

**Subject: Designation of the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial, 195 George Street, under
Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act***

File Number: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0026

**Report to Built Heritage Committee on 9 April 2024
and Council 17 April 2024**

**Submitted on March 22, 2024 by Court Curry, Manager, Right of Way, Heritage
and Urban Design Services, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development
Department**

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Ward: RIDEAU-VANIER (12)

**Objet: Désignation de l'édifice Andrew W. Fleck Memorial située au 195, rue
George en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario***

Dossier: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0026

Rapport au Comité du patrimoine bâti

le 9 avril 2024

et au Conseil le 17 avril 2024

**Soumis le 22 mars 2024 par Court Curry, Gestionnaire, Services des emprises, du
patrimoine et du design urbain, Direction générale de la planification, de
l'immobilier et du développement économique**

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Quartier: Rideau-Vanier (12)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Built Heritage Committee recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial, 195 George Street, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, according to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value, attached as Document 5.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité du patrimoine bâti recommande au Conseil d'émettre un avis d'intention de désigner l'édifice Andrew W. Fleck Memorial, située au 195, rue George, en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, conformément à la Déclaration de la valeur du patrimoine culturel présentée dans le document 5 en pièce jointe.

BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared because designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* must be approved by City Council.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial was constructed in 1932 at the corner of King Edward Avenue and George Street in Lowertown. This building was designed by John Albert Ewart as a day nursery in a style influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement. Ewart was responsible for the design of many prominent buildings in Ottawa including the transportation Building (1916-17), the Jackson Building (1919-20), Glebe Collegiate Institute (1922-23), and the Ottawa Civic Hospital, among others. The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial maintains the historic character of Lowertown and the institutional forms of the King Edward Avenue corridor.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial is directly associated with the Fleck family and the Ottawa Day Nursery, known today as Andrew Fleck Children's Services. The building has operated as a childcare centre for its entire history. The building reflects the development of early childhood education, social reforms, migration to urban centres, and the role of women in the workforce.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, historical associations, and context. It meets six of the nine criteria outlined in Ontario Regulation 9/06 for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

In 2014, the City of Ottawa received a request to designate 195 George Street. The property was added to the queue of designation requests and it was listed on the City's Heritage Register in 2017 as part of the Heritage Inventory Project. Changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through Bill 23 will result in the removal of the property from the City's Heritage Register if Council does not issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the property by December 31, 2024. Further, Council will not be able to re-list the property for five years after this date.

DISCUSSION

Recommendation 1: Issue a Notice of Intention to Designate

The Official Plan, the Provincial Policy Statement and the *Ontario Heritage Act* all provide policy direction related to the designation of individual properties under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Official Plan

The Official Plan has policies related to cultural heritage in Section 4.5, Cultural Heritage and Archaeology. Section 4.5.1(3) states: "Individual buildings, structures, and sites shall be designated as properties of cultural heritage value under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*."

Provincial Policy Statement (2020)

Section 2.6.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) contains the following policy regarding the protection of cultural heritage resources: "Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved."

Ontario Heritage Act

Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* provides municipalities with the authority to designate properties of cultural heritage value. Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* sets out the process for the designation of individual buildings. It requires:

- that Council consult with its municipal heritage committee, and
- that the official Notice of Intention to Designate served on the owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust contain a description of the property and its heritage attributes, as well as a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a statement explaining that a notice of objection may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention.

As per the *Ontario Heritage Act* Alternative Notice Policy, the Notice of Intention to Designate will be published on the City's website in both official languages. Document 5 contains the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value for this property.

Ontario Regulation 09/06

Regulation 09/06 (see Document 3), establishes criteria to determine if a property is of cultural heritage value or interest. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* if it meets two or more of the nine criteria set out in the regulation.

Through research and evaluation, staff have determined that the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial at 195 George Street meets six of the nine criteria. Detailed research and analysis are outlined in the Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (see Document 4). A brief analysis of each of the applicable criteria is provided below:

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

Completed in 1932, the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial has design value as a rare and early example of a purpose-built daycare. It is a unique small-scale institutional building inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement. The Arts and Crafts Movement was popular for residential designs into the 1930s.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

195 George Street has historical value through its direct associations with the former Ottawa Day Nursery and the Fleck family. The Ottawa Day Nursery was established in 1911 to provide daytime care for the children of working mothers, including many newcomers. Helen Gertrude Fleck was a devoted volunteer and philanthropist who served as President of the Ottawa Day Nursery's management committee during its founding year and again from 1932 to 1937. Helen Gertrude Fleck purchased 195 George Street's lot and financed construction of this building for the Ottawa Day Nursery. Her spouse, Andrew W. Fleck, a prominent businessman and philanthropist, died in 1924 and she dedicated the building to his memory, naming it the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial has historical value for its connection to key themes including the development of early childhood education, social reform, migration to urban centres, and the role of women in the workforce.

The property has historical or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

The building at 195 George Street contributes to a greater understanding of the culture of working parents in Ottawa and the history of early childhood education in Canada. Furthermore, it contributes to a comparative analysis of buildings used to provide childcare and the emergence of the nursery as a building type.

The property has historical or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial demonstrates the work of John Albert Ewart (1872-1964), a prominent Ottawa architect who designed many significant local buildings throughout his lengthy career including the Transportation Building (1916-17), the Jackson Building (1919-20), Glebe Collegiate Institute (1922-23), and the Ottawa Civic Hospital, among others.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area.

This corner building is important in maintaining the historic character of Lowertown, reflecting King Edward Avenue's eclectic mix of low-rise brick buildings dating from the early decades of the 20th century.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

This building has functional and historical links through its long service to the Lowertown community. It is one of several early 20th century institutional buildings in the area that reflect the Progressive Movement and social reform.

