

Tom Ward

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Historic Resources Management Branch



A BRILLIANT ADDITION:
THE *STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES AT WORK*
IN THE STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY



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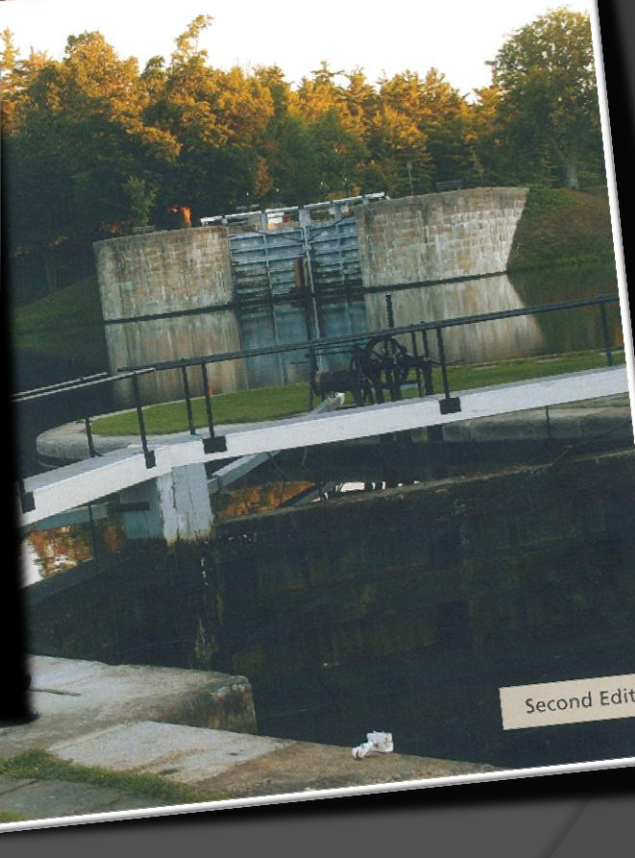
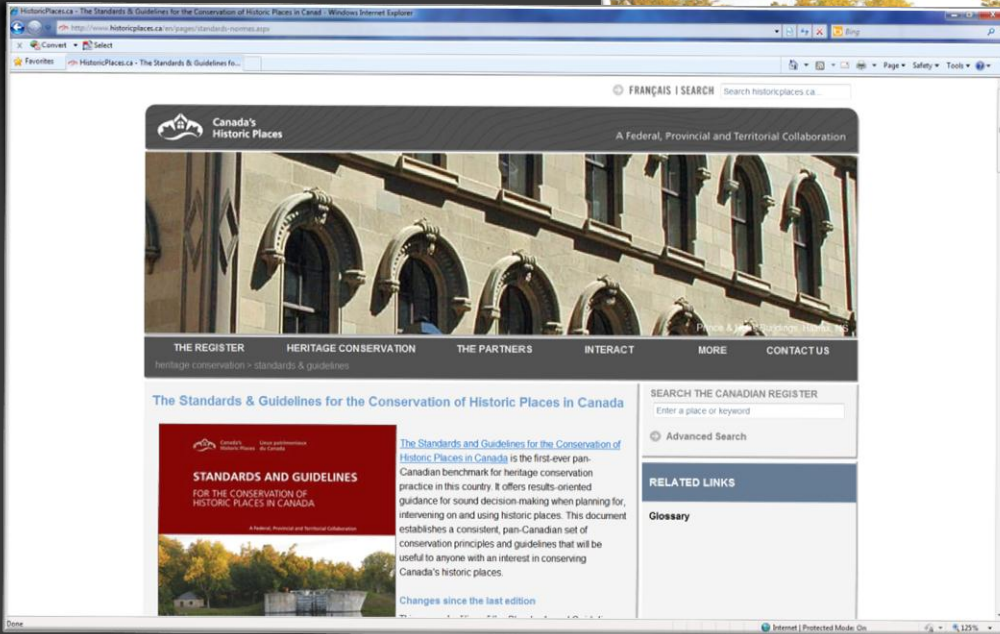
Canada's
Historic Places

Lieux patrimoniaux
du Canada

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC PLACES IN CANADA

A Federal, Provincial and Territorial Collaboration

<http://www.historicplaces.ca>



Second Edition

1

THE CONSERVATION DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Conservation activities can be seen as a sequence of actions—from **understanding** the historic place, to **planning** for its conservation and **intervening** through projects or maintenance. Because conservation is an ongoing and cyclical process, people involved in conservation must often retrace their steps to re-examine their approaches, namely, to assess the impacts of planned interventions on character-defining elements, or to obtain additional information.

