

## CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION REPORT

**Building Name and Address:** Couvent Notre-Dame du Rosaire (Our Lady of the Rosary Convent), 85 Primrose Avenue East

**Construction Date:** c. 1890

**Original Owner:** Grey Nuns of the Cross also known as Sister of Charity



Google Maps (May 2021). South-West view of building.

### Executive Summary

The building at 85 Primrose Avenue East was constructed in 1890 to serve as the Notre Dame-du-Rosaire convent and school for the Grey Nuns of the Cross. The building is a three and a half storey, stone building with Second Empire influences and classical ornamentation. It is located on Primrose Hill across from the Église de Saint-Jean-Baptiste and seminary (90 Primrose Avenue East and 96 Empress Avenue). The building was constructed by architect of the diocese, Georges Bouillon in response to strong advocacy for a new building from then mother superior, Mother Rosalie Demers. Today the building is a part of the Bruyère Research Institute.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, associative and contextual values. It meets six of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

## **Architecture**

85 Primrose Avenue East is a three and a half storey stone building with a mansard roof, constructed in 1890. The building is a 19<sup>th</sup> century convent with Second Empire influences and classical ornamentation. The Second Empire style was commonly used in the design of early French Catholic institutions and Roman Catholic Religious Orders. These buildings were typically constructed in stone and featured a high mansard roof, prominent front entrance, and simple ornamentation.

The convent is representative of the Second Empire style, featuring a simple string course, quoins, voussoirs, sills, and gabled dormers in the mansard roof. The building's rectangular design enhances its symmetrical appearance with evenly spaced rectangular window openings and stone sills, contributing to its sense of balance. Although the majority of windows have been replaced, four stained glass windows on the third storey on the west façade remain.

The south elevation features a capped stone chimney and steps leading to a second-floor entrance and landing, previously a pillared portico with classical elements. The west façade has a first and second floor entrance and used to contain a two-storey pedimented entrance. The west pediment entrance was removed in 2018, and the south porch in 2019.

Notre Dame-du-Rosaire has a high degree of architectural integrity, with much of its original design and materials intact, with the exception of the entrance porches on the south and east facades and most of the windows.



City of Ottawa (September 1979)



West Elevation (Google Maps. left: 2018; right: 2019)



South West view (Google Maps. left: 2019; right: 2021)

## Architect

85 Primrose Avenue East was designed by architect of the diocese, Georges Bouillon.<sup>1</sup> Georges Bouillon (1841-1932) was a priest in Ottawa who also exhibited a talent for architectural design and planning. Born in 1841 in Rimouski, Quebec he was educated at the Christian Brothers school in Quebec and was sent to Mexico City in 1865 for a year to teach drawing and calligraphy. Upon his return he studied theology at the Roman Catholic College in Ottawa and at the Grand Séminaire in Montreal, but there is no evidence that he had any formal training in architecture, nor does he appear to have served an apprenticeship under another architect.

Bouillon was ordained as a priest on January 25, 1874, and the following day became vicar at the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Ottawa. In 1878 he was appointed priest for the Parish of Notre Dame, Ottawa, and during the next thirteen years executed some of his most important commissions for the Ottawa diocese including his best-known work, the neo-Gothic chapel for the Rideau Street Convent in Ottawa (now demolished) (1886). When the convent was demolished in 1972 the chapel interior was carefully dismantled and later reassembled inside the new National Gallery of Canada in 1987-88. Bouillon retired as parish priest in 1891.<sup>2,3</sup>

Bouillon also worked on the Notre Dame Roman Catholic Basilica (former Cathedral) (385 Sussex Street), Sisters of Charity Mother House (9 Bruyère Street), House of Studies at St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Church (90 Primrose and 96 Empress Avenue).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lacelle, E. et Savard, P. (1997). Saint-Jean-Baptiste d'Ottawa 125e anniversaire 1872-1997 de mémoire vive.

<sup>2</sup> Ottawa Free Press, 11 Aug. 1891, Pg. 4

<sup>3</sup> Commonwealth Historic Resource Management (2023). A Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

## History

85 Primrose Avenue East was built in 1890 to serve as the Notre Dame-du-Rosaire (Our Lady of the Rosary Convent) for the Grey Nuns of the Cross also known as the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa.<sup>5</sup> The Grey Nuns, was founded by Sister Élisabeth Bruyère in when she arrived in Ottawa in 1845, at the request of Bishop Phelan and Father Adrien Telmon. The new mission at 9 Bruyère Street was intended to provide social ministry to the growing town of ByTown. The Order has been involved in healthcare and education in Ottawa for almost 200 years. According to their mission statement, the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, provide education, health care, and the relief of poverty promoting values of compassion, self-gift, and simplicity <sup>6</sup>.

Mother Rosalie Demers, Mother Superior from 1888 to 1898, saw a great need for an educational institution and advocated for the building of the convent and school.<sup>7</sup> She recruited George Bouillon, architect of the diocese in Ottawa to design the building.<sup>8</sup> On April 15<sup>th</sup> 1890, construction work began on Primrose Hill.<sup>9</sup> The nuns arrived on August 30<sup>th</sup>, and the school was blessed on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The day after, 120 female students began attending classes on the first floor while the second floor was being built.<sup>10</sup> The first floor contained four classrooms and the other floors were used as living quarters for the Sisters who were teaching there or at surrounding schools. <sup>11</sup>

In 1937, a tennis court was opened in the courtyard of the convent and a kindergarten was opened on April 17, 1939.<sup>12</sup> Notre Dame-du-Rosaire was

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<sup>5</sup> Lacelle, E. et Savard, P. (1997).