Conclusion

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial at 195 George Street meets six of nine criteria outlined in Ontario Regulation 9/06 for determining cultural heritage value or interest. Staff recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Provincial Policy Statement

Staff have reviewed this proposal and have determined it is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

The property owner was notified about this report and staff's intention to designate the property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* by written correspondence on December 13, 2023. Staff emailed the owner and posted a hard copy in the mail. Correspondence included a letter, a draft cultural heritage evaluation report, a draft statement of cultural heritage value, list of heritage attributes and a property owner's guide to heritage designation.

Heritage Planning staff met with the owner on January 10, 2024, at the subject property.

Councillor Plante and Chair King were notified about this report.

The Lowertown Community Association and Heritage Ottawa were notified about this report.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

The Ward Councilor is aware of the recommendation associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with implementing the report recommendation.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility implications associated with this report.

INDIGENOUS GENDER AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

The property at 195 George St reflects the historical contributions made by women, specifically working mothers and newcomer women, to our city's economy, society and cultural life. Implementation of the report recommendation would increase the number of designated heritage properties in Ottawa that have direct associations with women's

histories.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 Location Map

Document 2 Photos

Document 3 Ontario Regulation 09/06

Document 4 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

Document 5 Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

DISPOSITION

If Council does not approve the recommendation, no further steps are required. If Council proceeds with the issuance of a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property, several actions must be taken:

- 1) Heritage Planning Branch, Planning Real Estate and Economic Development Department, to prepare the Notice of Intention to Designate. Office of the City Clerk, Council and Committee Services to notify the property owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust (10 Adelaide Street East, 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3) of Council's decision to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 2) Heritage Planning Branch, Planning Real Estate and Economic Development Department to ensure publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate according to the requirements of Section 29 the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 3) If the City Clerk receives a Notice of Objection under Section 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* within thirty days of the publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate, the Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development Department is to prepare a report regarding the objection for consideration by Council within 90 days after conclusion of the objection period, according to Section 29(6) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 4) If the City Clerk does not receive any Notice of Objection under Section 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* within thirty days of the publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate, or if City Council decides not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property after an objection as been served, the Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development Department, is to prepare the designation by-law, under the authority of the

approval of this report and Legal Services to submit to City Council for enactment within 120 days of the publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate as prescribed in Section 29(8) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Office of the City Clerk, Council and Committee Services to cause a copy of the by-law together with a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property, to be served on the owner of the property and on the Trust according to the requirements of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development Department to ensure publication of the notice of the by-law according to the requirements Section 29(8)(4) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Document 1 – Location Map



LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION

24-0034-L



195 rue George St.

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NSA 1016-A1-1

Document 2 – Photos



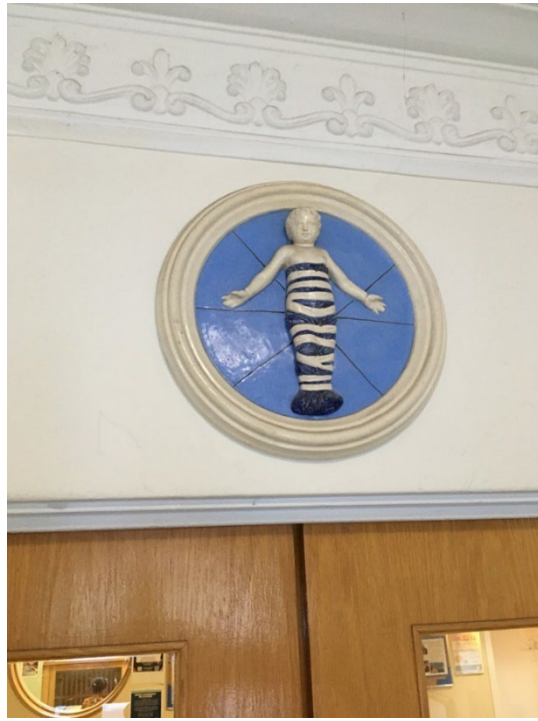
195 George Street. All images Jan 2024, City of Ottawa. South elevation and memorial plaque.



East elevation (left) and 1932 date stone (right).



View of west elevation and the fenced yard with mature trees.



Detail of entrance featuring double entry doors and curved transom (left). One of three ceramic tondis installed in the interior vestibule (right).



View of east elevation (left) and north elevation (right).



Detail of masonry (left). View of corner location, George Street at King Edward Avenue (right).



Detail of entry (left). Detail of wood soffits and brackets (right).

Document 3 – Ontario Regulation 09/06

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Consolidation Period: From January 1, 2023 to the e-Laws currency date.

Last amendment: 569/22.

This is the English version of a bilingual regulation.

Criteria, s. 27 (3) (b) of the Act

1. (1) The criteria set out in subsection (2) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 27 (3) (b) of the *Act*. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(2) Property that has not been designated under Part IV of the *Act* may be included in the register referred to in subsection 27 (1) of the *Act* on and after January 1, 2023 if the property meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest:

1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
4. The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.
5. The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(3) For clarity, subsection (2) does not apply in respect of a property that has not been designated under Part IV but was included in the register as of January 1, 2023. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

Criteria, s. 29 (1) (a) of the Act

2. (1) The criteria set out in subsections (2) and (3) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 29 (1) (a) of the *Act*. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(2) Section 1, as it read immediately before January 1, 2023, continues to apply in respect of a property for which a notice of intention to designate it was given under subsection 29 (1.1) of the *Act* after January 24, 2006 and before January 1, 2023. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(3) In respect of a property for which a notice of intention to designate it is given under subsection 29 (1.1) of the *Act* on or after January 1, 2023, the property may be designated under section 29 of the *Act* if it meets two or more of the criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest set out in paragraphs 1 to 9 of subsection 1 (2). O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

