Description of the neighbourhood:

Separate yet intrinsically linked, the neighbourhoods of Lebreton Development (hereafter referred to as Lebreton Flats) and West Centertown are presented together in the following character study. Divided by Albert street, the two districts are unified along their eastern edges by Booth street. The border transitions from Booth to Commissioner street, where it follows the escarpment north towards Wellington street and along the Portage Bridge. The area’s northern limits are characterized by its interface with Chaudière falls, the Ottawa River, and includes Chaudière, Albert, Amelia and Victoria Islands. Bounded to the west by the rail line which extends south along the rail cut from the Prince of Wales bridge, the boundary is revised again where the rails intersect with Highway 417, at which point Bayswater Rd becomes the western boundary between Highway 417 and Carling Avenue. Carling Avenue acts as the neighbourhood’s southern boundary.

Representing a range of diverse building typologies, the area includes the Lorne Street Heritage Conservation district, as well as seven individually designated properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). As well, nine properties are recognized by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office (FHBRO). Beyond these official recognitions, this area features a range of significant natural and built resources that reflect the character of the neighbourhood.

What follows is a preliminary statement on the character of Lebreton Flats and West Centertown. Unified by a dynamic history of construction and destruction, the goal of this document is to represent the residual traits of this history inherent in the area. Following a brief historical overview, the heritage values and attributes of the neighbourhood are represented through the themes of Water, Connectivity/Disconnectivity, Industrial Outflow and Renewal.
History of the Area:

Nearly 65 million years ago, in the Cenozoic era, a series of seismic shifts forced limestone cliffs up and produced a series of rapids along a riverbed\(^1\). In the thousands of years that followed, Algonquin peoples lived along the banks of Kitchi Sibi or “Great River” (now known as the Ottawa River) where they regarded the rapid waters as a site of spiritual significance\(^2\). In the early 1800s, though an Algonquin presence remained in the area, the processes of colonial settlement begun to take place more aggressively\(^3\). Though the lands (and water) were never officially ceded to British colonialists, the city of Ottawa began to emerge out of a burgeoning lumber industry. Based along the banks of the river, by the 1870s, Lebreton flats were characterized by mills, lumber piles and modest workers housing\(^4\).

On April 26 1900, a fire began across the river in Hull (now Gatineau) and, carried by strong winds, engulfed the Lebreton Flats and West Centertown area, destroying 3000 structures and leaving eight thousand people homeless in one night\(^5\). The area was quickly rebuilt with the support of local lumber barons and for the next fifty years continued as a hub of industrial activity supported by a dense framework of working class immigrant communities. In the years following World War Two, modern ideals began to influence municipal and federal perceptions of the area\(^6\). In April 1962, guided by an international movement of urban renewal and the Federal government’s 1949 Greber Plan, the residents of Lebreton Flats were expropriated and nearly all of the structures were demolished\(^7\). As per the recommendations of the Greber Plan, similar activities occurred in portions of West Centertown\(^8\). While proposals for redevelopment of Lebreton Flats have been consistently tabled throughout the years since 1962, issues concerning ownership and soil contamination have contributed to the area remaining largely vacant\(^9\). Today, themes of water, connectivity/disconnectivity, industrial outflow and renewal are evident in the current character of neighbourhood. Connecting the existing form to past structures and practices, these themes reflect the heritage values and attributes of the area.
Themes / Heritage Values:

WATER:

The theme of water runs prominently throughout the Lebreton/West Centertown neighbourhood. As both a barrier and a conduit, the river and its falls have been a source of spiritual significance, fuel and energy. Important to not just the neighbourhood in question, the river has been central to the development of the city of Ottawa and surrounding area. In particular, Chaudière Falls - otherwise known as “the kettle of boiling waters” - were said to be audible from great distances. Among their many properties, the sound of the falls is regarded as a channel for spiritual connectivity for Algonquin peoples of the area. Although the river was dammed in 1908, the river and falls retains its’ sacred value for indigenous peoples.