Understanding an historic place is an essential first step to good conservation practice. This is normally achieved through research and investigation. It is important to know where the heritage value of the historic place lies, along with its condition, evolution over time, and past and current importance to its community. The traditional practices associated with the historic place and the interrelationship between the historic place, its environment and its communities should also be considered. The understanding phase can be lengthy and, in some cases, may run in parallel with later phases as the understanding of the place evolves and continues to inform the process. The information collected in this phase will be used throughout the conservation decision-making process and should remain accessible.

Planning is the mechanism that links a comprehensive understanding of an historic place with interventions that respect its heritage value. Planning should consider all factors affecting the future of an historic place, including the needs of the owners and users, community

interests, the potential for environmental impacts, available resources and external constraints. The most effective planning and design approach is an integrated one that combines heritage conservation with other planning and project goals, and engages all partners and stakeholders early in the process and throughout.

For historic places, the conservation planning process also needs to be flexible to allow for discoveries and for an increased understanding along the way, such as information gained from archaeological investigations or impact assessments. It is important to maintain a firm sense of the larger picture over the long term, and not to emphasize particular character-defining elements at the expense of others.

Intervening on an historic place, that is, any action or process that results in a physical change to its character-defining elements, must respect and protect its heritage value. Interventions can include:

- Preservation actions that are part of the ongoing maintenance of an historic place;
- Rehabilitation activities related to a new use or code upgrades;
- Restoration activities associated with the depiction of an historic place at a specific period in its history.

Intervening on archaeological sites may focus on:

- Preserving the physical integrity of fragile elements;
- Recording them;
- Providing access for public visitation;
- Integrating them into a new structure.

These three phases can further be defined through a series of steps. Although presented sequentially, these steps should be revisited regularly as part of the ongoing conservation decision-making process.

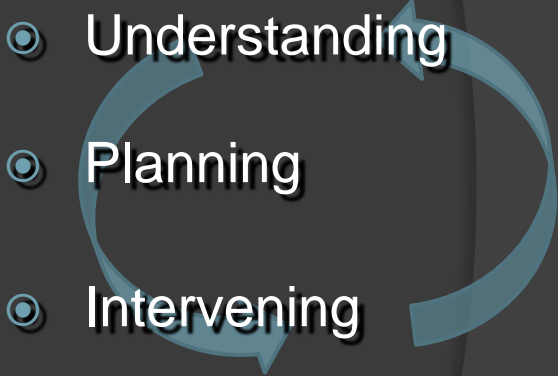
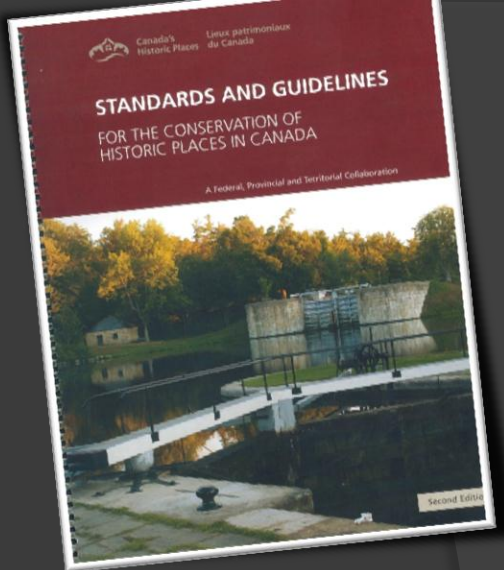
UNDERSTANDING

Refer to Heritage Value and Character-defining Elements

An historic place's heritage value and character-defining elements are identified through formal recognition by an authority or by nomination to the *Canadian Register of Historic Places*. If this has not yet been done, the first essential step in any conservation project is to identify and describe the character-defining elements that are important in defining the overall heritage value of the historic place. The presence of these elements is captured in a *Statement of Significance* (SoS) or equivalent document. For assistance in writing a SoS, consult the document *Writing Statements of Significance* at www.historicplaces.ca.

