

# TORONTO STAFF REPORT

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December 1, 2005

To: Toronto Preservation Board  
Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Policy & Research

Subject: 137 and 141 McCaul Street (St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and Redemptorists Residence) - Inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties  
Trinity-Spadina - Ward 20

Purpose:

This report recommends that Council include the properties at 137 and 141 McCaul Street (St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and Redemptorists Residence) on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Council include the properties at 137 and 141 McCaul Street (St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and Redemptorists Residence) on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties; and
- (2) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

A report recommending that the properties at 137 and 141 McCaul Street be included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties was on the agenda for the Toronto Preservation Board meeting of September 29, 2005 for pre-authorized deferral to the meeting of November 3,

2005. The Toronto Preservation Board deferred consideration of the report until its meeting scheduled for January 12, 2006 to allow staff to meet with representatives of the properties.

Staff have revised the report to address the concerns of the property owners about the accuracies of the descriptions. The property owners have provided staff with a memorandum outlining their future plans for the properties, which will be circulated to members of the Toronto Preservation Board with the agenda for the meeting of January 12, 2006.

Comments:

A location map (Attachment No. 1) and photographs (Attachment No. 2) are attached. The Reasons for Listing are attached as Attachment No. 3 and describe the properties, their cultural heritage value and heritage attributes. The properties contain St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and the Redemptorists Residence, which are architecturally and contextually significant as part of a collection of religious buildings along McCaul Street and St. Patrick Street north of Dundas Street West.

Conclusions:

It is recommended that City Council include the properties at 137 and 141 McCaul Street (St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and Redemptorists Residence) on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

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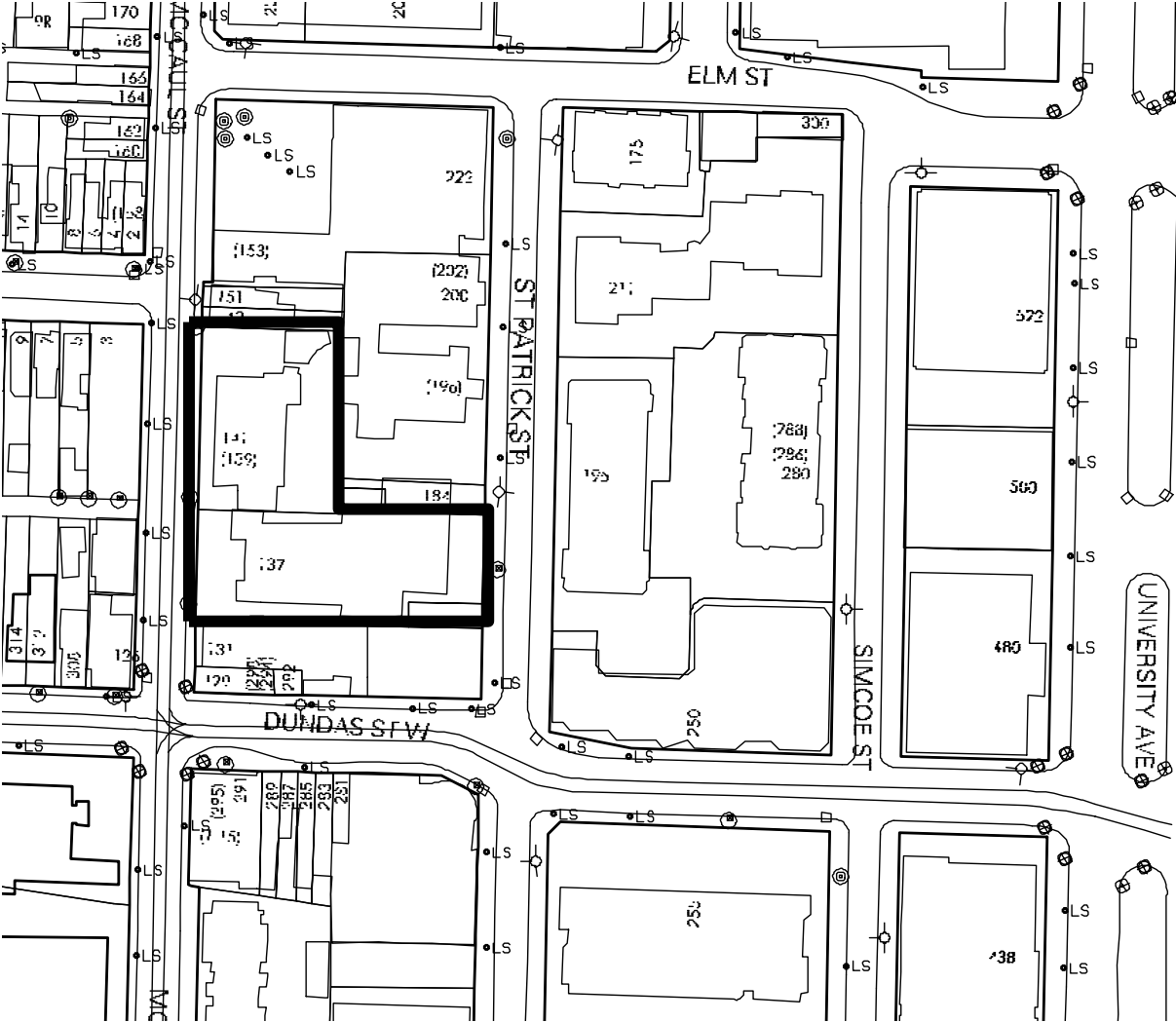
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Barbara Leonhardt  
Director, Policy & Research