<sup>6</sup> Sisters of Chairty of Ottawa (2024)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Sisters of Charity (1989). The Grey Nuns of the Cross, Ottawa, Ontario: Vol II, Evolution of the Institute, 1876-1967.

<sup>12</sup> Lacelle, E. et Savard, P. (1997).

known as “among the most flourishing schools in the city” written during annual visits by English and French speaking inspectors.<sup>13</sup>

Through its history as a convent, 85 Primrose Avenue East was associated with the education of young French women in the early 20th century Ottawa, including Jeanne Sauv , Canada’s first female Speaker of the House and Governor General and Henriette Bourque, the first female lawyer to work for the federal Department of Justice. These women and others went on to make significant contributions to women’s history in the 20th century.

Mother Rosalie Demers and two notable alumnae from the Notre Dame du Rosaire convent are highlighted below:

### **Mother Rosalie Demers**

Mother Rosalie Demers, the advocate for the construction of 85 Primrose Avenue East, was born on March 2, 1837, to a farming family in Saint Nicholas, Quebec.<sup>14</sup>

Rosalie attended the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame boarding school.<sup>15</sup> She then attended the Normal School of Quebec and was honoured by being the first to earn an academic degree.<sup>16</sup> She presented herself to Mother Bruy re on September 22, 1857, indicating her respect to the religious community and the Mother Superior.<sup>17</sup>



*Mother Rosalie Demers  
February 13, 1888—February 16, 1898*

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<sup>13</sup> Lacelle, E. et Savard, P. (1997).

<sup>14</sup> Sisters of Charity (1989). *The Grey Nuns of the Cross, Ottawa, Ontario: Vol II, Evolution of the Institute, 1876-1967.*

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

On February 13, 1888, Mother Rosalie Demers was elected as Mother Superior of the convent, making her the female superior of the community of Catholic nuns. She was elected for two consecutive five-year terms, finishing her duties on Feb 16, 1898.<sup>18</sup> During her terms, she led the construction of the convent at 85 Primrose Avenue East.

### **The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé (1922 – 1993)**

Jeanne Sauvé was a prominent political female in Ottawa who attended Notre Dame-du-Rosaire. She was born in Prud'homme, Saskatchewan to Charles and Anna Benoît.<sup>19</sup> Her father was originally from Ottawa, leading them to move to Ottawa in 1926.<sup>20</sup> Jeanne Sauvé attended the Notre Dame-du-Rosaire from where she reported herself as being the top of the class.<sup>21</sup> She also attended the University of Ottawa.<sup>22</sup>

In 1948, she married Maurice Sauvé at St. Jean Baptiste Church (90 Primrose Avenue East), and then moved to Paris where she worked as Assistant to the Director of the Youth Secretariat of UNESCO (the social and cultural agency of the United Nations). After this, she moved to Montreal and began her career as a journalist, television presenter and political commentator in both French and English.<sup>23</sup> This led her to being elected president of the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs, and then vice president of the Federation of Authors and Artists of Canada, a union of Francophone authors and artists.

In 1972, she was elected as the Liberal Member of Parliament for the riding of Montreal and later appointed as Minister of State for Science and Technology by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, making her the first female Cabinet member from

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Tremblay, J. (2018). Jeanne Sauve. The Canadian Encyclopedia.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> The Ottawa Citizen, January 17, 1993, Pg. 65

<sup>22</sup> Tremblay, J. (2018).

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

Quebec in the House of Commons. In 1980, when Trudeau returned to power, Sauvé became president of the House of Commons, making her the first female Speaker of the House.

When she ended her term as President in 1983, she took on the role as Governor General of Canada until 1990.<sup>24</sup> This marked a significant breakthrough for women as she was the first female Governor General.

### **Henriette Bourque (1904 – 1998)**

Henriette Bourque was another school attendee who made an impact on Ottawa history and feminism. She was born in Ottawa to Georgine and Dr. Edmond Bourque and studied at the Notre Dame-du-Rosaire, the Sacred Heart Convent in Montreal, the University of Ottawa and then the Université de Montréal.<sup>25</sup>

Henriette Bourque was the second woman registered in the Faculty of Law at the Université de Montréal and the only one in her cohort in 1931.<sup>26</sup> She graduated magna cum laude in 1933 and was first in her class of 80 students.<sup>27</sup>

As a woman in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Bourque faced adversity throughout her career. She had to travel to British Columbia for her admission to the Bar, because the Quebec Bar did not accept women in the 1930s.<sup>28</sup> In 1939, Bourque became the first female lawyer to work for the Department of Justice of Canada.<sup>29</sup> She resigned in 1949, and in 1952, she obtained a doctorate in law from the University of Paris. Bourque is remembered as a pioneer in her field and in the advancement of gender quality.