Investigate and Document Condition and Changes

On-site investigation as well as archival and oral history research should be carried out as a basis for a detailed assessment of current conditions and previous maintenance and repair work. Known changes should be documented in a chronology or report. If no existing plans are found, then a photographic survey should be carried out and drawings or sketches prepared to record current conditions.



Understanding


Alberta Register of Historic Places - Windows Internet Explorer


https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=1&ObjectID=4665-0678

Convert Select


Favorites Alberta Register of Historic Places

Page Safety Tools

 **HerMIS**
Heritage Resources Management Information System.


 Canada's Historic Places
Lieux patrimoniaux du Canada

| Location: [ARHP Home](#) | Logged in as user [\[Login\]](#) | September 17th, 2013 |

ALBERTA HERITAGE SURVEY PROGRAM 


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ALBERTA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

BASIC SEARCH 

Enter text search criteria here:


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STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY


Edmonton

ADVANCED SEARCH 

Other Names: Strathcona Library

Statement of Significance


Description of Historic Place
The Strathcona Public Library is a two-storey brick structure in a simplified Classical Revival style, located on three city lots in the historic community of Old Strathcona.

MAP SEARCH 

Heritage Value

Local intranet | Protected Mode: Off | 125%

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STRATHCONA PUB Statement of Significance

Description of Historic Place

The Strathcona Public Library is a three city lots in the historic commu

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Strathcon
Strathcona since its completion in
oldest in the province. It is also an
Alberta's public buildings in the era

By the time of Strathcona's incorpor
across the North Saskatchewan Riv
a new provincial university (1909).
Carnegie Foundation for funds to c
industrialist and philanthropist And
across North America, including the
totalled only \$15,000 with the expect
Board - caught up in the optimistic
growth merited a larger library and
paid for by the newly amalgamated
thus represents an important period

The exterior of the Strathcona Publ
twentieth-century educational buildi
building a sense of gravity and dign
auditorium and meeting rooms as well as books, and in 1948 the basement was converted to a children's
library, making it a valuable centre for community life. It is a rare example of a library building of such size
dating from Alberta's early years as a province.

The Strathcona Public Library is an important contributing element, in style and function, to one of Alberta's
significant historic urban districts.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Strathcona Public Library lies in such character-defining elements as:

- form, scale and massing, including recessed front entryway;
- classical revival details;
- facade of orange brick, and brick exterior staircase on front (west) elevation, with sandstone detailing in the six string courses and sill courses, wide cornice, sills and lintels;
- classical door surround, including engaged stone Ionic columns, curved pediment, and stone lintel with carved inscription "Public Library";
- fenestration pattern including oculus on west elevation;
- parapet gable roof with stone parapets;
- chimneys north and south;
- adjoining park space;
- four interior arches on the first floor;
- interior staircase;
- interior beam brackets;
- extant authentic trim;
- two first floor fireplace openings.

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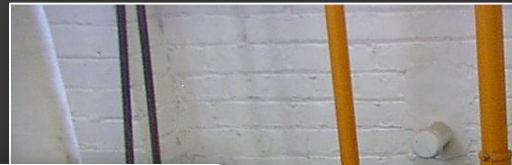
Understanding

Condition



Understanding

Condition



- Planning

Heritage Conservation Considerations

Protection of Heritage Values

- Retention and repair of Character Defining Elements (CDEs)
- Possibility of reinstating missing CDEs
- Ensuring all designs and work meets the conservation principles of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*

○ Planning

Functional Considerations

- Code Review
- Universal Access
- Structural Upgrades
- Library Requirements
 - Anticipated growth in volumes from 30% to 75%
 - Adult reading areas
 - Children's area
 - Young adult area
 - Program rooms
 - Computers for public use
 - Staff workrooms
 - Storage Areas
 - Offices
 - New washrooms
 - Study areas
 - Book return

