

-- Website Version--

**Notice of Intention to pass a By-law to Designate
The following property to be of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest Pursuant to
the Provisions of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18)**

Take Notice that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Kingston intends to pass a by-law under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, to designate the following lands to be of cultural heritage value and interest:

525 King Street West (Part Lot 4 North Side King Street Plan 54 Kingston City; Part Block 191 Plan 54 Kingston City Part 1, 13R4173; City of Kingston, County of Frontenac), known as the Deputy Warden's House/ Isabel Macneill House;

The subject property is situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of King Street West and Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard, in the Portsmouth area of the City of Kingston. The approximately 1.35-hectare parcel contains a two-and-a-half storey Classical Revival style limestone residence, constructed in 1911, known as both the Deputy Warden's House and the Isabel Macneill House, which is included as part of the Kingston Penitentiary's National Historic Site of Canada recognition.

The subject property includes a representative and relatively rare example of a Classical Revival style dwelling from the early 20th century. The former Deputy Warden's House is a restrained version of traditional classical motifs and materials. The structure is a well-proportioned and very simplified version of early 20th century domestic design inspired by classical precedents. Largely devoid of decorative elements, the house achieves its impact from the balanced treatment of its main façade, its sense of scale, and the handling of materials (locally quarried limestone).

The property is associated with the operational practices and history of Kingston Penitentiary and the legacy of Commander Isabel Macneill. The dwelling was constructed for the Deputy Warden of Kingston Penitentiary (Daniel O'Leary) in 1909 (completed and occupied by 1911). At the time of construction, it was expected that senior officers would be provided living quarters within the institution's precinct, as it was essential that both the Warden and Deputy Warden be available to supervise staff and to deal with emergency situations.

The building was used as a home for the Deputy Warden, and later Warden, until 1967. It was renovated in 1990 to be used as a transitional house, part of a pre-release program for women offenders, and named in honour of Commander Isabel Macneill.

Commander Isabel Janet Macneill (1908-1990) was amongst the first women to ascend to leadership positions traditionally appointed to men in Canada's correctional system. She developed programs and hired specialized staff to promote the rehabilitation of female inmates, instead of just facilitating their incarceration. During the Second World War, Macneill was appointed as the first female commanding

officer of a naval ship in the British Commonwealth. She was promoted to Commander and named as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1944. After the War, Macneill was appointed as superintendent of the Ontario Training School for Girls, where she transformed the school from what was essentially a jail for children to a treatment facility. In 1960, she was appointed as the first female Superintendent of the Federal Prison for Women, where she introduced a “team approach” involving nurses, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists as well as several new initiatives such as pre-release programs, and an increase in academic and vocational courses, to promote inmate rehabilitation. Commander Macneill was named as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1971.

The contextual value of this property is exemplified through its role as an important element in the cultural heritage landscape of prisons and ‘Penitentiary Lands’ within Kingston. The former Deputy Warden’s House is historically linked to these surroundings and is critically important in maintaining and supporting the historic institutional character of this area. The land on which the former Deputy Warden’s House is located was once part of a larger prison landscape which consisted of multiple such properties from Lake Ontario to Bath Road. While many of these lands have been subdivided, remnants of this landscape persist including the former Correctional Service of Canada prison buildings located at Rodden Park, the water tower and farmhouse located on the West Campus of Queen’s University, the former Prison for Women building, the Correctional Staff College at 443 Union Street, the Warden’s House/Cedarhedge and Kingston Penitentiary itself, all of which have been identified as having cultural heritage value. In addition to the prison buildings, surviving elements of the cultural heritage landscape also include the remaining portions of the perimeter walls, and the terraced lawn area facing King Street West known as the West Yard, the government-designed light posts, and the stone and iron fences along King Street West.

