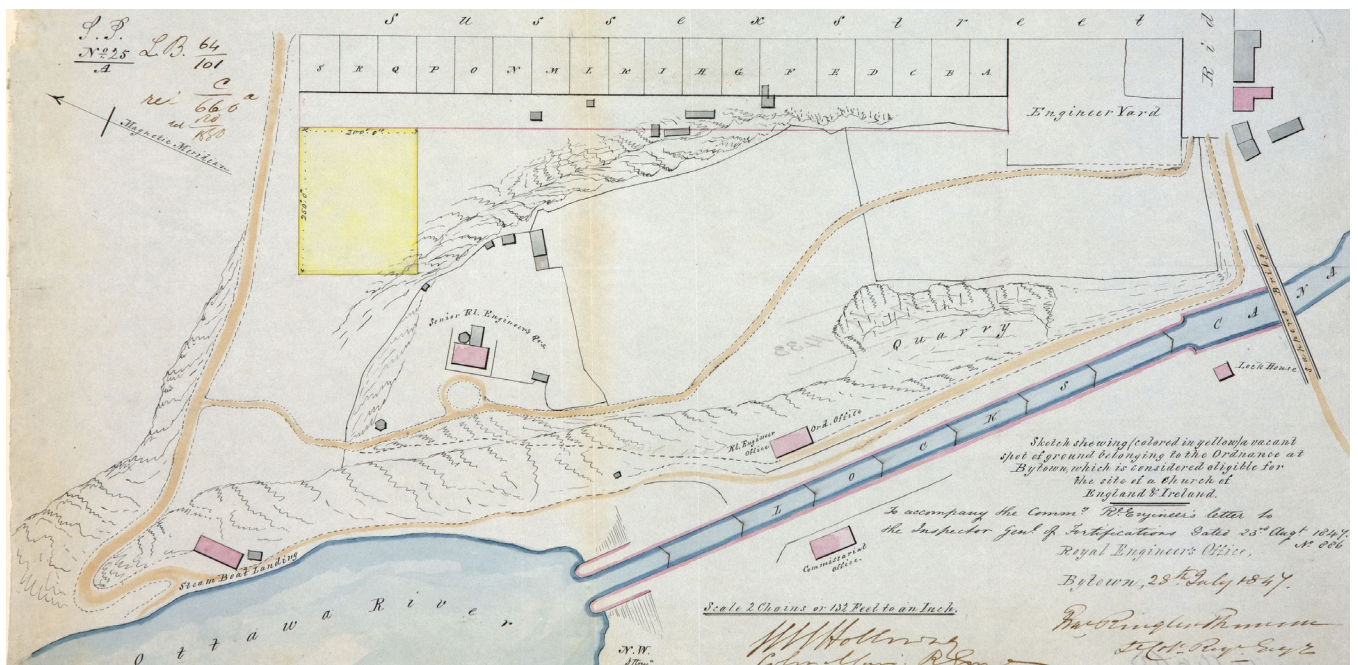
- 1827 Construction of the Rideau Canal starts and Sappers Bridge constructed
- 1832 Construction of the Rideau Canal completed
- 1848 By residence, located within Major's Hill lands, is destroyed by fire
- 1855 Bytown is renamed Ottawa and incorporated as a city
- 1857 Ottawa named capital of the United Provinces of Upper/Lower Canada
- 1859 As part of planning Parliament Buildings on Barrack's Hill, the Governor General's Palace planned for a portion of the Major's Hill land
- 1860 City of Ottawa unsuccessfully petitions the Dominion Government for ownership of the Major's Hill lands for use as a park
- 1867 Major's Hill hosts the first Dominion Day celebrations
- 1874 City of Ottawa successfully petitions the Dominion Government for ownership of the Major's Hill lands for use as a park
- 1875 City of Ottawa regrades and begins landscaping Major's Hill lands
- 1870S City of Ottawa considers the possibility of constructing a new City Hall on the Major's Hill lands
- 1885 City of Ottawa returns Major's Hill Park to the Dominion Government
- 1901 Major's Hill Park considered as a site for a national museum
- 1901 Inter-provincial (Alexandra) Bridge is completed with its associated south run-up along cliff on the west side of Major's Hill Park
- 1909 Dominion Government sells the southern portion of Major's Hill Park to the Grand Trunk Railway for \$1 million for the construction of the Château Laurier
- 1910-1912 Dufferin and Sappers Bridge demolished and the Plaza Bridge constructed
- 1912 Union Station and Château Laurier completed
- 1929 Construction of the Château Laurier east wing in completed
- 1939 Construction of the War Memorial is completed on Confederation Square and dedicated by King George IV
- 1966 Railway traffic into downtown Ottawa is discontinued
- 1960S Château Laurier above-ground parkade is constructed
- 1971 Colonel By statue erected in Major's Hill Park
- 1973 Foundations of the By Residence uncovered





**LEFT** Artist's view looking towards the mouth of the Rideau Canal with Major's Hill on the left by W. H. Bartlett (c. 1842). [passageshistoriques-heritagepassages.ca](http://passageshistoriques-heritagepassages.ca).

**BELOW** Sketch of lands that would become Major's Hill Park and Château Laurier (c. 1847). [passageshistoriques-heritagepassages.ca](http://passageshistoriques-heritagepassages.ca).









**TOP LEFT** Looking southeast from Barrack's Hill towards the Major's Hill Lands (c. 1861).

**TOP MIDDLE** Artificial pond once located near the north end of Major's Hill Park (No Date).

**TOP RIGHT** Looking east towards the Major's Hill lands. Note the quarry on the right and Royal Engineers/Ordinance Office on the left (c. 1873).

**BOTTOM LEFT** Looking west from Major's Hill Park towards the Parliament Buildings (c. 1882-1909). [passageshistoriques-heritagepassages.ca](http://passageshistoriques-heritagepassages.ca).

**BELOW** South end of Major's Hill Park (c. 1905) looking northwest. The Château Laurier was built on this site 7 years later. LAC MIKAN 3318945. All images on this spread from [passageshistoriques-heritagepassages.ca](http://passageshistoriques-heritagepassages.ca) unless otherwise noted.





# ADDITIONAL ADJACENT HERITAGE CONTEXT

## CONFEDERATION SQUARE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Construction on Confederation Square in its current form began in 1938. The triangular-shaped property takes advantage of a pre-existing bend in Elgin Street leading towards Parliament Hill's East Block. While the public space is an identifiable physical place with its own character elements, the manner in which the surrounding buildings and sites meet the edge of the Square define it. The most well-defined edge is the southwest side which includes the Langevin Block, Central Post Office, Scottish Chambers and Central Chambers Buildings. Edging the southeast side is park space associated with the Rideau Canal and the National Arts Centre that provide a more porous edge, opening the square to the former Union Station. Wellington Street with Parliament Hill's East Block and Château Laurier occupy the northern edge of the square. They flank the Rideau Canal below, which frames the views north to the Alexandra Bridge, Ottawa River, Gatineau and Gatineau Hills beyond.

Heritage character elements include its continuing ceremonial use; associated viewsheds especially obliquely towards Parliament Hill and towards the Rideau Canal; down Elgin Street from the War Memorial and the views up Elgin Street, Sparks Street, Wellington Street and Rideau Street towards the Memorial; the various melange of buildings that frame the square including the spatial relationships, scale, stylistic eclecticism and general harmony;

and the War Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in their location, footprint, volume, design, and materials. Individual buildings are referenced in the Statement of Significance (S.O.S.) including those mentioned herein. **For the hotel the S.O.S. identifies the following: "... its footprint with its Chateau style design, original exterior materials and decoration, original design and materials of major public spaces, and use as a hotel."**



Looking northwest at the west edge of Confederation Square.

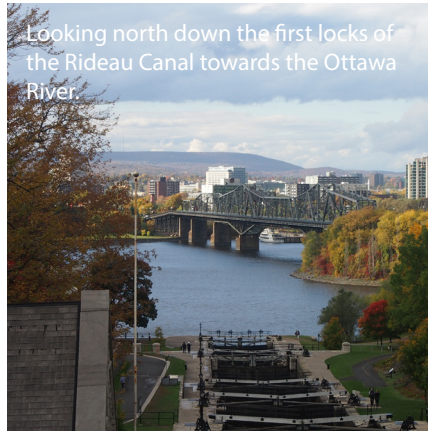


Looking northeast across Confederation Square towards the Château Laurier.



Looking east toward the former Union Station (right) and the Château Laurier.

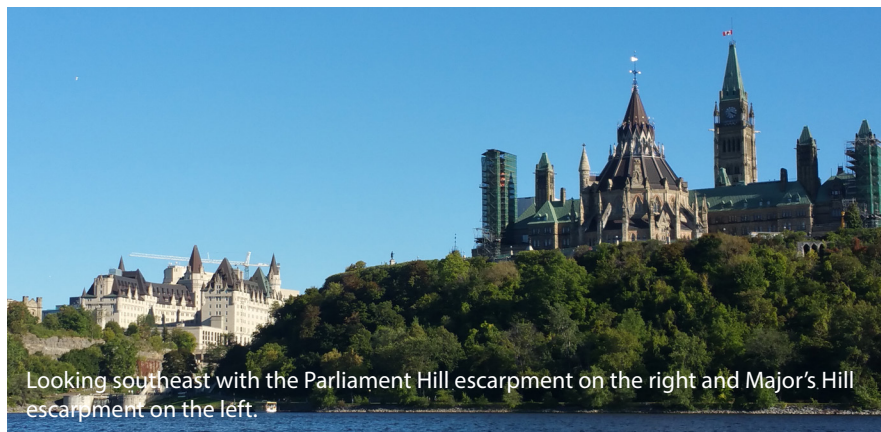
## RIDEAU CANAL & PARLIAMENT HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA



Looking north down the first locks of the Rideau Canal towards the Ottawa River.



Looking west towards Parliament Hill's silhouette from Château Laurier's west Terrace



Looking southeast with the Parliament Hill escarpment on the right and Major's Hill escarpment on the left.

Originally constructed for military purposes in case of further conflict with the United States after the War of 1812 and completed in 1832, the Rideau Canal and its 202 km length extending from Kingston, Ontario to Ottawa, is a largely intact example of a slack water canal from this period. As relations with the neighbours to the south improved, the canal was not required for military purposes, eventually being used primarily for commercial and pleasure boating. The

Canal was designated as a National Historic Site of Canada in 1926 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007. It is the oldest continuously operating canal in North America and its construction predates Ottawa's elevation to National Capital, which occurred in 1857. Located immediately west of the Château Laurier, the first 8 locks of the Canal, with their limestone basins, accommodate a total elevation difference of 24.1m.

Barrack's Hill, a strategically located military base high above the Ottawa River and the Rideau Canal, with its commanding views of the surrounding landscape and the two regions that made up United Canada (modern Ontario and Quebec) was eventually selected as the seat for the new government. Although it was a very young nation, a substantial complex of 3 Gothic Revival style government pavilions set within the picturesque landscape were constructed from 1859-1876. During this construction, Canada would go from being a Province to a Dominion, thereby reinforcing the importance of this building complex.

Originally the pavilions were conceived with Centre Block as the largest building but the varying heights of the towers created a balanced composition that did not necessarily favour a particular building. This is a key characteristic of the Gothic Revival style, which is best viewed obliquely as opposed to axially (as is common in more Neoclassical schemes). The East and West Blocks were originally designed by Stent & Laver, while the current Centre Block was designed by John A Pearson, after the original was lost in a 1916 fire, except for the Library on the north side. The eventual construction of the new Modern Gothic Centre Block (1917-1920) with its prominent Peace Tower (completed 1927).



## MACKENZIE AVENUE/CONFEDERATION BOULEVARD

Mackenzie Avenue is paired with Sussex Drive in this area of downtown to form this leg of Confederation Boulevard and provide access to and from the Alexandra Bridge leading to Gatineau. The western edge of the street is defined primarily by Major's Hill Park and the Château Laurier, resulting in a mixed natural and built character along this edge. This characteristic was similarly applied to the eastern edge prior to the construction of the U.S. Embassy on an open space that fronted onto both Mackenzie and Sussex. The other buildings that define the avenue's eastern edge include the Tudor Gothic Connaught Building, designed by David Ewart and completed in 1916 as well as a 2005 condominium replacement for the Daly Building at the corner of Mackenzie Avenue and Rideau Street.

Currently, the street's design is heavily biased towards automobile traffic and security for the embassy. There is a carefully controlled 2-tier promenade along the Park Side, providing a transitional edge in the Confederation Boulevard landscape 'language'. The 2-block long continuous tinted glass facade of the Embassy is a visually dominating feature of the street, further affecting the street's character with its multi-layered security perimeter.

At its northern terminus, the street now opens to views of the National Gallery of Canada and the Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica.



Looking south along Mackenzie Avenue with the American Embassy on the left and Major's Hill Park on the right, with the Château Laurier in the background.



Historic image looking north along Mackenzie Avenue towards Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica. Sussex Drive is visible on the right, while Major's Hill Park is on the left. Library and Archives Canada MIKAN 4169672





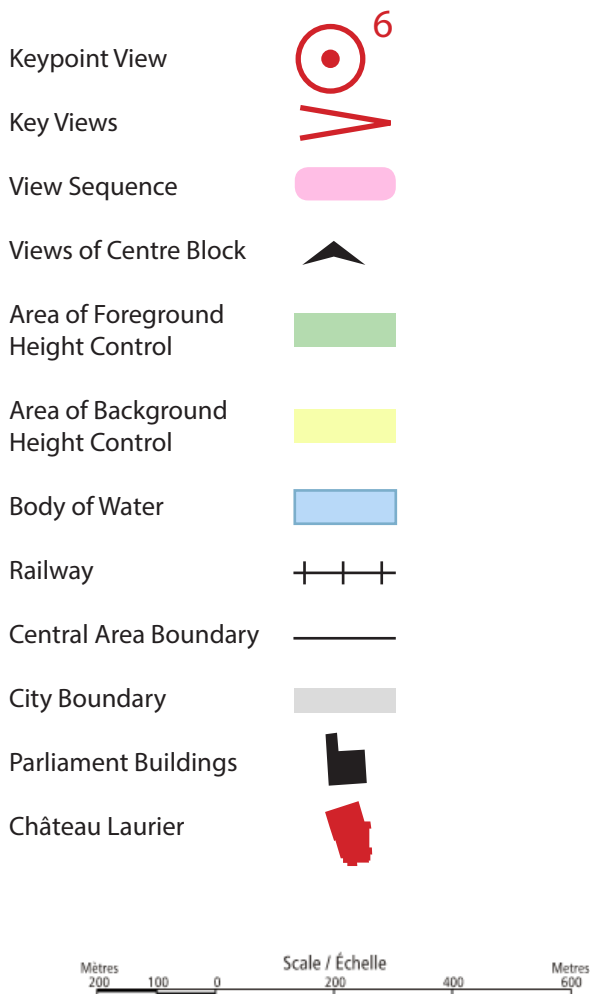
Chas. Shober & Co., "Bird's eye view of the City of Ottawa, Province Ontario, Canada," 1876. [passageshistoriques.heritagepassages.ca](http://passageshistoriques.heritagepassages.ca).



