

**\*REVISED\***

**STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE**

DOCUMENT 4

Description of Property – Deschâtelets Building, 175 Main Street, Ottawa

Known as the Deschâtelets Building since interior renovations in 1967-68, constructed as Scolasticat St.-Joseph, the building is a large stone structure, located on Main Street, in the Ottawa East neighbourhood of Ottawa.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Deschâtelets Building was initially constructed in 1885 as a scholasticate for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The Oblate order was founded in France in 1826 by Archbishop Eugene de Mazenod. The Oblates arrived in Longueuil, Quebec in 1841, moving to Bytown in 1848. By the 1880s they had outgrown the wing of the building in Lowertown where they had lived since their arrival and construction of a new seminary began on a farm in Archville that had been purchased in 1869. They moved into the building in 1885. The Oblates were a missionary order, sending priest and lay brothers across Canada to teach and their facility was altered and enlarged in 1925 and 1950 as the order grew. Dramatically different from its original architectural style after these extensive alterations, the Deschâtelets Building represents the role that the Oblates have played in the community since their arrival in Ottawa in 1844 and the evolution of Roman Catholic institutional architecture since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The [original](#) building was initially designed by M. Albert Mesnard of the Montreal firm Perrault & Mesnard, who designed a hundred or so religious and civic buildings throughout Quebec and from coast to coast across North America, including other important Second Empire style buildings. It was altered through the addition of two wings in the Beaux Arts style by the Quebec firm of Donat-Arthur Gascon and Louis Parant in 1926. In 1950, the building was further altered to the plans of Montreal architect Louis-J Lapierre that added an additional storey and a new Chapel. Today, the building is a large, four storey, classically-inspired stone building set back from Main Street.

The setting of the Deschâtelets Building, at the terminus of a wide tree lined allée that leads to a forecourt from Main Street contributes to its cultural heritage value. Historical photos reveal that it was planted after the completion of the 1950's alterations to the building. The allée is a well known landmark and character defining feature of the property.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that embody the heritage value of the Deschâtelets Building as an excellent example of a Roman Catholic institutional building include its:

- Stone construction

- Classically-inspired design with a central frontispiece, topped by a pediment with a crest, with a dentilled secondary cornice
- Two flanking pavilions flanking the frontispiece also with pediments and secondary cornices
- Regularly spaced windows, predominantly paired, with shaped stone surrounds
- The front door, its pediment, architrave and flanking piers
- 1950 Chapel and its interior, featuring concrete construction with buttress-like columns and a vaulted ceiling

Key attributes that embody the heritage value of the landscape associated with the Deschâtelets Building include its:

- Tree-lined allée leading from Main Street to the open forecourt. (Alterations to this attribute will not include regular maintenance of the trees, interventions at the ground plane such as paving, parking, laneways, sidewalks, landscaping and street furnishings, or development on the undesignated lands on either side of it)
- Semi-circular, tree-lined forecourt located to the west of the front door. This space is defined by the trees running in a semi-circle from Oblate Avenue to Oblate Avenue.
- Remnant of the “Allee des Ormes” planted by the Oblates in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, located south and west of the Deschâtelets Building

The gymnasium/ archives to the south of the building, the one storey addition to the north and east of the Chapel, the structure to the north of the Chapel, and the small structure to the north and east of the Deschâtelets Building itself are not included in this designation. The interior of the building is not included in the designation. The interior of the Chapel is included in the designation.