

**115 MCGREGOR STREET – UKRAINIAN METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL OF  
STS. VLADIMIR AND OLGA AND PARISH HALL**

*Cathedral- John N. Semmens, 1947; Parish Hall- Unnamed, 1941*



Ukrainian immigrants began arriving in Canada in 1891, the beginning of the massive and important migration that by World War I saw over 150,000 Ukrainians settled on the three prairie provinces. While many homesteaded, thousands more worked in the factories and warehouses of the major cities and in Winnipeg, the majority settled in the North End and Point Douglas areas.

As with other immigrant groups, the Ukrainians struggled to organize congregations and churches, the first in Winnipeg was established in 1899, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish, with a modest church at the northeast corner of McGregor Street and Stella Avenue built in 1901. In 1907, this church was expanded by the newly formed Sts. Vladimir and Olga Ukrainian Catholic Parish and in December 1912, after several years of negotiations, the parish welcomed

its first Ukrainian-born priest, Bishop Nykyta Budka and the church was designated a Bishop's Cathedral.

The Parish flourished and in 1941-1942, a new church was built beside their original building. Then, in 1947, the original building was demolished to make way for the new brick and stone Cathedral, which opened in April 1951 as Canada's first Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral serving its congregation of approximately 5,000. The 1942 building was converted into the Parish Hall.

The Cathedral is a large, brick and stone structure designed in the Cossack Baroque Style based on the Byzantine architectural style. This style, first adopted around 400 A.D., was used extensively in the design of religious structures, utilizing the Greek cross plan, classic orders, mosaic and tile decoration and domes. The Cossack Baroque form was a 17<sup>th</sup> century variant that was more colourful and flamboyant and included arched openings and circular windows.

The Parish Hall features a wide set of access stairs to its entrance facing west onto McGregor Street. The front façade includes polychromatic brick as accenting and around window and door openings and dome-shaped elements at the roofline embellished with coloured tile.

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

Exterior-

- The stone and brick Parish Hall and Cathedral, located at the northeast corner of Stella Avenue, their front façades facing west onto McGregor Street.

Parish Hall

- The Parish Hall with its raised basement, main entrance accessed by a wide set of stairs, polychromatic brickwork around windows and doors in arched openings and at the building's corners, coloured tiles and projecting flat domes at the roofline, stucco-clad north and south façades with brick pilasters and arched elements above the windows in rectilinear openings; and
- Stained glass panes on the north and south walls.

Cathedral

- The dark brick Cathedral with its symmetrical front (west) façade with limestone accenting, rose window, stone entablature with stone statues in the gable end and corner towers with narrow openings with geometric window screens, attached, unfluted columns with plain bases and Corinthian Order capitals, complete entablatures, dome towers with pedimented elements and arched openings and large metal-clad domes finished by smaller domes with crosses;
- North and south façades are similarly designed with limestone cladding at grade, dark brick walls with windows in rectilinear openings on the lower level and arched with stone drip moulding on the upper walls, attached pilasters and complete entablatures at the roof lines and modest projecting entrances at the west end of each elevation and more substantial in the northeast corner and the chapel with its small domed tower in the southeast corner; and
- The rear (east) façade with lower portion accenting with stone, windows in rectilinear openings and tall, angular section with windows in arched openings with stone drip moulding.

#### Interior- Parish Hall

- The Parish Hall with its open auditorium space and detailing on the main floor.

#### Cathedral

- The Cathedral's finishes, volume of space and ornamental detailing.