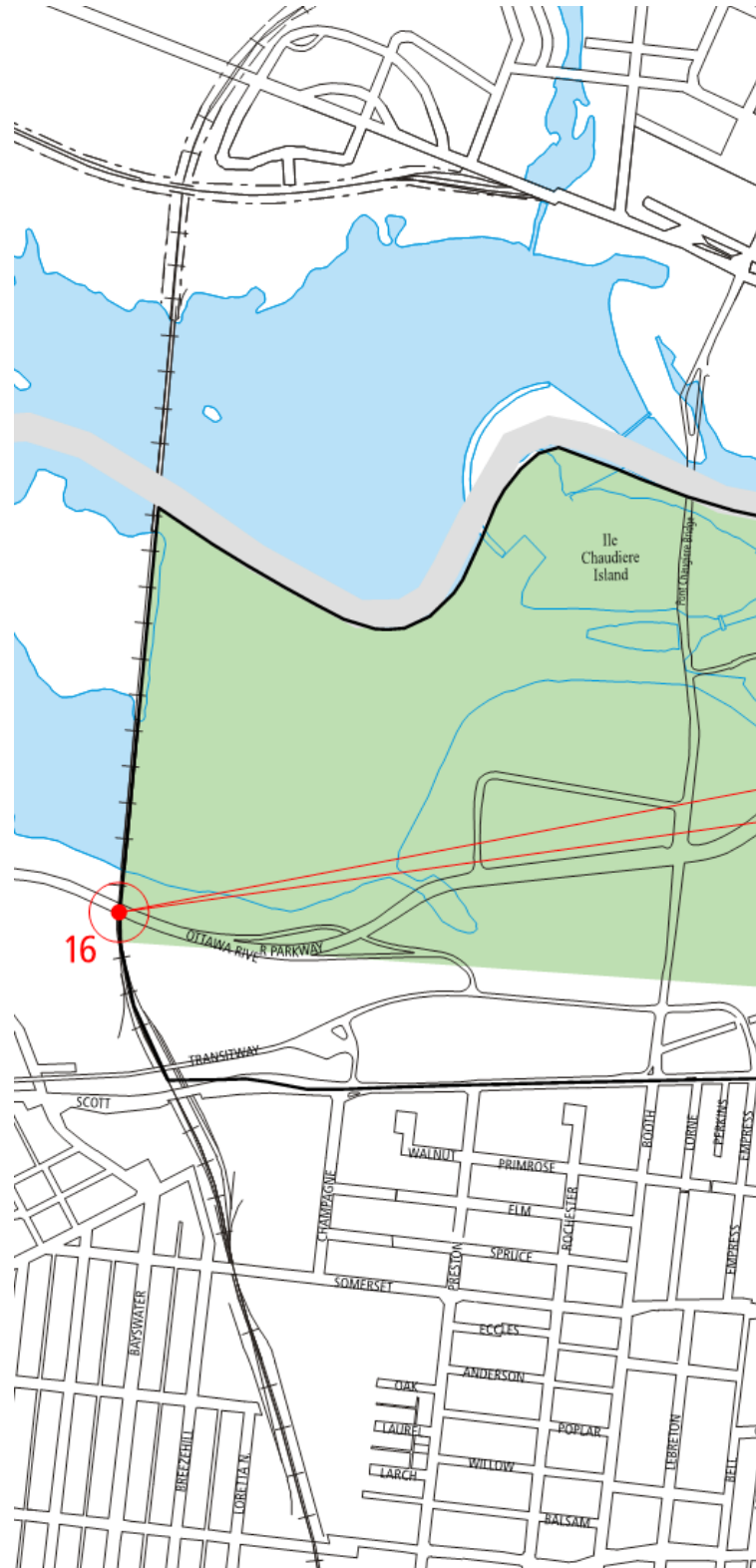
# PROTECTED VIEWS

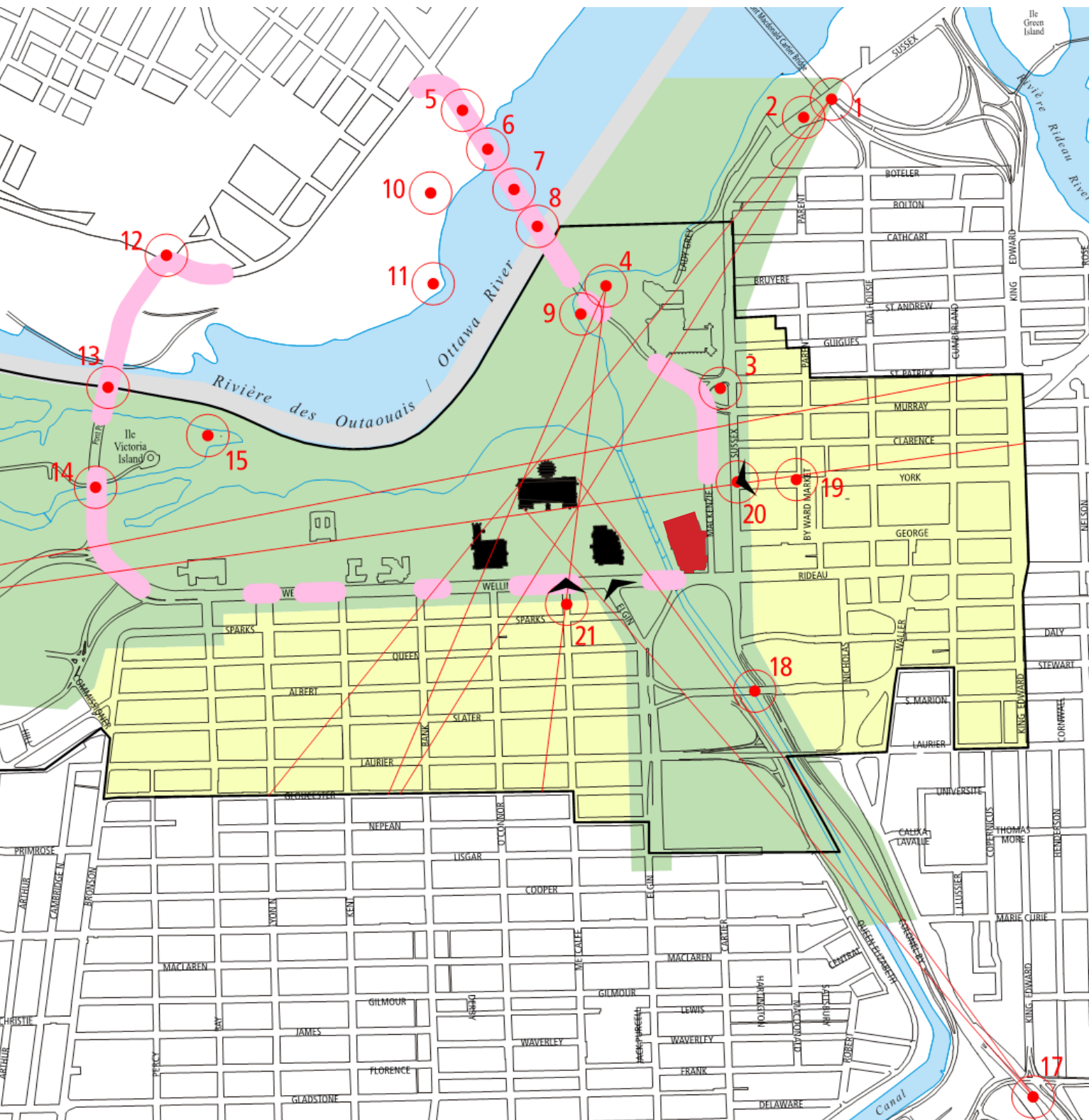
## CITY OF OTTAWA

Within the National Capital, there are a series of “protected” views as regulated by the City of Ottawa and the National Capital Commission. These views are primarily concerned with key view protection of “National Symbols” from height and bulk of new developments. This map shows the Château Laurier and its relationship to the City of Ottawa Official Plan View Sequence protection.



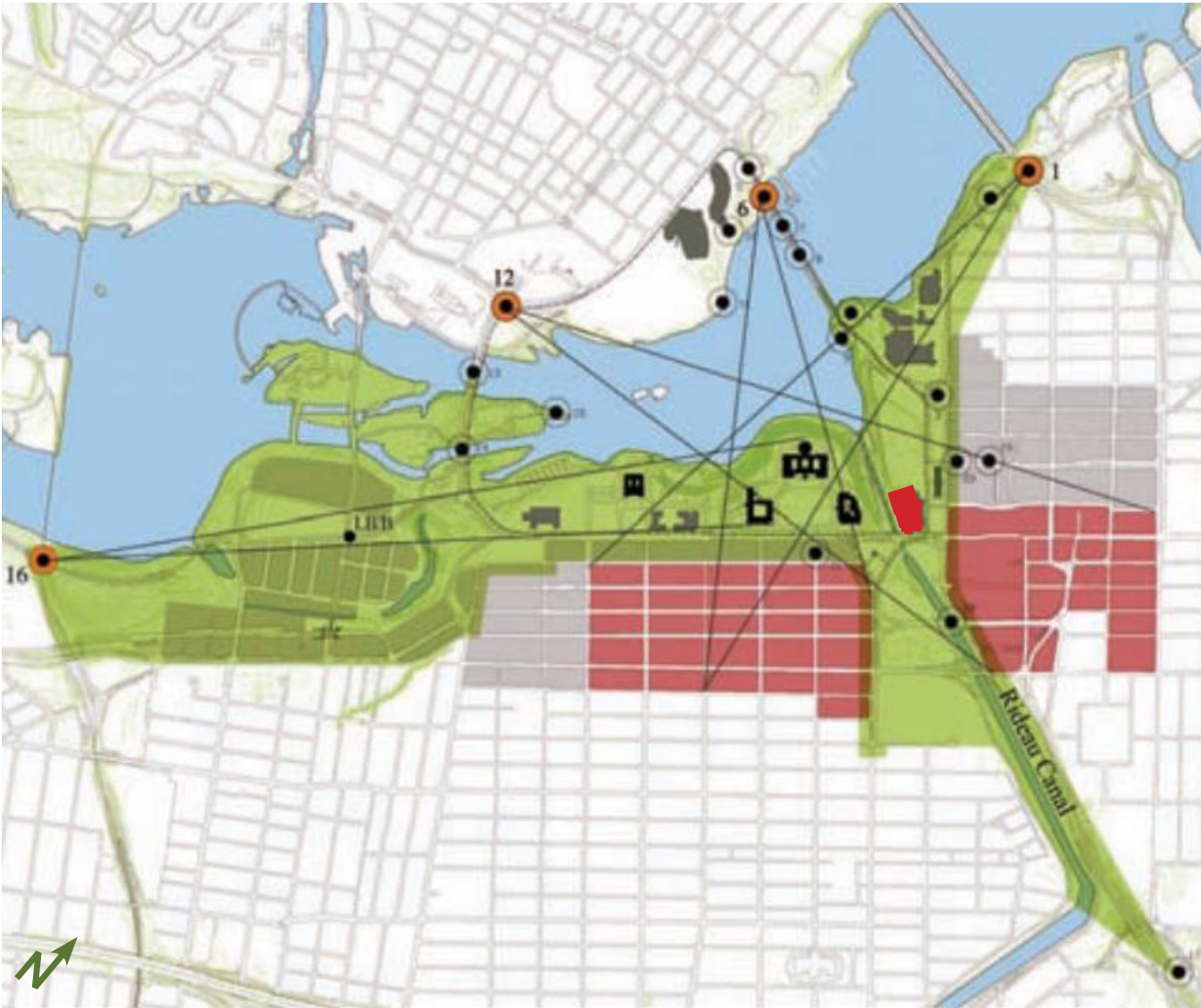
*City of Ottawa Official Plan Annex 8A Central Area Key Views and View Sequences of the Parliament Buildings and Other National Symbols, October 2006*





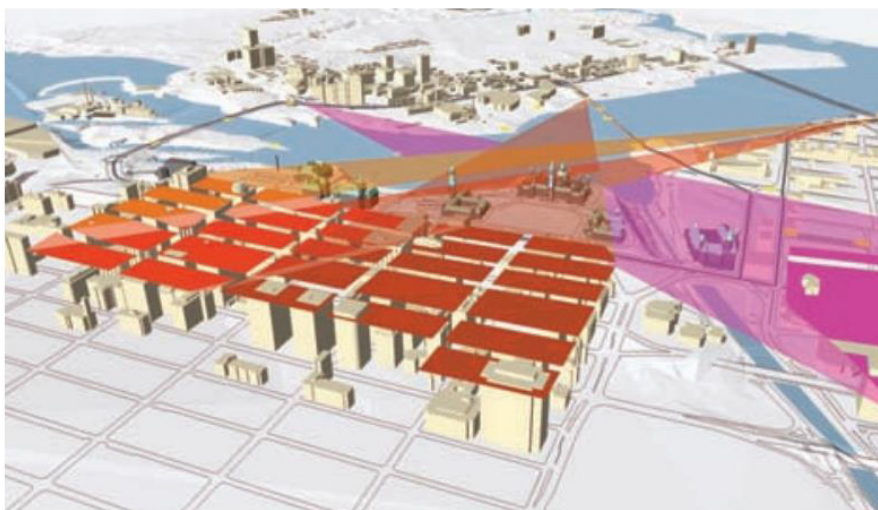
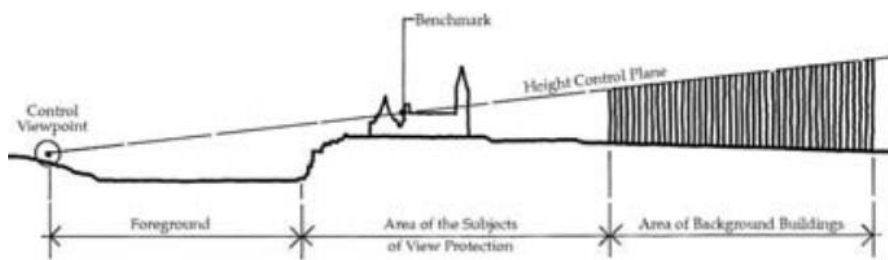


# PROTECTED VIEWS NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION



- City Blocks subject to Background Height Controls
- Area of Foreground Controls
- City Blocks in Ottawa's Central Area
- Control Viewpoint
- Parliament Buildings
- Château Laurier

The series of “protected” views as regulated by the National Capital Commission are primarily concerned with key view protection of “National Symbols” as well. The maps and diagrams in this section represent a very brief summary of the content contained in the National Capital Commission’s “Canada’s Capital View Protection”, dated 2007. While the views are very similar as those of the City of Ottawa, there are variations, for example, the NCC views include wider viewsheds for certain views including “View 16”. The NCC “protected” views that may be impacted by a north addition to the Château Laurier are Views 12 and 16, shown on the map on the opposite page. As the design of the addition evolves, these views will be evaluated on an on-going basis making the form and architecture of any addition cognizant of the “protected” views.



**OPPOSITE** Areas subject to Background and Foreground Height Controls. Highlighted Château Laurier added by author for emphasis. NCC Canada’s Capital View Protection, p 82.

**THIS PAGE TOP** Diagram of a Background Height Control Plane. NCC Canada’s Capital View Protection, p 86.

**THIS PAGE BOTTOM** Computer generated image of the composite of Height Control Planes, looking North. NCC Canada’s Capital View Protection, p 99.









**LEFT** Looking south from the north end of the Alexandra Bridge highlighting the landscape and buildings that make up the Ottawa's riverscape. The Château Laurier is located to the east of this view (**NCC "Protected" View 6**, see plan on previous spread).