- Planning

Rehabilitation Primary Treatment Type

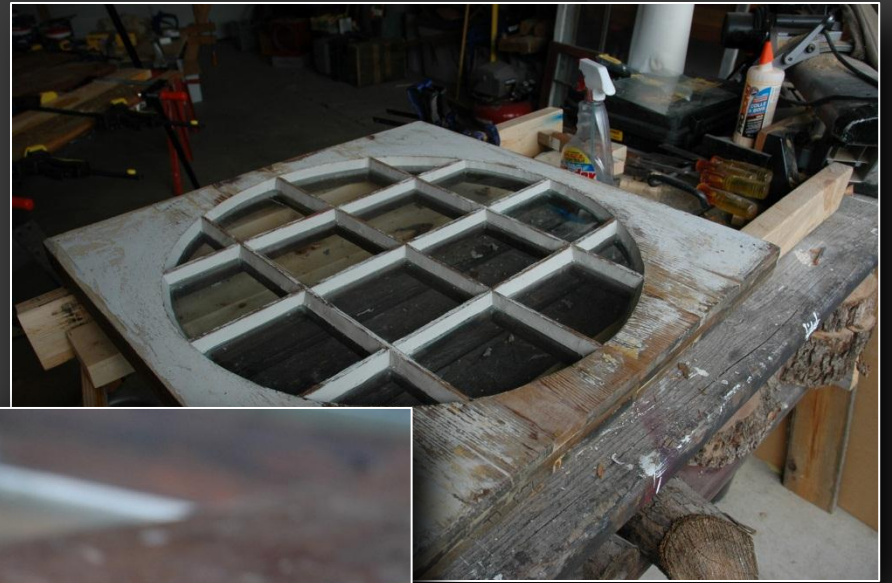
Rehabilitation involves the sensitive adaptation of a historic place for a continuing or compatible contemporary use, while protecting heritage value.

- Planning

Rehabilitation Primary Treatment Type

- Standards 1 – 9 apply + 10, 11 & 12:
- Standard 10 : Repair rather than replace CDEs. [...] Where there is insufficient physical evidence, make the form, material and detailing of new elements compatible with the character of the historic place.
- Standard 11: Conserve heritage value and CDEs when creating any new additions to a historic place or any new construction. Make the new work physically and visually **compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from** the historic place.
- Standard 12: Create any new additions so that the essential form and integrity of a historic place will not be impaired in the new work is removed.

◎ Intervening



- ◉ Intervening

Designing the Addition

- ◉ Standard 11: Conserve heritage value and CDEs when creating any new additions to a historic place or any new construction. Make the new work physically and visually **compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from** the historic place.

compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from



Standard 4. Recognize each historic place as a physical record of its time, place and use.

Do not create a false sense of historical development...