List of Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 – Location Map (137 and 141 McCaul Street)  
Attachment No. 2 – Photographs (137 and 141 McCaul Street)

LOCATION MAP: 137 AND 141 MCCAUL STREET  
(ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND REDEMPORISTS RESIDENCE)



PHOTOGRAPHS: 137 AND 141 MCCAUL STREET  
(ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND REDEMPTORISTS RESIDENCE)



above: #137 McCaul (St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church)



above: #141 McCaul (Redemptorist Residence)

Reasons for Listing: 137 McCaul Street (St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church)Description

The property at 137 McCaul Street is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural resource value or interest. Located on the east side of McCaul Street north of Dundas Street West, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was completed in 1908. The plans were prepared by Toronto architect Arthur W. Holmes, who designed numerous Roman Catholic edifices throughout the city, including St. Helen's Church in Brockton and St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough (the latter properties are recognized on the Inventory of Heritage Properties). Holmes' design for St. Patrick's was purportedly inspired by St. Clement's Church (1099-1108) in Rome. The interior remained substantially undecorated until 1923, when the Rambusch firm of New York City supervised its painting (the decoration has been changed since that time).

Cultural Heritage Value

The cultural heritage value of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church lies in its historical, architectural and contextual significance. Noted for its Romanesque Revival design, the church is historically important as one of the earliest Roman Catholic parishes in Toronto, which was founded in 1860 and placed under the direction of the Redemptorists in 1881. St. Patrick's became the centre of devotion to Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help and, beginning in 1929, was the spiritual home of the city's German-speaking Roman Catholics (it remains primarily an English-speaking parish). Contextually, the church is part of a collection of religious buildings, with the adjoining Redemptorists Residence (1886) at 141 McCaul Street and, directly northeast, the former St. Patrick's Church (1870 and now known as Our Lady of Mount Carmel) at 196 St. Patrick Street.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes related to the cultural heritage value of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church are found on the exterior walls and roof, and on the interior as described below. Clad with grey Credit Valley limestone and trimmed with Ohio limestone, the structure displays a cruciform plan under a steeply-pitched gable roof. The principal (west) façade is bounded by square towers with buttresses and gablets, and a combination of round-arched and narrow lancet window openings. The south tower, which contains a secondary entrance, is protected by a hip roof with a cross. Between the towers, the main entrance (with three sets of double doors) is placed in a pedimented frontispiece that is surmounted by a cross. Three monumental round-arched window openings are centered on the west wall above an arcade of diminutive openings. Near the apex of the gable, blind arches flank a niche containing religious statuary. On the side elevations (north and south), the round-arched window openings are repeated on the transepts, along with large rose windows. The pattern and organization of the fenestration continues on the rounded apse at the east end of the church.

On the interior, the nave with its arcade of arches, clerestory windows and vaulted side aisles, the apsidal sanctuary and the short transepts, with the Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in the north transept, are significant areas that are included in the Reasons for Listing. The church contains a collection of stained glass windows, among them a rose window with images of the Sacred Heart and, in the north transept, scenes from the life of St. Alphonsus, founder of the Redemptorists. The interior decorative painting is not original and is not included in the Reasons for Listing.

Reasons for Listing: 141 McCaul Street (Redemptorists Residence)

Description

The property at 141 McCaul Street is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural resource value or interest. Located on the east side of McCaul Street north of Dundas Street West, the Redemptorists Residence was constructed in 1886 and formally opened in 1887 as the Toronto residence of the religious order founded by St. Alphonsus in 1732 to serve the poor of Naples. Accepting vows of poverty, the Redemptorists undertook missions throughout Europe and beyond. In 1866, Pope Pius IX directed the Redemptorists to perpetuate devotions to Mary, or Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The Redemptorists arrived in Quebec City in 1874 and, in 1881, established their Toronto community. At this time, the Redemptorists were tasked with overseeing St. Patrick's Church (now located at 137 McCaul Street), as well as undertaking missions throughout southwest Ontario.

Cultural Heritage Value

The cultural heritage value of the Redemptorists Residence is related to its architectural, historical and contextual significance. From their residence on McCaul Street, the Redemptorists were instrumental in bringing spiritual, educational and social services to the local community, including the neighbouring Catholic Settlement House (founded in 1930 primarily as a cultural centre for German-speaking immigrants), as well as administering to the sick at local hospitals. Architecturally, the Redemptorists Residence is a good example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century design that blends features from the Second Empire and Gothic Revival styles. It complements the neighbouring (second) St. Patrick's Church at 196 St. Patrick Street, and forms part of a religious enclave along McCaul Street and St. Patrick Street on the north side of Dundas Street West.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Redemptorists Residence are found on the exterior walls and roof. Rising 2½ stories above a stone base, the structure is clad and trimmed with buff brick. A mansard roof with gabled dormers covers the building. Substantial brick chimneys are placed on the corners, with a pair extending up the west elevation. On the principal (west) façade, the main entrance is centered and elevated in an enclosed porch where piers support a flat roof with a balustrade and a cornice with brackets. Above the porch with its religious iconography, a gabled frontispiece incorporates pointed-arch openings with keystones, trefoil and quatrefoil motifs, and a decorated pediment with a cross. The first floor displays segmental-arched window openings with hood moulds while, in the upper storey, pointed-arch surrounds with brick voussoirs contain segmental-arched window openings. String courses separate the first and second stories and link the window heads in the upper floor. The organization and detailing of the window openings is repeated on the side (north and south) elevations. The south wall of the Residence is linked to St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church at 137 McCaul Street and, with the rear (east) elevation, has been altered.