**BELOW** Looking southeast from the Portage Bridge at rue Laurier towards Parliament Hill. The Château is hidden behind Parliament Hill (**NCC "Protected" View 12**, see plan on previous spread).



# HERITAGE RESOURCES

## KEY MAP

**NHS:** National Historic Site  
**WHS:** World Heritage Site (Unesco)  
**HCD:** Heritage Conservation District  
 (Part V, Ontario Heritage Act).  
**FHBRO:** Federal Heritage Buildings  
 Review Office

Confederation Boulevard

- CL.** Chateau Laurier NHS
- A.** Parliament Hill NHS
- B.** Centre Block, FHBRO Classified
- C.** East Block, FHBRO Classified
- D.** West Block, FHBRO Classified
- E.** Library of Parliament, FHBRO Classified
- F.** Rideau Canal WHS, NHS
- G.** Major's Hill Park
- H.** Connaught Building NHS
- I.** Byward Market HCD
- J.** Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica NHS
- K.** La Salle Academy, FHBRO Classified
- L.** National Arts Centre NHS
- M.** Sparks Street HCD
- N.** Langevin Block NHS
- O.** Lowertown West HCD
- P.** Lock Office, FHBRO Recognized
- Q.** Former Union Station, FHBRO Classified
- R.** Supreme Court of Canada, FHBRO Classified
- S.** Justice Building, FHBRO Recognized
- T.** Confederation Building, FHBRO Classified
- U.** East Memorial Building, FHBRO Classified
- V.** Sir John A. Macdonald Building, FHBRO Classified
- W.** Commissariat Building, FHBRO Classified
- X.** Maintenance Building (Former Potting Shed), FHBRO Recognized









**APPENDIX A**  
**CHÂTEAU LAURIER**  
**HERITAGE INVENTORY & CONTEXT**  
**REVIEW**

CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD  
JANUARY 2017



View of Major's Hill Park from the top level of the structured parking at the rear of the Château Laurier



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# INTRODUCTION





This document is Appendix A to “Château Laurier: Heritage Inventory & Context Review”. This appendix includes a summary of all of the designated heritage properties located within the Château Laurier’s surrounding environment. The relevant heritage documentation including UNESCO Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, National Historic Site of Canada Statements of Significance, FHBRO Heritage Statements of Significance, Provincial designations and local descriptions are included herein. They describe the reasons for heritage recognition and elements that contribute to the heritage character and value of the property. This information is relevant to understanding the highly sensitive nature of the urban environment’s historic character within close proximity of the Château Laurier. It is an environment that contains the greatest quantity and cross section of historic properties in the National Capital region.

In each of these properties or sites herein, there is also a key map that marks the location of the property/site (in dark green) relative to the Château Laurier (in grey).

All images ©MTBA Associates Inc. unless otherwise noted.

**LEFT** The Château Laurier as seen from the War Memorial and Confederation Square.



# RIDEAU CANAL

UNESCO World Heritage Site and  
National Historic Site of Canada

**LOCATION** Rideau Canal

**COMPLETED** 1832

**DESIGNER** Colonel John By

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The Rideau Canal, a monumental early 19th-century construction covering 202 km of the Rideau and Cataraqui rivers from Ottawa south to Kingston Harbour on Lake Ontario, was built primarily for strategic military purposes at a time when Great Britain and the United States vied for control of the region. The site, one of the first canals to be designed specifically for steam-powered vessels, also features an ensemble of fortifications. It is the best-preserved example of a slackwater canal in North America, demonstrating the use of this European technology on a large scale. It is the only canal dating from the great North American canal-building era of the early 19th century to remain operational along its original line with most of its structures intact.

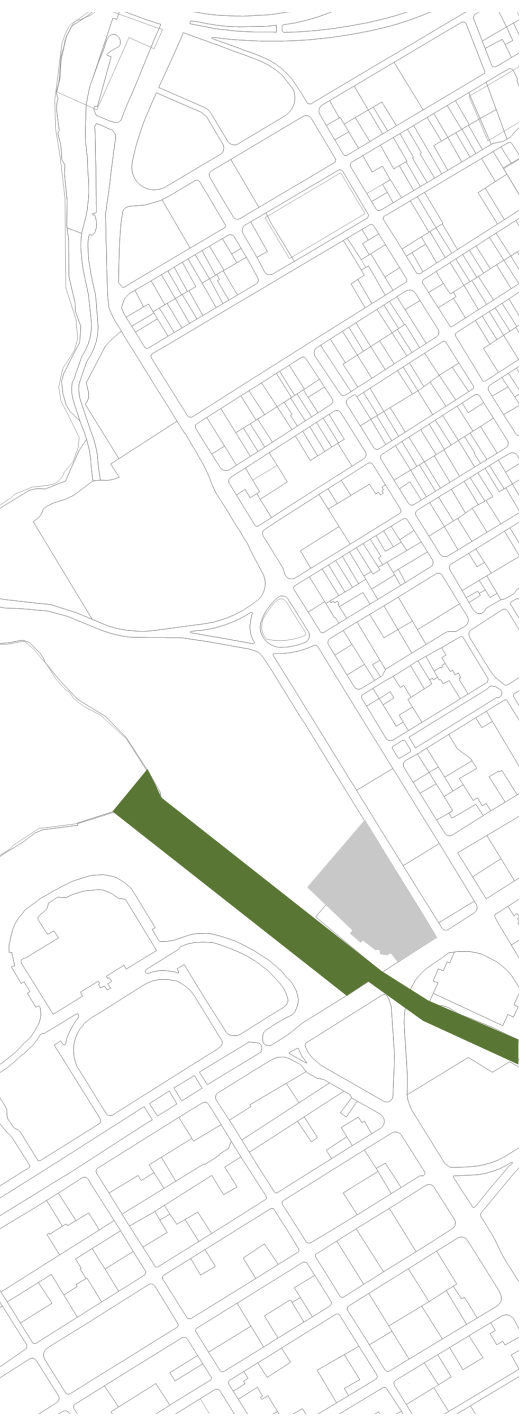
The Rideau Canal is a large strategic canal constructed for military purposes which played a crucial contributory role in allowing British forces to defend the colony of Canada against the United States of America, leading to the development of two distinct political and cultural entities in the north of the American continent, which can be seen as a significant stage in human history.

**Criterion (i):** The Rideau Canal remains the best preserved example of a slackwater canal in North America demonstrating the use of European slackwater technology in North America on a large scale. It is the only canal dating from the great North American canal-building era of the early 19th century that remains operational along its original line with most of its original structures intact.

**Criterion (iv):** The Rideau Canal is an extensive, well preserved and significant example of a canal which was used for a military purpose linked to a significant stage in human history - that of the fight to control the north of the American continent.

The nominated property includes all the main elements of the original canal together with relevant later changes in the shape of watercourses, dams, bridges, fortifications, lock stations and related archaeological resources. The original plan of the canal, as well as the form of the channels, has remained intact. The Rideau Canal has fulfilled its original dynamic function as an operating waterway without interruption since its construction. Most of its lock gates and sluice valves are still operated by hand-powered winches.

All the elements of the nominated area (canal, associated buildings and forts) are protected as national historic sites under the Historic Sites and Monuments



Act 1952-3. A buffer zone has been established. Repairs and conservation of the locks, dams, canal walls and banks are carried out directly under the control of Parks Canada. Each year one third of the canal's assets are thoroughly inspected by engineers. A complete inventory thus exists of the state of conservation of all parts of the property. A Management Plan exists for the canal (completed in 1996 and updated in 2005), and plans are nearing completion for Fort Henry and the Kingston fortifications. The Canal Plan is underpinned by the Historic Canals Regulations which provide an enforcement mechanism for any activities that might impact on the cultural values of the monument.





## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada is a 200 km man-made waterway running through a corridor of communities from Ottawa River to Lake Ontario. It was built in the mid 19th century. The designation includes lands alongside the canal which are administered by Parks Canada.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Rideau Canal was designated a national historic site of Canada because of the significance of:

- The construction of the canal system,
- The survival of a high number of original canal structures including locks, blockhouses, dams, weirs and original lockmasters' houses plus the integrity of most lockstations,
- The unique historical environment of the canal system.

The heritage value of the Rideau Canal lies in the health and wholeness of its cultural landscape, as a witness of the early 19th-century forms, materials and technologies of the waterway, and as a dynamic reflection of the longstanding human and ecological inter-relationships between the canal and its corridor. The Rideau Canal was built for the British government by Lieutenant-Colonel John By as a defensive work in 1826-1837. Canada assumed responsibility for its management in 1855, and the waterway served as a commercial transportation route through most of the 19th and 20th centuries. Parks Canada acquired the canal to sustain its recreational operation in 1972.

Sources: HSMBC Minutes, June 1924, 1967, November 1987; Commemorative Integrity Statement, 1987.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Aspects of this site which contribute to its heritage values include:

- The completeness of the cultural landscape as a longstanding system of transportation facilities including the waterway, locks, blockhouses, dams, weirs and lockstations with lockmasters' houses, associated shore lands and communities, extensive wetlands and lakes;
- The canal bed and its subdivision into lockstations;
- The original built resources, in particular, the form, craftsmanship, materials and locations of its early blockhouses, lockmasters' houses, and lockstation

- buildings canal walls, locks, dams and weirs;
- Defensive siting, materials and functional design of blockhouses, lockmasters' houses and lockstation landscapes, and remnants such as the guardhouses at Jones Falls and Morton's Dam;
- Archaeological remnants of construction including the ruin of the engineers' building, the remains of the lime kilns, the Sapper's Bridge and blacksmith shop at the Ottawa Locks, the construction camp at Newboro;
- Remnants of engineering design including the canal route, walls, locks, weirs, bridges such as the remains of Ottawa's Sapper's Bridge and submerged bridge at the Jones' Falls dam, and dams (especially the stone arch dams at Long Island and Jones Falls, and the underwater site of the original dam at Merrickville), and the operational technologies including the manual operation of all locks except Newboro, Black Rapids and Smiths Falls Combined Locks;
- The wetlands and lakes created by the canal construction;
- On-going operation of the canal and all evidence of its continuous seasonal operation since 1832 (particularly the integral role of its engineering works in the sustained operation of the navigation system as witnessed by facilities at all locks except Locks 29, 30 & 31 at Smiths Falls Combined, the surviving historic layout and configuration of lockstations including their patterns of open space and circulation);
- The continuity of historic, ecological and visual associations with shore lands and communities along the route, particularly pathways, view sheds from the canal locks and channel to the central core of Ottawa between the Mackenzie King Bridge and the Ottawa River, view sheds between the canal, the fortifications, the harbour in the landscape of Kingston harbour, views from the canal shore lands and communities between Becketts Landing and Kilarnock lockstation, along Newboro channel, at Chaffeys Locks, and at the lockstations at Davis Locks, Jones Falls, Upper and Lower Brewers and Kingston Mills.



# COMMISSARIAT BUILDING

FHBRO Classified Building  
LOCATION 3 Canal Lane  
COMPLETED 1827  
CONTRACTOR Thomas MacKay

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Commissariat Building, also known as the Bytown Museum, is an imposing three-storey, rough-coursed masonry structure that features three bays, a gable roof, supply doors on all three levels of the building, and a regular fenestration pattern. The Commissariat Building is located on the west side of the locks at the Ottawa Lockstation, at the lower end of Colonel By Valley, in the heart of Ottawa. As part of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada, it is the northernmost station along the Rideau Canal and is the oldest remaining stone building in Ottawa. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Commissariat Building is a Classified Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

### HISTORICAL VALUE

The Commissariat Building is one of the best examples of the national theme of the military defence strategy for Upper and Lower Canada in the 1820s and the evolution of that strategy over time. Located adjacent to the northern terminus of the Rideau Canal and near the heart of Ottawa's commercial district, the building served as a depot for supplying bulk provisions to many of the construction sites along the northern section of the Rideau Canal, housed offices for Commissariat officials, and provided residential accommodation. Colonel By's decision to commence construction of the canal at this site was the major impetus behind the founding and settlement of Bytown (now called Ottawa). As the only extant structure on the site dating from the period of construction of the Rideau Canal and having served as a depot for supplying the many construction sites along the Rideau Canal, the Commissariat Building is directly associated with the military origin and subsequent development of the Rideau waterway and the City of Ottawa.

### ARCHITECTURAL VALUE

The Commissariat Building is a very good example of a commercial or industrial building from the pre-Confederation era, erected in the British military traditions of the day. The building's balanced proportions and symmetrical elevations lend it a particularly imposing presence, which is strengthened by the visual weight and texture of the masonry walls. The design of the building combines the functional requirements of a commissariat with a finely



balanced composition of window and door openings, testifying to the superior design ability of the Corps of Royal Engineers. The high level of craftsmanship displayed in the masonry walls, constructed by the prominent Montreal contractor Thomas MacKay, reflects the importance placed on the construction of this building on the frontier of Upper Canada.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

Along with the other elements of the lockstation, including the locks and lockmaster's building, and due to its imposing character, design and location within the Colonel By Valley, the Commissariat Building reinforces the historic military character of its park-like setting. Its prominent sitting at the centre of Ottawa's tourist area visible from the Ottawa River, as well as its visibility and accessibility as an historical museum make the Commissariat Building a well-known neighbourhood landmark. The building has also been popularized in innumerable paintings, photographs and souvenir items.

Sources: Marilyn E. Armstrong-Reynolds, *Eleven Buildings, Northern Area, Rideau Canal, Ontario*, Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office Report 91-131 to 91-175; *Commissariat Building, Ottawa Lockstation, Ottawa, Ontario*, Heritage Character Statement 91-134.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The following character-defining elements of the Commissariat Building should be respected.

Its highly functional and very good aesthetic design, which displays a distinctly pre-Confederation commercial and industrial character, as manifested in:

- The imposing scale and balanced proportions of the rectangular mass;
- The symmetrical elevations with window and door openings that form a balanced composition, enhanced by stone voussoirs;
- The cross gable roof with its cedar shingle cladding, replicating the original roofing material;
- The concentration of large supply doors on the east and south elevations, which illustrate its original storage functions;
- The fenestration pattern on the north elevation, which illustrates its original administrative and residential functions, and maximizes light levels and views of the Ottawa River;
- The reproduction doors and windows finished with period hardware, which recall the building's 1840s appearance and contribute pattern and texture to the elevations;
- The interior layout, which has proven highly adaptable and as undergone only marginal changes, and the evidence it retains of the combined



storage, administrative and residential uses, as can be seen in the differently sized spaces.

Its high-quality craftsmanship and materials, which reflect the building's importance, for example:

- The rough coursed and textured masonry walls, with their well-executed masonry detailing, still in excellent condition and which testify to the skill of its builders;
- The interior detailing such as the wainscoting in the former residential section at the north end, the fireplace in the reading room on the third floor and a post and spindle staircase linking the second and third floors;
- The stone floors and walls of the interior.

The Commissariat Building's visual prominence, contribution to the historic military character of its park-like setting, and landmark status, as evidenced in:

- Its imposing position within the Colonel By Valley, facing the Rideau Canal and overlooking its northern entrance;
- Its direct relationship to the other elements of the Ottawa Lockstation, including the locks proper and Lockmaster's Building, and to the site's 19th century circulation patterns, reinstated in the 1990s;
- Its public function as an historical museum, which allows it to remain highly accessible.