The federal penitentiary system has been a dominant part of Kingston’s socio-economic history. Kingston has served as the focus of the federal penitentiary system in Ontario from its inception. The former Deputy Warden’s House has significant contextual value due to its connection to the larger penal campus, which defines, maintains and supports the character of the area as well as the growth of King Street, Portsmouth Village and the City of Kingston. It is physically and visually linked to its surroundings and is a landmark of national significance.

Together with the North Lodge, guard towers and the former Warden’s House, the Deputy Warden’s House maintains strong visual and historical links to its immediate surroundings as part of the public facing portion of the penitentiary facility. Functionally, the Deputy Warden’s House served as one of the principle administrative hubs for the KP precinct.

The former Deputy Warden’s House is a landmark along King Street West because of its decorative iron fence on a stone base and gate posts, prominent corner location and its imposing early 20th century limestone construction. It has a commanding

presence when travelling along King Street West and, together with KP and former Warden's House as well as the former Prison for Women facility and stone water tower to the north, contributes to the penitentiary campus character of the area.

The bold, symmetrical massing and limestone construction of the former dwelling, together with the guard towers, fences and wall, make a strong statement about the austere nature of the institution, which dominates this portion of King Street West and the intersection with Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard.

Heritage attributes include the two-and-a-half storey limestone dwelling with truncated hipped roof and stone chimneys, limestone porch with stone pillars, limestone and iron fence with gate posts and pebbled concrete lamp post.

Additional information, including a full description of the reasons for designation is available upon request from Ryan Leary, Senior Heritage Planner, Heritage Services at 613-546-4291, extension 3233, or at rleary@cityofkingston.ca during regular business hours, or by visiting the Development and Services Hub at www.cityofkingston.ca/dash.

Any notice of objection to this notice of intention to designate the property, setting out the reason for objection and all relevant facts, must be served upon the City Clerk within 30 days of the first publication of this notice.

Dated at the City of Kingston

Janet Jaynes, City Clerk

This XXX day of May, 2026

City of Kingston

--- Newspaper Version---

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The following property to be of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest Pursuant to
the Provisions of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18)**

Take Notice that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Kingston intends to pass a by-law under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, to designate the following lands to be of cultural heritage value and interest:

525 King Street West (Part Lot 4 North Side King Street Plan 54 Kingston City; Part Block 191 Plan 54 Kingston City Part 1, 13R4173; City of Kingston, County of Frontenac), known as the Deputy Warden's House/ Isabel Macneill House;

Additional information, including a full description of the reasons for designation is available on the City of Kingston website at www.cityofkingston.ca/heritage and upon request from Ryan Leary, Senior Heritage Planner, Heritage Services at 613-546-4291, extension 3233, or at rleary@cityofkingston.ca during regular business hours.

Any notice of objection to this notice of intention to designate the property, setting out the reason for objection and all relevant facts, must be served upon the City Clerk within 30 days of the first publication of this notice.

Dated at the City of Kingston

Janet Jaynes, City Clerk

This XXX day of May, 2026

City of Kingston

City of Kingston By-Law Number 2026-XX

A By-Law to Designate the property at 525 King Street West to be of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest Pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*

Passed: XXX, 2026

Whereas:

Subsection 29(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18 (the "*Ontario Heritage Act*") authorizes the council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate property within the municipality, including buildings and structures on the property, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

The *property* was listed on the register established pursuant to Section 27 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 2008;

On April 15, 2026, Council of the City of Kingston ("*Council*") consulted with its municipal heritage committee regarding the designation of the property at 525 King Street West (the "*property*") in accordance with subsection 29(2) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

On XXXX, 2026, *Council* caused notice of its intention to designate the *property* to be given to the owner of the *property* and to the Ontario Heritage Trust (the "*Trust*"), and on XXXX, 2026, notice of the intent to designate the *property* was published in The Kingston Whig-Standard, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Kingston; and

No notice of objection to the proposed designation was served on the municipal Clerk (the "*Clerk*") of the Corporation of the City of Kingston (the "*City*") within the time prescribed by subsection 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Therefore, *Council* enacts:

1. The *property* is designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest, as more particularly described in Schedule "A" of this by-law.
2. A copy of this by-law will be registered against the *property* in the appropriate land registry office. The *Clerk* is authorized to serve a copy of this by-law on the owner of the *property* and the *Trust*, and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in The Kingston Whig-Standard.

