

Subject: Application to Alter the Aberdeen Pavilion, 1000 Exhibition Way, a property designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

File Number: ACS2024-PDB-RHU-0055

**Report to Built Heritage Committee on 9 July 2024
and Council 10 July 2024**

Submitted on June 27, 2024 by Court Curry, Manager, Right of Way, Heritage, and Urban Design Services, Planning, Development and Building Services Department

Contact Person: Anne Fitzpatrick, Planner III, Heritage Planning Branch

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Ward: Capital (17)

Objet: Demande de modification du pavillon Aberdeen, 1000, voie Exhibition, une propriété désignée en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*

Dossier : ACS2024-PDB-RHU-0055

Rapport au Comité du patrimoine bâti

le 9 juillet 2024

et au Conseil le 10 juillet 2024

Soumis le 27 juin 2024 par Court Curry, Gestionnaire, Services des emprises, du patrimoine, et du design urbain, Direction générale des services de la planification, de l'aménagement et du bâtiment

Personne ressource : Anne Fitzpatrick, Urbaniste III, Planification du Patrimoine

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Quartier : Capitale (17)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Built Heritage Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve the application to alter the Aberdeen Pavilion, 1000 Exhibition Way, according to plans prepared by RMA+SH Architects, dated June 7, 2024, conditional upon:
 - a. The implementation of the conservation approach identified in the Description of Proposed Work attached as Document 3 and further detailed in the Conservation Elevations attached as Document 4.
 - b. The applicant providing samples of all final exterior materials for approval by heritage staff.
2. Delegate the authority for minor design changes to the Program Manager, Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Development and Building Services Department
3. Approve the issuance of a heritage permit with a three-year expiry date from the date of issuance unless otherwise extended by Council.
4. Direct that the report be submitted to Council for consideration at its meeting of July 10, 2024 pursuant to Subsection 35(7) of the Procedure By-law.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité du patrimoine bâti recommande au Conseil :

1. D'approuver la demande de modification du pavillon Aberdeen, 1000, voie Exhibition, selon les plans préparés par RMA+SH Architects, en date du 7 juin 2024, sous réserve de ce qui suit :
 - a. que soit mise en place l'approche de conservation désignée dans la description des travaux proposés ci-jointe (document 3) et illustrée dans les dessins en élévation ci-joints (document 4);
 - b. le demandeur doit fournir des échantillons de tous les matériaux extérieurs définitifs afin qu'ils soient approuvés par le personnel responsable du patrimoine.

2. De déléguer au gestionnaire de programme, Planification du patrimoine, Direction générale des services de la planification, de l'aménagement et du bâtiment, le pouvoir d'apporter de légères modifications au plan de conception.
3. D'approuver la délivrance du permis patrimonial et de fixer sa date d'expiration à trois ans après la date de délivrance, sauf si le permis est prolongé par le Conseil municipal.
4. De demander que le rapport soit examiné par le Conseil lors de sa réunion prévue le 10 juillet 2024, conformément au paragraphe 35(7) du *Règlement de procédure*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Ottawa's Infrastructure and Water Services Department is undertaking a rehabilitation of the Aberdeen Pavilion as part of the City's standard lifecycle management. Constructed in 1898, the Aberdeen Pavilion is a structural steel and pressed metal late-Victorian exhibition hall, which was designed by architect Moses C. Edey. The purpose of the project is to address deterioration observed on aspects of the building. This report has been prepared because the alteration of a property designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* requires the approval of City Council.

RÉSUMÉ EXÉCUTIF

La Direction générale des services d'infrastructure et d'eau de la Ville d'Ottawa entreprend le réaménagement du pavillon Aberdeen dans le cadre de la gestion du cycle de la durée utile standard de la Ville. Construit en 1898, le pavillon Aberdeen est une salle d'exposition en acier structurel et en métal pressé de la fin de l'époque victorienne, conçu par l'architecte Moses C. Edey. Le projet a pour objectif de remédier à la détérioration observée sur certains aspects du bâtiment. Ce rapport a été préparé parce que la modification d'une propriété désignée en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario* doit être approuvée par le Conseil municipal.

