

Document 4 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Description of Property – 149 Rideau Street

149 Rideau Street is a mixed-use, three-storey building constructed circa 1875 and located on the north side of Rideau Street, near the intersection of Rideau Street and Dalhousie Street.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Constructed circa 1875, the building at 149 Rideau Street has design value as a representative example of a late 19th century Italianate commercial building on a main street in Ottawa. The Italianate style was popular from the 1830s until the 1920s in Canada and was frequently used in commercial buildings on main streets. The building at 149 Rideau Street features typical elements of the Italianate style, including its arched window openings and hood mouldings, a large cornice, and decorative brick detailing. The property at 149 Rideau Street has design value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship for a commercial building on Rideau Street. This is demonstrated through the incorporation of a large dentilled cornice and continuous stone hood moulding over the arched windows. There are few examples of a commercial building with this level of craftsmanship on Rideau Street, making it unique on its streetscape.

The building at 149 Rideau Street has contextual value as it is important in supporting and maintaining the character of Rideau Street— which has functioned as a commercial main street in Ottawa since the nineteenth century. Throughout the twentieth century, most of Rideau Street between Sussex Drive and Cumberland Street was occupied by commercial and mixed-use spaces. The building at 149 Rideau Street housed several typical main street businesses, including the George Bourne Sporting Goods store, which operated out of the building's ground level storefront from 1918 until the mid-1960s. Today, the building at 149 Rideau Street continues to reflect Rideau Street's history as a commercial main street in Ottawa through its mixed-use expression with commercial space on the ground level and residential space above.

The building, along with neighbouring buildings 152 and 156-158 Rideau Street, historically functioned together as a commercial corridor in Lowertown since their construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These buildings are visually linked with each other due to their similar stylings featuring a two- to three-storey massing, brick-cladding, flat roofs, and ground level storefront with office or residential spaces above. Today, each of these building's main storeys continues to function as a commercial space and supports retail and commercial activity on one of Ottawa's historic main streets.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of 149 Rideau Street as a good example of an Italianate commercial building include its:

- Three-storey massing
- Brick-cladding
- Flat roof
- Presence of a ground level storefront with display windows
- Symmetrical second and third storey with:
 - Three sets of two rounded arched window openings per storey
 - Continuous hooded stone moulding over window openings
 - Brick pilasters with simple capitals
 - Stone stringcourse between storeys
- Large decorative cornice with dentils and brackets at the roofline

Key attributes that demonstrate 149 Rideau Street's contextual value are:

- The property's location on Rideau Street

This designation excludes the interior of the building.