Criteria, s. 41 (1) (b) of the Act

3. (1) The criteria set out in subsection (2) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 41 (1) (b) of the *Act*. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), in the case of a by-law passed under subsection 41 (1) of the *Act* on or after January 1, 2023, a municipality or any defined area or areas of it may be designated by such a by-law as a heritage conservation district under subsection 41 (1) of the *Act* if the municipality or the defined area or areas of it meets the following criteria:

1. At least 25 per cent of the properties within the municipality or defined area or areas satisfy two or more of the following:

- i. The properties have design value or physical value because they are rare, unique, representative or early examples of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.
- ii. The properties have design value or physical value because they display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

- iii. The properties have design value or physical value because they demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
- iv. The properties have historical value or associative value because they have a direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.
- v. The properties have historical value or associative value because they yield, or have the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
- vi. The properties have historical value or associative value because they demonstrate or reflect the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
- vii. The properties have contextual value because they define, maintain or support the character of the district.
- viii. The properties have contextual value because they are physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to each other.
- ix. The properties have contextual value because they are defined by, planned around or are themselves a landmark. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply in respect of a by-law passed under subsection 41 (1) of the Act on or after January 1, 2023 if a notice of a public meeting required to be held for the purposes of the by-law under subsection 41.1 (7) of the Act was given before January 1, 2023. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(4) For clarity, the requirement set out in subsection 41.1 (5.1) of the Act,

- a) does not apply in respect of a by-law under subsection 41 (1) of the Act that is passed before January 1, 2023; and
- b) does not apply in respect of a by-law under subsection 41.1 (2) of the Act. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

Document 4 – Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

Building Name and Address: Andrew W. Fleck Memorial, 195 George Street

Construction Date: 1932

Original Owner: Helen Gertrude Fleck for the Ottawa Day Nursery



195 George Street, January 2023. Source: City of Ottawa.

Executive Summary

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial was constructed in 1932 at the corner of King Edward Avenue and George Street in Lowertown. This building was designed by John Albert Ewart as a day nursery for children in a style influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement. Ewart was responsible for the design of many prominent buildings in Ottawa including the Transportation Building (1916-17), the Jackson Building (1919-20), Glebe Collegiate Institute (1922-23), and the Ottawa Civic Hospital, among others. The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial maintains the historic character of Lowertown and the institutional forms of the King Edward Avenue corridor.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial is directly associated with the Fleck family and the Ottawa Day Nursery, known today as Andrew Fleck Children's Services. The building

has operated as a childcare centre for its entire history. The building reflects the development of early childhood education, social reforms, migration to urban centres, and the role of women in the workforce.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, historical associations, and context. It meets six of the nine criteria outlined in Ontario Regulation 9/06 for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

Architecture



Views of the south façade, January 2023. Source: City of Ottawa.

The property at 195 George Street contains a building called the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial, a fenced playground, soft landscaping, and a parking area.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial is a two and one half storey building with a low-pitched hip roof and a high basement. It was constructed in 1932 with reinforced concrete and originally had a fire-resistant tile roof. The building is clad in brick veneer in an English bond, identified by its alternate courses of headers and stretchers. The building has wide irregular massing, a horizontal orientation, overhanging bracketed eaves, and small groups of 6/6 sash windows. Window openings are regularly spaced on each floor and feature flat masonry arches. The first floor windows have lug sills while the second floor windows share a continuous sill.

Architectural historian Shannon Ricketts, on behalf of the Lowertown Community Association, provided the following architectural description:

The use of patterned red brick facing with stone detailing and prominent brackets beneath overhanging eaves, lends this building a domestic air, hearkening back to an Arts and Crafts aesthetic. The Arts and Crafts Movement was popular in the 1920s and 1930s in Canada and emphasized vernacular forms that stressed informal, functional interior plans.

Both building and grounds were designed with the safety and constructive enjoyment of young children in mind. Fire-resistant, reinforced concrete construction was used with a decorative brick facing. The site provided an extensive playground and the building had a large sunroom, an open verandah, a study, sleeping accommodation for sick children, rooms for two members of staff in residence, showers, and a commodious dining room. The basement level was fitted out as a free clinic with a graded entrance allowing mothers to push prams right to the building without the inconvenience of steps. The building was airy and sunlit.¹

The building's main façade fronts on George Street. The formal entrance features a frontispiece with an arched portico, double doors with divided lights, shaped transom, date stone, wood panels, decorative brick panels and stone masonry. Inside the main entrance, a vestibule contains three medallions depicting images of swaddled children, thought to have been inspired by the tondi placed between the arches of Brunelleschi's Hospital of the Innocents in Florence Italy.²



Left: Andrea della Robbia's glazed terra-cotta reliefs of swaddled babies at the Ospedale degli Innocenti in Florence, Italy. Image: museumsinflorence.com Right:

¹ Lowertown Community Association. (2013).

² Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 18.

Circular ceramic installed in the vestibule at 195 George Street, Ottawa. Image: January 2024, City of Ottawa.



Views of the west and south façades and fenced yard, January 2023. Source: City of Ottawa.

The northern elevation continues the rhythm of openings at the basement, first floor, and second floor. A narrow parking lane offers access from King Edward Avenue and a painted gate divides the space between the building and the property line.

The west elevation connects the building to its fenced yard. A formerly open veranda was enclosed, evidenced by new windows and wood spandrels on the first floor. A new wood deck extends westward with stairs down to the yard. The yard contains several large trees and modest landscaping.