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> The Ottawa Journal, October 5, 1940, Pg. 11; The Ottawa Citizen, November 27, 1952, Pg. 28

<sup>26</sup> Government of Canada, Department of Justice. 2001.

<sup>27</sup> Université de Montréal (n.d.). The Great Pioneers.

<sup>28</sup> Brunet, M. (2001). Out of the Shadows: The Civil Law Tradition in the Department of Justice Canada, 1868–2000.

<sup>29</sup> Université de Montréal (n.d.). The Great Pioneers.





—Citizen-CP photo

*Minister of science*

Jeanne Sauve

## **Jeanne Sauve**

### **First woman in Trudeau cabinet**

Jeanne Sauve yesterday became the first woman appointed to a cabinet post in a Trudeau government.

Mrs. Sauve, 50, a freshman MP representing Montreal Ahuntsic, will be minister of science in Prime Minister Trudeau's new cabinet.

A well-known journalist and political commentator, she is the wife of former Liberal forestry minister Maurice Sauve who was a member of Prime Minister Pearson's cabinet from 1964 to 1968. He was defeated in the 1968 general election.

A native of Ottawa, Mrs. Sauve studied at Notre Dame du Rosaire convent, the University of Ottawa and the University of Montreal. Following their marriage in 1948, she and her husband lived in Paris where he studied law and economics at the University of Paris, and later moved to London to study at the London School of Economics.

In her nomination speech, which was delivered in French, English and Italian, she stated "My main aim is to work for the general well-being of this country."

## **Ottawa Girl Is First Woman Lawyer Appointed to Justice Department**

### **Miss Henriette Bourque Walked Away With All Honors at University of Montreal But Can't Practise Law in Quebec**

By IAN SCLANDERS.

One evening not so long ago, in the hotel at Banff Springs, a young woman noticed a piano. It was such a fine piano that she couldn't resist sitting down and playing for a while.

She played beautifully—so beautifully that a lot of other guests gathered around to listen and to speculate about her identity.

"You must be a concert pianist, aren't you?" one of them asked when she had finished.

"No, I'm a lawyer."

#### **Interesting Story.**

If her interrogator appeared somewhat surprised, nobody can blame him much. For Miss Henriette Bourque, who had stopped off at Banff on her way home to Ottawa after being admitted to the Bar of British Columbia, lacks the long upper lip and the serious mien generally associated with those learned in the profession of the law.

She has a carefree look about her which used to annoy the law students of the University of Montreal very much indeed even though they thought she was a grand girl. That was the trouble. She was a girl. And all the rest of them were men.

Which is getting a bit ahead of the story.

It might as well be stated right here and now that Miss Bourque is a daughter of Dr. E. Bourque, of Ottawa, that she is the first woman lawyer to be appointed to the staff of the Department of Justice, that she used to beat her brothers at the ancient game of billiards, and that her legal opinions are far more often right than wrong.

And with this by way of introduction let's begin at the beginning.

She went to Primrose School at Ottawa, then to Sacred Heart Convent, at Montreal, and then to the University of Ottawa,

#### **MODERN PORTIA**



**MISS HENRIETTE BOURQUE, of Ottawa, who is the first woman lawyer appointed to the legal staff of the Department of Justice.**

where she took highest honors in her graduating class and a raft of prizes and a B.A.

Meanwhile Henriette Bourque was studying the piano. She thought things over for a while, and Blackstone won against Beethoven. It was law instead of music. So she went to the University of Montreal.

#### **Lone Girl in Law Class.**

She was the solitary female in the law school, and it made her feel pretty uncomfortable at first.

The Ottawa Citizen, 1972; The Ottawa Journal, 1940

Many notable women attended the convent until 1988. After this, it served as a hospital residence for St. Vincent Hospital.<sup>30</sup> In November 2013, after a significant renovation, 85 Primrose Avenue East was sold to the Bruyère Research Institute and named Annex E.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> City of Ottawa, 1988)

<sup>31</sup> Bruyère. (2014). 2013-2014 Annual Report.

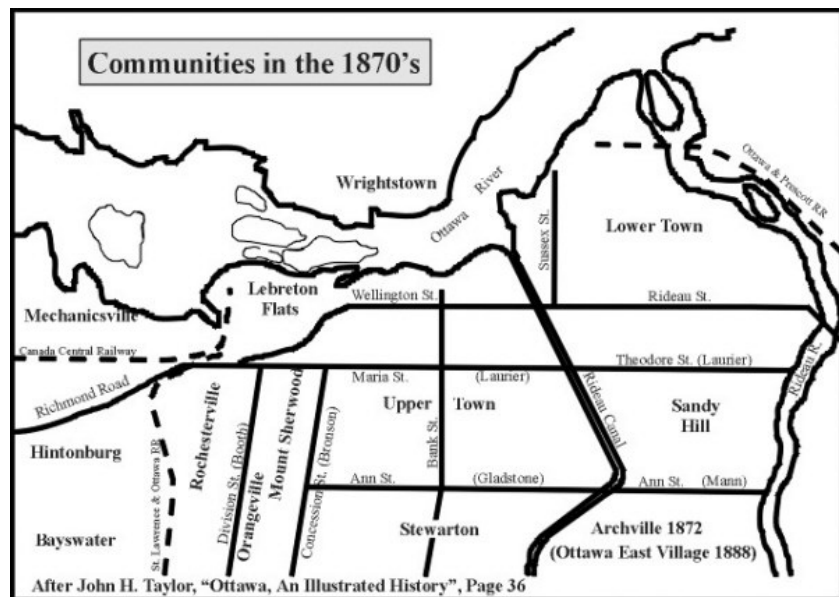
## Context

85 Primrose Avenue East is located in West Centretown in the Dalhousie neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is bounded by the Ottawa River to the north, Carling Avenue to the south, Bronson Avenue to the east, and the O-Train Trillium line and Bayswater Avenue to the west. West Centretown includes the neighbourhoods of LeBreton Flats, Little Italy, the Chinatown, the Glebe Annex, Dalhousie, and Chaudière and Victoria islands.