BACKGROUND

Description of Site and Surroundings

The Aberdeen Pavilion is a City owned building, located within Landowne Park, which is the site of the former Central Canada Exhibition Association fairground (1888 – 2009). It is one of the most significant heritage buildings in the City's inventory and one of the

most iconic buildings in the city. Lansdowne Park is bounded by Bank Street to the west, Holmwood Avenue to the north, and the Queen Elizabeth Driveway (QED) and the Rideau Canal, National Historic Site of Canada, Canadian Heritage River and UNESCO World Heritage Site to the east and south. In addition to the Aberdeen Pavilion, the site contains the Horticulture Building, which is also designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Past conservation projects on the Aberdeen Pavilion include a 1992-1994 restoration, in which approximately 90 per cent of the wood windows were replaced, as well as the large entrance pavilion doors and a 2017 project, which completed selected areas of roof replacement.

Summary of Proposed Work

The City of Ottawa's Infrastructure and Water Services Department is undertaking a rehabilitation of the Aberdeen Pavilion as part of the City's standard lifecycle management. The purpose of the project is to address long term deterioration observed on aspects of the building since the last major rehabilitation of the building in the early 1990s. This report has been prepared because the alteration of a property designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* requires the approval of City Council. The location map, photos, project description, and elevations of the proposed rehabilitation are attached as Documents 1 - 4.

Cultural Heritage Value of the Property

The Aberdeen Pavilion, also known as the Cattle Castle, is a structural steel and pressed metal late-Victorian exhibition hall, which was designed by architect Moses C. Edey and constructed by the Dominion Bridge Company in 1898. It is designated by the City of Ottawa under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Bylaw No. 22-84). The building is also a National Historic Site and is subject to the 1993 Parks Canada and City of Ottawa Cost-Share Agreement and accompanying Aberdeen Pavilion Conservation Report (1990) that identifies the importance of maintaining clear vistas at each of the four entries to the Pavilion.

A part of the site, which includes the Aberdeen Pavilion, is subject to a 2012 Heritage Conservation Easement Agreement between the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Heritage Trust, with the purpose of conservation of cultural heritage resources on the site. The proposed rehabilitation and restoration will require permission from the Ontario Heritage Trust through an Alteration Request, which is being submitted concurrently to the Heritage Permit Application. Staff have met with the Ontario Heritage Trust to provide an overview of the proposal and in general, the Trust is supportive of the

project.

The cultural heritage value of the Aberdeen Pavilion is defined in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value attached as Document 5 and the National Historic Site Statement of Significance attached as Document 6. The Aberdeen Pavilion is the only large-scale exhibition building in Canada surviving from the 19th century. It also represents an important engineering achievement in Ottawa as it was the first use in Ottawa of long-span steel arches, which are exposed to the interior.

The Aberdeen Pavilion's character defining elements reflect its use as a large-scale exhibition hall from the late 19th century. Fairground architecture typically featured exteriors with elaborate architectural elements and interiors with little architectural expression. This is illustrated in the lightweight construction of structural steel covered with pressed metal and the large and uninterrupted interior volume used for exhibitions. The exterior has decorative architectural features such as elaborate entrances, pediments, finials, cupolas, and turrets.

Construction Details

The Aberdeen Pavilion is currently used as an event/exhibition space which hosts functions such as farmers markets, flea markets and galas. Approximately 30 to 35 events are held each year, resulting in around 130 to 150 event days. It is anticipated that the rehabilitation work will start in January 2025 and take two construction seasons. The project construction will be coordinated with other activities and construction projects at Lansdowne, to ensure safety for all site users. The proposed rehabilitation and restoration will require a building permit, which cannot be issued until a heritage permit is granted. Existing funds have been identified for the design, construction administration of the project and some structural work. Future funding will be required for the roof, building envelope and floor slab described in this report.

DISCUSSION

A 2019 condition audit of the Aberdeen Pavilion revealed water infiltration from the roof level and deterioration of the roof decking, purlins, and window woodwork. Of particular concern was the poor condition of the roof, with significant water entry through the metal roofing panels, lack of any waterproofing membranes, and subsequently, accelerated deterioration of the wood board decking visible on the building interior.

The proposed work on the Aberdeen Pavilion includes selected roof replacement (upper roof, lower roof, and entrance pavilion roofs), metal work repairs (upper dome, corner

turrets, cupolas, exterior walls, and decorative metals), structural strengthening (truss system and bracing), replacement of roof planking and purlins, rehabilitation of windows, installation of new replica wood doors, and rehabilitation of the concrete floor slab. The project also includes the installation of new heat trace system, lead paint abatement, and the installation of removable panels for portable AC units. There are no changes to the site features or landscaping proposed as part of the project.