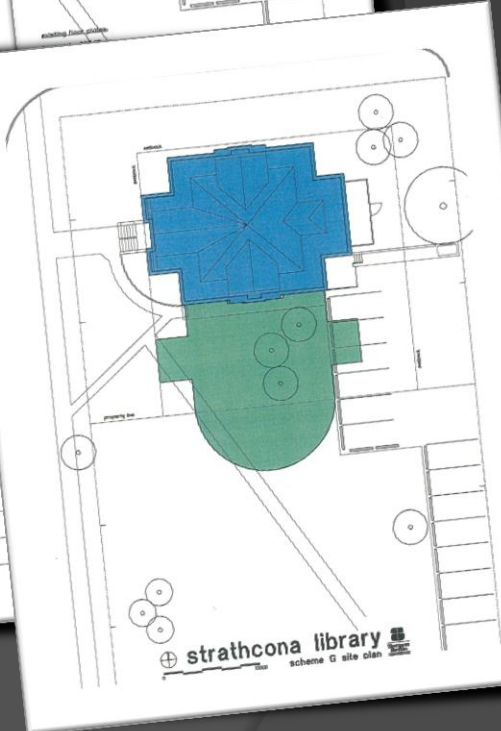
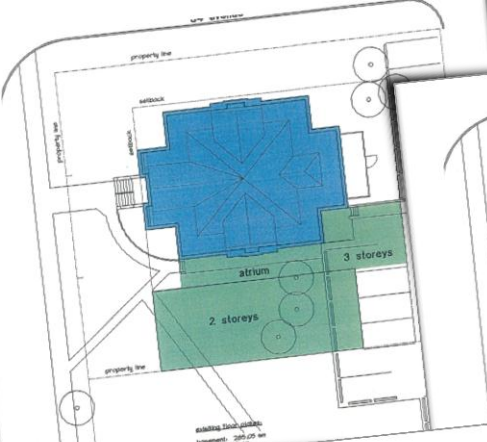
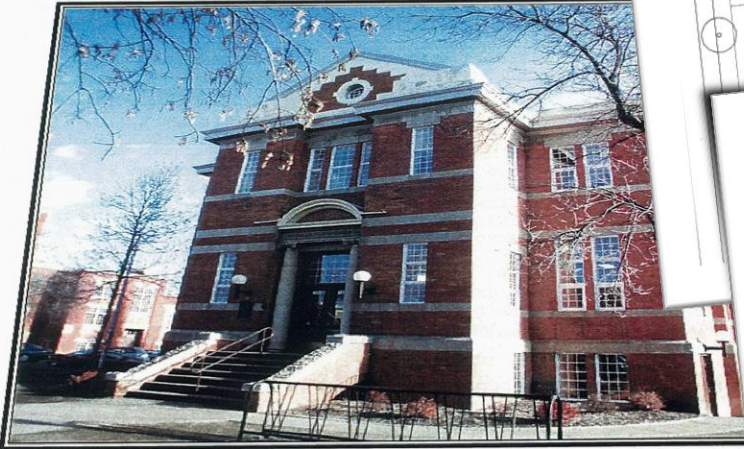
- ◉ Intervening

Guidelines

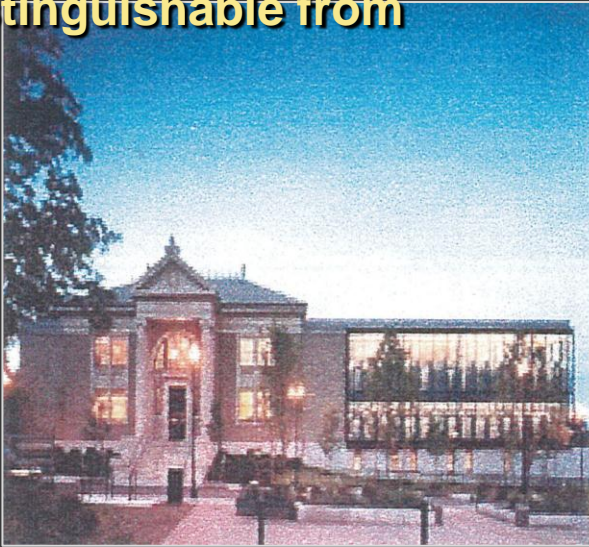
- ◉ Recommended:
 - Designing a new addition in a manner that draws a clear distinction between what is historic and what is new.

compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from

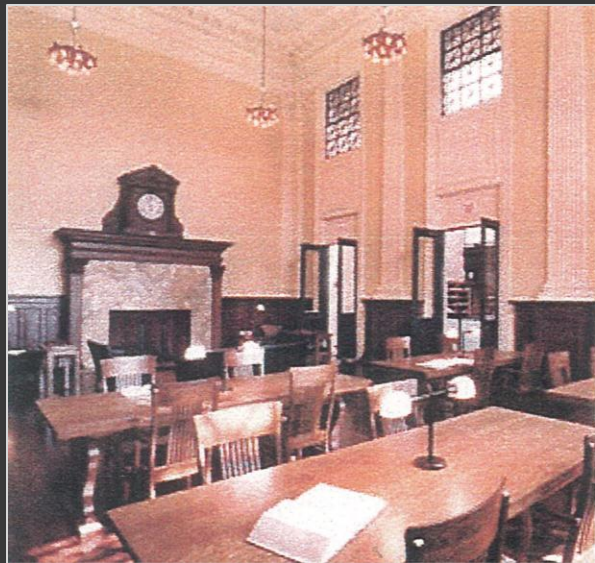
CITY OF EDMONTON
Strathcona Library
Conceptual Design Study
February 11, 2002



compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from



Hyde Park Branch Library
Appendix C

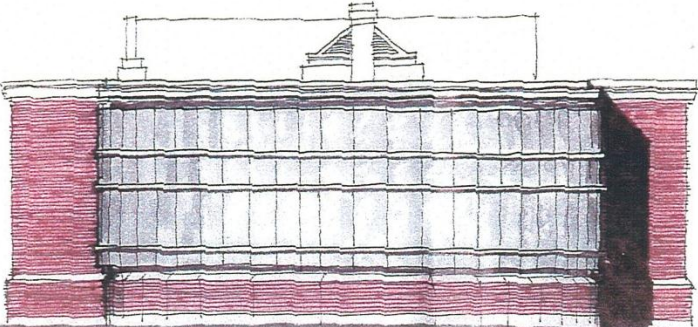


as then the suburban town of Hyde Park. In the city of Boston and the library became one of its first. It was designed to address changes in the 19th century history."

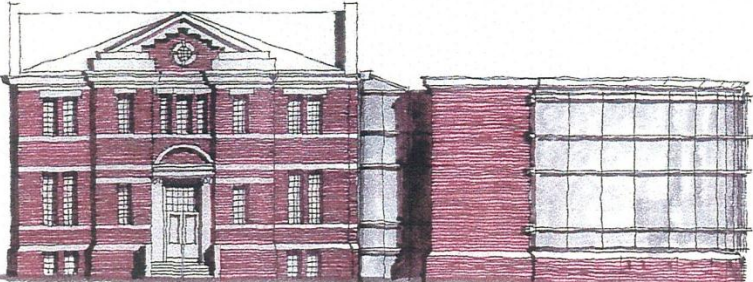
architects and used with their permission.



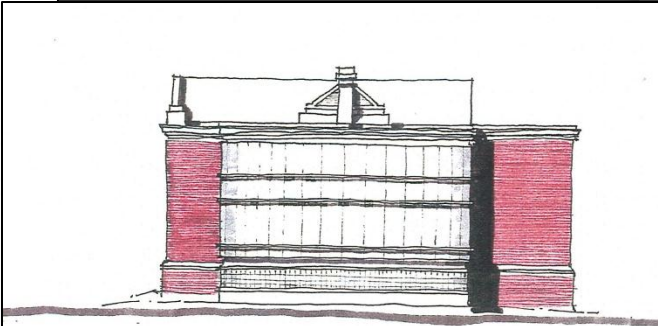
compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from



