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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR

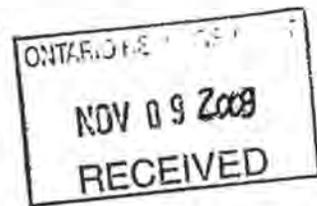
MBA/10396

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN AS  
1125 OTTAWA STREET & 1334 BENJAMIN AVENUE IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

REGISTERED MAIL

ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
10 ADELAIDE STREET EAST  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M5C 1J3



**TAKE NOTICE THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the City of Windsor intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings known as 1125 Ottawa Street & 1334 Benjamin as a property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act:

**Statement of Significance/Reasons for Designation**  
**1125 Ottawa Street & 1334 Benjamin Avenue**  
(Plan 670 Lots 35 to 43 and pt. closed alley)

**Description of Historic Place**

St. Mary and St. Moses Coptic Orthodox Church and Rectory are located on the commercial section of Ottawa Street across from Lanspeary Park. The church served the community as Sacred Heart Catholic Church from 1927, and with the current congregation since 2002.

**Heritage Value**

**Historic Value:**

**Historical Importance:**

The Sacred Heart parish was founded in 1924 by Roman Catholic Bishop Michael Fallon to respond to the rising demand in what had become a booming community in and west of Walkerville. Rev. Denis Brisson oversaw the construction of both the temporary wooden church on the site and the present structure – built in 1927 at a cost of \$185,000.

In recent years the Roman Catholic Church has been consolidating parishes in Windsor's core. In 2002 the congregations of Sacred Heart and Immaculate Conception merged with St. Michael's. The Sacred Heart site was sold to the Coptic Orthodox community of Windsor – who renamed the church "St. Mary and St. Moses."

**Architectural Importance:**

The style may be considered Neo-Gothic, but includes Romanesque and Classical Revival details. The primary material is brick, with a mix of red, brown, and grey tones that produces a rich red-gold effect. It includes richly ornamented brick and stonework. The twin towers flank the gabled entrance with a rose window and arched pediments over three pairs of entry doors up several steps. Additional pairs of doors are at-grade under the towers.

Architect John R. Boyde, of the renowned local firm J.C. Pennington, Boyde & Leighton, designed this church and adjacent rectory. This firm designed several churches in Windsor, including Holy Name of Mary, Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox, Saint Angela Merici; as well as Walkerville High School and David Maxwell School. Architectural drawings of this church are stored at the Municipal Archives.

Each tower includes a square base three storeys tall, then a one-storey brick octagonal section, then a copper dome topped by an open cupola and cross. These features were refurbished in 1977.

The front gable includes two ranks of brick dentils near the top, then angle-pattern brickwork, then a series of small stair-step open brick arches. A rose window is centred below at the third-storey level; it has a white stone circular surround with a cross projected over it.

At the second-storey level, there is a series of small arched brick insets with stone details; the centre three segments have windows.

The centred first floor entrance level of the front is clad in white stone. There are three pairs of wooden doors; each pair is under an arched pediment with a semi-circular transom. Each door has three large square panes. In each pane there is an ironwork pattern of circles and crosses; a similar pattern is repeated in the transoms. There are two bas-reliefs, each with a heart-shaped vessel ringed with a crown of thorns – symbol of the “sacred heart” of the church’s original name.

There are grade-level entrances at the base of each tower. They have paired wooden doors similar to those in the centre, except for rectangular transoms. Another “sacred heart” symbol is in stone relief above each doorway set; lines radiate from behind the heart and a cross is above. On the outer corner of the northwest tower is a simple cornerstone with “ECCLESIA / SS CORDIS JESU / + 1927 +.”

On the front corners, outside the towers, are quarter-round brick sections with flat roofs. To the south, matching the cross-pattern of the interior, there are two half-round extensions. Above each extension there is a rose window with a roof gable above. The main roof slope is visible from the sides, as are the lower roofs over the interior side aisles; they are covered in grey tile.

There are ten principal stained glass windows, five on each side. They feature scenes in the life of Jesus, using brilliant colours and geometric designs including plants. The upper levels have ten smaller stained glass windows with less detail. The three rose windows are also finely detailed.

The rectory abuts the rear of the church, and an extension on the southwest corner of the church connects to the side of the rectory. The rectory is of Queen Anne style, two-storey, using the same brick as the church. A turret is at the northwest corner; a small entry porch is to its right. The slate roof has a steep pitch, with a flat section; a cone is over the turret; there are rounded dormers. The sash windows are 8/1 pattern; they have cast-stone sills and soldier-brick lintels. The right side of the front has a one-storey bay, and a roof gable above topped with a cross. A tall rectangular chimney is on the south side, behind an attached one-storey section with a flat roof.

### **Contextual Importance:**

St. Mary and St. Moses faces Ottawa Street, a busy local commercial street. Its height and massing make it a highly visible neighbourhood landmark. Lanspeary Park, across the street, was developed about the same time as the church. The church is located at the corner of Benjamin Avenue; the attached rectory faces this residential street.

### **Character Defining Elements**

**Items that contribute to the historical value include:**

- Its association with the early 20th Century growth in the south part of Walkerville.
- Its association with Roman Catholic parishioners on what was then the east side of the city of Windsor.

**Exterior features that contribute to the architectural value include:**

- Neo-Gothic style, with Classical Revival and Romanesque elements
- Symmetrical front (north) façade of the church.
- Tower and octagonal copper dome and cupola at each front corner.
- Red-gold brick.
- White stone details, including four plaques representing the "sacred heart."
- Dentils and small arches on front gable.
- Three arched entranceways with pairs of wooden doors on the front (north) façade, each pair under an arched pediment with a semi-circular transom. Two additional entranceways, one under each tower. Windows in doors have ironwork pattern of circles and crosses; a similar pattern is repeated in the semi-circular transoms.
- Three rose windows; one with stone details over the front entranceway; others on side gables.
- Ten large stained glass windows along the sides of the church; ten smaller stained glass windows on the upper level of the sides.
- Attached rectory facing the side street with:
  - Queen Anne style
  - Matching brick, two-storeys
  - Turret with conical roof
  - Slate roof with rounded dormers
  - Windows with 8/1 sashes, cast-stone sills, and soldier-brick lintels
  - Front bay one-storey
- Tall rectangular chimney

**Interior features that contribute to the architectural value include:**

- Wide-arched plaster ceiling in the centre section
- Ionic columns; the capitals include gold-painted angel faces between the scrolls.
- Fresco of Jesus on the cross, with a geometric blue background, located in the half-oval domed ceiling over the altar.

**Characteristics that contribute to the contextual value include:**

- Its location on the commercial section of Ottawa Street.
- Its landmark status in the surrounding neighbourhood for over 80 years.

Any person may, within thirty days of the publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the City of Windsor notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Windsor shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

**DATED** at Windsor, Ontario this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009  
Steve Vlachodimos, Manager of Council & Committee Services / Deputy Clerk

  
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Manager of Council & Committee Services / Deputy Clerk  
KK/ml