



St. John's Ecclesiastical District

Application to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

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Introduction

From the mid 1800s, the landscape of the city of St. John's has been dominated by a cluster of religious buildings. They include churches, convents, monasteries, schools, orphanages and fraternal meeting houses. These buildings stand as a physical testament to the influential role religion played in the growing city. Religious institutions were clustered above the bustle of Water and Duckworth Streets with their merchant shops and fishing premises. The daily business of the growing city was conducted there, and so the ecclesiastical buildings kept an ever vigilant eye over parishioners, businessmen and politicians alike.

The influence of religion in Newfoundland during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries stretched far beyond church doors. Religious leaders were often the catalysts behind radical political and social movements, fighting for political reform and increased minority rights. Religious orders and societies of various denominations provided education to the young and health care for the sick and elderly. Religious leaders oversaw the construction of monumental structures that would speak to the impact made by their denominations on the populace they served.

The style, scale and placement of these buildings were purposely chosen to reflect both the affluence and influence of religion in Newfoundland and the determination of religious leaders. St. John's, being the traditional and official centre of commerce, had religious buildings which were grand, solid and filled with symbolism. They were built from materials made to last in the often times brutal coastal climate. Walls of brick and granite rose above the harbour, marking the way for fishermen returning from the fishing grounds. In a town whose population was once divided along religious lines, individual buildings and clusters thereof are associated with personalities who sat in the seats of religious power and the people who found themselves under their guidance, be they orphans, school children, parents or politicians.

Understanding the symbolic power inherent in architecture, religious leaders solicited famous architects to come to the city and design these grand structures. As a result, well known, well respected American, English, Irish and Canadian architects left their imprint on the city's landscape. The spires they designed reach toward the sky, in an ever continuing pursuit to elevate both building and denomination above the crowding masses. A stone's throw from the gritty, busy waterfront, Gothic, Classic, Romanesque, Second Empire and Georgian masterpieces had their birth. Local builders and contractors became legends themselves, as they solidified their careers brick by brick, stone by stone.

These buildings remain as imposing, lasting reminders of the institutions responsible for their construction and the contribution of these religious institutions, both positive and negative, to Newfoundland society and culture. They preserve a sense of a time and a place shaped by religious doctrines and dictates that define the city to this day.



ST. JOHN'S ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRICT



1:3500

--- BOUNDARY LINE OF PROPOSED DISTRICT

Note: The boundary line shown is subject to change.
This map is to be used in a submission for a proposed
National Historic District, to be considered by the Historic Sites
and Monuments Board of Canada.



CITY OF ST. JOHN'S, NL
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
JUNE 27, 2005



Ecclesiastical District Buildings

1. Brother Rice Junior High School
2. Former Belvedere Orphanage
3. Former St. Michael's Convent, Belvedere
4. Holy Heart of Mary High School
5. Margaret's Manor (former Convent)
6. Macpherson School
7. Brother O'Hehir Arena
8. Place Bonaventure (former St. Patrick's Hall School)
9. Mount St. Francis Monastery
10. St. Bonaventure's College
11. Former St. Bonaventure's Monastery
12. Bishop's Library
13. Bishop's Palace
14. Basilica of St. John the Baptist
15. Presentation Convent
16. Our Lady of Mercy Convent and Chapel
17. Former Benevolent Irish Society Building
18. St. Andrews Church (the Kirk)
19. Cathedral Parrish Hall
20. Gower Street United Church
21. The Deanery (Anglican Cathedral Parish Rectory)
22. Anglican Cathedral Clergy House
23. Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist



St. Michael's Orphanage, Belvedere (Map Reference 2)

Description of Historic Place

St. Michael's Orphanage is a four storey, brick building built in the Second Empire style. Built in 1885, the building is located on Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

St. Michael's Orphanage is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its architectural and historic values.

St. Michael's Orphanage is architecturally valuable as an excellent example of the Second Empire employed in an institutional building. Furthermore, St. Michael's Orphanage, with the Benevolent Irish Society is the only surviving Second Empire masonry institutional building in Newfoundland. St. Michael's Orphanage is a four storey building with a central tower and ornate detailing in the trim. The window hoods in this building are the most important architectural feature of the building both for their rarity and their detailing. Made of cast iron, the window hoods on the first floor are different from those on the second floor. Other intricate Second Empire details include quoining, hooded dormers and elaborate eaves brackets.



St. Michael's Orphanage is also architecturally valuable for its association with Bishop M.F. Howley. Howley is associated with designing a number of ecclesiastical buildings in St. John's but St. Michael's Orphanage is likely the last remaining of these buildings.

St. Michael's Orphanage was built in 1885 to meet the demands for an orphanage for young girls. St. Michael's Convent quickly became too small to house the orphans so a new building was constructed for this purpose. St. Michael's Orphanage was run by the Sisters of Mercy and is historically valuable for its association with this order. This Order was formed in Dublin in 1831 by Sister Catherine McAuley. The Sisters of Mercy have made a very important contribution to the community of St. John's through their work in various fields. The Mercy Sisters are known for their work in health care at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital as well as their work with the elderly at St. Patrick's Mercy Home and especially their work in education at Our Lady of Mercy School. St. Michael's Orphanage serves as a reminder of the community work of the Sisters of Mercy.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, file C-002-351, St. John's - Belvedere Orphanage

Character Defining Elements

- All those elements that are representative of the building's age, construction and design in the Second Empire style, including:
 - mansard roof, eaves brackets, dormers;
 - ornate cast iron window hoods;
 - central tower with mansard roof;
 - original porch with pedimented entrance;
 - arched windows in central tower;
 - brick construction;
 - quoining;
 - window size and placement; and,
 - building height, size, and massing.

