



939 MAIN STREET

**ST. IVAN SUCHAVSKY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
McDOUGALL UNITED (METHODIST) CHURCH**

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



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ST. IVAN SUCHAVSKY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
McDOUGALL UNITED (METHODIST) CHURCH

Date of Construction: 1891

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This church building is over 100 years old and has served two different congregations – the present group completing major renovations to the exterior in the 1950s

The front (west) façade of this crucifix-shaped building features the main entrance, an arched opening with a rose window above. Elongated paired window openings frame the entrance, topped by curved drip moulding. Side entrances set in modest towers with rose windows and small, cross-topped onion domes or *bania* are also found on this elevation. A larger onion dome is located in the centre of the structure, following the tradition of cross-topped domes ranging in number from one (representing Christ) to 13 (representing Christ and the 12 apostles).¹ Elongated arched windows with drip moulding are found on both the north and south façades. At the rear, a residential structure is attached.



Detail of dome, 2009

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. Alterations to create a traditional Ukrainian church were carried out, including the addition of the hall, rectory and residence (1938), the domes, added in 1944 and other renovations were completed in the 1950s bringing the building to its present form. The bells in the belfry were donated by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1933.²

The new church was remodelled in the Byzantine style, a highly ornate form of religious architecture closely associated in North America with the orthodox churches. Common elements include a dome or domes, the cruciform shape, rounded arches and circular windows. Buildings are unusually symmetrically designed; exterior walls are often smooth and plain and finished in light coloured materials.³

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

McDougall Methodist Church began as a mission of Zion Church in Winnipeg in the 1880s,⁴ locating north of the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks in what would ultimately become Winnipeg's North End. In 1891, the growing congregation, which included a substantial "Foreign Mission Sunday School" program, built a new church edifice on the site of its original mission church.⁵ The church and congregation continued to serve the people of the area into the 1920s when it became part of the United Church of Canada. Shortly after, however, it congregation began to discuss closure of the church because the Winnipeg Presbytery Committee felt that "the area was sufficiently well served by the other churches."⁶



North side, 2009

In 1931, the church building was sold to a Ukrainian congregation,⁷ originally listed in local directories as the Ukrainian Bukovinian Church, a reference to Bukovina, an historic region currently split between Romania and Ukraine where many immigrants came from.⁸ It continues to be used as an orthodox Ukrainian church, taking the name St. Ivan Suchavsky (?-1278) who was tortured and killed by Turkish officials under Islamic law. In the early 1400s, his relics were transferred to the church in the capital of Bukovina.⁹

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 church structures in the North End and unusual in that it was converted and rebuilt as an orthodox Ukrainian cathedral in the 1940s and 1950s;
- its associations- its long-term connections to early Winnipeg Methodists and Orthodox Ukrainians;
- its design- an excellent example of the Byzantine style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of the North End and Main Street; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Left- Front (west) and north façades, ca.1962; Right- Front (west) and south façades, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- 1 B. Rotoff, et al, Monuments to Faith. Ukrainian Churches in Manitoba (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1990), pp. 139-142.
- 2 Information from St. Ivan Suchavsky Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral website (<http://sites.google.com/site/stivansuchavskywinnipeg/Home/history-of-the-cathedral>), no date. Below as Church website.
- 3 “New York Landmarks Conservancy, Common Bond, October 1997,” cited at <http://www.sacredplaces.org>.
- 4 Manitoba Daily Free Press, December 24, 1887, p. 12
- 5 Manitoba Daily Free Press, May 15, 1891, p. 8.
- 6 Manitoba Free Press, January 30, 1926, p. 25.
- 7 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 14000985000, 1920-1990.
- 8 Henderson’s Directory, 1935-1945.
- 9 Church website.