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File No. ACS2025-PDB-RHU-0039

October 8, 2025

National Defence Canada  
Attn: Bernard Deschamps  
Public Works and Government Services Canada (PILT)  
191 Promenade du Portage  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0S5

**RECEIVED**  
2025/10/08  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

Dear Ana Stuermer,

**RE: Designation of Former Royal Canadian Air Force Officers' Mess, 158 Gloucester Street under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act***

This letter is to advise you that Ottawa City Council, at its meeting of September 24, 2025, approved the following recommendation in respect of the above-noted item:

**That Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the Former Royal Canadian Air Force Officers' Mess, 158 Gloucester Street under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act according to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value.**

A copy of the complete report in this matter, as well as the minutes of the City Council meeting of September 24, 2025, can be found on the City's website at [ottawa.ca/agendas](http://ottawa.ca/agendas).

Enclosed is the Notice of Intention to Designate, served according to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, to be published online at [Ottawa.ca/heritagenotices](http://Ottawa.ca/heritagenotices) on October 8, 2025. You will have 30 days from the publication date, until November 7, 2025, to file an objection to the designation. Should you wish to object to the designation, you may do so by submitting a notice of objection in writing, outlining the reasons for the objection and any other relevant information. The notice must be received by the Clerk of the City of Ottawa within 30 days after the online publication of this notice.

Office of the City Clerk  
City of Ottawa  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1  
[ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca)

Direct Line 613-580-2424 Ext. 28136  
[caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca](mailto:caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca)

Bureau du greffier municipal  
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110, ave. Laurier ouest  
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Ligne directe 613-580-2424 poste 28136  
[caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca](mailto:caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca)

The notice of objection can be submitted via email to [CityClerk-HeritageObjections@ottawa.ca](mailto:CityClerk-HeritageObjections@ottawa.ca), or via registered mail or in-person delivery, by appointment, at the following coordinates:

Caitlin Salter MacDonald, City Clerk  
c/o Christopher Zwierzchowski, Committee Coordinator  
110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1, mail code 01-71

To make an appointment, please contact Christopher Zwierzchowski, Committee Coordinator at 613-580-2424, ext. 21359, or at [christopher.zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca](mailto:christopher.zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca). When an objection has been received, City Council will consider the objection including all relevant information within 90 days after the end of the objection period. After consideration of the objection, Council may decide to withdraw the Notice of Intention to Designate or to pass a by-law designating the property under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Should Council pass a by-law to designate the property, there will be further correspondence from the City on how you may appeal this decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Should you require further information, please contact Ben Morin, Heritage Planner, at 613-580-2424, 23172 or by email at [ben.morin@ottawa.ca](mailto:ben.morin@ottawa.ca).

Regards,



Caitlin Salter MacDonald  
City Clerk

- c.c. Ben Morin, Heritage Planner, City of Ottawa ([ben.morin@ottawa.ca](mailto:ben.morin@ottawa.ca))  
Lauren Luchenski, Built Heritage Research Coordinator, City of Ottawa ([lauren.luchenski@ottawa.ca](mailto:lauren.luchenski@ottawa.ca))  
Christina Rusu, Department of National Defence ([christina.rusu@forces.gc.ca](mailto:christina.rusu@forces.gc.ca))  
Ana Stuermer, Department of National Defence ([ana.stuermer@forces.gc.ca](mailto:ana.stuermer@forces.gc.ca))  
Registrar, Ontario Heritage Trust ([registrar@heritagetrust.on.ca](mailto:registrar@heritagetrust.on.ca))

Encl.

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE THE FORMER ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS' MESS, 158 GLOUCESTER STREET AS A PROPERTY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST, PURSUANT TO SECTION 29 (3) OF THE *ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18***

**DATED AND PUBLISHED** at the City of Ottawa this 8th day of October, 2025

**TAKE NOTICE** that the City of Ottawa, on September 24, 2025 established its intention to designate the former Royal Canadian Air Force Officers' Mess, 158 Gloucester Street under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

The former Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Officers' Mess at 158 Gloucester Street is a three-storey, brick building constructed in 1919. The building is located on the south side of Gloucester Street between Bank Street and O'Connor Street within Centretown, Ottawa.

**STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

The property at 158 Gloucester has design value as a rare example of an early twentieth century fraternal hall building with elements of Edwardian Classicism in Ottawa. The vernacular streamlined architectural style exemplified by 158 Gloucester Street was a departure from the classical styles used in the nineteenth century in Ottawa. The building features a relatively flat façade and emphasis on vertical elements. Elements typical of Edwardian Classicism include its brick pilasters with stone capitals, and voussoir above the third-storey central window and the distinct triangular pediment. Originally constructed as an Orange Hall, 158 Gloucester Street demonstrates architectural similarities to other buildings constructed for fraternal organizations in the early twentieth century in Ottawa and across Canada.

The property at 158 Gloucester Street is associated with the theme of fraternity in twentieth century Canada. Constructed in 1919 as an Orange Hall, it is directly associated with the Orange Order, a Protestant fraternal organization that played a significant role in the political landscape of Ottawa in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The property also has direct associations with the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving as an officer's mess from 1943 until 2022. The military mess is a significant institution in Canadian military history dating to the mid-eighteenth century. The mess provided a place for dining and socialization with members of the same rank. The building is best known as an officers' mess today.

The property has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of the history of women's service in the Canadian military. The RCAF was the first service to establish a women's division during the Second World War. Beginning in 1943, after pushback from service women such as Wilhelmina Walker, commanding officer of the Women's Division, women were permitted to participate in mess activities alongside their male counterparts. The use of 158 Gloucester Street as an Officers' Mess began at a time of

significant advancement for women's service in Canada's military and coincides with changing attitudes towards gender in the Canadian military.

Built by Robert Holmes, 158 Gloucester Street demonstrates the work of a designer who is significant to Centretown's architectural history. Holmes, a long-time resident of Centretown, and a designer and prolific contractor, was responsible for or played a role in the construction of several notable buildings in Ottawa in the early twentieth century.

This building at 158 Gloucester Street supports the character of a transitional area in Centretown. The building is located within an area between the largely high-rise office character to the north, and older, low-rise residential character to the south. The building defines the character of the area as one of many buildings in the area constructed between the late nineteenth to the early to mid-twentieth centuries that demonstrate popular architectural styles from these periods, including Edwardian Classicism, Italianate, and early Modernist styles.

The property at 158 Gloucester Street is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings. Its association with headquarters, first for the Orange Order in Ottawa, and later as the Officers' Mess for the RCAF Headquarters, is linked to the cultural heritage of Centretown. Its location provided access to Parliament and other political institutions, of which many Orange Order leaders were involved with, along with access for parades on ceremonial streets such as Elgin and Wellington.

## **DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the former RCAF Officers' Mess as a representative example of an early twentieth century institutional building with elements of Edwardian Classicism include:

- Three-storey height and three bay façade
- Buff brick cladding
- Rectangular window openings with decorative lintels
- Brick pilasters with simple stone capitals
- Red granite foundation and stone accents
- Central window in the upper storey with arched transom and decorative brick window surround
- Decorative stepped parapet
- Moulded granite pilaster caps, cornices, and coping

Key attributes that demonstrate its contextual value include:

- Brick "RCAF ARC" lettering on the vestibule façade
- Metal RCAF lettering on the vestibule staircase baluster

The interior of the building and any additions or outbuildings are excluded from this designation.

## **OBJECTIONS**

Please be advised that any person wishing to object to this designation may do so under the objection process set out in Section 29 (5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* by giving the Clerk of the City of Ottawa, within 30 days after the online publication of this notice, a notice of objection outlining the reasons for the objection and any other relevant information.

The notice of objection can be submitted via email to [CityClerk-HeritageObjections@ottawa.ca](mailto:CityClerk-HeritageObjections@ottawa.ca). The notice of objection can also be submitted via registered mail or be delivered in person, by appointment, at the following coordinates:

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For further information please contact: Ben Morin at [Ben.morin@ottawa.ca](mailto:Ben.morin@ottawa.ca)