

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

### SUMMARY

The Brouse Building was built in 1893 by a Mr. McCarthy to the designs of George F. Stalker an Ottawa architect. It was Recognized because of its very good design and craftsmanship as well as its setting which reinforces the character of the area. It forms a unit with its neighbours, the slater (177-179 Sparks) and the Dover (185-187 Sparks) buildings.

### HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

This building is one of 19 buildings located on the north side of Sparks Street between Elgin and Bank streets, an area which has been, since the 1880s at least, the core of Ottawa's central business district. The Brouse Building was built by Ottawa grocer Henry Brouse as a speculative rental property. Its use over the years involved a constantly changing clientele, with a number of shifts in function. When Brouse sold the building in 1901, it was converted to use as a hotel, but within a few years, a pattern emerged of retail use of the ground floor and rental of the upper floors. The Brouse Building reflects the commercial development of Sparks Street westward to Bank in the late nineteenth century, as well as the persistence of the three-storey commercial block during this period.

### ARCHITECTURE

The design of this building is rather eclectic combining Romanesque and Italianate elements constructed of buff brick with a modest amount of stone trim. With the exception of the brick and stone and piers, the ground floor has been entirely recast. The first floor features three romanese arched windows with stone imposts and sandstone columns with carved capitals. Stone insets, brick corbelling and a stone stringcourse lead to the second storey, a similarly treated arcade of five windows decorated with unusual surrounds, including sandstone columns, brick corbelling, carved capitals and hood moulds. This composition is surmounted by octagonal insets with centres of sandstone. Another tier of corbelling supports a pressed metal frieze and cornice with strongly projecting ends. Virtually all of the original elements above the ground floor have been retained.

### ENVIRONMENT

This is a relatively low structure on a block on which much taller and more recent buildings predominate. The quality of its design and of PWC's rehabilitation gives the building an attractive appearance which the city of Ottawa recognized by awarding the building a certificate of merit in 1983.

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