

Sun Life Building, S.E. corner or Bank & Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario. From the William Topley Collection, Library and Archives



Mercury Court Building. Courtesy of Barry Padolsky Associates.

MERCURY COURT

From 2007 to early 2016, Public History's office was located in the historic Mercury Court building on Dalhousie Street in downtown Ottawa. Originally built as the RCMP Headquarters, it was later converted to house the Laroque Department Store. As Ottawa's only francophone department store, it was an important part of the City's bilingual culture. It closed in the early 1970's. In 1990, the building underwent a classic transformation combining all the elements of a modern office/retail building while maintaining the architectural integrity of this 95-year-old landmark.

Mercury Court features one of Ottawa's historic architectural features. The Statue of Mercury, which is a functioning weather vane, was originally placed on the long since demolished Sun Life Building in 1898. The statue has been lovingly preserved and provided by the National Capital Commission for public display at Mercury Court. Located in the heart of Ottawa, amidst the heritage of the Byward Market and contemporary styling of the Rideau Centre, Mercury Court's distinctive architecture and a strategic location merge to create a dignified and distinguished business address.

In April 2016, Public History relocated its office operations to 270 Albert St. in Ottawa.