The colonial settlement of this area, now known as West Centretown is associated with the development of LeBreton Flats. West Centretown was predominantly inhabited by French and Irish prior to the Second World War, with consistent Chinese, Italian and Eastern European immigration both before and after the war.<sup>32</sup>

Lumberyards and rail yards first defined the area and by 1844, a suspension bridge along Booth Street connected

Ottawa and Hull. Houses, hotels, factories and workshops appeared, and the population steadily increased. Many labourers lived in LeBreton Flats, Rochesterville and

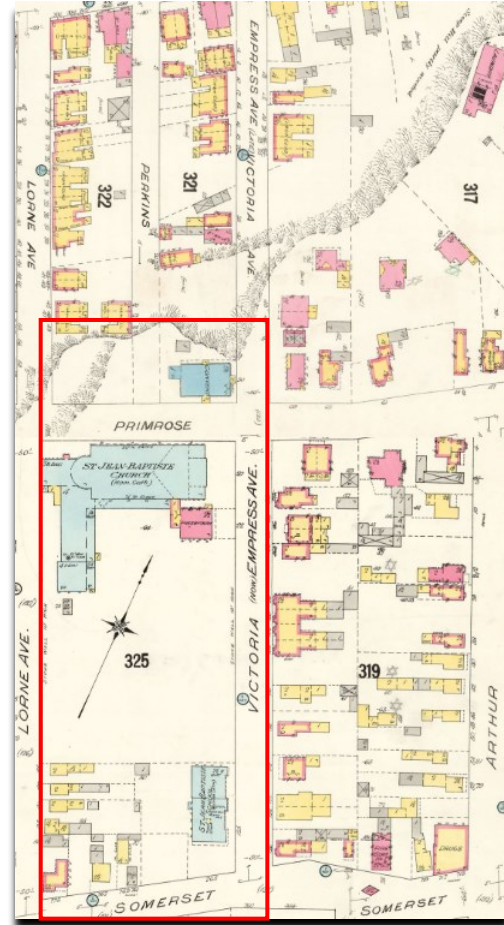
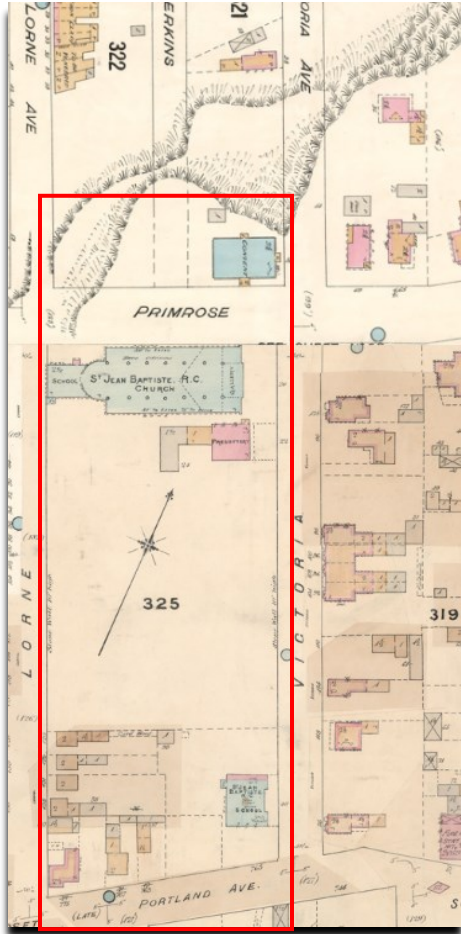


in Mount Sherwood (the area south of LeBreton Flats). Both areas soon became largely middle-class. Rochesterville and Mount Sherwood experienced a brief construction boom in the 1870s and was annexed to Ottawa in 1889<sup>33</sup>.