In 1994, a fire broke out during renovations destroying the roof and attic.³ The replacement roof reflects the original design.

³ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011) p. 50.



George St. building, n.d. / Library and Archives Canada / 1984-124 NPC.



School yard, n.d. / Library and Archives Canada / 1984-124 NPC.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial stands as the sole nursery building identified in Ottawa that was constructed before the Second World War and built specifically for the care of infants and young children during the daytime while their parents were at work.⁴ Across Canada, few purpose-built nurseries were constructed until later in the twentieth century.⁵ An international example is found in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, designed by Oscar Niemeyer and built 1937-1943.



Day Nursery, Rio de Janeiro.
Reproduced from RAIC (Oct 1943)
Vol 20, No 10, p 169.

Reference material for children's nursery architecture⁶ (meaning a building type distinct from orphanages or children's hospitals) only became available in Canada starting in the late 1930s. For example, H. Myles Wright and R. Gardner-Medwin's publication, The Design of Nursery and Elementary Schools was first published by England's Architectural Press in 1938. It was not until wartime that the Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) published articles about children's nurseries within the field of architecture⁷. In a 1944 RAIC article, the nursery school was described as "a somewhat new concept".⁸

Architect

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial at 195 George Street, is a purpose-built daycare building designed by John Albert Ewart (1872-1964). Ewart was a prominent Ottawa

⁴ City of Ottawa staff reviewed local building inventories, heritage studies and secondary sources. Although 195 George Street was the sole pre-1950 daycare building identified, additional examples may exist in the region.

⁵ Based on City of Ottawa analysis of Day Nursery locations in major cities across Canada as well as online searches of Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada journals, Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada bulletins, *Ontario Heritage Act* Register and the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

⁶ Children's nursery architecture encompasses Early Learning Centres, Daycares, Early Childcare Centres, Nursery Schools, Day Nurseries, to name a few.

⁷ Parkin, John B. (Jul 1943). Tomorrow's Schools. Journal, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Vol 20, No 7. P 104

⁸ Murray, A. James (Nov 1944). Nursery Schools. Journal, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Vol 21, No 11. P 243.

architect who worked in the city from the turn of the century 20th century into the late 1950s.

He was the son of David Ewart, Chief Architect for the Department of Public Works (1897-1914). John Albert Ewart apprenticed in Ottawa and studied at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1895.⁹ Upon his return to Ottawa, he worked with King M. Arnoldi and Band, and Burritt and Meredith, before opening his own practice in 1906.¹⁰ Ewart was a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and an honorary life member of the Engineering Institute of Canada. He was appointed to the Federal District Commission and had a long-standing association with the Ottawa Collegiate Board.¹¹



Dad entering daycare, October 15, 1947 / Library and Archives Canada / 1984-124 NPC.

Ewart's deep knowledge of architecture allowed him to produce a wide array of building types in a variety of styles. Some of his best-known buildings include the Transportation Building (1916-17), the Jackson Building (1919-20), Glebe Collegiate Institute (1922-23), the Ottawa Civic Hospital (1924), the Ottawa Electric Building (1926), the Victoria Building (1928) and Southminster United Church (1931).¹²

Ewart's experience designing schools, hospitals and residences combine in this welcoming and functional building for young children. The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial Building is the only daycare building attributed Ewart. It stands as a rare and unique example of a well-detailed small-scale institutional building designed by this notable architect.

History

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial is directly associated with the Ottawa Day Nursery. Its story reflects the development of early childhood education, social reforms, migration to urban centres, and the role of women in the workforce. At a time when charitable services were largely provided by religious groups, the Ottawa Day Nursery stands out

⁹ "Ewart, John Albert"

¹⁰ "Ewart, John Albert"

¹¹ "J.A. Ewart Architect Dies at 92"

¹² "Ewart, John Albert"

as a non-denominational organization. Broad social themes as well as the organization's strong ties to the Fleck family culminate in this building.

The Ottawa Day Nursery had its beginnings in the Settlement House movement:

The progressive, reformist settlement house movement began in London in 1884 with the founding of Toynbee Hall, an agency for the poor. From England the movement soon spread to the United States, where Hull House was established in Chicago in 1889. Hull House and the other houses spawned by this movement were specifically designed to improve the lives of the urban poor by providing them with a wide range of services related to vocational education and recreation. They were not charitable institutions, but showplaces of democracy and social equality with roots in the Progressive movement.¹³

Ottawa's Settlement House opened in 1909 at 382 Rideau Street and provided services to recent arrivals such as assistance finding a place to live, a place to work, and social opportunities through various clubs and classes. Settlement houses in Canada had the most influence from 1900 to 1914, a period of heavy immigration. "In Ottawa, many of these newly arrived immigrants settled in Lower Town, no doubt because of the availability of affordable housing"¹⁴ and the presence of other supports.

The Ottawa Day Nursery Club was established at 382 Rideau Street on November 7, 1911¹⁵, to provide daytime care for the children of working mothers through Settlement House.¹⁶

To be eligible for care for their children at the Nursery, the women had to be Ottawa residents who had been forced into the workforce to augment the family income. This need could arise because the marriage had broken down, the mother was unmarried or widowed, or the father's salary was inadequate to meet the family's needs. Even if these conditions did not apply, however, a short-term placement for a child could be arranged if a mother was in hospital. Whatever the reason behind the need for care, the children had to be between the ages of one and seven. Fees for the children were set at 10 cents a day per child, and five cents a day for each additional child in the family. No fee was charged if the situation warranted it.¹⁷

By 1912, the Nursery had outgrown the Rideau Street location and decided to move to 459 Besserer Street in 1913. The Ottawa Day Nursery separated from Settlement

¹³ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 9.