**OPPOSITE** The final 8 locks of the Rideau Canal dropping to the Ottawa River, with the Lock Office in the foreground and the Château Laurier terraces and parking garage on the right side of the image.







# LOCK OFFICE

FHBRO Recognized Building

LOCATION Canal Lane

COMPLETED 1884

ARCHITECT Thomas Fuller

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Lock Office is located on the Rideau Canal below the Parliament Buildings at the upper end of the Ottawa lock station near the Rideau River. It is an asymmetrical, one-and-a-half storey building of random coursed stonework surmounted by a hipped roof clad in slate. Features include large arched windows, an enclosed porch and a shuttered bay window. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Lock Office is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

### HISTORICAL VALUE

The Lock Office is a very good example of a building associated with the construction and operation of the Rideau Canal. The Office illustrates the theme of military defence strategy for Upper and Lower Canada in the second quarter of the 19th century, and the evolution and transformation of the waterway as a federal public work. It also illustrates the development and maintenance of regional canal systems by the federal government in the post-Confederation era. It is associated with major changes at the Ottawa Lockstation during the late 19th century, such as the beautification of the site following the establishment of the adjacent Major's Hill Park.

### ARCHITECTURAL VALUE

The Lock Office at the Ottawa Lockstation is the most architecturally distinguished of the several lock offices along the Rideau Canal, and the only extant one that was constructed of masonry in the 19th century. The solid composition and eclectic architectural expression exemplifies the combination of different styles that typified the work of the Department of Public Works under the direction of Chief Architect Thomas Fuller. The building underwent extensive interior alterations in 1973, and its exterior was restored in 1980. Good craftsmanship can be seen in the exterior stonework.

### ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

The Lock Office reinforces the historic character of the Ottawa Lockstation and is a familiar landmark to local residents and visitors.



Sources: Marilyn E. Armstrong-Reynolds, Eleven Buildings, Northern Area, Rideau Canal, Ontario, Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, Building Report 91-131 to 91-134 and 91-175; Lock Office, Davies Lockstation, Rideau Canal, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement 91-134.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The following character-defining elements of the Lock Office should be respected.

Its ongoing role as a key component in both the Ottawa Lockstation and the regional canal system, for example:

- Its ongoing function as the lock office and one of the key public buildings of the Ottawa Lockstation;
- Its prominent location at the west side of the northern entry to the Rideau Canal, a key section within the regional canal system.

Its distinctive architectural styling and high-quality construction, as evidenced by:

- Its stylistic eclecticism and attention to detail, features that characterize many buildings designed under the direction of Chief Architect Thomas Fuller, as exemplified by the following carefully designed elements;
- Its asymmetrical one-and-a-half storey form, enclosed by random-coursed stonework and ornamented with ashlar trim, and surmounted by a complex slate tile roof;
- Its Romanesque Revival elements, such as thick voussoirs and a large semi-circular arch, which are combined with more traditional Victorian elements like segmented arches.

Its spatial and functional relationships to its immediate context and the canal landscape, as evidenced by:

- Its original physical and functional relationships with the nearby Commissariat Building and locks, which remain legible;
- **Its comfortable rapport with the Parliament Buildings and Château Laurier Hotel;**
- Its status as a well known landmark that is used by local residents and visitors from both land and water.





# CONNAUGHT BUILDING

National Historic Site

LOCATION 550 Sussex Drive

COMPLETED 1916

ARCHITECT David Ewart

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION

Designed in a Tudor Gothic style, the Connaught Building is an imposing government office building faced in randomly coursed rusticated sandstone. It is embellished with turrets, a crenellated roofline, buttresses, an ogee arched entrance and rows of flat-headed windows accented by dressed quoins. Situated on Sussex Drive, the Connaught Building overlooks Parliament Hill. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Connaught Building has been designated as a Classified Federal Heritage Building primarily because of its architectural significance. It represents one of the best works of David Ewart, chief architect of the Department of Public Works (1897-1914). It also has important historical associations with the development of a stronger federal presence in the capital, and continues to function as an important urban landmark.

Sources: Robert Hunter, Connaught Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Building Review Office Building Report 87-039; Connaught Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 87-039.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that define the heritage character of the building include:

- The exterior elevations, which were designed in the modified Tudor Gothic style favoured by Ewart because of its compatibility with the Parliament Buildings and its associations with British precedent;
- The symmetry of the massing, which reflects an underlying Beaux-Arts layout;
- The highly articulated stonework, with its buttresses, corbelling, niches, carved embellishments, and elaborate window and door surrounds, and the doors and windows themselves;
- The wall finish, which is primarily of sandstone, with a granite plinth and Wallace stone detailing.





Mackenzie Avenue elevation of the 8-storey Connaught Building located across the street from the Château Laurier.





# FORMER GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

National Historic Site of Canada and  
FHBRO Recognized Building

LOCATION 541 Sussex Drive

COMPLETED 1881

ARCHITECT Unknown

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Former Geological Survey of Canada Building is a relatively plain three-storey, stone building located on a prominent corner in Ottawa's Byward market area. The designation refers to the building on its urban lot.

#### HERITAGE VALUE

The Former Geological Survey of Canada Building was designated a national historic site in 1955 because it is one of the oldest remaining buildings erected in the capital and it was the home, at various times, of public services and cultural institutions.

The heritage value of this site resides in its associations with official Ottawa as illustrated by its location, form, materials and massing. The former Geological Survey Building was created in the 1860s from three attached structures have been used individually or as a group as a hotel, army barracks, museum, government offices, commercial offices and shops. The oldest part of the building was constructed in 1863 by a local businessman, James Skead, for the expansion of what was then the British Hotel. Almost as soon as this expansion was completed as the Clarendon Hotel, the owners tried to sell the property, leasing it to the Crown as military barracks from 1864 to 1871. In 1874 it was remodelled once again as a hotel. In 1879 the federal government purchased the property.

As a Crown-owned building, 541 Sussex Drive was first used as the Ottawa home of the Geological Survey of Canada, originally established in Montréal in 1842 by the Province of the United Canadas. In 1877 a new act concerning the Survey, made it a branch of the federal government under the Minister of the Interior. In 1879 the simultaneous decisions were made to purchase the Clarendon Hotel and retrofit it as the offices and museum of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada. In addition to the Survey's important work in supporting the discovery and exploitation of Canada's vast mineral wealth, its museum collection became the foundation of Canada's national museums.

Before the Survey moved into the former hotel, the building was used to host the inaugural exhibit of the Canadian Academy of Arts. The works from this exhibit formed the initial collection of the National Gallery of Canada.

The Survey provided services for those interested in geology and natural history for professional, scholarly and business reasons and for the general public. As a consequence, its headquarters at 541 Sussex Street included museum exhibits, a library, a mapping office and laboratories for preparing natural history specimens, analyzing geological materials, and drawing and





copying maps. Its museum occupied all three floors of the George Street wing of the building, which was renovated several times, including with funds from the Survey's founder, William Logan. The Sussex Drive section was rebuilt by a prominent local builder, Thomas Askwith, on its original footprint in 1881 by the Department of Public Works for Survey offices. The Survey, under the Direction of Dr. Alfred Selwyn from 1869 to 1894, remained at 541 Sussex Drive until 1911 when it moved to its new home, the Victoria Memorial Museum.

After the museum and the survey offices moved, 541 Sussex Street was renovated for the Department of Mines. In 1917 a laboratory was added on the east side of the George Street wing.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minute, December 1955.



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements which relate to the heritage value of the Former Geological Survey of Canada Building include:

- Its location in the oldest commercial area of Ottawa on the corner of Sussex Drive;
- Its siting, flush to the sidewalks;
- Elements that testify to its commercial origins, including its organization around an interior courtyard, its slight setback from Sussex Drive due to its construction on the footprint of an earlier structure, the clear distinction between the formal treatment on the street elevations and the informal treatment on the elevations facing the interior courtyard;
- Elements associated with vernacular examples of classicism for commercial buildings of the period, including the regular placement of openings, its modest classically inspired ornamentation including semi-arched window lintels, keystones, broad stone stringcourses, stone quoins;
- Elements that relate to the renovation of the structure for government purposes, including the consistency in the treatment of the George Street elevation across the two parts older parts of the building, the continuation of limestone masonry for all cladding and trim, including the one-and-a-half-storey laboratory extension, and the stone construction of the extension;
- -elements associated with its use as a museum, including the symmetrical rows of large, rectangular windows along the north and south elevations of its George Street wing, its use of double-hung sash windows, and surviving finishes dating from the building's use as a museum;
- Elements that articulate its construction in three parts, including the use of a hipped roof on the Sussex Street section and a gabled roof on the George

- Street wing and the distinctive, round-arched window treatment of the laboratory extension;
- Its relationship to the interior courtyard and to the building on the north side of the courtyard that served as the stable for the hotel.

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Former Geological Survey of Canada Building is a prominent building on Sussex Drive in Ottawa. A corner building, the two principal facades face Sussex Drive and George Street. It is a well-proportioned, three-storey stone structure of classical influence. Its many regularly placed windows give the building a well-balanced appearance. Behind the structure is an attractive courtyard. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

#### HERITAGE VALUE

The Former Geological Survey of Canada Building is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

### HISTORICAL VALUE

The Former Geological Survey of Canada Building is associated with the early development of Ottawa, formerly known as Bytown. The building's varied history reflects many themes, including the important social and economic roles of hotels, and the staging of cultural and political events in 19th century Bytown. It is also associated with the continuing development of Sussex Drive as a primary commercial and symbolic corridor in the city. The early role as the museum and offices of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, the first Canadian museum of national scope, adds to the historical value of the building. The building is also associated with James Skead (1817-1884) a prominent local businessman who became a member of the provincial legislative assembly, and Alfred Selwyn (1824-1902), a noted geologist who became director of the Geological Survey of Canada.

### ARCHITECTURAL VALUE

The Former Geological Survey of Canada Building is valued for its very good aesthetics and is one of the oldest extant buildings in the downtown area. The well-proportioned, classically inspired building has Italianate detailing evidenced in the bracketed eaves and the elaborate cornices. Classical influence can be seen in the massing and the rigidly symmetrical window arrangement.

Good functional design is evident in the adaptability of the design. Good craftsmanship can be seen in the limestone walls and the detailing of the stonework.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

The Former Geological Survey of Canada Building reinforces the historic / commercial / institutional character of the market area in Ottawa and is a familiar city landmark to local residents, people working in the vicinity and pedestrians.

### Sources:

Julie Harris, Former Geological Museum, 541 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Buildings Review Office Report 85-058.

Geological Museum (former), 541 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement 85-058.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character-defining elements of the Former Geological Survey of Canada Building should be respected, for example:

- Its very good aesthetics, good functional design, and good craftsmanship;
- The three-storey, L-shaped massing of the structure with a low-pitched metal roof;
- The walls of irregularly coursed limestone, with dressed stone window surrounds, sills, string coursing and corner quoins;
- The principal (Sussex Drive) façade;
- The hipped, low-pitched metal clad roof on the Sussex Drive section and the gable roof on the George street wing;
- The simple Italianate detailing, including bracketed eaves, and cornices;
- The even, regularly placed door and window openings with distinct classical decorative trim identifying each storey;
- The wood-framed staircase at the main entry;
- The patterns of access into the building.
- The manner in which the former Geological Museum is compatible with the formal character of the setting that contains official and governmental buildings, and is a familiar city landmark as evidenced by:
- Its scale, design and materials that maintain a visual and physical relationship with the surrounding block of buildings and complement the streetscape;
- Its familiarity to visitors, passing pedestrians, and local residents owing to its location on a busy corner of Sussex Drive and its National Historic Sites commemorative plaque on the Sussex Drive façade.



# PARLIAMENT HILL COMPLEX

National Historic Site of Canada and  
FHBRO Classified Complex

LOCATION Wellington Street

COMPLETED 1927

ARCHITECT Various

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Parliament Buildings National Historic Site of Canada is prominently located on a hill above the Ottawa River on Wellington Street in downtown Ottawa, Ontario. Four Gothic Revival style buildings grouped on landscaped grounds, namely the West Block, the Centre Block, the East Block, and the Library. Built 1859-1865 to serve the united provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, the Parliament Buildings were occupied by the House of Commons, Senate and departmental offices of the new Dominion of Canada after Confederation in 1867. The Parliament Buildings have been constantly occupied, and continue to be the real and symbolic centre of Canadian government. Official recognition refers to the four buildings as defined by their footprints.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Parliament Buildings was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1976 because:

- first occupied in 1865 by the departmental offices of the Province of Canada, the Gothic Revival style parliament buildings housed the new Government of Canada eighteen months later.

The Parliament Buildings were initially conceived to serve the needs of the government of the united provinces of Upper and Lower Canada; however, after Confederation in 1867, they were occupied by the House of Commons, Senate, and departmental offices of the new Dominion of Canada. Originally known as Barracks Hill, the site was chosen for its commanding location, its fine uninterrupted views of the region, and for its three decades of occupation by a military garrison and the Royal Engineers, rendering it a central focus of town social life.

The building complex was dramatically sited on the hill and construction began in 1859. The original buildings were examples of Ruskinian picturesque High Victorian Gothic architecture, designed by two architectural partnerships. Thomas Fuller and Chilion Jones designed the original Centre Block and Library, and Thomas Stent and Augustus Laver were responsible for the East and West Blocks. The buildings were intended to house all government activities with the East and West Blocks reserved for the entire civil service. The Centre Block was sufficiently complete in 1865 to be occupied by government departments, and it was officially opened on 6 June 1866. The Library was begun in 1859, redesigned in 1870, and finished in 1877. Fire destroyed the Centre Block, with the exception of the Library, in 1916. When it was rebuilt a few years later, the



building was enlarged and the Peace Tower was completed in 1928. The Gothic style was retained by the architects Pearson & Marchand, although updated to a Beaux-Arts axial plan with Gothic details

The Parliament Buildings play an important symbolic role as the physical embodiment of the Canadian government. This symbolism is most visually manifest in the exterior image of the Centre Block and its Peace Tower, yet the whole grouping is clearly identified with the nation's capital, particularly because it is not an architectural image developed elsewhere in the country.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, July 2007; plaque text, 1978.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that contribute to the heritage character of the site include:

- Its prominent location on a hill facing Wellington Street above the Ottawa River;
- Its Gothic Revival style;
- The relationship between the buildings;
- Viewscapes in all directions surrounding the site.

Elements related to East Block:

- Its two-and-a-half storey irregular massing and copper mansard roof with dormers, chimneys and towers;
- Its construction using Nepean, Ohio and Potsdam sandstone;
- The façades with irregular and symmetrical features, including projections and recessions of pavilions and towers;
- High Victorian Gothic Revival elements, including Gothic windows and doorways, towers, iron finials and cresting;
- Ruskinian Gothic Revival polychromic colours and textures and rugged picturesque façades;

Elements related to West Block:

- Its two-storey irregular massing and mansard copper roof;
- Its construction using Nepean, Ohio and Potsdam sandstone;
- Its irregular, varying sloped roof with towers, turrets and chimneys;
- High Victorian Gothic Revival elements, including Gothic windows and doorways, towers, iron finials and cresting;
- The English Decorated style wings;
- The principal interior spaces;
- The 19th- and early 20th-century interior and finishes;
- The 1874-78 addition and its interior finishes, the former office of Alexander Mackenzie, the Mackenzie Tower, and the spiral staircases;
- The 1906 extension.