City of Kingston By-Law Number 2026-XX

3. This by-law does not apply to the property affected, or to any adjacent lands, so long as the affected property or adjacent lands are held by His Majesty the King in right of Canada (the "Federal Crown"). This by-law shall apply to any portion of the affected property or adjacent lands which cease to be owned by the Federal Crown, and shall be in full effect in relation to any other purpose including Section 4.6 of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024), or any superseding policy statement;
4. The *City* reserves the right to install a designation recognition plaque or interpretive panel on the *property*, in a location and style determined by the *City* in consultation with the owner.
5. This by-law will come into force and take effect on the date it is passed.

Given All Three Readings and Passed XXX, 2026

Janet Jaynes
City Clerk

Bryan Paterson
Mayor

Schedule “A”
Description and Criteria for Designation
former Deputy Warden’s / Isabel Macneill House

Civic Address: 525 King Street West
Legal Description: Part Lot 4 North Side King Street Plan 54 Kingston City; Part Block 191 Plan 54 Kingston City Part 1, 13R4173; City of Kingston, County of Frontenac
Property Roll Number: 1011 070 080 06800

Introduction and Description of Property

The subject property, known as the Deputy Warden’s House or the Isabel Macneill House, at 525 King Street West, is situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of King Street West and Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard, in the Portsmouth area of the City of Kingston. The approximately 1.35-hectare parcel contains a two-and-a-half storey Classical Revival style limestone residence, constructed in 1911. A small, detached garage built in the 1950s (of no heritage value) is also located on the property.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value/Statement of Significance

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.

The subject property includes a representative and relatively rare example of a Classical Revival style dwelling from the early 20th century. The former Deputy Warden’s House is a restrained version of traditional classical motifs and materials. The structure is a well-proportioned and very simplified version of early 20th century domestic design inspired by classical precedents. Largely devoid of decorative elements, the house achieves its impact from the balanced treatment of its main façade, its sense of scale, and the handling of materials (locally quarried limestone).

The two-and-a-half storey former residence sits on a stone foundation and features a projecting main entrance bay, a defining feature of the Classical Revival style, framed in ashlar limestone that is fronted by a broad porch with stone steps and pillars. A full-width verandah with second floor sunroom was originally located at the front (south) elevation; it was removed in the mid-20th century. The house is constructed of dressed and squared limestone laid in even courses on all elevations. The window openings feature smooth ashlar lintels and stone sills. The large main entrance includes side lights and a transom framed in ashlar stone, with a recessed panel of rusticated stone above. The projecting entry bay is completed with second-storey windows with a transom, and, above this, two smaller windows separated by an ashlar pilaster.

The west elevation features a grand three-storey three-sided projecting stone bay, topped by a gable pediment with a heavy boxed cornice and eave returns. The east elevation includes a more restrained projecting bay with a gable pediment and simple rectangular fenestration. Three stone chimneys top the truncated hipped roof.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

The property is associated with the operational practices and history of Kingston Penitentiary and the legacy of Commander Isabel Macneill. The two-and-a-half storey limestone dwelling was constructed for the Deputy Warden of Kingston Penitentiary (who was Daniel O'Leary at the time) in 1909 (completed and occupied by 1911). At the time of construction, it was expected that senior officers would be provided living quarters within the institution's precinct, as it was essential that both the Warden and Deputy Warden be available to supervise staff and to deal with emergency situations. Until 1932, guards and keepers had to live within the sound of the penitentiary bell for the same reason and, at many institutions, this required the construction of staff housing immediately outside the walls of the prison. The Warden's house (Calderwood) was completed in 1873 at 555 King Street West. Prior to the completion of these stone residences, the Warden and Deputy Warden lived in various locations within the walls of the penitentiary itself.