Notable not only for its’ spiritual value, water can be considered through the structures it produces. Built in 1908 and put into operation in 1910, the Chaudière ring dam was constructed with the aim of controlling and standardizing water levels and distributing the waterpower. The structure, which mirrors the geomorphic shape of the falls, is a rare example of a dam with stoplogs and was the first hydroelectric dam on the Ottawa River. Recently acquired by the city of Ottawa, the dam has significantly altered the land, water and its uses.

Located on Amelia Island, Generating Station No. 2 belongs to both the land and the water. Commissioned in 1891 by E.H Bronson, Generating Station No. 2 is Canada’s oldest surviving hydroelectric facility still in operation today. Officially recognized by the Federal Government for its architectural, historic and environmental values, in 1992, the structure is joined by Generating Station No 4. and the Ottawa Station, all of which continue to harness the power of the falls in the production of municipal hydroelectricity.

Similarly, the Fleet Street Pumping Station and accompanying system of open and covered aqueducts, capitalized on the power of the river. Designed by civil engineer, Thomas Keefer in 1874, the pumping station is unique for its hydraulic-powered operation and reflect the important role of water in supporting the growth of a burgeoning city. Developed with the dual intention of suppling the city with water, the pumping station also emerged in response to the threat of fire. Though inadequate to combat the devastating flames of 1900, the pumping station was one of the few structures to survive it. Continuing to distribute water to the city, the Fleet Street Pumping Station again survived the 1962 demolition of Lebreton Flats.

Figure 5: Chaudière Falls, 1867
Source: freepages.
genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~crossroads/help/lebreton/

Figure 6: Generating Station No. 2. Photo by E. Tumak

Figure 7: Fleet Street Pumping Station, circa 1880. Photo by Notman & Sandham
and in 1983 received heritage designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.\(^{22}\)

The integral role of water can also be observed in the creation of Plant Bath, in 1924. Designed by local architects, Millson & Burgess and named after the then mayor of Ottawa, Frank Plant, the neo-gothic structure reflects notions of social reform connected to hygiene and recreation, popular at the turn of the century.\(^{24}\) Specifically located in proximate distance to the rail line in the heart of the working-class neighbourhood, Plant Bath was intended to address the negative impacts of ‘dirt’ on the city and its people.\(^{25}\) Undergoing renovations in 1983 and again in 2003, Plant Bath was designated in 1994 under part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Recognized for its social and architectural value, Plant Bath continues to serve as a hub for recreational activity and reflects the sustained relevance of water in the area.\(^{26}\)

Finally, water can be used to reveal the topographic and geological character of the place. As an area with significant escarpments, hills and rock-cuts, an analysis of hydrologic activity in the area reveals not only the shape but properties of the land. Perhaps the most notable feature in the area is the limestone cliff that overlooks Lebreton Flats known as Nanny Goat Hill. Whereas its topography is illustrated through water movement, Nanny Goat Hill is also reported to have been a source of spring water, from which Peter Mirsky founded his successful soda and water company, Pure Water in 1925.\(^{27}\)

**CONNECTIVITY/DISCONNECTIVITY**

The theme of connectivity/disconnectivity represents the physical and cultural axes that characterize the Lebreton flats/West Centertown neighbourhood. Here, bridges, rails and roads are considered for their capacity to unify and/or divide land and peoples.

The Lebreton flats/West Centertown neighbourhood is uniquely characterized in part by its three bridges which span the Ottawa river, connecting Ottawa with Gatineau, Quebec. Acting as a boundary to the neighbourhood, the Prince of Wales Bridge is also a symbol of connectivity. Built in 1880, the Prince of Wales Bridge, was the first railway bridge across the Ottawa River.\(^{28}\) Renowned for its’ superstructure
construction, the bridge operated as a freight and passenger train for over 120 years\(^{29}\). Despite being decommissioned in 2001, the bridge remains an active space for a range of communities\(^{30}\).