Recommendation 1: Approve the application to alter the building at 1000 Exhibition Way

Staff recommend approval of the proposal, as the conservation approach will maintain and enhance the cultural heritage value of the Aberdeen Pavilion and meets the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

Conservation Approach

This section will provide an overview of the rehabilitation and restoration of the building taken from the Description of Proposed Work, (Document 3) and further detailed in the Conservation Elevations (Document 4) prepared by RMA +SH Architects:

Roof - Tile

The existing galvanized steel Spanish Tile roofing with exposed fasteners on the lower roof was installed in 1929 and is well past its service life, allowing significant water entry into the building. The existing roofing will be removed, a waterproofing membrane will be added to the assembly, and new replica Lead Coated Copper (LCC) Spanish Tiles will be installed. The primary reason for switching to Lead Coated Copper is to offset the weight increase resulting from the addition of the waterproofing membrane, which is a seismic consideration. Other benefits of switching to LCC include its natural silver finish, which does not require painting, and the profile, which provides the ability to add a concealed fastener system in the design.

Wood Decking

The existing white pine wood decking and purlins (installed pre-1990s) are in poor condition and will be replaced with Douglas fir of the same size and profile as the existing. The high quality of the original white pine is no longer commercially available for this application, therefore Douglas fir will be used as a preferred alternative. The new wood will be painted to match the colour of the existing. The

existing snow guards on the north and south entries are damaged and corroded and will be replaced in kind.

Dome, Clerestory, and East and West Entry Roofs

The existing corrugated, galvanized steel roofing with exposed fasteners on the dome, clerestory, and east and west entry pavilions was installed in the 1990s and is at the end of its service life. The existing roofing and flashings will be replaced with new LCC flat seam roofing and flashings, pressed to replicate the pattern/lines of the previous corrugated roofing. Beneath the new roofing, overtop of the existing decking, a waterproofing membrane will be added to protect the assembly from water entry. The existing spruce wood decking (installed in the 1990s) and purlins will be retained, with localized replacement of deteriorated members with spruce or pine decking of same size and profile as the existing. Any replacement wood will be painted to match the colour of the existing. At the top of the dome, there is a ring of 'pearl' shaped metal ornaments around the base of the cupola. These are rusting through and will be replaced in kind with replicas as part of the dome roofing replacement.

Turrets and Cupola

The existing galvanized steel sheet roofing, cornices, and columns on the turrets and cupola will be retained, repaired, and repainted. The existing wood board ceilings are deteriorated and will be replaced with new wood boards of same size and profile as the existing, painted to match the existing colour. The existing galvanized steel sheet 'flooring' of the turrets and cupola is significantly corroded and will be replaced in kind with new galvanized steel sheet, complete with new waterproofing membrane and wood board decking beneath. All existing flagpoles will be retained, with new replica flashing at the flagpole bases. All existing light fixtures in the turrets and cupolas will be retained and reinstated, complete with new base plates, isolation gaskets, and fasteners.

Heat Tracing and Snow Mitigation

To mitigate issues with snow and ice build-up resulting in damage to the roofing system, the existing non-functional heat trace system on the Spanish Tile lower roof will be removed and replaced. The new system will comprise an 'apron-style' lead coated copper heat trace system integrated into the bottom edge of the lower sloped roof, as well as surface mounted heat trace cable at the turret crickets and north and south entry roof valleys, secured with custom LCC tabs.

Windows

The wood, single pane window sashes were replaced, and the wood window frames repaired in the 1990s rehabilitation project; both the windows and frames are currently in fair to poor condition. The window sashes and frames will be restored, comprising of stripping existing paint, implementing repairs, replacing putty, broken glass, and glazing points, and repainting with linseed oil paint on the exterior and latex paint on the interior. The new paint will match existing colours. The existing decorative metal flashing surrounding the windows will be either restored or replaced in kind depending on condition, while the sill flashing and weatherstripping will be replaced throughout.

At the clerestory level, the channel supporting the clerestory windows along the entire length of the north and south elevations has warped, pulling the windows, cornice, and sill flashings out of alignment. The window sashes and frames will be removed, restored, and reinstalled after the channel beneath the windows has been pulled straight and strengthened. Removal of these windows also allows for replacement of the sill flashing which ties into the Spanish tile roofing which is poorly detailed.