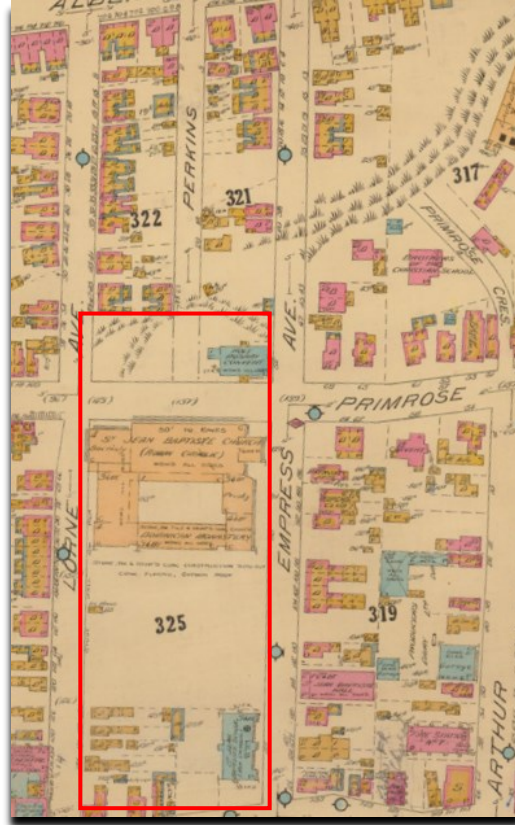
<sup>32</sup> "History Chapter Four" (2023)

<sup>33</sup> Stefko (n.d.)

Concurrently, the religious properties in this area were constructed to likely address a need for French Catholic institutions for the increased population on this side of the Ottawa River.



Left 1901 Fire Insurance Plan, Right: 1912 Fire Insurance Plan



1948 Fire Insurance Plan

These religious and educational institutions including 85 Primrose Avenue were constructed for Roman Catholic religious use in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the area in West Centretown known as Primrose Hill. The religious properties include Église de Saint-Jean-Baptiste and seminary (90 Primrose Avenue East and 96 Empress Avenue), and École St-Jean-Baptiste (755 Somerset Street West). These properties are located along Empress (formerly Victoria) Avenue from Somerset Street West to north of Primrose Avenue on top of Primrose Hill.

Primrose Hill is an area within West Centretown, bounded generally by Upper Lorne Place, Primrose Avenue East, Bronson Avenue and Somerset Street. At the highest point, of the hill stands this cluster of religious buildings, surrounded by residential properties. The residential properties range in style and

construction date, some predating the monastery and others constructed post religious institutions.



1928 Aerial Image

In 1900, this area faced change when a fire broke out in Hull. High winds spread the flames across the Ottawa River from the Chaudière mills south toward Dows Lake. The fire was devastating – LeBreton Flats and much of Rochesterville were completely destroyed. The escarpment known as Primrose Hill prevented the southerly spread of the fire to upper Lorne Avenue and the religious properties. The following is an excerpt from a book written by Sister Paul-Émile of the Grey Nuns Convent:

*Upon finishing their meal, the nuns become aware of a fiery western wind, sweeping smoke with it. Soon afterwards, flames rise high on the Hull side. The whole city is ablaze! In less than an hour, sparks and cinders are flying over the Ottawa River. It is the beginning of the destruction of the lower part of town, the Flats, which spans to the base of Primrose Hill.*

*It seems as if the tip of the hill might give way. With great difficulty, measures are taken to stop the roofs of the houses from catching fire. The Father, who is Rector of the University of Ottawa, sends a squad of students to rescue the convent, which is located on the edge of the tip of the point. The nuns post pictures of Mother d'Youville on some of the windows and on the outside doors. Windows on the first floor warp from the heat but do not break. Throughout the afternoon, firefighters and students go to extraordinary efforts to stop the flames from burning the convent's roof and walls, as well as those of the neighbouring homes. By six o'clock, the wind has died down, and the danger has subsided. We start, once again, to breathe.<sup>34</sup>*

Today, West Centretown's landscape is unified by historical circumstance. This urban area contains many working-class streetscapes as well as a variety of building types constructed in several distinct periods of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, the architectural character of West Centretown is defined by buildings built before and after the Great Fire of 1900.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Lorne Avenue Heritage Conservation District Study, *The City of Ottawa*, 2006

<sup>35</sup> West Centretown Neighbourhood Heritage Statement, *The City of Ottawa*, 2017



Google Maps (October 2020). View of Primrose Hill, including the Notre Dame du Rosaire Convent and Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church from Empress Avenue North leading to Lebreton Flats.



Google Maps (April 2019). View of Primrose Hill, including Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church from Lorne Avenue.

## Evaluation using Ontario Regulation 09/06

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | <i>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.</i>                       | Yes<br><br>85 Primrose Avenue East is a representative example of a 19 <sup>th</sup> century convent with Second Empire influences and Classical ornamentation. This style was commonly used in the design of early French Catholic institutions. Characteristic of its style, the building features gabled dormers in the high mansard roof, and a balanced asymmetrical façade. The stone building also features a simple string course, quoins, and voussoirs, typical of the Classical style. |
| 2 | <i>The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.</i>  | No<br><br>As a typical building of its style with simple ornamentation and details, 85 Primrose Avenue East does not display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.  |
| 3 | <i>The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of technical or scientific merit.</i>  | No<br><br>As a 19 <sup>th</sup> century stone building constructed using the typical construction methods of the time, 85 Primrose Avenue East does not display a high degree of technical or scientific merit.   |
| 4 | <i>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.</i> | Yes<br><br>The property has historical value for its direct associations with the Grey Nuns of the Cross and the development of women's education in the Ottawa region. The building was purpose built as a convent for the Grey Nuns of the Cross also known as Les Sœurs  |