Connecting Booth street with Rue Eddy in Gatineau, Ottawa, the **Chaudière Bridge** crosses through Victoria, Albert and Chaudière islands and over the falls from which it gets its’ name. Built in 1919, the current steel bridge is the third iteration of structures spanning the river in this location and in fact is built on some of the original masonry arches from earlier manifestations\(^{31}\). Undergoing significant repairs in 2008\(^{32}\), the bridge has remained a primary conduit between two sides of the river.

Finally, as the eastern boundary of the neighbourhood, the **Portage Bridge** epitomizes both a connectivity of place and a disconnectivity between the levels of government and the communities they represent\(^{33}\). Reflecting large-scale planning ideals of the time, the Portage Bridge was built by the National Capital Commission (NCC) in 1973 and remains heavily used today\(^{34}\).

**Rail line:** Marking the western edge of the neighbourhood, the rail line both divides and unifies the Lebreton flats/West Centertown neighbourhood. Separating it from Hintonburg to the west, the rail line represents a connection to early industrial processes. Originally developed to transport timber to international markets\(^{35}\), the area is marked with many traces of earlier rail activity\(^{36}\). Whereas Highway 417 now follows its former path, remaining portions of the line are being rehabilitated to accommodate the city’s new Light Rail Transit system\(^{37}\).

Cutting through the neighbourhood, **Highway 417** (otherwise known as the **Queensway**) simultaneously divides the area internally, while also connecting it to the city at large. As a shared resource between the city and province, the Queensway is yet another product of large scale modern transportation planning initiatives that emerged out of the **Greber Plan**\(^{38}\).

Similarly, the **Sir John A. MacDonald River Parkway** is another product of the Greber Plan. Drawn along the river’s edge, the auto-route is also accompanied with a walking trail and landscaped shoreline. While this landscape feature promotes a re-connection to the river for pedestrians, the road contradicts this invitation, acting as a barrier to it.
Behaving in a similar manner, Albert street has transformed over the last 55 years into a major transportation route for public and private vehicles. Now an active and wide road, Albert street is considered a divisive line between the Lebreton flats and West Centertown neighbourhoods.

The main streets of Preston street and Somerset Street can both be regarded as axis of cultural connectivity. Beyond simply their geographic significance, both streets are symbolic representations of long-standing cultural communities in the area. While the Italian community, for example, celebrates Preston street as a manifestation of their community, the majority of their major cultural landmarks are situated on adjacent streets nearby.

As an expression of their community, in 2010 Ottawa’s Chinatown Arch was constructed. Spanning Somerset street west at Cambridge street, the monument was decorated with several layers of gold-leaf by a team of artists from Hunan province. A symbol of local and international connectivity, the arch was named Public Works Project of the Year in 2011 by the American Public Works Association (APWA). Each represented by their own Business Improvement Associations and a range of cultural organizations, both Preston and Somerset street exist as connective channels along which unique cultural communities are situated.
INDUSTRIAL OUTFLOW

The term industrial outflow\(^\text{42}\) describes the after-effect of industrial processes and infrastructure on the current character of the Lebreton Flats/West Centertown neighbourhood. While much of the area has been demolished\(^\text{43}\), Industrial outflow recognizes echoes of the past in the remaining features.

The Ottawa River Runners are a white-water paddling club which has been practicing in the white-waters generated by the Fleet Street Pumping station since the late 1980s\(^\text{44}\). Over the last thirty years, club members have navigated complicated bureaucratic waters in order to legitimately cultivate and use the sluice. A product of historic pumping activities as well as the topography of the area, the “Pumphouse facility” is a class 2 white-water course and is used for training both novice and Olympic paddlers\(^\text{45}\).

Considered at one time to be one of Ottawa’s worst eyesores, City Centre is now recognized as hub of creative innovation\(^\text{46}\). Built the same year Lebreton Flats was demolished, the large industrial warehouse was intended to serve the area\(^\text{47}\). While it receives little recognition for its aesthetic values, the complex is now celebrated as a generative space that speaks to Ottawa’s industrial roots\(^\text{48}\).