Wood Doors and Transoms

The wood double doors located on each entry pavilion were replaced in the 1990s with replicas. The door leafs and frames are in very poor condition with inadequate joinery techniques and significant deterioration and as such will be replaced. The new wood doors and frames will be visual replicas; however, they will be constructed with proper joinery techniques and strengthening more appropriate to the scale and size of the doors. The original wrought iron door hardware will be restored and reinstated on the new doors. Modern galvanized steel hardware will be replaced with new hardware. The new doors will be painted with linseed oil paint, matching existing colours. The wood transoms above the doors were repaired and repainted in the 1990s and are in fair condition. The transoms will be retained and restored, comprising of stripping the existing paint, implementing repairs, resetting joinery, and repainting with linseed oil paint on the exterior and latex paint on the interior. The new paint will match existing colours. All existing light fixtures attached to the transom will be retained and reinstated, complete with new base plates, isolation gaskets, and fasteners.

Metal Doors

The existing metal doors flanking the wood doors on each entrance were introduced in the 1990s and are in fair condition with corrosion and damage. The metal doors, door hardware, and frames will be replaced in kind; the door appearance will match the current yellow rockface tile finish on the exterior and yellow paint colour on the interior.

Exterior Walls and Entrance Pavilions

The exterior walls and entrance pavilions are clad with galvanized steel rockface tiles, corrugated panels, pressed cornices and profiles, and various ornaments. The primary conservation approach is one of Restoration, repairing and repainting components only as required where deterioration is observed. Components which are too deteriorated to economically repair will be replaced in kind with replicas, painted to match existing colours.

Removable Wall Panels

On the south façade, two sections of wall will be turned into removable panels to facilitate set up of temporary AC units used periodically throughout the year for events. The removable panels will be constructed using the same material as the existing walls, namely wood framing, wood board sheathing, and exterior metal rockface tiles (which will match the existing pattern and configuration). On the interior, the panel will be equipped with removable bolt hardware and handles to allow for ease of operation, while also distinguishing the panel from the surrounding wall. Structural framing will be added to strengthen the wall around the removable panel; the framing will be of a different wood species than the existing to distinguish the new material upon close inspection.

Interior Lead Paint Abatement

There is lead in the existing yellow paint on the interior of the Pavilion, including the interior face of the exterior walls and wall structure and coating the structural steel throughout. The lead paint throughout the Pavilion will be removed using a combination of chemical stripping, dry ice blasting, and laser ablation techniques. All areas where lead paint is removed will be repainted, matching the existing colour.

Steel Structure

The existing steel trusses and secondary steel components will be retained, repaired, and repainted following lead paint removal. Minor localized strengthening and repair will be introduced as required and distinguished by date-stamping the metal to denote year of installation. Along the bottom bay of the lower sloped roof on the north and south elevations, new steel angles in a 'W' formation will be added in the lowest roof bay to strengthen the roof system. The new steel angles will be visually distinguishable from the original structure using modern fastening techniques and will also be date-stamped.

Concrete Floor Slab

The existing, red-pigmented floor slab is not original and is in fair to poor condition. The concrete slab will be rehabilitated, with the exception of the slab beneath the washroom blocks and mechanical/electrical rooms.

Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada

City Council adopted Parks Canada's Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada ("Standards and Guidelines") in 2008. This document establishes a consistent set of conservation principles and guidelines for projects involving heritage resources. Heritage Planning staff consider this document when evaluating applications under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The overall conservation approach for the adaptive reuse project and development is *rehabilitation*, which according to Parks Canada Standards and Guidelines "involves the sensitive adaptation of an historic place or individual component for a continuing or compatible contemporary use, while protecting its heritage value." There are also elements of restoration included in the project. The following Standards are applicable to this proposal:

- Standard 1: Conserve the heritage value of an historic place. Do not remove, replace, or substantially alter its intact or repairable character defining elements.
- Standard 3: Conserve heritage value by adopting an approach calling for minimal intervention.
- Standard 4: Recognize each historic place as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Do not create a false sense of historical development by adding

elements from other historic places or other properties, or by combining features of the same property that never coexisted.