¹⁴ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 9.

¹⁵ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 10.

¹⁶ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 10.

¹⁷ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 10.

House in 1916 and moved to a larger space at 87 Albert Street.¹⁸ The Ottawa Day Nursery operated independently as a private not-for-profit organization and was incorporated in 1920.¹⁹



Children and nurses at the Ottawa Day Nursery ca. 1930 [Believed to be the Albert Street location].
Credit: Hands Studio/Library and Archives Canada/PA-147936.

In addition to childcare, the Ottawa Day Nursery served as a temporary shelter, offered emergency care, helped lost or abandoned children, assisted mothers find employment, and provided free medical clinics. For example, in 1923, three clinics opened: for ear, nose, and throat; for sick children; and for nerve and blood related illnesses including syphilis. The Red Cross provided the supplies and the clinic operated out of the Nursery's front room.²⁰ These privately sponsored clinics were early an early public health initiative that complemented the hygienic practices already being taught to young children at the Ottawa Day Nursery. As the Nursery required more space to provide its services, nursery managers visited the West End Creche in Toronto to gather information and prepare for a future building.²¹

By the 1930s, the Great Depression had caused widespread unemployment throughout Canada. The Ottawa Day Nursery assisted by providing direct relief to families such as free meals, clothing, medicine, job assistance, and childcare. "Job loss in Ottawa was at its worst between 1932 and 1935, particularly at the bottom rungs of society

¹⁸ Prochner, Larry and Nina Howe (ed.). (2000). p. 48.

¹⁹ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 13.

²⁰ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 16.

²¹ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 17.

concentrated in Lower Town and the Chaudière.”²² It was in this interwar period that the Nursery’s role in assisting mothers find employment became ever more important. Many men were unemployed and women increasingly sought day work as domestic servants.²³

The Ottawa Day Nursery soon outgrew its operating space on Albert Street. In 1931, Helen Gertrude Fleck purchased 195 George Street’s lot²⁴ and financed construction of a new building for the Ottawa Day Nursery.²⁵ Helen Gertrude Fleck was the daughter of lumber baron J. R. Booth and Rosamond Cook, and was married to Andrew W. Fleck, a prominent businessman as well as a philanthropist.²⁶ Andrew died in 1924 and the building was dedicated to his memory.²⁷ The deed not only stipulated that the building will always be known and called the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial but also that the building shall be operated as “a home for children whose mothers have to go to work” and that “such use or uses shall never at any time hereafter be limited to any race or creed.”²⁸ Helen Gertrude Fleck was a devoted volunteer and philanthropist who served as President of the Day Nursery’s management committee during its founding year and again from 1932 to 1937.²⁹

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial opened in July 1932 as the new home of the Ottawa Day Nursery. It had a capacity of 76 children.³⁰ The opening ceremony was attended by Ontario’s Minister of Health, the Hon. J.M. Robb, the Ottawa Day Nursery’s acting president, Mrs. C. Jackson Booth, Dr. George Fenton, Mayor Allen, and the Fleck family. The three surviving Fleck children, Jean, Gordon and Bryce, provided the Nursery’s furniture. Rooms were “furnished in miniature to accommodate even a ten-month old, and [have] tables that small chins and elbows can rest on, chairs that allow tiny toes to touch the floor, and individual cots designed small size. Even the wash basins – and toilets too – are constructed to scale for these wee folk.”³¹

²² Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 14.

²³ “Many Mothers Are Given Work.”

²⁴ Ottawa Carleton Book 610. (Microfilmed 1998).

²⁵ “Appreciate Gift Mrs. A. W. Fleck.”

²⁶ “Andrew W. Fleck Dies Suddenly Aged 76 Years.”

²⁷ “New Day Nursery Tenders Are Opened.”

²⁸ Carleton County. (1932) Deed 208006.

²⁹ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 3.

³⁰ Prochner, Larry and Nina Howe (ed.). (2000). p. 48.

³¹ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 18

In Canada, day nurseries (distinct from children's hospitals or orphanages) were first established in large urban areas in the late 19th century: Montreal Day Nursery (1887), Victoria Crèche (1890), East End Day Nursery (1892) in Toronto, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union Crèche (1895) in Hamilton. Following the turn of the century, additional day nurseries were founded: Edmonton Crèche (1908); West End Crèche, Toronto (1909); Winnipeg Day Nursery (1909); the nursery in the Jost Mission in Halifax (1910); Ottawa Day Nursery (1911); and Vancouver Crèche (1912).³² It was described that, "All the nurseries operated in the poorest districts of their cities, their purpose being the care of children whose mothers *had* to engage in paid labour in order for their families to survive."³³

Primarily, nurseries were led by women and staffed by women to serve the needs of women.³⁴

The number of day nurseries in Ottawa and in Canada did not significantly change until the Second World War when the number of women working outside the home significantly shifted. The Canadian government began a childcare program in 1942 to support women who worked in war industries and had young children. "The new demand for childcare was created by the fivefold increase in the number of wage-earning women in Canada, from 200,000 in 1939 to 1,000,000 by 1944."³⁵ As a result, childcare outside of the home became more accepted and day nurseries no longer needed to help mothers find work.³⁶



"Ottawa Day Nursery 1937-38. "Toddler's Dining Room." The kidney shaped table was intended to allow a caregiver to be seated in the centre where she could observe all the children as they ate." (Varga). Library and Archives Canada / Preschool dining room / 1984-124 NPC.

³² Prochner, Larry and Nina Howe (ed.). (2000). p. 46.

³³ Varga, Donna. (1997). p. 20.

