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City of  
Ville d' **Ottawa**

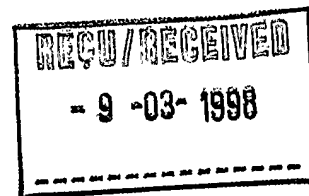
**Department of Corporate Services      Services intégrés**  
111 Sussex, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5A1

Our File/Notre Dossier: ACS1998/1301-005  
Reply To: Répondre à:  
P.G. Pagé, City Clerk/Greffier

REGISTERED

March 5, 1998

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 18th day of March, 1998, established its Intention to Designate the property known municipally as 774 Echo Drive, 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. Pagé  
City Clerk

/cp

Enc.

## IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT.

The Corporation of the City of Ottawa on the February 18, 1998, established its intention to designate the following heritage property for its architectural and historical value.

### 774 Echo Drive

#### STATEMENT OF REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The Former Monastère du Précieux Sang is recommended for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act for architectural and historical reasons. Now the national headquarters of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, the building was constructed between 1914-1923 for the Soeurs du Précieux Sang. It was designed by Alphonse Contant.

The Soeurs du à Précieux Sang, a contemplative order, were founded in 1861, and came to Ottawa in 1887. In 1898 they purchased the Mackay estate on Echo Drive, which included a large stone house. The expansive, treed lot was well suited to the needs of the Sisters who, as members of a contemplative order, lived a quiet existence devoted to prayer and meditation, with little contact with the outside world.

In 1914, construction of the present structure began. Construction did not proceed smoothly; the architect disappeared with the funds and the building stood unfinished for four years while the Sisters raised money for its completion. Finally, donations in kind from the community allowed the building to be completed in 1923.

The Former Monastère du Précieux Sang is a large, pale yellow, brick structure, four storeys in height, with a hipped roof. A modified mansard roof, with dormer windows, forms an attic storey on the north facade. The building was originally laid out with a central courtyard (now a glassed atrium), bounded on three sides by four-storey wings and on one side by a two-storey wing. The two storey wing on the front (north) facade, features an attractive frontispiece topped by a monumental pediment and a two-storey, round arch that contains double front doors and large windows. This entrance was constructed in 1981, replacing a pair of entrance doors that had been centrally located on each end of the four storey wings. Smooth stone stringcourses separate the storeys of the front facade but they are not continued around the corners to the east and west facades. On the east facade, the former chapel, now a meeting hall, is lit by large, two-storey windows. The west facade repeats the simple rectangular windows with stone lintels found elsewhere on the building, while the south facade features an open three-storey gallery overlooking a lawn. There is a large centrally placed

belfry. The building creates a monumental impression, despite the austere simplicity of its exterior.

Stylistically, the building is a very simple classically-proportioned structure, similar in form and massing to convents and monasteries built throughout Canada by religious orders in the 19th and 20th centuries. Generally, these institutions were laid out around a central axis with each wing housing a different function.

The original grounds between the building and the rear fence and the open treed lawn to the north, contribute significantly to its character and serve as an important reminder of the building's original role as the home of an order of contemplative nuns who used the then-fenced grounds for meditation and passive recreation. These grounds are included in the designation.

The interior of the building, the garage to its west, the portion of the grounds devoted to parking and the area east of the chapel, are not included in this designation.

#### 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1998.

DATED at Ottawa this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 1998.

P.G. Pagé  
City Clerk