

Heritage Montreal welcomes the decision to protect the Major House (Fulford Residence) in Montreal

Heritage Montreal thanks the Minister of Culture, Nathalie Roy, for responding to the urgent request we addressed to her jointly with Phyllis Lambert, our founding president, initiating the process to classify the Major house, a remarkable heritage building and site in Montreal's downtown. Built in 1859 on Guy Street, the Major house has served the community and more specifically the women of Montreal for over 130 years, principally as a residence for elderly women, owned and managed by a registered charitable corporation.

Ceasing operations in 2021 as a consequence of the pandemic, the house has quite remarkably maintained its surrounding garden and trees set back from the street, and has so far resisted the strong downtown development pressures of its neighbourhood. The proposed cultural heritage designation arrives at a very critical moment, and, it is hoped, will contribute to a public discussion to assist and accompany the charitable corporation in its current quest for new owners and uses compatible with the house's architectural, historical and social values.

Heritage Montreal is also very encouraged by the extent of this Provincial designation protecting the Major House and its site but also some of its interiors that are of particular architectural integrity and interest. Just like the fate of other community-owned heritage properties, the protection of heritage interiors more generally remains an issue of great concern. In 2011, the Quebec Heritage Act was amended to allow municipalities to protect interiors, but only the Goode House in Westmount has so far benefitted from such municipal designation and a demolition permit request is currently pending.

Heritage Montreal trusts that the Minister's decision will promote the development of sustainable and creative ways to reaffirm both the significance of the Major House (Fulford Residence) as a part of the City's social heritage and the preservation of the remarkable architectural legacy of the property that has served the Montreal community so well for so long. Heritage Montreal will continue to offer its entire collaboration in this process.

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About Heritage Montreal

Heritage Montreal works to protect and promote the architectural, historical, natural and cultural heritage of the Greater Montreal area. Acting at the core of a vast network of partners, Heritage Montreal, a private non-profit organization, acts through education, representation and consultation to promote, enhance and enrich the identity and specificities of the Greater Montreal area, the demographic and economic heart of Quebec and home to the largest collection of heritage assets in the country.

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