There appears to be little documentation with respect to the plans and construction of the Deputy Warden's house. The Deputy Warden was living in the north wing of the main cell block building around the turn of the 20th Century when inmate population growth required this space to be converted to cells. As a result, the deputy warden's office and residence, the keeper's hall and the prison for women facilities needed to be moved from the north wing to other lands owned by the institutes. The keeper's hall and prison for women moved to purpose-built structures within the penitentiary's main campus between 1909 and 1913. The Deputy Warden's House was also constructed in its current location at this time.

The building was used as a home for the Deputy Warden from 1911 to 1932. Following the 1932 riot, the Warden moved into 525 King Street West and utilized the building as his primary residence until 1967 when it was converted to office space for the Canadian Penitentiary Service (now Correctional Service Canada). It was renovated once again in 1990 to be used as a transitional house, part of a pre-release program for women offenders, and named in honour of Commander Isabel Macneill.

Commander Isabel Janet Macneill (1908-1990) was amongst the first women to ascend to leadership positions traditionally appointed to men in Canada's correctional system. She developed programs and hired specialized staff to promote the rehabilitation of

female inmates, instead of just facilitating their incarceration. During the Second World War, Macneill was appointed as the first female commanding officer of a naval ship in the British Commonwealth. She was promoted to Commander and named as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1944. After the War, Macneill was appointed as superintendent of the Ontario Training School for Girls, where she transformed the school from what was essentially a jail for children to a treatment facility. In 1960, she was appointed as the first female Superintendent of the Federal Prison for Women, where she introduced a “team approach” involving nurses, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists as well as several new initiatives such as pre-release programs, and an increase in academic and vocational courses, to promote inmate rehabilitation. Commander Macneill was named as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1971. In 1990 the former Deputy Warden’s House, which was being used as a transitional residence for women offenders at the time, was named the Isabel Macneill House in her honour. It officially closed its doors in January 2009.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

The Kingston Penitentiary (KP) campus received its National Historic Site of Canada distinction on February 23, 1990. Many character defining elements are identified as part of the 19th century prison landscape. These include the large walled main penitentiary complex, the former warden’s residence and the former Deputy Warden’s House. Several specific elements pertaining to the Deputy Warden’s House are noted, such as the residential design and later date of construction and the classical revival style of the former dwelling.

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The former Deputy Warden's House is a landmark along King Street West because of its decorative iron fence on a stone base and gate posts, prominent corner location and its imposing early 20th century limestone construction. It has a commanding presence when travelling along King Street West and, together with KP and former Warden's House as well as the former Prison for Women facility and stone water tower to the north, contributes to the penitentiary campus character of the area.

The bold, symmetrical massing and limestone construction of the building, together with the guard towers, fences and wall, make a strong statement about the austere nature of the institution, which dominates this portion of King Street West and the intersection with Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard.

Heritage Attributes

Key exterior elements that contribute to the property's cultural heritage value include its:

- Two-and-a-half storey limestone dwelling, constructed of dressed and squared limestone laid in even courses;
- Truncated hipped roof with deep cornice and three stone chimneys;
- Symmetrical front and side elevations, with rectangular flat-headed window and door openings with smooth ashlar limestone lintels and sills;
- Three-storey projecting bays with gable pediments on the east, west and south elevations;
- Limestone porch with stone pillars; and
- Limestone wall and iron fence and gate posts with its Art Nouveau design, stretching along the entire King Street West frontage and a portion of Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard; and
- Federal-government designed lamp posts, consisting of a pebbled concrete base, tapering to a glass globe.

Non-Heritage Attributes

Elements that are not included in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value are the:

- Detached garage