- Standard 7: Evaluate the existing condition of character-defining elements to determine the appropriate intervention needed. Use the gentlest means possible for any intervention. Respect heritage value when undertaking an intervention.
- Standard 9: Make any intervention needed to preserve character-defining elements physically and visually compatible with the historic place and identifiable on close inspection. Document any intervention for future reference.
- Standard 10: Repair rather than replace character-defining elements. Where character defining elements are too severely deteriorated to repair, and where sufficient physical evidence exists, replace them with new elements that match the forms, materials, and detailing of sound versions of the same elements. Where there is insufficient physical evidence, make the form, material, and detailing of the new elements compatible with the character of the historic place.
- Standard 14: Replace missing features from the restoration period with new features whose forms, materials and detailing are based on sufficient physical, documentary and/or oral evidence.

As outlined above in the Conservation Approach, the proposed rehabilitation meets the Standards and Guidelines as the character-defining attributes of the Aberdeen Pavilion are evaluated, repaired, and replaced in-kind where restoration is not possible. The approach to this project began with a thorough understanding of the building through a variety of exploratory work and condition assessments. Wherever possible attributes are proposed to be restored and repaired and where replacement is necessary, such as the Spanish roof tiles, the clerestory and dome roofing, and the wood decking, it is proposed to be replaced in a form and with material that will match the existing. Where new material or interventions are required, such as the new steel angles in the structure, subtle identifiable features, such as date stamps will be included. Staff are of the opinion that the proposed rehabilitation meets the Standards and Guidelines.

Condition

Staff are recommending the following conditions:

- a) The implementation of the conservation approach identified in the Description of Proposed Work attached as Document 3 and further detailed in the Conservation Elevations attached as Document 4

The Description of Proposed Work and Conservation Elevations contain a detailed description and visual representation of the conservation approach for the rehabilitation. This condition has been included to ensure that the rehabilitation is undertaken in a manner that conserves the cultural heritage value of the Aberdeen Pavilion.

- b) The applicant providing samples of all final exterior materials for approval by Heritage Planning staff.

Staff have included a condition to provide final material samples for heritage staff's approval. This condition will ensure that the final chosen products are consistent with the described approach and are appropriate for the building.

Conclusion

As detailed above, the proposed rehabilitation conserves the cultural heritage value of the Aberdeen Pavilion as identified in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value (Document 5) and the National Historic Site Statement of Significance (Document 6). Staff have reviewed the application to alter and have determined that it meets the Standards and Guidelines and that the heritage attributes will be conserved. The rehabilitation of the Aberdeen Pavilion will ensure the conservation of one of Ottawa's most significant and unique heritage resources, which is a landmark in the city.

Recommendation 2: Delegate authority for minor changes to the relocation procedures to the Program Manager, Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Development and Building Services Department

Minor changes to the design may emerge during the working drawing phase of a project. This recommendation is included to allow Planning, Development and Building Services to approve these changes should they arise.

Recommendation 3: Issue the heritage permit with a three-year expiry date from the date of issuance

The *Ontario Heritage Act* does not provide any timelines for the expiry of heritage permits. A three-year expiry date is recommended to ensure that the project is completed in a timely fashion.

Provincial Policy Statement

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations of the report. The project is being delivered by the Infrastructure and Water Services Department funded from Buildings-Parks & Recreation account(s).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

The ward Councilor is aware of the application.

CONSULTATION

Application materials were posted on the City's Development Application website on June 8, 2024.

Heritage Ottawa was notified of this application and offered the opportunity to provide comments.

The Glebe Community Association was notified of the application and provided the following comments:

The GCA Board recently unanimously approved the following motion in support of the approval of the application for a Heritage Permit to alter the Part IV OHA-designated Aberdeen Pavilion.

Whereas the Aberdeen Pavilion at Lansdowne Park is a designated Heritage Building under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and

Whereas the GCA has been formally advised that an application has been submitted for a Heritage Permit covering urgently needed repairs, restoration and preventive maintenance of both heritage and structural elements of the Aberdeen Pavilion; and

Whereas this work will extend the life and improve the ongoing useability of the Aberdeen Pavilion while maintaining its immense cultural heritage value; and

Whereas the proposed work was identified as being essential based on recent detailed engineering/conservation studies of the building,

Be it resolved that the GCA express its support for the Built Heritage Committee and Council approval of this Heritage Permit application.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There is no significant impact on the current accessibility of the building. The existing accessibility features will be maintained. Additionally, the project team will assess the possibility of adding extra push paddles to the West and East doors.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the Comprehensive Asset Management program enables the City to effectively manage existing and new infrastructure to maximize benefits, reduce risk, and provide safe and reliable levels of service to community users. This is done in a socially, culturally, environmentally, and economically conscious manner.

