



252 DUBUC AVENUE

HOLY CROSS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



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Date of Construction: 1922

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This large, solid stone church has graced this neighbourhood for over 80 years. The rough-cut stone is laid in broken course pattern, the rectangular building is embellished in the front (north) façade by a shallow crenellated entrance tower with thin arched windows and an arched main entrance atop a wide set of stairs. Windows on the side elevations are also arched and there is a covered entrance in the building's northwest corner.

The structure was completed in 1922, it is unknown at this time who designed and built it. It is a simple, attractive design not dissimilar to many of the early Christian structures built throughout the City in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



Front (north) and west façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The parish of Holy Cross, the oldest English-speaking Catholic parish in St. Boniface, was organized in 1918, the first mass was held on Christmas Day, in the Sacred Heart Chapel in St. Boniface Cathedral. The church building was completed in 1922, Holy Cross School was completed six years later. An Annex to the church was built in 1948 and a Chapel in 1954. A Catholic Information Centre was opened next to the church on Dubuc Avenue in 1956. The interior of the church has undergone several upgrades and refurbishing and a fire in 1990 caused \$570,000 in damages. The exterior was re-roofed in 2007.¹



Front (north) façade, 1978

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

Under the Historical Buildings By-law, this building meets a number of important criteria:

- its historical importance- the only church building of the oldest English-speaking Catholic parish in St. Boniface;
- its associations- its intimate connections to the parish of Holy Cross;
- its design- an excellent example of a modest church structure;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- defines an important intersection and contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Historical information from Holy Cross website (<http://www.holycrossparish.ca/history/history.html>), no date.