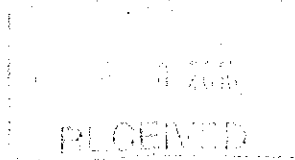




File Number: D09/01 Rich



April 22, 2010



Dear [REDACTED]:

**Re: Designation of the Soeurs de la Visitation Monastery, 114 Richmond Road under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act***

City Council, at its meeting held on April 14, 2010 , approved the following recommendation with reference to the above-noted matter:

**Whereas the Soeurs De La Visitation Monastery, 114 Richmond Road is a significant heritage property;**

**And Whereas it is the opinion of the Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee and Planning and Environment Committee that such significance extends to the entirety of the property;**

**And Whereas, as directed by Planning and Environment Committee, modifications to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value are required to reflect the heritage significance of 114 Richmond Road;**

**Therefore Be It Resolved that Document 6 to Planning and Environment Committee Report 66A, Item 1 be replaced with Attachment A to this motion. (attached)**

Enclosed herewith is the Notice of Intention to Designate served according to the Act, to be published in Le Droit and The Ottawa Citizen on April 30, 2010 .

Should you require further information, please contact Richard Kilstrom, A/Manager, Development Review (Urban), Planning and Growth Management Department, directly at 580-2424, extension 22653.

*Shaping our future together  
Ensemble, formons notre avenir*

Director Secretariat Services  
City Clerk  
City of Ottawa  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1  
tel.: (613) 580-2400  
web: www.ottawa.ca

Directeur/Greffier  
Services du secrétariat  
Ville d'Ottawa  
110, avenue Laurier Ouest  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1  
tél. : (613) 580-2400  
web: www.ottawa.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. P. O.' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

City Clerk

cc: R. Kilstrom, A/ Manager, Planning and Growth Management Department  
Ontario Heritage Trust, 10 Adelaide Street East, 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3

IN THE MATTER OF THE *ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT*

Notice of Intention to Designate

The Corporation of the City of Ottawa on April 14, 2010 established its intention to designate the Soeurs de la Visitation d'Ottawa Monastery, 114 Richmond Road, Ottawa under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

Description of Property –The Soeurs de la Visitation d'Ottawa Monastery, 114 Richmond Road

The Soeurs de la Visitation d'Ottawa Monastery is a large stone structure surrounded by vast enclosed grounds, located on Richmond Road in the Westboro neighbourhood of Ottawa.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Soeurs de la Visitation d'Ottawa Monastery consists of a convent building sited within four acres of carefully tended grounds, and enclosed on its perimeter by walls and mature vegetation. The building is comprised of two parts, a Gothic Revival house built in 1864-1865 and four additional wings completed in 1913 to transform the structure into a monastery. Its cultural heritage value lies in its being an excellent example of both an 1860s Gothic Revival House and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century monastery. The complex has historical value for its association with James Skead (owner 1889 until his death on 1884, whose widow lived there until 1887), a lumberman, senator, Ottawa booster and founder of Skead's Mills and George Holland, (owner 1887-1910), a successful publisher and innovator, and with the Soeurs de la Visitation d'Ottawa. It is also a rare surviving example of a property that housed a cloistered religious community for over 100 years and functioned as a self-sustaining entity for much of that time.

The original house portion of the monastery structure was built in 1864-1865. James Dyke, a local merchant, is thought to have built the house prior to selling the property to George Eaton, a gentleman farmer. It was one of a number of properties built on larger lots laid out along Richmond Road for members of Ottawa's emerging elite class. Features of the house associated with the Gothic Revival style include the steeply pitched gable roof, the dormer and bay windows, gables with bargeboard trim, and stone quoins and voussoirs. The picturesque gardens located at the front of the property are also a feature often associated to the Gothic Revival style.

The longest owner of the building prior to its purchase and conversion to a monastery in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was George Holland, a prominent local newspaperman, and with his brother Andrew, a communications entrepreneur. In 1909 George and Alison Holland sold the entire property to the Soeurs de la Visitation, a cloistered order of nuns founded in Annecy, France in 1610. The order, whose members devote themselves to prayer, established monasteries across Europe in the centuries following its establishment. The Order's founders, St. Francis de Sales and Ste. Jeanne Francois de Chantal, have both been beatified. The nuns moved into the house in 1910 and, by 1913, its conversion to a monastery was complete. It consists of four wings, arranged around a central courtyard or cloister, a plan followed by the monasteries of medieval

Europe, and used for Roman Catholic convents and monasteries around the world. The features of the 1913 wings that express the building's role as a cloistered convent include its inward-facing plan with the wings arranged around a central courtyard or cloister, the tall, two storey construction with regularly spaced rectangular windows, a high basement and an attic lit by spaced dormer windows, the chapel and its associated pointed arch windows, the steeple and the galleries and verandas.

Early on, after its acquisition by the Soeurs de la Visitation, the property was encircled by high walls and vegetation which shielded the monastery from the exterior world. The grounds demonstrate the historic use of the property by the 19<sup>th</sup> century owners, including Skeads and Hollands, and by the Soeurs de la Visitation. They comprise, at the front, the picturesque gardens dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the rear of the building, more domestic spaces were initially used for the purposes of communal farming, including a kitchen garden, which sustained the needs of the community. Later this evolved into a more contemplative space, which acted in part as a burial location for the Order. Like the building, the formal and domestic landscape associated with the monastery is rooted in the traditions of Western European religious architecture.

#### Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that embody the heritage value of the Soeurs de la Visitation d'Ottawa Monastery as an excellent example of both a large Gothic Revival house and a monastery include:

##### House

- steeply pitched roof with narrow gable-roofed dormers
- front veranda
- bay window with wooden pointed arch details
- tall chimneys
- stone quoins and voussoirs

##### 1913 Monastery addition

- tall stone walls with evenly spaced windows
- high hipped metal-clad roof with gable and triangle dormers
- bellcote
- veranda and galleries
- Chapel and its interior volume
- the plan, including central courtyard/ cloister enclosed on four sides
- the distinctive flower bed pattern in the courtyard

##### Grounds

- picturesque garden with its mature trees and layout of pathways and flowerbeds
- the duality of the formal landscape fronting Richmond Road, and domestic, more informal character of the grounds at the rear

## OBJECTIONS

Any person wishing to object to this designation may do so by letter, outlining the reasons for the objection and any other relevant information. This letter must be received by the Clerk of the City of Ottawa either by registered mail or personally delivered within 30 days of the publication of this notice. When a notice of objection has been received, the Council of the City of Ottawa will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a Hearing and a Report.

City Clerk