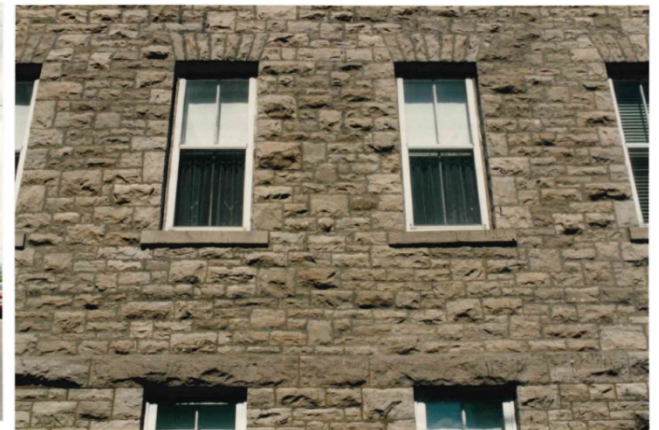
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|   |   | <p>de la Charité d'Ottawa, a distinct Roman Catholic religious community of women who provided social ministry to the growing town of Bytown (today Ottawa).</p> <p>Through its history as a convent, the institution was associated with the education of young French women in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ottawa, including Jeanne Sauvé, Canada's first female Speaker of the House and Governor General and Henriette Bourque, the first female lawyer to work for the federal Department of Justice. These women and others went on to make significant contributions to women's history in Canada in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> |
| 5 | <i>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.</i>                   | <p>Yes</p> <p>The property yields information that contributes to a greater understanding of the Catholic francophone community in the area surrounding Primrose Hill, which developed circa 1872. The convent and surrounding religious institutions were likely constructed to address the growing need for additional services on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River and a growing Catholic francophone community in this area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p>   |
| 6 | <i>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.</i> | <p>Yes</p> <p>The Our Lady of the Rosary Convent was designed by Georges Bouillon, architect of the diocese best known for his Neo-Gothic chapel for the Rideau Street convent in Ottawa (now demolished but reassembled in the National Gallery of Canada). He was also known in Ottawa for his influence in Bytown and early Ottawa.</p>   |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 7 | <i>The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.</i>    | <p>Yes</p> <p>As a prominent stone building at the top of an escarpment known as Primrose Hill, overlooking LeBreton flats, this property is important in defining the character of the hill.</p> <p>Primrose Hill is an area within West Centretown, bounded generally by Upper Lorne Place, Primrose Avenue East, Bronson Avenue and Somerset Street. At the highest point, stands a complex of religious buildings, surrounded by residential properties many of which were constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>The cluster of religious buildings including the convent stand as tangible evidence of this area earliest educational and religious landscape and is one of several stone buildings in the immediate vicinity that reflect the historic French-Canadian character of the area.</p> |
| 8 | <i>The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings</i> | <p>Yes</p> <p>The property is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. The property is part of a cluster of religious buildings including a monastery complex (90 Primrose Avenue East and 96 Empress Avenue) École St-Jean-Baptiste (755 Somerset Street West). Visually, these properties are all large limestone buildings that display and represent stone religious architecture. Together, historically, they are functionally and physically linked due to their close proximity, construction dates, and ecclesiastical use.</p>  |
| 9 | <i>The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.</i>   | <p>No</p>   |

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|  |  | <p>85 Primrose Avenue East is sited atop Primrose Hill and has distinctive features, including its high mansard roof, and stone construction. However, the St. Jean Baptiste Church belltower at 90 Primrose Avenue stands taller than the convent, making it the recognizable landmark and focal point within the community seen, from many vantage points in the city.</p> |
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## SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTOS AND MAPS

Photos from 1988 (City of Ottawa).





# Jeanne Sauvé 1922-1993

Only female  
governor general  
dies in hospital  
at age 70

By **Iain Hunter**  
Citizen staff writer

Jeanne Sauvé, Canada's only female governor general and Speaker of the House of Commons, died Tuesday in Montreal at the age of 70.

The cause of death was not immediately disclosed, nor how long she had been in hospital. A Montreal report said she died of cancer.

An illness, vaguely described as a respiratory ailment, had almost denied her acceptance of the vice-regal post nine years ago.

Then, however, she seemed to overcome it by sheer willpower.

She displayed the same willpower in public life. Serene and almost demure in appearance, she was tough — some said autocratic — when she felt she needed to be.

Though her career blazed new trails for women, she mounted no crusades for her sex. She was, rather, a gentle feminist.

Her successor, Gov. Gen. Ray Hnatyshyn, issued a statement praising her career and its achievements.



▲ A light moment



▲ A more serious side

"She will long be remembered for her substantial contributions to Canadian society and the immense dedication with which she served her country," he said.

She was born Jeanne Benoit, the daughter of an Ottawa contractor, in the village of Prud'homme, Sask., on April 26, 1922.

Her father had gone there to build churches, and by the time she was three, the family was back in Ottawa.

She received her secondary education at the Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire convent here, where, she recalled later "I was always at the top of my class." She also attended the University of Ottawa.

In the early 1940s Sauvé moved to Montreal where she became national president of the Jeunesse Etudiante Catholique movement and founded the Fédération des mouvements de jeunesse du Québec.

In Montreal she met Maurice Sauvé. They were married in 1948. After the war the couple moved to Europe to study: she read economics in London and taught French, and in 1952 was granted a diploma in French civilization.