#### Elements related to Centre Block:

- Its four-storey irregular massing and copper mansard roof, punctuated by dormers and chimney stacks;
- Beaux-Arts Gothic Revival design elements, its monumentality, symmetrical plan, Gothic windows and doorways, stained and etched glasswork, towers, iron finials and cresting;
- Its steel-frame construction infilled with brick and terracotta tile, and clad in Nepean and Ohio sandstone;
- The 92-metre Peace Tower, its copper mansard roof, four-sided clock, 53-bell carillon and decoration;
- Its Tyndall limestone Gothic Revival interior with rib and fan vaulting and decorative motifs;
- Its functional layout on an axial plan;
- The House of Commons and Senate Chamber;
- Its public and ceremonial spaces, including the Memorial Chamber and the Hall of Honour.

#### Elements related to the Library:

- Its free-standing octagonal massing and hemi-spherical glazed copper dome with gilded lantern;
- Its construction using Nepean, Ohio and red sandstone;
- The fire-proof materials and features, including iron doors and concrete floors;
- Its High Victorian Gothic Revival style, including its circular plan, chapter house-inspired design, flying buttresses, pinnacles, turrets and iron cresting;
- The fenestration and Gothic windows with geometrical tracery;
- The naturally-lit circular reading room, surrounded by a polygonal ring of service rooms;
- The two galleries with panelled wood shelving, decorated with Gothic motifs;
- Interior decorations and finishes, including the carved stone capitals and corbels, the decorated wrought-iron railings, the ash, walnut and cherry patterned floor and the statue of Queen Victoria;
- Its use as a library supporting Parliament.

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Parliament Hill Complex in Ottawa is composed of four Gothic Revival pavilions that together make up the Parliament Buildings. Surrounding an expansive lawn and overlooking swirling waters of the Ottawa River, the picturesque complex of matching yet different Gothic Revival designs displays



a dazzling array of copper roofs, towers pinnacles and iron cresting against the skyline. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

## HERITAGE VALUE

The Parliament Hill complex is designated Classified because it is, in its entirety, a symbol of Parliament and Canadian government; because it is one of the better Canadian examples of design at a larger scale; and because it has been the site of numerous nationally significant events and ceremonies.

The foundation of the design of the Parliamentary Complex was the brilliant siting of the buildings on Barracks Hill. Viewed from the north, the design of the buildings and the treatment of the site together made a High Victorian picturesque composition of international significance. In its more formal southern aspect, the complex was rendered a fully harmonious whole by Calvert Vaux's simple but inspired retaining wall and lawns. The fence along Wellington Street is a significant design and an example of advanced craftsmanship.

### Sources:

Staff Report, Parliament Hill Complex, Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Building Review Office Building Report 86-052.

Parliament Hill Complex, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 86-052.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character-defining elements of the Parliament Buildings should be respected, for example:

- The relationship between the buildings and the distinctive outdoor spaces around them, which is animated by the tension between its formal, almost austere, centre and its rugged, apparently wild, periphery;
- The Wellington Street fence, which is the original and defining iteration of the
- Town/Crown dichotomy;
- The parliamentary lawns, which are the formal centre of the complex and whose essential character is simplicity approaching austerity;
- Calvert Vaux's graceful retaining wall and podium, the basic form-giving element of the space, reinforced by the circulation pattern and grades;
- The spaces between the buildings and the cliff, which were developed in the gardenesque tradition and spoke to Major's Hill Park, which was designed at the same time in the same tradition;
- The essentially wild state of the cliffs, necessary to the splendid image the Hill presents when viewed from the north.



**RIGHT** Oblique aerial photograph of the Parliament Hill complex within the larger context with the Ottawa River and downtown Ottawa. Bing Maps







# PARLIAMENT HILL PUBLIC GROUNDS

National Historic Site of Canada  
(Shares a National Historic Site of  
Canada designation with the entire  
Parliament Hill ensemble)

**LOCATION** Wellington Street

**COMPLETED** 1875

**DESIGNER** Calvert Vaux

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Public Grounds of the Parliament Buildings National Historic Site of Canada is prominently located on Wellington Street above the Ottawa River in downtown Ottawa, Ontario. The site is comprised of the four Parliament Buildings (Centre Block, East Block, West Block and the Library) and the grounds surrounding them. The grounds are landscaped with flower beds, mature trees, an upper terrace and roadways; and contains commemorative monuments and statues of varying styles and sizes. The site also features several associated buildings recently built behind West Block. Official recognition refers to property no.08834, which includes Centre Block, East Block, West Block, the Library, and the auxiliary buildings built behind West Block.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Public Grounds of the Parliament Buildings was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1976 because:

- It is a good example of landscape design.

Constructed between 1859 and 1865 in the Gothic-Revival style, the Parliament Buildings were initially conceived to house the government of the united provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. The government first occupied the buildings in 1865, and after Confederation in 1867 the buildings were occupied by the House of Commons, the Senate, and the departmental offices of the new Dominion of Canada. With the change of government, commissioning a landscape design for the grounds became an important concern.

In 1873 the Department of Public Works contracted well-known New York landscape architect Calvert Vaux to design a plan for the public grounds on Parliament Hill. Superseding a design by English designer Marshall Wood, Vaux's design was implemented during the second half of the 1870s. Vaux's design accentuated the differences in elevation between Centre Block and East and West Blocks with the construction of an upper terrace and projecting bays and stairs. Three sets of stairs linked the two levels, and at either side, curving ramps carried the road to the primary entrance of Centre Block. His design also included various roadways to integrate the dominating Parliament Buildings with the departmental buildings. Small geometric flower beds, diagonal walks and a circular plaza with a fountain ornamented the lawn.

While Calvert Vaux's design was being implemented, additional work was undertaken to develop less formal gardens and the Lover's Walk to the north of



the buildings, in accordance with the ideas of Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works, Thomas Scott. Although the outline of Vaux's design is still evident, it has largely been superseded by other designs. For example, the fountain and the diagonal walks have been removed and the crisp outline of the terrace retaining wall has been blurred by shrubbery. Fourteen statues have also been erected since the implementation of Vaux's design. The first statue built behind the buildings was that of Sir George-Etienne Cartier, unveiled in 1885. Other statues followed including those of Sir John A. MacDonald in 1895, Alexander Mackenzie in 1901 and Queen Victoria, also in 1901. Pathways, flower beds and an ornamental summerhouse were added behind the buildings in subsequent years, although the flower beds and summerhouse are no longer present, as parking needs replaced much of the early landscape design. The Public grounds of the Parliament Buildings is often the focal for national celebrations and expressions of democracy.



Sources: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, November 1976; July 2007.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The key elements that contribute to the heritage character of this site include:

- Its prominent location on Wellington Street in Ottawa, Ontario;
- Its dramatic siting on a hill overlooking the Ottawa River;
- The 9-hectare, Picturesque style landscape that rises from Wellington Street and falls sharply behind the Library at the forested cliff that bounds the river;
- The formal character of the landscape designed to integrate the Parliament Buildings, to emphasize the differences in elevation between Centre Block and East and West Blocks, and to create a public park-like space;
- The integrity and abundance of natural elements, including the mature trees and shrubs and the cliff-side environment;
- The landscaping elements including the expansive lawns, formal gardens and flower beds, shrubs, pedestrian walkways, light fixtures, stone and wrought-iron fencing, stairs and parking lots;
- The various roadways that integrate the Parliament Buildings and the surrounding landscape;
- The design, placement and extent of the fence that bounds the site on Wellington Street, featuring a low stone wall topped by a single tiered wrought-iron fence with Gothic tracery, and regularly spaced stone piers with Gothic details (some with surmounting light fixtures);
- The Queen's Gates, centrally located in line with the Peace Tower, designed in the High Victorian Gothic style, featuring a three tiered wrought-iron main gate with arches and Gothic tracery, bounded on either side by a

- stone pier with Gothic details;
- The Centennial Flame in its placement, location and extent;
- The design, placement and extent of the upper terrace, including the detailed retaining wall of stone construction with light fixtures mounted on the wall, the three sets of projecting bays and stairs constructed in stone that link the two levels, the curving ramps that carry the road to the primary entrance of Centre Block and the asphalt and concrete surface of the terrace;
- The two identical flagstaffs of stone construction with Gothic details, located on either side of the upper terrace;
- The footprints of Centre Block, East Block, West Block, and the Library in their placement and extent;
- Any auxiliary buildings or structures on the site, including the visitors' pavilion behind West Block and the Summer Pavilion of painted wood construction with a copper roof;
- The various statues and monuments on the site in their placement and extent including, the statues of Sir Wilfred Laurier, William Lyon Mackenzie King, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir George-Étienne Cartier, Robert Baldwin and Sir Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine, Thomas D'Arcy McGee, George Brown, Alexander Mackenzie, John George Diefenbaker, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Victoria, Lester Bowles Pearson, Sir Robert Laird Borden, the Famous Five, the Victoria Tower Bell, and the Police Memorial;
- The footprint, design and composition of the Lover's Walk overlooking the Ottawa River;
- Any surviving elements from Vaux's original design including the diagonal walkways that converged on a circular plaza, the fountain and the small geometric flower beds;
- Any surviving evidence of the pathways, flower beds and summerhouse added behind the buildings;
- The spatial and historical relationship with the Parliament Buildings, Langevin Block, Rideau Canal and Confederation Square National Historic Sites of Canada;
- The views from the site toward the Ottawa River.



FHBRO Classified Building  
(Shares a National Historic Site of  
Canada designation with the entire  
Parliament Hill ensemble)

**LOCATION** Wellington Street

**COMPLETED** 1866

**ARCHITECT** Stent and Laver

# PARLIAMENT HILL, EAST BLOCK

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Rising above the Rideau Canal and the Ottawa River, the East Block is a very fine example of the of the High Victorian Gothic Revival style. Built of Nepean sandstone and crowned by copper roofing, its asymmetrical massing, towered silhouette, highly textured and coloured stone surfaces, and gothic ornamentation all contribute to the East Block's picturesque appearance. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The East Block was designated Classified because of its historical associations, architectural quality, and environmental impact.

As office accommodation to prime ministers, governors-general, senior ministers, and the Privy Council, the Parliament Hill - East Block is directly associated with the shaping of Canada's history. Aesthetically, it is the finest example of Ruskinian Gothic Revival in the country. In addition to being a national landmark in its own right, the East Block plays a critical role in establishing the overall character of the Parliament Hill complex, as well as contributing strongly to the character of the Confederation Square area to the south, and the Major's Hill Park area to the east.

#### Sources:

Leslie Maitland, Parliament Hill Complex, Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Building Review Office Building Report 86-052; Parliament Hill - East Block, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 86-052.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that embody the heritage character of the East Block include:

- Its full display of the picturesque massing, structural ornament, and careful manipulation of texture and colour for surface effect valued by the High Victorian designer;
- The inclusion of coloured stone, and the variation between dressed stone surrounds and rock-faced walls;
- The 1910 wing, which is a modest, entirely sympathetic addition;
- The interior of the building, originally a straightforward arrangement of closed offices along a central corridor, an arrangement which has been preserved in the recent renovations.



**RIGHT** Parliament Hill, East Block as seen from the Château Laurier west terraces.









# PARLIAMENT HILL, CENTRE BLOCK

FHBRO Classified Building  
(Shares a National Historic Site of  
Canada designation with the entire  
Parliament Hill ensemble)

**LOCATION** Wellington Street

**COMPLETED** 1927

**ARCHITECT** John Pearson

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Housing the Senate and the House of Commons, the Centre Block in the Parliament Complex is an ordered, monumental building constructed in Nepean sandstone with copper roofing. Designed in a Gothic revival style, the clearly articulated exterior, with its grand public entrance through the soaring Peace Tower, and flanking entrances to the House of Commons and Senate Chambers, reflects a rational and well-ordered interior plan. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Centre Block was designated as a Classified Federal Heritage Building because of its exceptional significance as a national landmark, and because of the ceremonial and iconographic design and detailing of the building itself. As the site since 1922 of both the House of Commons and the Senate, it has come to symbolize Canada's nationhood.

Sources:

Robert Hunter, Parliament Hill Complex, Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Building Review Office Building Report 86-052; Parliament Hill Complex, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 86-052.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that define the heritage value of the site include:

- Its conception as a symbol of Canada;
- The whole of its exterior, centred on the Peace Tower;
- Its many public interiors and its ceremonial circulation spaces, which are inextricably entwined with its symbolic and practical functions as the seat of government, and thus embody its heritage character;
- Its function as an example of the design methodology of the École des Beaux Arts applied to a Gothic design vocabulary;
- Its clear functional layout reinforced by a carefully considered hierarchy of space;
- The Gothic ornament of the building, which does not aspire to a 19th century picturesqueness, and which is carefully worked out to reinforce the clear reading of the building and its hierarchy of space;
- The on-going carving program in the building, which has become a small part of its heritage character (the original design of the building made ample provision for continuing decoration, which has generally taken the form of commemorative devices).

FHBRO Classified Building  
(Shares a National Historic Site of  
Canada designation with the entire  
Parliament Hill ensemble)  
**LOCATION** Centre Block, Parliament Hill  
**COMPLETED** 1876  
**ARCHITECT** Thomas Fuller

# PARLIAMENT HILL, LIBRARY

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Inspired by the medieval chapter house, the Parliament Hill –Library is an octagonal stone building attached to the Centre Block. Designed in a highly romantic, Gothic Revival style, it is distinguished by richly coloured stonework, steep copper roof capped by iron cresting, radiating buttresses and by large pointed-arched windows that bring light into its spectacular reading room. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Parliament Hill Library was designated Classified because it is a national symbol of outstanding architectural and artistic merit which continues to serve its historical function in support of the operation of the Parliament of Canada.

The Parliament Hill -Library building is the best extent example of the work of Thomas Fuller, a distinguished Canadian architect. It plays a feature role in establishing the overall character of the Parliament Hill complex. In the library's role as an archival depository, it harbours a collection that began as an initiative of Lord Simcoe, following his appointment as first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada in 1791. It presently contains a rare and specialized collection of more than 600,000 volumes dealing primarily with parliamentary procedure, economics, finance, and constitutional law.

#### Sources:

Jacqueline Adell, Parliament Hill Complex, Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Building Review Office Building Report 86-052;Parliament Hill Complex, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 86-052.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that embody the heritage character of the Parliament Hill – Library include

- All of the exterior chapter house form of the Library;
- The form, surfaces and fitments of its domed reading room with radiating stacks;
- The quality of natural light in the reading room;
- Its historical function in support of the operation of the Parliament of Canada.



# PARLIAMENT HILL, WEST BLOCK

FHBRO Classified Building  
(Shares a National Historic Site of  
Canada designation with the entire  
Parliament Hill ensemble)

**LOCATION** Wellington Street

**COMPLETED** 1865

**ARCHITECT** Stent and Laver

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Parliament Hill - West Block is a highly picturesque, building of Nepean sandstone, mansard copper roofs, iron cresting, and Gothic detailing. Facing the centre lawn of Parliament Hill, the present building incorporates two extensions. A distinguishing feature is the tall Mackenzie tower. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Parliament Hill - West Block was designated Classified because of its important historical associations, architectural quality and environmental impact.

Designed to accommodate the civil service, the Parliament Hill - West Block is directly associated with the administrative arm of the federal government during the country's formative years. Together with the 1859-65 wings of the East block, and the Library of Parliament, the Parliament Hill - West Block ranks with the best mid-19th century Gothic Revival buildings in the world. The product of three separate building campaigns, it presents an essay in the evolution of the Gothic Revival style from mid-19th century to the early 20th century.