³⁴ Based on review of named staff and Table 2.2 Day Nursery Employees from Varga, Donna. (1997). p. 29.

³⁵ Prochner, Larry and Nina Howe (ed.). (2000). p. 51.

³⁶ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 20.



Miss Mary Laing reads to children at Ottawa Day Nursery, August 1953. Capital Press/National Film Board of Canada. Photothèque collection/Library and Archives Canada/PA-111359.

As the Ottawa Day Nursery grew, it continued to serve many newcomers. In its 1917 Annual Report, the Ottawa Day Nursery highlighted its diverse service including clients from Armenia, Romania, Italy, and Poland as well as Jewish residents.³⁷ The Nursery reported the following enrollment in 1958: Canadian-born English 37, Canadian-born French 38, Scottish 2, Irish 1, English 5; New Canadians from France 1, Germany 11, Polish 3, Jewish 3, Hungarian 3, Ukrainian 3, Dutch 3, Italian 3, Spanish 2, Portuguese 2, and Singapore 1.³⁸

After the war, the Ottawa Day Nursery along with day nurseries across Canada transitioned from custodial care of children to an approach of caring for the mental, emotional, social, and physical needs of each child. Staff trained in child study or nursery school were available for hire and curriculums were followed. The Ottawa Day Nursery first employed a social worker in 1961.³⁹ With greater acceptance of women working outside the home, day nurseries opened enrollment more widely. “What had

³⁷ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 10.

³⁸ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 26.

³⁹ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 27.

formerly been day nursery care had, by the 1970s, become early childhood education.”⁴⁰

In 1970, the Ottawa Day Nursery marked 50 years of incorporation and changed its title to Andrew Fleck Child Centre.⁴¹ In 1991, the title was changed to Andrew Fleck Child Care Services, as it is known today.⁴² Andrew Fleck Child Care Services continues to operate out of the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial at 195 George Street.

Context

195 George Street is a corner lot in Lowertown, located at the intersection of King Edward Avenue and George Street. Lowertown is bordered by the Ottawa River to the north, the Rideau River to the east, Rideau Street to the south, and the Rideau Canal to the west.

Lowertown’s location at the intersection of major waterways signifies the area’s long history as a site of gathering and trade. The section of the Ottawa River that runs through present day Ottawa and Gatineau was a key travel and trade route used by Indigenous people and, later, by Europeans. The Anishinabe Algonquin Nation and its ancestors are stewards of the Ottawa River watershed and have held a continuous presence here since time immemorial.⁴³

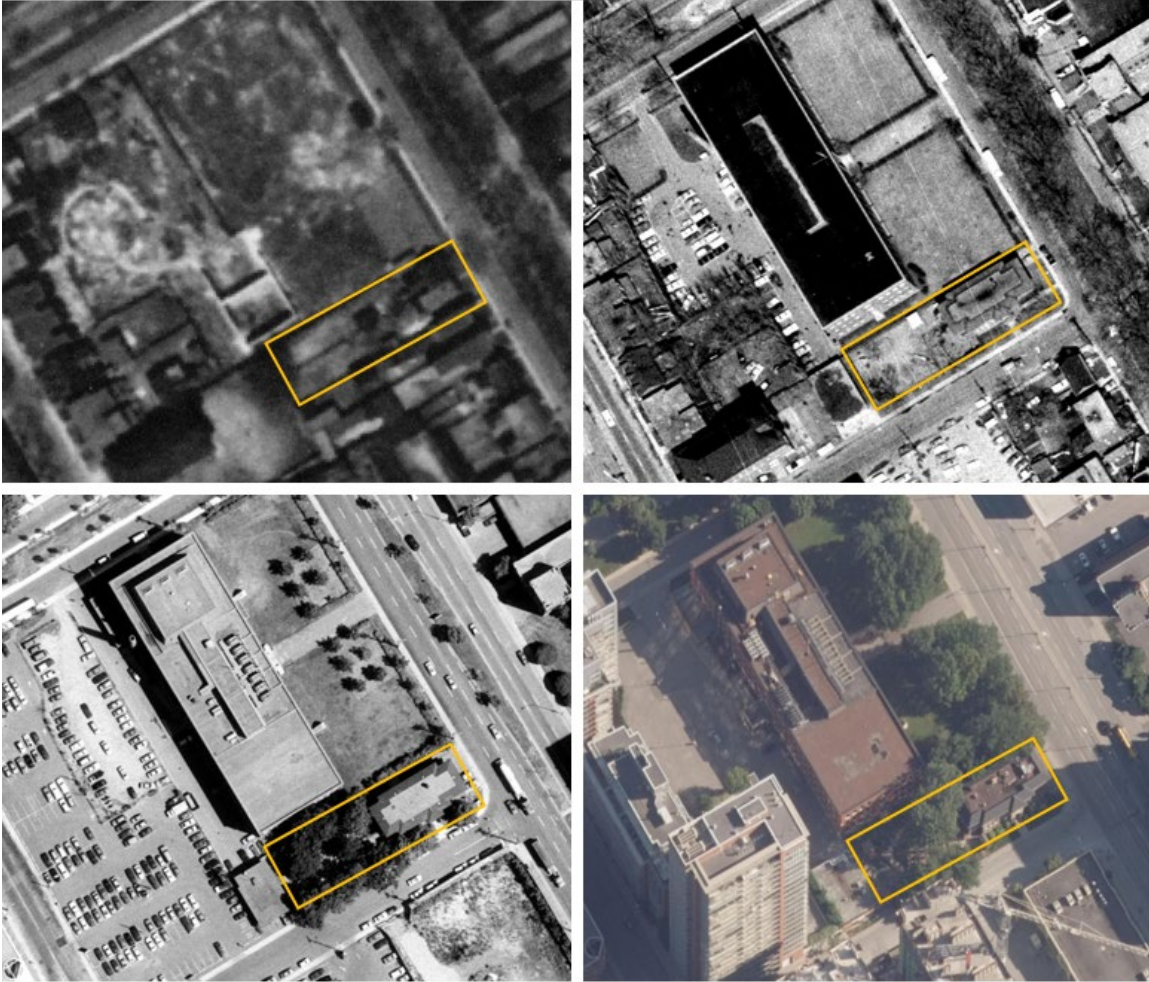
By the 19th and 20th centuries, Lowertown was a working-class neighbourhood and an immigrant receiving area with many residents employed as labourers on the Rideau Canal, in the timber trade, or other nearby industries. The area’s architectural character reflects its humble beginnings through a wide variety of architectural forms from early workers’ cottages built with traditional materials, wood verandas and carriage ways, to larger residential, commercial, and institutional buildings.