Designated in 2006 under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Lorne Avenue Heritage Conservation District is valued as a rare example of working class dwellings common in the Lebreton Flats area at the turn of the century\(^\text{49}\). Located south of Albert street, the Lorne Avenue Heritage Conservation District was saved from demolition because of its peripheral location. Today it is an example of evolving sentiments about Lebreton flats in the years since its’ demolition.
RENEWAL

The theme of renewal encompasses the modern heritage of the Lebreton Flats/West Centertown neighbourhood. Emerging in part in relation to recommendations made in the Greber Plan, the Booth Street complex, and Adult High school are valued modern landmarks in the area.

Originally named New High School of Commerce, the **Adult High School** was built in 1967. In 1963, and agreement between the City of Ottawa and the Collegiate Institute Board enabled the a 16-acre plot of land\(^{50}\) to be cleared for the structure\(^ {51}\). As a result, Adult High School became the first secondary school in Canada to be constructed as part of an urban renewal project\(^ {52} \). An admired example of modern architecture, it’s exterior surfaces are white pre-cast textured concrete, with structural ribs protruding from the walls. Consisting of three units: a classroom wing, library and large auditorium with 1200 seats\(^ {53}\), the auditorium is said to have hosted the city’s major artistic performances in the years before the construction of the National Arts Center\(^ {54} \). Today, the school retains much of its original architectural detailing, while offering academic and vocational training for adult students\(^ {55} \).

As another layer of renewal, on May 18, 2000 the Preston Street BIA and Italian-Canadian Community Centre of the National Capital Region (ICCC) officially adopted **Piazza Dante**\(^ {56} \). Created in 1967 following the large-scale expropriation of the Italian community, St. Anthony’s church and the adjacent public space of Piazza Dante are seen as gathering places for the displaced communities.

Finally, the **Booth Street Complex** is considered within the theme of renewal for its consistent approach to modernism throughout its multi-phase construction period. Made up of a series of Federal Government Buildings built between 1927 and 1958, the structures speak to an expanded federal interest in natural resources and extraction industries. As examples of progressing approaches to modern architecture, the structures in the Booth Street complex demonstrate an incremental renewal of formal architectural arrangements. Organised in a campus-format along Booth and Rochester streets, the structures are individually recognized by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office\(^ {57} \).
Heritage Attributes:

- Flowing white water: Chaudière falls, “outflow”;
- Spiritual and cultural practices connected to water and land, especially through the sound of water;
- Controlled water via Chaudière Ring Dam;
- Cluster of industrial buildings on Chaudière, Albert, Victoria and Amelia Islands;
- Relationship to Quebec via bridges;
- Dynamic topography - escarpments, hills, rock cuts;
- Visible exposed stone;
- Presence of limestone and slate in architectural features, especially in structures nearby/on Nanny Goat Hill. Specifically, Pooley’s Bridge & St. Vincent Hospital;
- Open and covered Aqueducts in Lebreton Flats;
- Continued water pumping via Fleet Street Pumping Station;
- Cultivation and use of ‘outflow’ via community groups, esp. Ottawa River Runners;
- Baths/Swimming pools: Plant Bath and Ev. Tremblay outdoor swimming pool since 1976;
- Active rail lines;
- Industrial buildings and small workers housing in proximity to rail lines;
- Bridges connecting neighbourhood over rail lines;
- Multi-lane transportation routes for buses and cars;
- Public space associated with Chinese and Italian cultural groups;
- Expressions of community unity via gardens, public art, outdoor festivals, monuments.
- ‘Main Streets’ as conduits for community cohesion proximate relationship of small businesses to one another;
- Local businesses, accessible and diverse store-frontage;
- Corner-stores in residential neighbourhood
- Diverse architectural styles, expressions and types;
- Densely clustered workers housing, often row houses, circa 1900. Wood-frame with brick veneer in the ‘Italianate’ style.
- Larger homes of lumber barons, circa 1900. Brick vaneer on wood-frame with ornamental detailing. E.g. Venn House at 69 Elm st.
- Co-op housing along Booth, Preston and Walnut streets.
- Modern industrial and office architecture of the Federal Government including Booth street complex as well as Public services and procurement Canada at 1010 Somerset St W, and 256 Elm Street;
- Industrial activity– production and repair: manufacturing, workshops
- Creative interpretation of ‘remnant’ spaces: woodshops/artist studios/small businesses at City Centre, white water course in the outflow of Fleet Street Pumphouse, Art Galleries: Gallery 101, Central Art Garage, Art Flow Gallery and Orange Gallery
- Architectural salvage and Antiques at 989 Somerset St W and 145 Spruce Street.
- Vacant space – a product of a history of erasure/development;
- Constant construction and series of development proposals, especially for Lebreton Flats;
## Appendix A: Heritage Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date of Construction</th>
<th>Typology</th>
<th>Architect</th>
<th>Designation &amp; date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Cheney House</td>
<td>176 Bronson</td>
<td>Circa 1870</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>190 Bronson</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Street Pumping Station</td>
<td>10 Fleet Street</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>Thomas Keefer</td>
<td>Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV, 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pooley’s Bridge</td>
<td>9 Fleet Street</td>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Luke’s Anglican Church</td>
<td>760 Somerset St. W</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venn House</td>
<td>69 Elm Street</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV, 1988.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generating Station No. 2</td>
<td>Chaudière Island</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Federal Heritage Designation, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Metallurgy Laboratory,</td>
<td>568 Booth Street</td>
<td>1942-1952</td>
<td>Office/Industrial</td>
<td>W.E. Noffke</td>
<td>FHBRO recognized, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings A, B and C. (Booth St. Complex)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ore Dressing Laboratory</td>
<td>552 Booth Street</td>
<td>1937-39</td>
<td>Office/Industrial</td>
<td>W.E. Noffke</td>
<td>FHBRO recognized, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Date of Construction</td>
<td>Typology</td>
<td>Architect</td>
<td>Designation &amp; date</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Minerals and Ceramics (Booth St. Complex)</td>
<td>405 Rochester Street</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Office/Industrial</td>
<td>W.E. Noffke</td>
<td>FHBRO recognized, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Radioactive Ores Building (Booth St Complex)</td>
<td>555 Booth St</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Allward and Gouinlock</td>
<td>FHBRO recognized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geological Survey of Canada Building (Booth St Complex)</td>
<td>601 Booth St</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Allward and Gouinlock</td>
<td>FHBRO recognized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveys and Mapping Building (Booth St Complex)</td>
<td>615 Booth St</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Allward and Gouinlock</td>
<td>FHBRO recognized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCAN (Natural Resources Canada) Administrative Building (Booth St Complex)</td>
<td>588 Booth St</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Allward and Gouinlock</td>
<td>FHBRO recognized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former NCC Building</td>
<td>401 Lebreton Street</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Office/Commercial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>FHBRO Recognized: 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqueducts (covered and exposed)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1874, 1912</td>
<td>Industrial Infrastructure</td>
<td>Thomas Keefer</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaudière Bridge</td>
<td>Booth Street, Ottawa, ONT / Rue Eddy, Gatineau, QC</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>Dominion Bridge Company</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building name</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Date of Construction</td>
<td>Typology</td>
<td>Architect</td>
<td>Designation &amp; date</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince of Wales Bridge</td>
<td>Ottawa, ONT / Gatineau, QC</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>C. Schaler Smith</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Mill</td>
<td>Chaudière Island</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth Board Mill</td>
<td>Chaudière Island</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration/ Stables and Carriage House</td>
<td>Albert Island</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Office/Industrial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Stores</td>
<td>Albert Island</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. B Eddy Box Shop</td>
<td>Chaudière Island</td>
<td>1878-1892</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generating Station No. 4</td>
<td>Chaudière Island</td>
<td>1878-1892</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa Construction Association</td>
<td>196 Bronson Ave</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Peter Dickinson</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Realty Building</td>
<td>437 Preston St.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Centre</td>
<td>250 City Centre Ave</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult High / High School of Commerce / Ottawa Collegiate Institute</td>
<td>300 Rochester Ave</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piazza Dante</td>
<td>Gladstone and Booth Street.</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Public Park</td>
<td>NCC/Italian Canadian Community</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Jenkins, An Acre of Time, 17.
3 Morrison, James. “Algonquin History in the Ottawa River Watershed” Cultural Heritage 17 2.3 (13-22)
4 http://www.thealgonquinway.ca/pdf/algonoquin-history.pdf
5 Taylor, Ottawa, An Illustrated History, 64
6 Jenkins, 154
8 NCC Watch. “NCC Blunders: Lebreton Flats” (blog) http://nccwatch.org/blunders/lebreton.htm
10 “The History and Architecture of Chaudière Falls area of Ottawa, Ontario” http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~weinberg/chaudier.html
11 ibid
13 Maitland, Historical Sketches of Ottawa, 122
15 Stewart, 86
16 King, Andrew. “Remarkable Stone Ruins of 19th Century Railway Roundhouse Unearthed at City Centre”, 2016
The symbolic significance of this street is manifested in part in a series of public art worked entitled “Postcards from the Piazzas”, created in 2010 by artist c j fleury. A description of them on the City of Ottawa’s website reads, “After two years of collecting source material from community members, the artist created this sculptural series. It brings together fragments of the communities’ heritage and culture. Each element forges links and creates nostalgia between the viewer and notions of the Italian piazza, a market square. The eclecticism of today’s community is reflected by the breadth of genres, periods and styles portrayed in the sculptures.”


