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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: ACS1997/1301-137  
Reply To: Répondre à:  
P.G. Pagé, City Clerk/Greffier

REGISTERED

November 19, 1997

Ms. Lesley Lewis  
Executive Director  
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide St. E.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1J3

Dear Ms. Lewis:

The Council of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1997, established its Intention to Designate the property known municipally as 377 Rideau Street, in the City of Ottawa, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990. c.0.18.

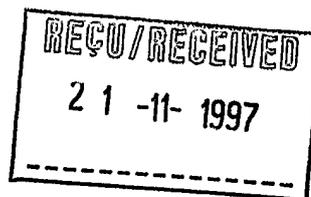
Enclosed herewith is the Notice of Intention to Designate served according to the act.

Yours truly,

*P.G.* P.G. Pagé  
City Clerk

/cp

Enc.



## IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT.

The Corporation of the City of Ottawa on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1997, established its intention to designate the following heritage property for its architectural and historical value.

377 Rideau Street

### STATEMENT OF REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The Rideau Branch Library, 377 Rideau Street, is recommended for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act for architectural and historical reasons. Constructed in 1933 to serve the residents of Lowertown and Sandy Hill, the Rideau Branch Library replaced a temporary operation that had been located in a rented house since 1925. When opened, it was reputed to be the first bilingual public library in North America.

The Rideau Branch Library was designed by local architect J.P. MacLaren. MacLaren was born in Wakefield in 1865 and was educated at the University of Toronto. After practicing in southern Ontario, he returned to Ottawa in 1897. His most noteworthy buildings in the city are the First Church of Christ Scientist, and the West Branch Library, 1918.

The Rideau Branch Library is a one-storey, red brick structure with a high basement. The main section of the building was completed in 1933 and the flat-roofed addition to the rear was constructed in 1949. Symmetrical in plan, the building has a steeply pitched hipped roof with flared eaves. The front facade is distinguished by an entrance pavilion with a hipped roof and an ornate stone frontispiece, carved with the building's name and construction date. The front facade is further enhanced by an attractive pair of iron lamps beside the door and a decorative iron railing on the stairs. Large, round-arched windows with stylized pediments pierce the roofline of the east and west facades. The round-arched windows are flanked by large rectangular windows that are separated from the basement windows by bricks laid in a herringbone pattern. The building's design and details suggest Jacobean and Norman forms and illustrate an attempt by the architect to amalgamate French and English antecedents to produce a uniquely Canadian Revival style.

The interior of the building is also included in the designation as much of the original fabric is intact and the ceiling remains open, creating a lofty interior well lit by the large windows. Noteworthy features of the interior include the wooden shelving around the perimeter, the exposed decorative beams and trusses, the wooden window frames and the interior entrance, which is distinguished by a pedimented portal with pilasters.

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December.

DATED at Ottawa this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 1997.

P.G. Pagé  
City Clerk