⁴⁰ Varga, Donna. (1997). p. 118.

⁴¹ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 37.

⁴² Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 49.

⁴³ Hanewich, Kim. (2009). p. 1



Bird's eye view of the subject property. (1928, 1965, 1991, 2022). geoOttawa (City of Ottawa)

Lowertown was shaped by the Progressive Movement (1880-1920) that saw widespread social reform “aimed at improving the lives of children and their families, which included the establishment of settlement houses, charity kindergartens, and children’s aid societies.”⁴⁴ The Ottawa Day Nursery had its beginnings in Settlement House. Some aspects of the movement equated physical hygiene with moral and intellectual health, notably leading to the construction of public baths.⁴⁵ Champagne Bath opened at 321 King Edward Avenue in 1924 and included a library.⁴⁶ In 1932, the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial opened 100 metres from Champagne Bath. Around the corner on Rideau Street, the Rideau Branch of the Ottawa Public Library opened in 1934.

The Ottawa Day Nursery has long standing connections to the Lowertown area with the original nursery located at Settlement House, 382 Rideau Street. After separating from

⁴⁴ Prochner, Larry and Nina Howe (ed.). (2000). p. 40.

⁴⁵ Stewart, Meredith. (2015). p. 86.

⁴⁶ Stewart, Meredith. (2015). p. 87.

Settlement House in 1916, the Nursery relocated to 459 Besserer Street before moving to Albert Street and then into its current building at 195 George Street. The Fleck's former residence is located at 500 Wilbrod Street. The Ottawa Day Nursery, now Andrew Fleck Children's Services, has served families in the neighbourhood since 1911.

Many founding members of the Ottawa Day Nursey were Presbyterian, however they chose to make the organization non-denominational, and therefore obtained aid from the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish communities, and served families with a variety of religious beliefs.⁴⁷ The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial stands a block away from the Église Baptist d'Ottawa at 284 King Edward Avenue and across the street from the Aduth Jeshrun Synagogue at 321 King Edward Avenue, now the Ottawa French Adventist Church. Many Jews in Ottawa began living in this area of Lowertown which offered the option of a Jewish cultural life.⁴⁸ In 1958, the Ottawa Journal reported that the Nursery's annual meeting was opened by a Rabbi.⁴⁹

195 George Street is situated on the former Ottawa Gas Works site that closed in the 1920s. At the time, King Edward Avenue was a tree-lined thoroughfare with a boulevard running through the heart of the Lowertown neighbourhood. Electric streetcars ran nearby along Rideau Street and a rail line divided the area. By the 1940s, gas storage buildings were replaced by a Bank of Canada building for its War Savings Division, a City of Ottawa Health Centre, and the Ottawa Day Nursery.⁵⁰ The high number of services concentrated in close proximity to one another is a trend seen over the past century in Lowertown.

⁴⁷ Andrew Fleck Child Care Services. (2011). p. 12.

⁴⁸ Construire une Capitale: Ottawa - Making a Capital (2001). p 240

⁴⁹ "Day Nursery Cares for More in '57"

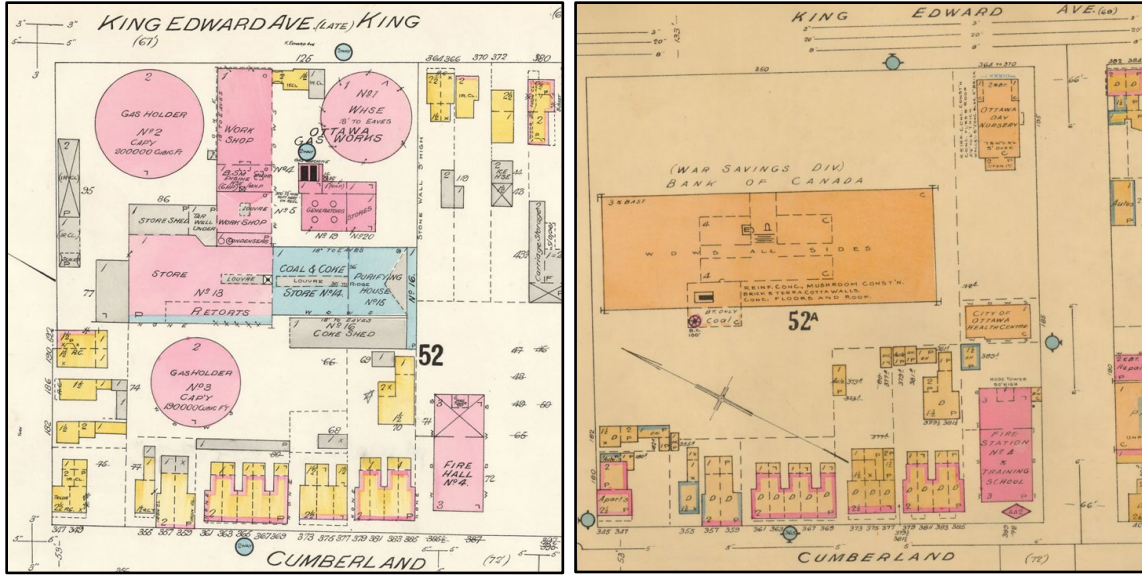
⁵⁰ Underwriters' Survey Bureau. (1948).