In addition to being a national landmark in its own right, the West Block plays a critical role in establishing the overall character of Parliament Hill and strongly influences the character of the west end of Wellington Street.

#### Sources:

Jacqueline Adell, Parliament Hill Complex, Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Building Review Office Building Report 86-052; West Block, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 86-052.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The heritage character of the Parliament Hill - West Block resides primarily in:

- Its picturesque massing and footprint;
- The rich interplay between materials, textures and colours: rock-faced Nepean sandstone walls contrast with dressed Ohio, Cleveland and red Potsdam sandstone trims;
- Its mansard roofs sheathed in weathered green copper;
- Surviving portions of the 19th- and early 20th-century interior plans,



features and finishes, including certain compatible 1960s interior features and finishes;

- Its site, setting and landmark qualities;
- The original site relationship between the West Block and the Centre and East Blocks, which remains virtually intact, and relationships on the east and south sides, namely driveways and lawns, which continue as originally conceived.

Key elements that define the heritage value of the 1859-65 building include:

- The east wing, south wing and southern half of the west wing, which are in the English Decorated Style, characterized by a distinctive use of ornament;
- In the interior, the principal north-south and east-west corridors, principal entrance vestibules and principal staircases, which continue to control the circulation pattern.

Key elements that define the heritage value of the 1874-78 wing (attached to the west wing of the original 1859-65 building) include:

- The harmonization with the existing building, but with an emphasis on greater height and rich detail;
- Its principal feature, the Mackenzie Tower, the best-preserved element of this wing, whose exposed iron truss work supporting the spire is a rare surviving example of complex 19th century iron truss systems;
- The interior, with its smooth cream-coloured stone, white plaster, a strongly veined green marble, and paneled and carved wood;
- The stair arcading screening the staircase from the elevator shaft—particularly noteworthy as all that remains of the original elevator, one of the earliest passenger elevators in Canada;
- The spiral staircases, and the former office of Alexander Mackenzie above the entrance vestibule, with its elaborate stone, wood and plaster decoration.

Key elements that define the heritage character of the 1906 wing (running east-west between the 1859-65 and 1874-78 wings) include:

- Changing turn-of-the-century tastes for a simpler handling of materials and minimal decoration.

# CONFEDERATION SQUARE

National Historic Site of Canada  
LOCATION Confederation Square  
COMPLETED 1969  
ARCHITECT Various

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Located in the heart of the nation's capital, Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada is best known to Canadians as the site of the National War Memorial with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The square opens at the northern terminus of Elgin Street, immediately southeast of Parliament Hill, and is a planned urban space where commercial, ceremonial, and institutional spheres of the city converge. Developed during the early twentieth century from an existing commercial district, the square is built around a permanent bridge over the Rideau Canal, and is framed by a group of buildings including the Central Chambers, the Scottish-Ontario Chambers, the Central Post Office, the Langevin Block, the East Block of the Parliament Buildings, the Château Laurier, the Union Station (Grand Trunk), and the National Arts Centre. The official recognition refers to the whole site with its component parts including the eight buildings, the remaining façade of a ninth, and the war memorial in their existing spatial relationships.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Confederation Square was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1984 because:

- It is the second most important ceremonial centre of the national capital, after Parliament Hill;
- It is a rare instance in Canada of a large-scale downtown development following the planning tenets of the City Beautiful movement;
- The Square is framed by a familiar and eclectic group of structures impressive for their variety in age, style, scale and function.

The heritage value of this place resides in its role as a national ceremonial site and in its physical manifestation of a City Beautiful-inspired public space as illustrated by its location in the heart of Ottawa. It also resides in its eclectic grouping of buildings of various ages, functions and styles. This grouping includes a number of individually designated national historic sites of Canada, including the National Arts Centre (1964-1969), the **Château Laurier (1909-1912)**, the Langevin Block (1883-1912), the Central Chambers (1890), and the East Block portion of the Parliament Buildings (1859-1865). Additionally, the square is built over a portion of another national historic site, the Rideau Canal. Since 1939, when the present National War Memorial was unveiled, the square has become a focus of annual Remembrance Day commemorations, as the nation honours its war dead.



Sources: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, June 1984, December 2005.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements contributing to the heritage value of this site include:

- Its location at the intersection of Wellington Street and the north end of Elgin Street over a portion of the Rideau Canal;
- Its layout as a triangular open space with the National War Memorial at the centre bounded by Wellington Street at its north end and the two sides of Elgin Street on the east and west sides, all framed by the buildings on the far sides of those streets;
- The existing spatial relationships of the above components, and especially the openness of the space, conducive to the congregation of large groups of people;
- The War Memorial in its location, footprint, volume, design, and materials;
- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in its location, above-ground footprint, design and materials;
- The collection of buildings framing the square and the existing spatial relationships of the individual buildings, their stylistic eclecticism and general harmony of scale, in particular:
  - The Scottish-Ontario Chambers on its footprint with its Italianate style commercial design and decoration, and surviving original exterior materials;
  - Surviving original portions of the façade of the former Bell Building as they illustrate the original Italianate design and decorative treatment;
  - The Central Chambers on its footprint with its Queen Anne Revival style commercial design and decoration, and surviving original exterior materials;
  - The Central Post Office building on its footprint and with its Art Deco-inspired design, Château-esque roofline, surviving original exterior materials and decoration, and surviving design and materials of major interior spaces;
  - The Langevin Block on its footprint and with its Second Empire style design and decoration, its original exterior materials, original design and materials of major interior spaces, and use by the federal government;
  - The East Block on its raised site, existing footprint, Gothic Revival style design and decorative treatment, surviving original materials and major interior spaces, and use by the federal government;
  - **The Château Laurier Hotel on its footprint with its Château style design, original exterior materials and decoration, original design and materials of major public spaces, and use as a hotel;**





- The former Union Station with its Beaux-Arts style, surviving original exterior materials and decorative treatment, and original volumes, design and materials of major interior spaces;
- The National Arts Centre on its footprint with its Brutalist style design, original exterior materials and decorative treatment, original design and materials of major interior spaces, and use as a public arts venue;
- The viewsheds, especially the oblique view towards Parliament Hill; towards the Rideau Canal; down Elgin Street from the War Memorial and the views up Elgin Street, Sparks Street, Wellington Street and Rideau Street towards the Memorial;
- The continued ceremonial use of the square;
- Whatever archaeological resources may be discovered at the site in the future.



**LEFT** View from Confederation Square looking northeast towards Château Laurier, former Union Station on the right

**RIGHT** The National War Memorial with its prominent positioning within Confederation Square, as seen from Wellington Street.







# GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE CENTRE

FHBRO Classified

LOCATION 2 Rideau Street

COMPLETED 1912

ARCHITECT Ross and MacFarlane

## FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Government Conference Center is located on Confederation Square in downtown Ottawa. Built as Ottawa's Union Railway Station, the monumental building's Beaux-Arts, classical style was typical of early 20th century railway stations. Two principal facades distinguish the solid and impressive structure. The formal, front entrance façade features a symmetrical, tripartite design with a projecting central bay, giant columns and a prominent entablature. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Government Conference Center is a Classified Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

### HISTORICAL VALUE

Originally built as Ottawa's Union Station, the present-day Government Conference Center is one of the best examples associated with the great railway-building era in pre-war Canada, an activity central to the development of Canada's early national unity and prosperity. The building continues to shape the country's political and cultural identity in its role as the Government Conference Center, the locale for major national and international conferences. Originally as a port of entry to the Capital and later as a meeting venue, the building has long been associated with many figures of national and international significance. The building strongly depicts several phases of Ottawa's development such as its function as a capital city as well as in the development of the city core.

### ARCHITECTURAL VALUE

The Government Conference Center is an excellent example of the Beaux-Arts tradition, a design favoured for this building type. The ordering of both the exterior and the interior are related expressions of Beaux-Arts design principles. Exhibiting the full vocabulary of classical forms, the symmetrical composition, large colonnades and arches of the building's formal entrance and linear facades express the progression of spaces on the interior. As well, the axial symmetry and the progression of the interior spaces, of varying heights and proportions, permit a large, open layout in main spaces. Excellent decorative





treatments and materials complement the overall design of the building.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

The Government Conference Center reinforces the present character of Confederation Square in the commercial area of Ottawa's downtown. The building is a familiar landmark to the residents of the city and the region.

### Sources:

Leslie Maitland, Government Conference Center (former Union Station) Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office Report 88-028; Government Conference Center, Ottawa, Ontario. Heritage Character Statement 88-028.



**LEFT** View of the north and west elevations of the Government Conference Centre.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character-defining elements of the Government Conference Center should be respected.

Its role as an illustration of the great railway-building era in pre-war Canada is reflected in:

- The design which is in the spirit of the grand railway era and on the interior, the main railway hall.

Its Beaux-Arts style, very good functional design and excellent quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- The large scale, heavy massing and classical composition;
- The north and west facades, specifically the symmetrical, tripartite front façade composed of giant columns, strong corner pilasters, and a substantial cornice and entablature whose 3-dimensional treatment creates a strong play between light and shadow;
- Its smooth, rich and white exterior of Indiana limestone;
- Its patterns of fenestration and access;
- The axial symmetry and hierarchical progression of space leading to the main hall of the former railway station;
- The use of strong, durable construction materials such as a steel frame and brick and terracotta firewalls;
- The architectural treatment of the interior, specifically the main railway hall and the principal offices, which are decorated with classical elements such as coffered barrel vaults, plaster work and marble fireplaces.

The Government Conference Center reinforces the character of Confederation Square in the commercial area of Ottawa's downtown and is a familiar landmark as evidenced in:

- Its scale, massing and good quality materials which are in keeping with the dignity of other important structures in the Square such as the War Memorial, the Château Laurier and the Langevin Block;
- its north and west facades which maintain the prominence of the Square;  
-its visible location, along the canal and its proximity to the commercial core of Ottawa make it known and a city landmark.



**TOP** Government Conference Centre north elevation.  
**LEFT** View of the relationship between the Government Conference Centre and the Château Laurier from the south.



# LANGEVIN BLOCK

National Historic Site

LOCATION 80 Wellington Street

COMPLETED 1889

ARCHITECT Thomas Fuller

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION

Langevin Block National Historic Site of Canada, stands within Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada, located on Wellington Street in downtown Ottawa, Ontario. Prominently situated opposite Parliament Buildings National Historic Site of Canada, it is one of the finest federal examples of a Second Empire style office building. Of robust appearance, this four-storey high building, features a limestone exterior, pavilion massing, round arched windows and a copper mansard roof; complimented by a rich decorative vocabulary. The building is well-known due to its current use as the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office. Official recognition refers to the building on its footprint at the time of designation.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Langevin Block was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1977 because:

- It emphasizes the importance of the Department of Public Works' architecture;
- Constructed to the designs of Thomas Fuller, it provided accommodation for an expanding civil service;
- This impressive structure is a modified version of the Second Empire Style.

Constructed between 1883 and 1889, the Langevin Block is one of the best surviving examples of the work of Thomas Fuller, Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works from 1881 to 1896. During his tenure as Chief Architect, Fuller supervised the construction of over 140 buildings across Canada and was responsible for designing buildings in smaller urban centres that came to symbolize the federal government. Fuller's attention to architectural details and his interest in creating a distinguished collection of federal buildings through the use of superior materials and craftsmanship is evident in the design and construction of the Langevin Building.

The Langevin Block was the first purpose-built departmental building erected by the federal government outside the boundaries of Parliament Hill. The original Centre Block and two departmental buildings on Parliament Hill were designed to house all of the legislative and civil service functions of the United Province of Canada (present day Ontario and Quebec). After Confederation in 1867, the number of Members of Parliament, Senators and clerical staff increased substantially. In addition, the 1870 transfer of the Northwest Territories to the newly formed Dominion facilitated the rapid growth in the

size and responsibility of the Departments of the Interior and of Indian Affairs. By 1880, the lack of office space on Parliament Hill became a major problem for legislators and civil servants. In 1883, the decision was made to construct a new building (the Langevin Block) on purchased land, rather than to expand the West Block on Parliament Hill.

Upon its completion in 1889, the building was named for Sir Hector Langevin, Father of Confederation and Minister of Public Works during the buildings' construction. The building originally housed the departments of Agriculture, Interior, Indian Affairs and the Post Office. The Department of Indian Affairs continued to occupy the Langevin Block until 1965. Between 1975 and 1977 the building was renovated to house the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office.

The Langevin Block is a late example of the use of the Second Empire style in government buildings. The building features a mansard roof punctuated by dormers, as well as numerous Romanesque Revival references that steer its design away from French models towards North American ones. The Langevin Block is one of the few surviving examples of a building constructed in this style by the Department of Public Works.

Sources: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, November 1977; Plaque Text, 1991.



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that contribute to the heritage character of the site include:

- Its prominent siting on the corner of Wellington and Elgin Streets in downtown Ottawa, Ontario;
- Its spatial and historical relationship with Parliament Buildings and Confederation Square National Historic Sites of Canada;
- Its rectangular massing and symmetrical façades articulated with slightly projecting centre and end pavilions;
- The end façades, which continue the vocabulary of the front façade, but which are asymmetrical, due in part to the irregularities of the site;
- Its Second Empire style, evident in its high mansard roof punctuated by one- and two-storey dormers, which emphasize the three-dimensional quality of the silhouette;
- Its Romanesque revival styling, evident in the arcading of the windows on the second and third storeys, the extensive use of round-arched windows, the twinning, tripling and quadrupling of windows, and the polychromatic stonework created by the use of polished granite and ochre-coloured sandstone;
- Its fine stonework, including olive-coloured sandstone facing, polished granite for the colonettes, carved stone cornice brackets, bas-reliefs,

horizontal banding and cornices, rounded corners and deep-channel ground-floor masonry;

- The high quality of craftsmanship evident in the masonry and metalwork, particularly the decorative stone carving, metal balconies, and elaborate copper-sheathed roof;
- The main entrance, that is deeply recessed and framed with panelled pilasters;
- The fine interior finishes, notably the elaborate staircase, quality windows and door trim, iron railings and polished granite columns;
- Its internal axial organization with offices, common rooms and boardrooms located on either side of spacious hallways;
- The views across Wellington Street to Parliament Buildings National Historic Site of Canada and across Elgin Street to the additional components of Confederation Square National Historic Sites of Canada.

**RIGHT** Wellington elevation of the Langevin Block as seen from the roof of Parliament Hill's East Block.







# NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

National Historic Site

LOCATION 53 Elgin Street

COMPLETED 1969

ARCHITECT ARCOP

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION

The National Arts Centre is a complex structure of irregular plan whose design is based on the triangle and hexagon, from the overall composition down to decorative details. The building houses several performance spaces, rehearsal halls, dressing rooms, a workshop and prop room, offices, restaurants, reception spaces and subterranean parking garage. Designed in the Brutalist style, the National Arts Centre is constructed of poured reinforced concrete and covered with precast panels of exposed Laurentian-granite aggregate concrete with a variety of textures. The visually dominant components of its irregular design are the three main performing spaces that rise above a series of terraces.

