



353 MOUNTAIN AVENUE

VISITATION OF OUR LADY SLOVAK ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARISH HALL

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



**353 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
VISITATION OF OUR LADY SLOVAK ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND PARISH HALL**

Date of Construction: 1952

Building Permit: 2715/1952 (Plans at City Storage)

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This is a modest church, illustrative of the type of structure built for a newly organized congregation in one of Winnipeg's immigrant communities.

The stuccoed building is rectangular in plan, with pointed arch windows on its front (south) and west façades. The centrally-located entrance is found atop a short flight of stairs and in a projecting section that rises to a squared tower with cross finial. A shorter, one-storey building, the parish hall, is attached to the east side of the building.

The structure stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. Major work was completed to the building in 1985.¹



Front (south) and west façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The congregation was founded by Rev. Jan Rekem in ca.1950 and originally met at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Plans were announced in 1951 for their own facility and the cornerstone was laid in September 1952.² The group continued to use the facility until its closure in 1996. It has since been taken over by an African congregation and renamed the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Debre Genet St. Mary's Church.

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- illustrative of a post-1950 church and hall facility built by an immigrant congregation in Winnipeg's North End;
- its associations- its long-term connections to the Slovak community;
- its design- N/A;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- N/A; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display some of their original elements and design.



Front (south) and east façades, 2009

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ City of Winnipeg Building Permits, #4050/1985 (foundation – \$10,000) and #4544/1985 (superstructure – \$64,000).
- ² Winnipeg Free Press, April 7, 1950, p. 2, May 23, 1951, p. 3 and September 19, 1952, p. 31.