“The effect of expropriation: Residential property owners just outside the target now faced a debris filled wasteland and felt the sting effect on land values. Several residents pleaded with the NCC to acquire their land in adjacent areas as part of the expropriation. Others urged the NCC to ensure its buildings were being maintained, expressing among other things concern over houses being torn down, boarded up or abandoned.” Piton, 154-5.


Reevely. “Once-reviled City Centre complex finds new life as hipster hot spot”. 2014


Ibid


Included in the demolition of this area was the Gallas Bakery, a longstanding institution for the Italian community. Giovanna Migarelli describes the effects of the expropriation: “Soon after, land predominately owned by the Italians was expropriated by the city. Everything changed for the Gallas and many in the community. “We were a very close family. We all stuck together, until all of us got separated. It wasn’t what we wanted at all,” Anne says with a sigh. Many argue that things were never the same in the Italian community after the expropriation. The tightly knit community that they had once cherished, they felt, had fallen apart.” (Mingarelli, www.ottawaitalians.com/).

While the destruction was a significant blow to the community, Mingarelli continues to describe the ways in which the community continued to participate in the cultural landscape of St. Anthony’s church. Fiona Story documents this: “I remember the church had to work hard to help people in the community,” said lerullo, who’s home was also expropriated. “There were a lot of losses and the church had to work hard to comfort people and help them.” Many Italians left the community but continue to return to the church regardless of where they live now (Story, http://www.ottawaitalians.com/Community/stAnthonysChurch.htm).

Keith, The Collegiate Institute Board of Ottawa: A Short History: 1843-1969, 34.

Keith, 32.

Keith, 34

Hearsay from Architectural historian, Andrew Waldron (Feb 9, 2017)


Filoso, Angelo. “Adoption of Piazza Dante as a Millennium Project.” Our Little Italy.

http://www.ottawaitalians.com/Community/piazzaDante.htm

One example of a statement of significance can be found at: Parks Canada. “Booth Street Complex, Surveys and Mapping Building.” Directory of Federal Heritage Designations.


Otherwise, a complete list of Booth Street Complex structures is documented in Appendix A as Heritage Resources.