The recommendations documented in this report are to support the proposed rehabilitation of the Aberdeen Pavilion, in order to conserve the cultural heritage value of the facility. If approved, inventory of assets and financial forecasts will be included under the Recreation and Cultural Services Asset Management Plan.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

This report addresses the 2023-2026 Term of Council Priority:

- A city with a diversified and prosperous economy

APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE STATUS

The statutory 90-day timeline for consideration of this application under the *Ontario Heritage Act* will expire on September 1, 2024.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 Location Map

Document 2 Site Photos

Document 3 Description of Proposed Work

Document 4 Proposed Conservation Elevations

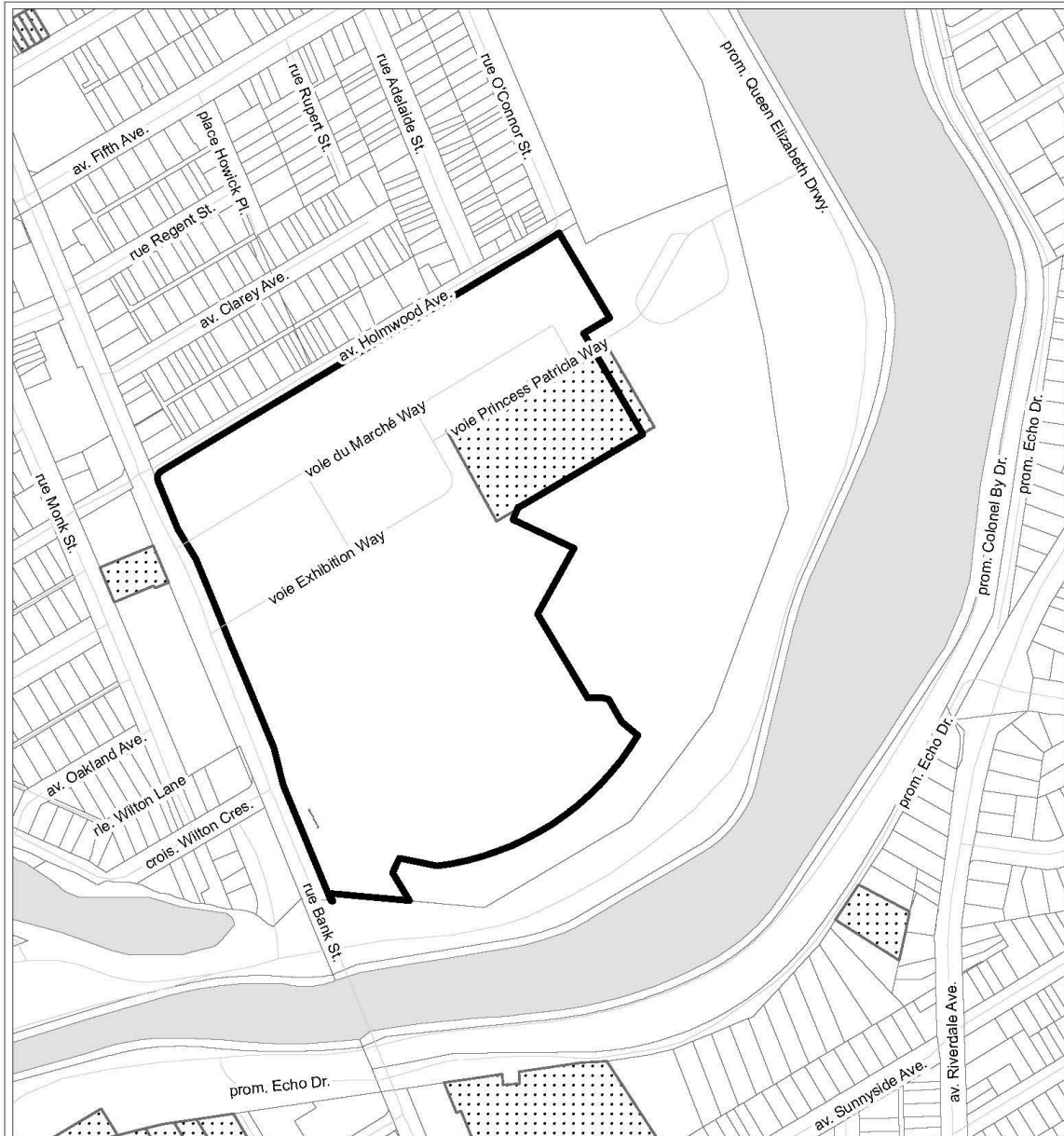
Document 5 Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Document 6 National Historic Site Statement of Significance

DISPOSITION

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.