Back in Montreal, both Jeanne and Maurice Sauvé became union organizers, and she began a 20-year career as a freelance broadcaster and journalist with the CBC and Radio Canada. She also wrote freelance editorials for the *Montreal Star*.

From 1966 to 1972 she was general secretary of the Fédération des auteurs et des artistes du Canada.

Maurice Sauvé had become a minister in the Liberal government of Lester Pearson. Enticed, finally, into politics herself by Jean Marchand, a member of Pierre Trudeau's Liberal cabinet, Sauvé was elected in 1972 as MP for the Montreal riding of Ahuntsic.

Immediately, she was appointed minister of state for science and technology, although a cabinet post was, and is, rare for a

Please see SAUVE /A2

■ More pictures /A2



— Citizen file photos

▲ At annual governor general's garden party, 1986



▲ Pomp and circumstance with husband Maurice, 1984

Left to right: The Ottawa Journal, 1940; The Ottawa Citizen, 1952; The Standard, 1940

## Ottawa Girl Is First Woman Lawyer Appointed to Justice Department

Miss Henriette Bourque Walked Away With All Honors at University of Montreal But Can't Practise Law in Quebec

By IAN SCLANDERS  
One evening not so long ago, in the hotel at Banff Springs, a young woman noticed a piano. It was such a fine piano that she couldn't resist sitting down and playing for a while. She played beautifully—so beautifully that a lot of other guests gathered around to listen and to speculate about her identity. "You must be a concert pianist, aren't you?" one of them asked when she had finished.

"No, I'm a lawyer."  
Interesting story. If her interrogator appeared somewhat surprised, nobody can blame him much. For Miss Henriette Bourque, who had stopped off at Banff on her way home to Ottawa after being admitted to the Bar of British Columbia, lacks the long upper lip and the serious mien generally associated with those learned in the profession of the law.

She has a career look about her which used to annoy the law students of the University of Montreal very much indeed, even though they thought she was a grand girl. That was the trouble. She was a girl. And all the rest of them were men.

Which is getting a bit ahead of the story. It might as well be stated right here and now that Miss Bourque is a daughter of Dr. E. Bourque, of Ottawa, that she is the first woman lawyer to be appointed to the staff of the Department of Justice, that she used to beat her brothers at the ancient game of billiards, and that her legal opinions are far more often right than wrong.

She was with this way of introduction let's begin at the beginning. She went to Primrose School at Ottawa, then to Sacred Heart Convent, at Montreal, and then to the University of Ottawa.

She was the solitary female in the law school, and it made her feel pretty uncomfortable at first, but it didn't stop her from getting along like the proverbial house on fire when she got the highest marks in her class. The boys thought maybe something should be done about it. They singled out the brightest and groomed him for an academic show-down. This couldn't happen in the hallowed and masculine halls of the University of Montreal. A mere slip of a girl couldn't come along and cast aspersions on the mentality of the superior sex. But she did. She wound up first at the end of the first year.

So her fellow students looked another horse. They stayed in and tutored him and they stood guard while he crumpled—but she shucked. It was the same old routine all right. All the time Miss Bourque was there it was a walk-away-for her. And she never departed with the same pert career look and a B. C. L. and prizes for Roman law, civil law, criminal law and several other kinds of law.

So she straddled into a job with Beaulieu and Gouin, which, for a firm of lawyers with a reasonably short name, has a long and distinguished reputation. (L. E. Beaulieu, come to think of it, is a past president of the Canadian Bar Association.) Miss Bourque spent five years there, strictly behind the scenes, because Quebec, which until recently did not grant a voting franchise to women, likewise denied them the privilege of practicing at the Bar—and still does.

The men she had led through law school were out making money for themselves, but she still couldn't call herself a lawyer. Gets Ottawa Position. Then a law clerk's position opened up in the Department of Justice. And she applied. There were 15 or 20 other applicants but the basis of award was merit. Miss Bourque had plenty of merit. She got the appointment. That was in 1938 and since then she has been busy establishing proof that the Justice Department in previously frowning on female law clerks was doing itself an injustice.

Those concerned are reputed to be quite convinced by now and will probably appoint another female law clerk as soon as they get a chance. Miss Bourque, whose admission to the British Columbia Bar permits her to practice in federal courts as well as in that province, is just as qualified to talk on political and social questions as on those which are purely legal. Or anybody wants to discuss on music, well, she can do that, too. Keeping a lap ahead of the other students in the University of Montreal's law school didn't occupy all her time. And just to keep from being idle she took lectures at Ecole de Science Sociale et Politique. And, for good measure, piano from La Liberté, one of Canada's foremost teachers.

Music and Billiards. Music and billiards—she has played the game since she was knee high to a grasshopper—are her only hobbies. She is also an amateur naturalist. And just about any Sunday these days she can be seen hiking through the Autumn-colored woods with other members of a group who call themselves the Naturalists and have a lot of fun making notes about the wonders of the out-of-doors.

## Lady Marco Polo Feast Of Travel Over She'll Winter In City

By Phyllis Wilson  
Evening Citizen Staff Writer  
Christmas in Innsbruck, at the Canadian Embassy in Rome, in Paris! Greeting the New Year in Vienna to the music of Mozart's "Magic Flute", in Luxor amidst the ancient temples and tombs beside the Nile, in Majorca!  
Now, home after three and a half years' wandering through some 20 European and Near Eastern countries, Miss Henriette Bourque is looking forward to sampling the more prosaic holiday delights of her native Ottawa.