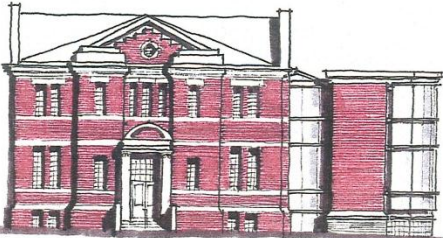
south elevation



west elevation

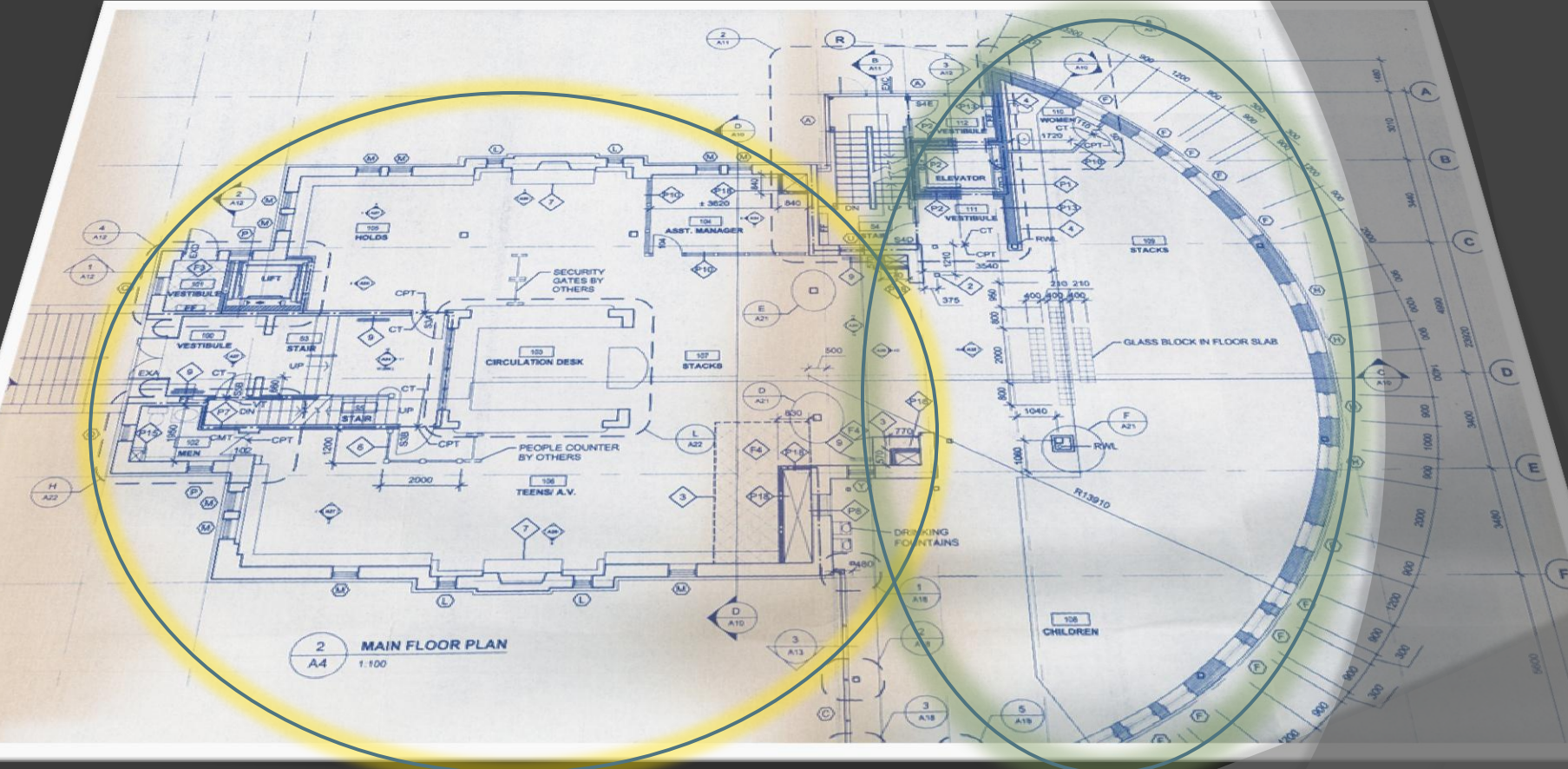


south elevation



west elevation

compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from



compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from





104th St

84th Ave

Edmond Public Library
Seaboard Branch
831-1415 N.E.

WORLD FM

104th St

104th St



STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
EDMONTON

site resource
location date
JULY 15, 1989



CAT. No.
NEG. No. 89R7X-27



CAT. No.
NEG. No. 89R7X-30

STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

REGISTERED HISTORIC RESOURCE
site resource
location date
MAY, 1985



MAIN FLOOR



STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

REGISTERED HISTORIC RESOURCE
site resource
location date
MAY, 1985



MAIN FLOOR

CAT. No. 8461-26 M
NEG. No. 85R198-47

STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

REGISTERED HISTORIC RESOURCE
site resource
location date
MAY, 1985



MAIN FLOOR

CAT. No. 8461-27 M
NEG. No. 85R198-24



MAIN FLOOR
CAT. No. 8461-26 M
NEG. No. 85R198-22

MAIN FLOOR
SOUTH FLOOR

CAT. No. 8461-28 M
NEG. No. 85R198-22





