King Edward Avenue at York Street looking north. n.d. Library and Archives Canada / 4170086.

Lowertown, including the ByWard Market, is a mixed-use area with a variety of architectural styles from several eras. Today, the south and east edges are characterized by modern mid-to-high rise apartment buildings along Rideau Street and the Rideau River. The character of Lowertown's centre is predominantly low-rise with pockets of traditional and modern buildings.

An example of an Arts and Crafts inspired design, the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial is important in maintaining the historic character of Lowertown and its eclectic mix of buildings from several eras. Its age, style and construction materials maintain the historic character of Lowertown, and the concentration of institutions found within the King Edward Avenue corridor. The building is complemented by a modest landscaped setting compatible with the surrounding streetscape.



Left: Goad, Charles E. (Revised 1909). Insurance Plan of the City of Ottawa, Ontario. Right: Underwriters' Survey Bureau. (1948). Insurance Plan of the City of Ottawa, Ontario.

Evaluation using Ontario Regulation 09/06

1	The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.	Yes Rare and early example of a purpose-built daycare. Unique example of a small-scale institutional building inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement.
2	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	No
3	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of technical or scientific merit.	No
4	The property has historical or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.	Yes The building's long-standing association with the Ottawa Day Nursery and the Fleck family allow it to reflect the development of early childhood education, social reforms, migration to urban centres, and the role of women in the workforce.
5	The property has historical or associative value because it yields, or has the potential	Yes Contributes to a greater understanding of the culture of working parents in Ottawa and the history of early childhood education in

	to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.	Canada. Contributes to a comparative analysis of children's nursery buildings and the emergence of the nursery as a building type.
6	The property has historical or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.	Yes Demonstrates the work of John Albert Ewart (1872-1964), a prominent Ottawa architect who designed many important buildings during his lengthy career.
7	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	Yes This corner building is important in maintaining the historic character of Lowertown, reflecting King Edward Avenue's eclectic mix of low-rise brick buildings dating from the early decades of the 20th century.
8	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings	Yes The building has functional and historical links through its long service to the Lowertown community. It is one of several early 20th century institutional buildings in the area that reflect the Progressive Movement and social reform.
9	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	No

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Document 5 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Description of Property

The property at 195 George Street comprises a two- and one-half storey brick-clad institutional building known as the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial, a fenced playground, soft landscaping and a parking area. 195 George Street is a corner lot in Lowertown, located at the northwest intersection of King Edward Avenue and George Street.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Completed in 1932, the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial has design value as a rare and early example of a purpose-built daycare. It is a unique small-scale institutional building inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement.

195 George Street has historical value through its direct associations with the former Ottawa Day Nursery and the Fleck family. The Ottawa Day Nursery was established in 1911 to provide daytime care for the children of working mothers, including many newcomer women. Helen Gertrude Fleck was a devoted volunteer and philanthropist who served as President of the Ottawa Day Nursery's management committee during its founding year and again from 1932 to 1937. Helen Gertrude Fleck purchased 195 George Street's lot and financed construction of this building for the Ottawa Day Nursery. Her spouse, Andrew W. Fleck, a prominent businessman as well as a philanthropist, died in 1924 and she dedicated the building to his memory, naming it the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial has historical value for its connection to key themes including the development of early childhood education, social reform, migration to urban centres, and the role of women in the workforce. Furthermore, the building has historical value because it yields information that contributes to a greater understanding of the culture of working parents in Ottawa and the history of early childhood education in Canada.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial demonstrates the work of John Albert Ewart (1872-1964), a prominent Ottawa architect who designed many significant local buildings throughout his lengthy career including the Transportation Building (1916-17), the Jackson Building (1919-20), Glebe Collegiate Institute (1922-23), and the Ottawa Civic Hospital, among others.

The Andrew W. Fleck Memorial has contextual value because it is important in maintaining the historic character of Lowertown, reflecting King Edward Avenue's eclectic mix of early 20th century low-rise brick buildings. The property has functional and historical links to its surroundings, being located specifically in Lowertown to serve

the area's historical concentration of working-class and newcomer residents. It is one of several institutional buildings in the area built in the early decades of the 20th century.

Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the design value of the Andrew W. Fleck Memorial as a unique small-scale institutional building inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement include:

- Low-pitched hipped roof
- Wide, irregular massing
- Horizontal orientation fronting on George Street
- Deep, overhanging eaves with decorative brackets
- Polychromatic brick cladding laid in an English bond
- Brick decoration including panels, trim and soldier course
- Regularly spaced rectangular window openings
- 6/6 sash windows
- Frontispiece with arched portico and brick pillars
- Wood double entrance doors with divided lights and a shaped transom
- Stone trim and sills
- Central Palladian window on east façade

Key exterior attributes that represent the historical value of the property through its association with the Fleck family and the Ottawa Day Nursery include:

- Stone plaque above the George Street entrance inscribed "Andrew W. Fleck Memorial"
- Date stone on east façade inscribed "1932"
- Brick arcades at the southeast corner

Key attributes that demonstrate its contextual value include:

- Location in Lowertown within the King Edward Avenue corridor, at the corner of George Street and King Edward Avenue