Document 1 – Location Map



		LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION HERITAGE / PATRIMOINE	
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REVISION / RÉVISION - 2024 / 05 / 31		 1000 voie Exhibition Way  Heritage (Section 60) Patrimoine (Article 60)	
			

Document 2 – Site Photos





Document 5 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

BY-LAW 22-84

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Aberdeen Pavilion, in Lansdowne Park, is recommended for designation as being of architectural and historical value. The building was built during the summer of 1898 through a grant from Ottawa City Council to the Central Canada Exhibition Association.

The building is an important engineering achievement in Ottawa. It represents the first use in Ottawa of long-span steel arches, which are exposed to the interior. This form of construction permitted for the first time the enclosure of a very large column-free space at a low cost.

The metal-clad building was designed as the central feature of the yearly exhibition. Its eclectic decoration is typical of fair ground architecture which adorned the exterior of buildings with elaborate architectural elements with little expression of those elements in the interior space. This is typified by its elaborate entrances, pediments, finials, cupolas and turrets.

The Aberdeen Pavilion has served as a display pavilion, skating rink and film studio in the past and this designation does not preclude future modifications to the interior space which will permit an appropriate adaptive use for the building.

Document 6 – Statement of Cultural Heritage – National Historic Site**Aberdeen Pavilion National Historic Site of Canada****Ottawa, Ontario****Address:** 1015 Bank Street / Lansdowne Park, Ottawa, Ontario**Recognition Statute:** *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. H-4)**Designation Date:** 1983-06-13**Dates:**

- 1898 to 1898 (Construction)

Event, Person, Organization:

- Earl of Aberdeen (Person)
- Moses C. Edey (Architect)

Other Name(s):

- Aberdeen Pavilion (Designation Name)
- Cattle Castle (Other Name)

Research Report Number: 1983-016**No plaque in place, recommended location:** Ottawa, Ontario

This grand exhibition building was erected in 1898 by the Dominion Bridge Company for the Central Canada Exhibition Association. Designed by the Ottawa architect, Moses C. Edey, it was named to honour the incumbent Governor General, the Earl of Aberdeen, a staunch supporter of the agricultural fair movement. Also known as the Cattle Castle, it is the oldest surviving example of its type in the country. With its elaborate pressed metal ornamentation, a whimsical mix of classical and agricultural motifs, the structure evokes both the festive spirit and serious purpose of the 19th century fair.

Description of Historic Place

Successfully combining the practical with the fanciful, the Aberdeen Pavilion captures the spirit of the fairground. Its voluminous interior space, well-lit by many windows, is an

ideal venue for exhibitions of all kinds, while its over-the-top exterior of sweeping roof, dome, corner towers and classical detail embodies the holiday atmosphere of a fair. The building is located in the midst of Lansdowne Park, Ottawa's downtown fairgrounds. The designation refers to the building on its footprint.

Heritage Value

Aberdeen Pavilion was designated a national historic site of Canada because it is the only large-scale exhibition building in Canada surviving from the 19th century.

This grand exhibition building was erected in 1898 by the Dominion Bridge Company for the Central Canada Exhibition Association. Designed by the Ottawa architect, Moses C. Edey, it was named to honour the incumbent governor general, the Earl of Aberdeen, a staunch supporter of the agricultural fair movement. Also known as the Cattle Castle, it is the oldest surviving example of its type in the country, with its elaborate pressed metal ornamentation, a whimsical mix of classical and agricultural motifs, the structure evokes both the festive spirit and serious purpose of the 19th-century fair.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, June 1983 and November 1991.

Character-Defining Elements

Aspects of this site which contribute to its heritage character include: those elements which speak to its qualities as a large-scale exhibition building of the late 19th century, namely, its light-weight and structurally innovative construction of structural steel covered with pressed metal and glass, its large, uninterrupted interior volume so suitable for exhibitions, its location on the site that has been used for exhibitions of various kinds for over a century, and its fanciful and festive architectural decorations such as the dome decorated with swags and garlands, the eclectic classical detail, the corner towers, and the curved roof with monitor windows.