Law Specialist  
Despite the inclinations of a lady Marco Polo, Miss Bourque follows the profession of Shakespeare's Portia. She is in fact a specialist in international law. Thus, into a trunk crammed with memories of interesting people and places, she found time to pack a very good L.L.D. degree from the University of Paris, a diploma from the Institute of International Affairs of Paris and the certificate of the Academy of International Law at The Hague.

Miss Bourque practised law for some time before falling victim to wanderlust. Daughter of the late Dr. Edmond Bourque, noted Ottawa surgeon, she received her education at Our Lady of the Rosary Convent on Primrose Avenue and Sacred Heart Convent in Montreal.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Ottawa, her Bachelor of Civil Law from the University of Montreal. For five years she practised in Montreal with the firm of Beaulieu, Gouin, Bourquin, Beaulieu and Casgrain and for the next 10 years served as legal counsel in the Department of Justice here.

Feast Of Travel  
Miss Bourque's travels abroad might be summed up as a feast for the eye, a feast for the ear and a refreshment of the soul. For example, not only did she see the natural and varied beauties of the Italian Lakes, French Riviera, the Bosphorus and the Black Sea, the northern fjords of Norway, the Greek Islands of the Aegean, the mountains of Switzerland but

## Ballet Group Delighted Over Tour

TORONTO—The 30 members of the National Ballet Company of Canada came home Wednesday with a sassy cat from Moose Jaw and filled with enthusiasm over the welcome they received during a five-week tour of the western provinces.  
Highlight probably was at Vancouver on opening night when the group drew 19 curtain calls from a packed house. The cat, found near Moose Jaw, has been named "Salome" and now is company mascot.  
Walter Homburger, company general manager, said the group played to 20,000 persons in the 20-city performances. In January it will play a week at the Royal Alexandra Theater, then on a tour of the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario.

## Second Draft Of Canadians On Way Home

LIVERPOOL, England—Twenty-four officers and 140 men of the Canadian Army left here last night aboard the Canadian-Pacific liner Empress of Canada, homebound after a year's service in Germany. All married men, they had been promised a return home after 12 months overseas service with the Canadian 27th Infantry Brigade. A third batch is to follow sailing direct from The Netherlands.

## Women in the Law

### Henriette Bourque on Staff of Justice Department

OTTAWA, Oct. 18. — Henriette Bourque, who says she "really studied law as training for the mind and its cultural value," is now showing the department of justice legal staff that a woman can be a good lawyer.

Already Miss Bourque has given a good demonstration of her ability. She had to if she wanted to get her job as law clerk in the department. She was the only woman among 15 or 20 applicants for the position—and she won out on the sole ground that her qualifications were the best.

It was touch and go for a while whether Miss Bourque would be a lawyer or a concert pianist. She reached the cross-road after graduation from the University of Ottawa. Finally she enrolled at the law school at the University of Montreal.

Only girl in the class, both she and the men were uncomfortable at first. She got over it; they became more uncomfortable than ever when she outstripped them all. Every year she topped the examination list and her male opponents had to admit this slim, dark-eyed girl had a pleasing personality as well.

Finally Miss Bourque graduated with the highest honors, and prizes for Roman law, civil and several other varieties. She entered the firm of Beaulieu and Gouin at Montreal. However, under Quebec law she couldn't call herself a lawyer in that province (she still can't) so she made application and was accepted to the bar of British Columbia. That gave her the right to practice in federal courts. She applied for the justice department job, and got it.

Miss Bourque is the daughter of Dr. E. Bourque, Ottawa. Her father says she got her first training for her profession in arguments with her two brothers and four sisters over billiards. She still plays the game, and is a keen naturalist as well, usually spending her weekends with a number of nature loving friends, hiking through Ontario woods.

Of her work here, Miss Bourque says little, but she seems to like it. In the legal department, it's her opinion that counts, not her sex. "Any prejudice there might have been 25 years ago against a woman lawyer has disappeared," she says.



MANY factors draw Brazil close to the United States. The war of course has severed normal communications with her two best European customers, Germany and Great Britain. As a result her trade with the United States has spirited ahead as shown on the chart.



MISS HENRIETTE BOURQUE, of Ottawa, who is the first woman lawyer appointed to the legal staff in the Department of Justice.

where she took highest honors in her graduating class and a raft of prizes and a B.A. degree. Henriette Bourque was studying the piano. She thought things over for a while, and Blackstone won against Beethoven. It was law instead of music, so she went to the University of Montreal.

One Girl in Law Class.  
She was the solitary female in the law school, and it made her feel pretty uncomfortable at first, but it didn't stop her from getting along like the proverbial house on fire when she got the highest marks in her class. The boys thought maybe something should be done about it. They singled out the brightest and groomed him for an academic show-down. This couldn't happen in the hallowed and masculine halls of the University of Montreal. A mere slip of a girl couldn't come along and cast aspersions on the mentality of the superior sex. But she did. She wound up first at the end of the first year.

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