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City of  
Ville d' **Ottawa**

Department of Corporate Services Services intégrés  
111 Sussex, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5A1

**RECEIVED  
IN THE OFFICE**

**MAY 16 1996**

**CULTURAL PROGRAMS  
HERITAGE UNIT**

Our File/Notre Dossier: ACS1996/1301-059, PD1A4053  
Reply To: Répondre à:  
P.G. Pagé, City Clerk/Greffier

REGISTERED

May 10, 1996

Ms. Lesley Lewis  
Executive Director  
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide St. East  
3rd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1J3

Dear Ms. Lewis:

The Council of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa on the 1st day of May, 1996, established its Intention to Designate the property known municipally as 216 Metcalfe Street, "The Duncannon", in the City of Ottawa, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990. c.0.18.

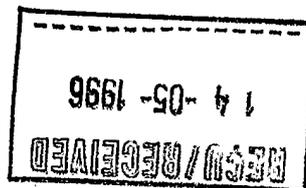
Enclosed herewith is the Notice of Intention to Designate served according to the act.

Yours truly,

*P.G. Page*  
for P.G. Page  
City Clerk

/cp

Enc.



## IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT.

The Corporation of the City of Ottawa on the 1st day of May, 1996, established its intention to designate the following heritage property for its architectural and historical value.

216 Metcalfe St., The Duncannon

### STATEMENT OF REASON FOR DESIGNATION

216 Metcalfe Street is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for architectural and historical reasons.

The Duncannon, constructed in 1931, was designed by the well-known Ottawa architectural firm of Burgess and Gardner. Cecil Burgess and his various partners designed many Ottawa buildings including the Kertstone Court apartments (195 Cooper Street, constructed 1939), the Palace Court Apartments (407 Elgin Street, constructed 1923), the Church of St. Barnabas (Kent Street, 1951) and the Ottawa Boys' Club (1954).

As an upscale apartment building located in respectable Centretown, the Duncannon attracted politicians, diplomats and a significant number of independent female residents, many of whom worked in the growing public service. The Duncannon has been home to such notable Canadians as photographer Yosuf Karsh, the Hon. George Black, Speaker of the House of Commons (1930-35) and his wife Martha, who, at age 70, became the second woman elected to the House of Commons and Charles Ritchie, diplomat and famous diarist.

As one of several apartment buildings constructed on Metcalfe Street in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Duncannon is evidence of the increased density of Centretown after World War One. In addition, it is part of the informal development of Metcalfe Street as a ceremonial route from the Museum of Nature to Parliament Hill.

The Duncannon is a four storey, flat roofed structure with a high basement. It is faced in brick and built in the "H" shape often found in apartment buildings of the late 1920s and early 1930s. Burgess and Gardner dressed this common form in a cloak of gentility designed to evoke images of wealth and tradition. The front prongs of the H and the frontispiece are emphasized with shallow pilasters that contribute to an impression of low castle towers. Blind arches in the stone parapet and the stone detailing of the frontispiece contribute to the castle-like appearance of the building. The design is unified by broad horizontal cut stone bands that are limited to the north and east facades.

The Duncannon also makes comprehensive use of sunlight and shadow to create richness and variety in a restricted space. In addition, the subtle variations in the brickwork, the leaded glass windows and decorative glass of the front doors and transom, the Indiana limestone entranceway embellished with decorative ironwork and the courtyard design of the Duncannon convey a strong impression of tradition, power and security that befits its position as a luxury apartment building built for an emerging elite for whom home ownership was no longer a priority.

This designation does not include the interior of the building.

OBJECTIONS

Any person wishing to object to this designation may do so by letter, outlining reasons for the objections and other relevant information. These must be received by the Clerk of the City of Ottawa either by registered mail or personally delivered by the 17th day of June, 1996.

DATED at Ottawa this 15th day of May, 1996.

P.G. Pagé  
City Clerk