### HISTORIC VALUE

The National Arts Centre was designated a national historic site of Canada because:

- It is an outstanding example of a performing arts centre in Canada for its overall design, its highly successful integration into its urban setting, its succession of interior spaces to create dramatic effect, its unique combination of performing spaces and the progressive designs of each one, and its integration of contemporary works of art as part of its design;
- It is an outstanding example of a building illustrating the positive consequences of Canadian federal policy on the performing arts during the second half of the 20th century, considered, in the words of Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, as a "national institution";
- It is an example of state-of-the-art performing spaces and technology at the time of construction, in particular for the aesthetic and technical design of Southam Hall, which is an exceptional example of a medium-sized multi-purpose auditorium representing an inspired collaboration between architect and acoustician.

The National Arts Centre was both a major cultural as well as a major architectural achievement for the country. The structure, built in 1965-69 to designs by the architectural firm of Affleck, Desbarats, Dimakopoulos, Lebensold and Sise, reflects the rise of state support to the arts in the second half of the 20th century. It was built as part of the celebrations of for the one-hundredth anniversary of Confederation, and it was intended to herald the cultural achievements of the nation in the fields of the performing arts. The National Arts Centre is also a component of the Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada.



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements contributing to the heritage value of this site include:

- Its current siting, in relation to the Rideau Canal, Elgin Street, Laurier Avenue, Sapper's Bridge, and the Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada;
- Its exterior volumes, composed of a pyramidal building-up of hexagonal shapes, masses which contain the interior spaces, and open terraces and planters;
- The open terraces, and their role as gathering areas and as linking spaces in the larger urban context;
- The richly treated concrete surfaces of the exterior;
- The interior disposition of spaces, including the performance spaces, administration and prop spaces, reception spaces, halls, and public parking;
- The finishing details, such as the types of wall and floor coverings, specially designed light fixtures, curtains, seating, sculptures, paintings, tapestries and other accoutrements especially designed for this building.





# POSTAL STATION 'B'

FHBRO Classified Building  
LOCATION 47-59 Sparks Street  
COMPLETED 1932  
ARCHITECT W .E. Noffke

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Postal Station B, also known as the Central Post Office, is an eight-storey building in Ottawa's Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada. Classically inspired, its cornice heights and its bay replicate those of its neighbour, Langevin Block. The building is constructed of smooth stone, and has a Château-style copper roof, and handsome bronze doors guarded by two stone lions. Its façades are further distinguished by classical regularity and honed-down surface treatment, typical of Art Deco sensibility. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Postal Station B is a Classified Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

#### Historical Value

Postal Station B was constructed as a postal substation, between 1938 and 1939, as part of the Confederation Square redevelopment. It is associated with the Diamond Jubilee of the Confederation celebrations in 1927, when the federal government implemented a massive redevelopment of downtown Ottawa. The new post office was crucial in the redesigning of the eastern end of Ottawa's central business district, and it has become the main centre for the delivery of all postal services for the downtown core.

### ARCHITECTURAL VALUE

Postal Station B is a very good example of the Classical and Château styles used in civic buildings during the 1930s. The building's roof was imposed by a political preference for large copper roofs, often in the Château Style, and its smooth stone face and minimal decoration reflect the simplified character of classicism during the early 20th century. Its very good functional quality is shown in the excellent craftsmanship and materials used in the exterior construction, as well as the rich treatment of the public spaces within. The building remains one of the best examples of the architect W.E. Noffke's work.

### ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

Postal Station B is a significant and creative work of architecture that makes an important contribution to the character of Confederation Square and the Sparks Street Mall. The unchanged integrity of the historical relationship between the building and its surrounding urban landscape helps to establish



the present character of the area. As the oldest federal building in Ottawa devoted to local use and as part of Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada, it is a very familiar landmark in the city and across Canada.

Sources: Postal Station B, 47-59 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Building Review Office Building Report 85-014; Postal Station B, 47-59 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 85-014.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character-defining elements of Postal Station B should be respected. Its very good aesthetic and functional design, and excellent craftsmanship and materials, for example:

- Its eight-storey steel-frame massing, sheathed in Queenston limestone on a black granite base;
- The steeply-pitched copper roof pierced with dormers in the Château style;
- The smooth stone facing with minimal decoration;
- The extensive classical detailing throughout its carvings, including a Royal coat of arms above the main entrance, provincial coats of arms on its surrounds, and the lions at each of the entrances;
- The Beaux-Arts elements, including colonnades, rusticated stone front, and the traditional tripartite division of the elevation into base, piano nobile, and entablature;
- The rich treatment of the public spaces within.
- The manner in which Postal Station B establishes the present character of its urban setting and is an architectural and heritage landmark, as evidenced by:
- Its location within Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada and at the eastern entrance of Sparks Street Mall;
- Its design, function and location, which makes it a very familiar landmark in Ottawa for residents and tourists.



# CENTRAL CHAMBERS

National Historic Site of Canada

LOCATION 40-46 Elgin Street

COMPLETED 1891

ARCHITECT J. J. Browne

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Central Chambers National Historic Site of Canada is a splendid, 6 storey building, designed for commercial premises on the ground floor, and combined commercial and office premises above. The first two storeys form an articulated base for three storeys of bay windows, culminating in a storey of Palladian windows set within decorative pediments. The building is faced with red brick, decorative tile, and metal framing for the many window openings.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Central Chambers was designated a national historic site of Canada because it is a particularly good example of the Queen Anne Revival Style, as expressed in commercial architecture.

The heritage value of the site resides in its splendid architectural design, in which the principles of the Queen Anne Revival style have been applied to commercial purposes and in the physical properties of the structure that illustrate that design. The building was constructed in 1890-93 to the designs of Ottawa architect J.J. Browne. It has always enjoyed a high profile location and is an important contributing element in the Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Minutes, November 1990.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Aspects of this site which contribute to its heritage value include:

- Those elements which illustrate the Queen Anne Revival design, namely the banks of oriel windows, Palladian windows set in decorative pediments, the decorative tile work, and the subtle but rich colouration of materials, juxtaposing red brick with terra cotta, white trim and metal fixtures;
- Those elements which illustrate the commercial purposes of the building, namely the large window areas for the display of merchandise and to light office interiors, and the accessibility of the ground floor from the sidewalk;
- Surviving elements of its original interior layout, particularly the alignment of the floor plates with its character-defining fenestration;





- Its role as a keystone structure in the Confederation Square National Historic Site of Canada, specifically its contribution to this nationally significant ceremonial space, the views of the building from other vantage points in the Square, and the views towards the Square from the building.

**BELOW** Central Chambers Building at the corner of Queen Street and Elgin Street. The building is integrated into the National Capital Commission Offices.



# SCOTTISH ONTARIO CHAMBERS

FHBRO Recognized Building  
LOCATION 42-50 Sparks Street  
COMPLETED 1883  
ARCHITECT William Hodgson

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Scottish Ontario Chambers is a four-storey brick structure, prominently located on Ottawa's Confederation Square at the intersection of Sparks and Elgin streets. A corner building with a high ground storey, it is distinguished by the boldness of its decorative multicoloured masonry, its fenestration and its roofline. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Scottish Ontario Chambers is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental value.

### HISTORICAL VALUE

The Scottish Ontario Chambers, constructed as a prestige commercial property by the Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company, who were involved in land speculation and development, is associated with the 19th century commercial development of downtown Ottawa. The building was rented to professionals, largely lawyers and real estate agents, and then sold to the Ottawa Deposit and Trust company in 1896 where it eventually became part of the Canada Permanent Trust Company. Until it was sold to the National Capital Commission in 1965, the Scottish-Ontario Chambers was also known as the Trust Building.

### ARCHITECTURAL VALUE

The Scottish Ontario Chambers is valued for its very good aesthetic design, executed in the Victorian Italianate style. The building is typical of a large-scale late Victorian business block and is characterized by its balanced façade and decorative brickwork. Twice as high as the other commercial blocks constructed for rental on Sparks Street during the 19th century, the building demonstrates a good functional design with ground floor retail space and upper storey office space and possessed one of the city's first elevators. High quality craftsmanship is evidenced in the elaborate stonework and decorative brickwork, including the radiated voussoirs of multicolored brick.

### ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

The Scottish Ontario Chambers established the character of the Confederation



Square National Historic Site of Canada streetscape in downtown Ottawa and is a well-known landmark in the immediate area.

Sources: Dana Johnson, The former Bell Block, the Scottish Ontario Chambers, Central Chambers and the Fraser Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, Building Report, 83-11,12,13,14; Scottish Ontario Chambers, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 83-014.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

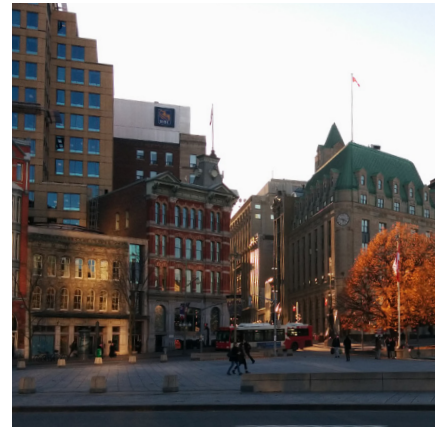
The following character-defining elements of the Scottish Ontario Chambers should be respected.

Its very good Victorian Italianate style, good functional design and very good materials and craftsmanship, for example:

- The four-storey, massing, including a high ground storey and three upper floors;
- The features of its roofline, including the heavy bracketing, decorative cornice and corner tower in the Second Empire style;
- The balanced composition of the long façade;
- The brick masonry construction;
- The elaborate stonework of the high ground storey and the radiating voussoirs of multicoloured brick above the double-hung sash windows of the upper three floors;
- Its interior layout of ground floor retail space and office space for the upper three floors.

The manner in which the Scottish Ontario Chambers reinforces the character of its Confederation Square streetscape setting in downtown Ottawa and is a well-known landmark within the immediate area, as evidenced by:

- Its Victorian Italianate style, prominent corner tower and long decorated façade which contribute to the character of the Confederation Square streetscape;
- Its overall massing, design and materials which are compatible with its surrounding buildings in the Confederation Square streetscape;
- Its visibility and familiarity to residents of and visitors to Ottawa, because of its prominent location on Confederation Square.





# MAINTENANCE BUILDING, MAJOR'S HILL PARK

FHBRO Recognized Building  
LOCATION Major's Hill Park  
COMPLETED 1902  
ARCHITECT Department of Public Works

## FHBRO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Maintenance Building is a modest building with a picturesque roof and walls of rough cut, irregularly coursed limestone. It stands in Major's Hill Park, in site of Parliament Hill and the Ottawa River. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Maintenance Building is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental value.

### HISTORICAL VALUE

The Maintenance Building, erected as a potting house, is closely associated with the city beautification phase of the development of Ottawa's first municipal park. The construction of the potting house accompanied turn-of-the-century renovations to an existing greenhouse, and the construction of a new conservatory, a two-storey summerhouse, and new fountains and walkways. These were built in accordance with plans developed by Public Works to enhance the attractiveness of the park. The building currently serves as a maintenance shed.

### ARCHITECTURAL VALUE

The Maintenance Building is valued for its very good aesthetic qualities. Its character resides primarily in the picturesque domestic forms and in the detailing which delineates these forms. The decision to use stone for the exterior walls and brick for interior partitions was made to ensure the cool temperatures and shaded conditions required for successful potting. The stone walls, built up in irregularly coursed, rough-cut limestone with corner quoins, and the basement and upper walls, which are separated by a plain dressed canted stone band, are indicative of the building's very good quality craftsmanship.

### ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

The Maintenance Building is compatible with the picturesque character of its municipal park setting and is familiar to residents and those who visit the park.

Sources: Marilyn E. Armstrong-Reynolds, The Former Potting House (now



Maintenance Building), Ottawa, Ontario, Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, Building Report, 87-128; Maintenance Building (former Potting House), Major's Hill Park, Ottawa, Ontario, Heritage Character Statement, 87-128.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character-defining elements of the Maintenance Building should be respected.

Its very good aesthetic design, functional design and very good materials and craftsmanship, for example:

- The modest, domestically scaled massing, the hip and cross gable roof, offset chimney and the attached one-storey garage;
- The stone walls, built up in irregularly coursed rough-cut limestone, and the basement and upper walls separated by a plain dressed canted stone band;
- The stone quoins at the corners, window jambs, lintels and sills, the rough-cut voussoirs and the stone front porch with iron railing;
- The two-over-two wood sash, the semi-elliptical window, and the front door;
- The brick interior partitions.

The manner in which the Maintenance Building reinforces the picturesque character of its municipal park setting and is familiar within the immediate area, as evidenced by:

- Its picturesque domestic forms and elements of its design, which harmonize with its landscaped surroundings of Ottawa's, Major's Hill Park;
- Its visibility, given its location in a park highly frequented by visitors and residents of the nation's capital.



# OTHER RESOURCES IN THE SURROUNDING CONTEXT



## LA SALLE ACADEMY

FHBRO Classified **LOCATION** 373 Sussex Drive **COMPLETED** 1847

La Salle Academy is a collection of buildings located adjacent to the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica. It includes the Bishop's Palace and the College Building, both of which date to the 19th century. Both buildings were restored in the 1970s with the Bishop's Palace being restored to its mid-19th century appearance, while the College Building was restored to its post-1890 appearance. Fronting onto Sussex the Palace is identifiable by its mansard roof with its centrally-placed lantern, fine smooth-finished limestone cladding and quoining and its 4-storey height. Also attached to the complex is a smaller stone finished residence.



## FORMER WAR MUSEUM

FHBRO Classified **LOCATION** 330 Sussex Drive **COMPLETED** 1906

Originally constructed as the first permanent house of the Dominion Archives and the War Museum, the building reflected the desire on the part of the Laurier Government to better define Canada's evolving nationhood. Designed in a Tudor Revival style the L-shaped building is finished in sandstone similar to the adjacent Royal Canadian Mint and nearby Connaught Building. The earlier 1905 portion is characterized by its well-defined compact mass with appropriately dignified detailing, while the 1925 wing features a similar, but more overtly Tudor style. A large forecourt results from the placement of the L-shaped plan along Sussex providing an opportunity to view the building and the adjacent Mint Building while providing space for exterior exhibits.



## ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

National Historic Site of Canada and FHBRO Classified  
**LOCATION** 320 Sussex Drive **COMPLETED** 1908

Completed shortly after the Former War Museum, the Royal Canadian Mint shares many design cues with that building and is finished in the same sandstone. However, it features more articulated detailing and a more Medieval character especially within its Sussex-fronting 3-storey pavilion, immediately recognizable by its slender crenelated towers that bookend the building's original main entrance. All of the detailing and massing lend the building a feeling of security and fortification, appropriate to its use, while possessing an appropriately dignified presence. Later additions to the building occurred in 1935 and 1951.



Within the immediate surrounding area of the Château Laurier, there are a number of other individual designated properties, particularly along Sussex Drive, in the Parliamentary Precinct and directly across the Ottawa River in Gatineau. There are also three nearby Heritage Conservation Districts: Byward Market, Lowertown West and Sparks Street. These historic resources, while not immediately adjacent, may have the potential of impact from a large addition to the Château Laurier.

## NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL BASILICA

Ontario Part IV Designation **LOCATION** 385 Sussex Drive **COMPLETED** 1841-1885

Located prominently at Sussex and St. Patrick and cross from the forecourt of the National Gallery of Canada, Notre Dame is a significant structure within the City of Ottawa with its twin spires that are visible from many points in the surrounding area. Started in 1841 on the site of an earlier church, the first phase of construction was complete in 1846 with subsequent campaigns continuing until 1885. The protracted construction period, common for churches of this scale, results in a generally unified, but eclectic mixture of architectural styles ranging from Neoclassical to Gothic Revival. The interior includes some of the finest craftwork in the City of Ottawa.



