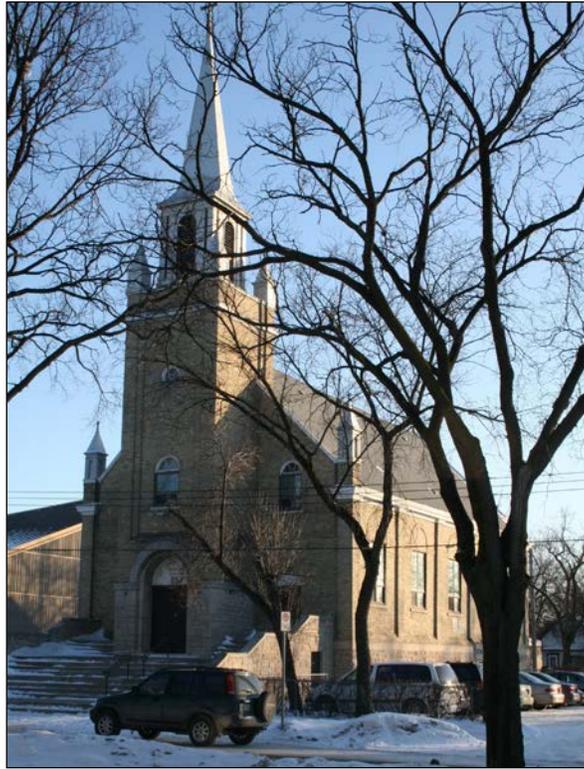


852 BURROWS AVENUE

ST. JOHN CANTIUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



852 BURROWS AVENUE ST. JOHN CANTIUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Date of Construction: 1918-1925

Building Permit: 942/1918 (basement – Plans at City Storage) & 1831/1925 (superstructure)

Architect: Northwood, George W.

Contractor: Tremblay, J.A.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This large church was built in two parts, a common practice among the smaller congregations in the city. The basement was built in 1918 and used as the church until the superstructure was completed in 1925. Total cost of construction was \$25,000 not including furnishings and interior finishes.

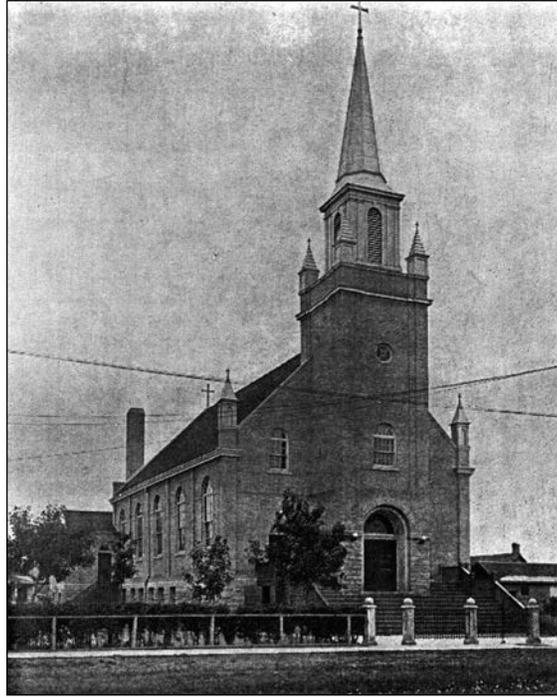
This solid brick church includes a front (north) façade that includes a grand, stone clad projecting arched entrance atop a wide set of stairs, a tower finished with a delicate spire with smaller spires at each corner of the tower. Replica spires also accent the east and west corners of the superstructure. The rear of the building features another projecting area. The building is well-designed, stands in its original location, appears to be in good structural condition and does not appear to have suffered major exterior alterations,



Rear (south) and west façades, 2002

although many of the original arched windows on the east and west façades have had the window units replaced and the arched areas bricked in.

This structure was designed by Major George W. Northwood (1876-1959), one of Winnipeg's fine 20th century architects. Northwood was a distinguished Winnipeg veteran who worked for several decades in the city, both alone and in partnership with other architects. A partial list of his more notable designs would include: the second pavilion at the Assiniboine Park and Zoo, 55 Pavilion Crescent (1929-30 with Cyril W.U. Chivers, Grade II), the Riverbend School for Girls Junior School, now Balmoral Hall School, 630 Westminster Avenue (ca.1930 with Cyril W.U. Chivers), Greater Winnipeg Gas Building, 265 Notre Dame Avenue (1930 with Cyril W.U. Chivers, Grade III) the Women's Tribute Memorial Lodge, 200 Woodlawn Street (1931 with Cyril W.U. Chivers, Grade II), the Civic Auditorium, 444 St. Mary Avenue (1932 with Cyril W.U. Chivers), the Bank of Toronto Branch on Academy Road (1934) and the Federal Building, 269 Main Street (1935 with Cyril W.U. Chivers).¹ They have been given 20 points by the Historical Buildings Committee.



Front (north) and east façades, 1930

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

This church served the congregation until 1971 when a new church was built immediately to the east. The 1925 structure was converted into a school and now stands vacant.

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- one of the older Ukrainian churches in Winnipeg's North End;
- its associations- its long-term connections to the St. John Cantius congregation;
- its design- an excellent example of classically-detailed church;
- its architect- G.W. Northwood was a respected and important practitioner;
- its location- defines an important intersection and contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of two major arteries within the North End; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

¹ City of Winnipeg, Historical Buildings Committee, files.