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File No. ACS2024-PDB-RHU-0035

July 19, 2024

Somerset West Community Health Centre
755 Somerset Street West
Ottawa, ON
K1R 6R1

RECEIVED
2024/07/19
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

Dear Somerset West Community Health Centre,

RE: Designation of 755 Somerset Street West, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

This letter is to advise you that Ottawa City Council, at its meeting of July 10, 2024, approved the following recommendation in respect of the above-noted item:

That Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate 755 Somerset Street West 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 July 10, 2024, can be found on the City's website at 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 on July 19, 2024. You will have 30 days from the publication date, until August 18, 2024, 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

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

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Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1
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Ligne directe (613) 580-2424 poste 28136
caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca

The notice of objection can be submitted via email to 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 Mélanie Blais, Committee Coordinator
110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1, mail code 01-71

To make an appointment, please contact Mélanie Blais, Committee Coordinator at (613) 580-2424, ext. 27005, or at melanie.blais@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 Heritage Planner, at at (613) 580-2424, 74708 or by email at taylor.quibell@ottawa.ca.

Regards,



Caitlin Salter MacDonald
City Clerk

c.c. Lauren Luchenski, Built Heritage Research Coordinator, City of Ottawa
 (lauren.luchenski@ottawa.ca)
 Taylor Quibell, Heritage Planner, City of Ottawa (taylor.quibell@ottawa.ca)
 Sabrina Manbahadur (smanbahadur@swchc.on.ca)
 Suzanne Obiorah (s.obiorah@swchc.on.ca)
 Rebecca Adeladan (radeladan@swchc.on.ca)
 Registrar, Ontario Heritage Trust (registrar@heritagetrust.on.ca)

Encl.

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 755 SOMERSET STREET WEST 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 10th day of July, 2024

TAKE NOTICE that the City of Ottawa, on July 19, 2024 established its intention to designate 755 Somerset Street West under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The former École St-Jean-Baptiste at 755 Somerset Street West, is a three-storey stone building located to the northwest of the intersection of Somerset Street West and Empress Avenue in the Primrose Hill area in West Centretown.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The former École St-Jean-Baptiste at 755 Somerset Street West was constructed circa 1887 and is a representative example of a purpose-built, late 19th century, stone, French language Roman Catholic school with Neo-Classical elements. The original building underwent significant modifications at the start of the 20th century, including the removal of a mansard roof and a side porch. The elements that express the NeoClassical style today include a balanced façade with projecting bays, pedimented entrance with doric columns, stone sills and lintels, and stone banding above the third storey.

École St-Jean-Baptiste has historical and associative value due to its direct associations with the development of French language education in Ontario and the opposition to Regulation 17, a 1912 Provincial regulation that made English language instruction mandatory in elementary schools. This building represents the struggle for the right to teach francophone children in their first language. The school was part of the Institute of Christian Schools and run by the Ontario Christian Brothers, also referred to as De La Salle Brothers. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the Christian Brothers were a significant organization in the community that played a crucial role in the development and expansion of Ontario's publicly funded Catholic separate school system. However, it must also be acknowledged that, since the 1980s, a difficult legacy of harsh discipline, physical and sexual abuse by many members of the order across North America has surfaced.

The property also has historic associations with the Catholic francophone community in the area surrounding Primrose Hill which developed circa 1872. The school and surrounding religious institutions were constructed to address the growing need for additional religious services on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River and a growing Catholic francophone community in this area in the late 19th century.

As a prominent stone building on Somerset Street West, facing Empress Avenue, this property is important in defining the character of the area surrounding Primrose Hill, an area

in West Centretown located at the top of an escarpment, overlooking LeBreton Flats. Primrose Hill is defined by several religious buildings including a monastery complex (90 Primrose Avenue East and 96 Empress Avenue), Our Lady of the Rosary Convent (85 Primrose Avenue East) and residential properties many of which were constructed in the late 19th early 20th century. The property is linked to its surroundings as part of this cluster of French-Canadian religious institutions that have similar construction dates and ecclesiastical function.

DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of 755 Somerset Street West as an example of a late 19th century early 20th century stone school with Neo-Classical ornamentation include its:

- Rectangular plan
- Three storey balanced massing with projecting bays
- Regularly spaced window openings
- Smooth stone window lintels and sills
- Regular coursed limestone walls
- Entrance portico on the east façade with:
 - Doric columns and a gable roof with subtle detailing
 - Central double limestone staircase
 - A double door opening with stained glass rectangular transom
- Decorative carved name stone incised with École St. Jean Baptiste
- Smooth limestone banding with a central limestone cross with corbel
- Simple portico with gable roof on the south façade

Key attributes that demonstrate its contextual value include:

- Its location within a cluster of religious buildings
- Its orientation facing east

The designation is limited to the exterior of the building. The interior of the building is excluded from the 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. The notice of objection can also be submitted via registered mail or be delivered in person, by appointment, at the following coordinates:

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

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*.

For further information please contact: Taylor Quibell, taylor.quibell@ottawa.ca