## JEANNE D'ARC INSTITUTE

FHBRO Recognized **LOCATION** 493 Sussex Drive **COMPLETED** 1846-1876

Composed of 5 connected 19th century buildings and occupying a full city block, the Jeanne D'Arc Institute has major frontage facing Sussex Drive. Built over an extended period for varying uses, there is a decidedly evolving architectural aesthetic found within the collection. The three buildings at the south end are finished in limestone with large commercial ground floor windows, while the upper floors have regularly-spaced hung windows and modest stone detailing. The two northern-most buildings are clad in light brown brick with large ground floor windows and a wooden cornice at the top of the building. The modern Mansard roof is not original. Only the southern-most building is flat-roofed.



## LAROCQUE-LAFORTUNE COLLEGE

FHBRO Recognized **LOCATION** 445-447 Sussex Drive **COMPLETED** 1840

Anchoring the corner of Sussex Drive and Murray Street since 1840, this three storey flat-roofed stone building is associated with early Lowertown commercial development in Ottawa and Sussex Drive's role as an early commercial corridor and ceremonial route. It is one of the earliest stone structures constructed in Ottawa for commercial purposes, possessing a good functional design with its regularly placed windows and doors, limited masonry flourishes and heavy bracketed cornice; all which contribute to a formal and balanced appearance. The ground floor is used for commercial while the upper floors contain residential uses.





## OTTAWA SCHOOL OF ART

FHBRO Recognized **LOCATION** 35 George Street **COMPLETED** 1907

Constructed in the early part of the twentieth century, the four storey, flat-roofed stone building is visually structured into three similar bays across its primary elevation fronting onto George Street. The stonework is unusually well textured for this period and type of building, elevating it along with its three large arched top ground floor windows and door assemblies. Heavy cornices above the ground floor and surmounting the building top, masonry projection between the third and fourth floors and variation in the upper floor windows also all contribute to creating a refined and balanced building with a dignified presence within its streetscape.



## 41 YORK STREET

Ontario Part VI Designation **LOCATION** 41 York Street **COMPLETED** 1875

Constructed shortly after the City of Ottawa built its second market building at the nearby Byward Market as the Hotel St. Louis. Noted for its deep and continuous covered wood balcony on the second level, a common element for hotels built during this period. At three-and-a-half storeys the building is finished in red and tan brick with evenly spaced hung windows, large ground floor entry, gable roof with three dormer windows and a heavy cornice at the base of the roof along York Street. Over the life of the building, various modifications were made in an effort to modernize and accommodate changing uses, all of which were undone during the 1990s when the building was restored to its original state.



## OFFICE BUILDING

FHBRO Recognized **LOCATION** 17-19 York Street **COMPLETED** 1901

Identifiable within its York Street context by its alternating rusticated and honed grey limestone bands of its base and buff coloured brick that clads its upper four floors this office building is one of the larger buildings within its block. As a mid-block building, its primary elevation fronts onto York Street and features five window bays symmetrically arranged across the frontage. Adding visual interest to the flat-roofed composition, the window types vary lyrically, with different tops and widths depending on their placement. A heavy cornice tops it off, complete with end brackets and corbels. Commercial space occupies the ground floor with office space above.



## 419-423 SUSSEX DRIVE

FHBRO Recognized **LOCATION** 419-423 Sussex Drive **COMPLETED** Circa 1866

419-423 is a three storey commercial building featuring Italianate detailing across its seven bay Sussex Drive elevation. It is considered a good example of late 19th century commercial development in Ottawa and reinforces the commercial character of Sussex in the area. Tall ground floor arch-topped windows sit within a honed limestone base with a projecting cornice. The upper two storeys include 7 hung windows per floor (arc-topped on the second floor and arch-topped on the third floor) complete with voussoirs above the second floor windows and brick pilasters of a contrasting brick colour demarking each bay. Damaged by fire in 1920, the building lost its fourth storey and its cornice, both of which have not been reinstated.



## COMMERCIAL BUILDING

FHBRO Recognized **LOCATION** 461-465 Sussex Drive **COMPLETED** 1850

Dating to 1850, the three-and-a-half storey smooth-dressed limestone building with its mansard roof may be the oldest commercial building on this important commercial thoroughfare. It possesses a generally functional 6-window Sussex elevation and a shorter 4-window Clarence elevation, both with limited flourishes. The ground floor features 2 commercial spaces characterized by large display windows separated by stone pilasters supporting a wood sub-cornice above. Closely-spaced dormer windows sit within the mansard roof and match the spacing of other windows below.



## GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE CENTRE (FORMER UNION STATION)

FHBRO Classified **LOCATION** 2 Rideau Street **COMPLETED** 1912

The Government Conference Center, located on Confederation Square, was built as Ottawa's Union Railway Station. The monumental building's Beaux-Arts, classical style includes two principal facades that distinguish the solid and impressive structure. The formal, front entrance façade features a symmetrical, tripartite design with a projecting central bay, giant columns and a prominent entablature. It is a Classified Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values. It was conceived and built at the same time as the Château Laurier, and a tunnel connects them (*Source: Canada's Historic Places*).







## SIR JOHN A MACDONALD BUILDING (FORMER BANK OF MONTREAL)

FHBRO Classified **LOCATION** 144 Wellington Street **COMPLETED** 1932

The Sir John A Macdonald is the former Ottawa head office of the Bank of Montreal. It has been called a “document of Canadian architectural accomplishment” by FHBRO in its Heritage Character Statement. Both the interior and exterior of the building are included in the designation. Architecturally, it is a Modern Classicist building, constructed 1929-32, demonstrating both Beaux-Arts planning and Art Deco detailing with a clarity of massing and entries from Wellington Street and Sparks Street. Placed on a corner site and spanning the depth of a full block with its temple form, it greatly contributes to the surrounding commercial and institutional areas. *Photo:*

*MTBA*



## E.B. EDDY DIGESTER TOWER

FHBRO Recognized **LOCATION** Gatineau **COMPLETED** 1901

Located in Gatineau on the grounds of the Canadian Museum of History, the EB Eddy Digester Tower is a 33.5 metre tall, square limestone tower with irregularly placed openings. Due to its height it is a landmark within the larger area and is considered a good example of a structure associated with the pulp and paper industry in the local area. It was originally constructed to house pulping machinery within the lower four floors while the upper floor held a water tower. No longer functional, the tower remains an important contributor to recreational character of its waterfront site across the river from Parliament Hill, Rideau Canal and the Château Laurier. *Photo: Wikipedia*



## CHARRON HOUSE

FHBRO Recognized **LOCATION** 1 Laurier Street, Gatineau **COMPLETED** 1841

Situated at the centre of Jacques Cartier Park in Gatineau (Hull sector), this one and a half storey limestone building features a rectangular plan with a high gabled roof, dormer windows, gable chimneys and bell curved eaves. Openings are symmetrically arranged. It is a typical example a ‘maisons québécoises’ dating from the 19th century that was well crafted using high quality materials. Similar to the EB Eddy Digester Tower the Charron House is associated with local industry and is now a contributor to a recreational setting, in this instance, Jacques Cartier Park, along the shores of the Ottawa River. *Photo: NCC*



# BYWARD MARKET HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



- |  |                            |            |
|--|----------------------------|------------|
| Heritage Conservation District Boundary          | <b>Building Evaluation</b> | Category 3 |
| Individually designated buildings Part IV of OHA | Category 1                 | Category 2 |
|  |                            | Category 4 |

City of Ottawa Bylaw 60-91



## DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Part of the thriving downtown core of the City of Ottawa, the Byward Market was formally established during the late 1820s and early 1830s when Colonel By developed “Bytown” as his base for constructing the Rideau Canal. Since that time, the Market has served as a hub for Ottawa’s vital commercial and cultural activities. With a rich, vernacular landscape, the Market offers a variety of architectural styles in residential, commercial and mixed-use forms, reflecting the vital and continuous evolution of economic, social and cultural activity within the city core. The boundaries extend from St. Patrick Street on the North to the south side of George Street on the South, and from MacKenzie Avenue on the West to the east side of Dalhousie Street on the East.

The Byward Market was designated by the City of Ottawa (By-law 60-91) under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act.

## HERITAGE VALUE

The Byward Market is one of Ottawa’s two original settlement areas. It was established as Lower Town early in the nineteenth century by Colonel By as the



**LEFT** The Byward Market Building, formerly the South Byward Market Building, prominently situated within its namesake Heritage Conservation District.

commercial non-military sector of Bytown, a public quarter to complement the official military area of Upper Town. Although the Market was first organized along a George/ Sussex/ St. Patrick Street axis with the market building on George Street, its orientation changed in the 1860s with the construction of a new market building on William Street, and has remained constant since that time.

The Byward Market Heritage Conservation District is a rich, vernacular landscape. While it does not have a homogenous building stock characteristic of a single period, it bears witness in its architecture to the vital and continuous evolution of economic, social and cultural activity within the city core. From the mid-nineteenth century come many of the earliest surviving residential, commercial and mixed-use properties in the city. Within the district are a number of examples from this period which have survived relatively intact.



The later nineteenth century witnessed a further diversifying of architectural styles. While the side gable form continued, some commercial blocks began to display Queen Anne characteristics, such as decorative woodwork in the cornices and often had projecting wood balconies. On the other hand, the Second Empire style, with its distinctive mansard roof form, was also popular during the second half of the nineteenth century. By the turn of the century, flat roofed, Italianate residential and commercial buildings were appearing throughout the district. The flat-roofed form, like the side gable and mansard roof forms, was suited to a dense urban environment, and allowed horizontal continuity along the street front.



Development continued in the period between the Wars, with examples of Art Deco and Modernist design, mostly in brick with detailing in stone. Many of these later façade treatments are re-workings of earlier buildings. This pattern of relatively continuous streetscapes of vernacular mixed use buildings interrupted by more formal institutional structures reflects a European tradition of urban design carried over into the new world. It is partly the surviving evidence of this tradition that gives the Market district such strong historical connotations.

Economically, the Market has been characterized by its location as a pivot, take-off point and base for Ottawa's

vital commercial activities. In combination with facilities on other portions of Lower Town, the Market has also served as the cradle of social services in the city. In contrast to Upper Town, activity in the Market has been linked with more informal, non-political activities in the city. It forms the unique and vital individual core of Ottawa in counterpoise to Upper Town which, of necessity, has become devoted to more formal, national concerns.

The central location of the Market has made it particularly attractive as a settlement area for new immigrants. In conjunction with established Canadian population groups, they have played a significant role in building the area, renewing and maintaining it, constantly husbanding its spatial and locational assets to secure its vitality. At various periods, the Market has served as the seat of Irish Canadian, French Canadian and Jewish culture in Ottawa. It has housed special schools, meeting areas, religious and cultural facilities in addition to business and residential accommodation for these populations, and each of them has made a particularly strong contribution to the history and character of the area.

Source: Byward Market Heritage Conservation District Study (1990).

## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Character defining elements that contribute to the heritage value of the district include its:

- Relatively continuous streetscapes featuring a variety of vernacular mixed used buildings
- Street layout and configuration dating from the 1860s, centralized around the Market building
- Variety of architectural styles which date from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries reflecting the continuous evolution of the area.
- Mid nineteenth century gable form buildings, some of the earliest surviving residential and commercial buildings in the city.
- Second Empire style commercial and residential buildings with their distinctive mansard roofs
- Flat roofed Italianate residential and commercial buildings from the turn of the century, featuring decorative brick veneer and elaborate cornices
- Early examples of Art Deco and Modernist design
- Prominent institutional buildings within a primarily vernacular setting
- Development and importance as economic hub of historic Bytown, and later Ottawa, acting as a pivot and base for the city's and region's commercial activities
- Variety of urban functions and institutions present in the area
- Multicultural makeup reflecting the area's role as a home for numerous new immigrants and multicultural communities.

**OPPOSITE TOP** Looking south along William Street to the east of the Market Building.

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM** North side of George Street from Byward Market Square looking west.



# SPARKS STREET HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



- Heritage Conservation District Boundary

Individually designated buildings Part IV of OHA
- Building Evaluation

Category 1

Category 2

Category 3

Category 4
- City of Ottawa Bylaws 174-2005 and 175-2005
- 112

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APPENDIX A: INVENTORY OF HERITAGE SITES IN THE VICINITY – JANUARY 2017



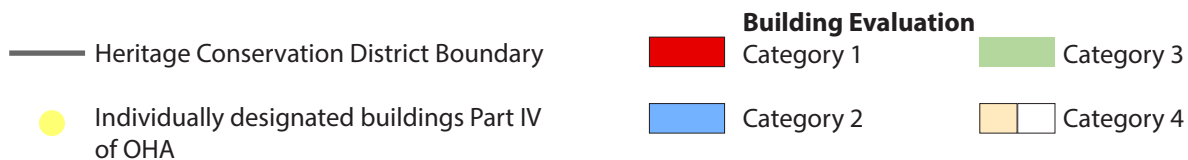
The Sparks Street Heritage Conservation District (HCD) was designated by the City of Ottawa in 2000 for its importance as an historic commercial street in the core of Ottawa. The HCD includes both sides of Sparks Street and the north side of Queen Street between Elgin and Bank Streets. Originally part of the estate of Nicholas Sparks, Sparks Street was a busy commercial thoroughfare in the 19th and early 20th century with banks, department stores, hotels and theatres. The HCD features several monumental buildings including the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Ottawa Electric Building and W.E. Noffke's Central Post Office, which anchors the corner of Elgin and Sparks Streets. Designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). (From the City of Ottawa)



**LEFT TOP** Looking east along the north side of Sparks Street, just east of Bank Street.

**LEFT BOTTOM** Looking east along Sparks Street, just west of Elgin Street.

# LOWERTOWN WEST HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



City of Ottawa Bylaw 192-94





Looking east along Cathcart Street, just west of Cumberland Street.



Looking north along Sussex Drive, Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica and La Salle Academy Building beyond, on the west side of the District.

Lowertown West comprises the City's oldest residential area. It was the civilian centre of Ottawa from the British survey of the town site in 1826 until the turn of the 20th century. From about 1890 to the mid-1970s growth occurred in other areas of the city at the expense of Lowertown and much of the urban fabric east of King Edward and north of Boteler was demolished during urban renewal. Urban renewal commenced with zoning changes in the 1950s and demolitions during the 1960-1970s.

The Lowertown West HCD (designated under Part V of the OHA) roughly encompasses the area of Lowertown west of King Edward Avenue and east of Sussex Drive between Bolton and St. Patrick Streets. It includes a number of significant early institutional buildings, including the Basilica and the Elizabeth Bruyère Centre, and a rich collection of residential buildings that demonstrate the early history of Lowertown and its gradual evolution. This evolution is a crucial characteristic of the area, and it recognizes the heritage value of buildings constructed over a long period of time. The history of Lowertown West is also the history of generations of Ottawa's working people, both French and English speaking. The physical record of that social history, represented by both the institutions and the residential buildings, is a major cultural resource for the City of Ottawa. (From the City of Ottawa)





Connaught Building from the Chateau Laurier on Mackenzie Avenue







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