

110 DISRAELI STREET – ST. MICHAEL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

H. Gray, 1902

Edward Vanderlip, 1918



This modest church, located in the heart of the Point Douglas neighbourhood, is unique in that it has served as the first structure for two congregations – built in 1902 as an Anglican Mission church and converted in 1918 into its present use as a Ukrainian Orthodox church, the oldest congregation of its type in Winnipeg.

This structure was built in 1902 several blocks away on Rachel Street (now Annabella Street) near Sutherland Avenue. In 1906, the City of Winnipeg expropriated land in the area for the widening of Sutherland Avenue and through a deal with the congregation, moved the church to its present location. It operated for another decade as a mission church, serving the needs of the largely immigrant community surrounding it. By World War I, however, many of these groups had organized their own congregations and the mission church was abandoned. In 1918, the St.

Michael congregation was formed (originally known as the National Greek Orthodox Church of St. Michael), purchasing the building and renovating it into a Ukrainian church.

Many elements of the church's exterior and interior are based on traditional Ukrainian church design, including: the large onion dome (representing Christ); the division of the interior into three distinct areas, sanctuary, nave and narthex (based on tabernacles described in the Old Testament); the raised sanctuary (located in the eastern part of the building) and nave (sitting area) divided by iconostasis with a choir loft located at the west end of the nave; the half-rounded rear wall of the sanctuary (apse) embellished with painted icons; and the elevated easternmost portion of the nave (known as the solea). The magnificent metal iconostasis and other ornamental detailing on the interior were made by parishioners who worked in the nearby railway yards and foundries. The basement is used as the parish hall with a raised platform at the east end.

Elements of the building that would require approval if alterations were planned are:

Exterior:

- The west-facing church located on Disraeli Street
- Simple, elongated rectangular plan
- Exposed, roughly-dressed limestone block base
- Lively massing of multiple volumes of varying heights and roof configurations, including a gable-roofed nave and projecting three-sided apse
- Square entrance tower with a metal-clad onion dome and Greek Orthodox cross atop a pyramidal roof
- Pointed arch window openings throughout with simple wooden tracery
- Stained glass bull's eye window in the rear (east) façade
- Low, raised stone structure attached to the east wall
- Secondary, smaller onion-dome on the east roof peak
- Horizontal lap siding

Interior:

- Formal plan featuring an unobstructed nave, with the raised sanctuary separated by an elaborate three-opening iconostasis
- Choir loft at west end of nave