St. Michael's Convent, Belvedere (Map Reference 3)



Description of Historic Place

St. Michael's Convent is a two and a half storey hipped roof building located on Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's. Built in 1826 as a single dwelling, the house served as a convent of the Sisters of Mercy from 1859 until 1999. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

St. Michael's Convent is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its historic, and environmental values:

Constructed in 1826-1827, St. Michael's Convent is thought to be the second oldest building in St. John's. St. Michael's Convent was originally built as a single dwelling for Alexander Hugh Emerson, a lawyer and politician in Newfoundland. The Convent is significant as an example of a grand house for an elite member of the St. John's community. The house was unusually large for a single dwelling featuring two kitchens, two drawing rooms, a dining room, study, and ten bedrooms. This size of the house is indicative of the affluence of Emerson.

Emerson sold the house to Bishop Fleming in 1847, and it became a home for the Franciscans and the death place of Fleming in 1850. This association with Bishop Fleming is historically valuable as Fleming was highly influential in Newfoundland during his lifetime. He is known as the man responsible for the building of the Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist built and as a figure who shaped Newfoundland politics in its infancy.

In 1859, the Sisters of Mercy converted the building into a convent and orphanage and renamed it St. Michael's Convent and Orphanage in honour of their benefactor, Bishop Michael Anthony Fleming. The building soon



became too small to accommodate the number of girls. Accordingly, a new orphanage was built in 1885. The rooms used previously to accommodate the orphans now became part of St. Michael's Convent.. St. Michael's Convent is historically valuable for its association with the Sisters of Mercy. This Order was formed in Dublin in 1831 by Sister Catherine McAuley. The Sisters of Mercy have made a very important contribution to the community of St. John's through their work in various fields. The Mercy Sisters are known for their work in health care at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital as well as their work with the elderly at St. Patrick's Mercy Home and especially their work in education at Our Lady of Mercy School. The Sisters of Mercy lived at St. Michael's Convent until 1999 and today the convent serves as a reminder of the contributions of the Mercy Sisters to the community of St. John's.

St. Michael's Convent is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. The Convent is located in the centre of the city and is one of a larger number of buildings that create a complex of ecclesiastical buildings in this area.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's- St. Michael's Convent

Character Defining Elements

All elements that relate to the age, construction and period design of the convent, including:

- location in St. John's;
- timber frame construction;
- original window size and placement;
- style and pitch of existing roof;
- placement and style of dormer windows;
- placement of main door on front facade;
- use of wood clapboard; and
- building size, massing, and height.

Mount St. Francis Monastery (Map Reference 9)



Description of Historic Place

Mount St. Francis Monastery is a two and a half storey stone building built in the Gothic Revival style. Built between 1877 and 1880, Mount St. Francis Monastery is located on Merrymeeting Road in St. John's, Newfoundland. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

Heritage Value: Mount St. Francis Monastery is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its historic, architectural, and environmental values:

Mount St. Francis Monastery is historically valuable for its association with the Irish Christian Brothers. Founded in 1802 in Ireland by Brother Edmund Rice, the Irish Christian Brothers proceeded with the objective of, "To do and to teach." In 1875, the Irish Christian Brothers accepted an invitation from the Benevolent Irish Society to assume responsibility for Roman Catholic education in St. John's. This decision to come to St. John's was crucial to the development of Roman Catholic education in Newfoundland. Mount St. Francis Monastery was built between 1877 and 1880 to house the Irish Christian Brothers. The Irish Christian Brothers contributed immensely to the Roman Catholic education system in Newfoundland operating schools throughout the island at all age levels. In 1889 the Brothers took over the responsibility of St. Bonaventure's College from the diocesan priests. The Irish Christian Brothers operate schools throughout the world. From their work in Newfoundland, the Brothers branched out into schools throughout Canada and in the West Indies. The contributions of the Irish Christian Brothers to education in Newfoundland were great and

Mount St. Francis Monastery stands as a testament to this influence and contribution. This Monastery is also historically valuable as the first Irish Christian Brothers Monastery in Newfoundland.

Mount St. Francis Monastery is architecturally valuable as an example of Gothic Revival architecture in an institutional building. This style of architecture was common for monasteries built during this period. According to local tradition, Mount St. Francis Monastery is modelled after a monastery in Wexford, Ireland. The Monastery employs many Gothic elements including steeply peaked dormers, arched windows and doors, and quoining on the corners. The double bay windows topped with a steep gable roof flanking each side of the main entrance create a turret like look for the front façade of the building.

Mount St. Francis Monastery is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. The Monastery is located in the centre of the city and is one of a larger number of buildings that create a complex of ecclesiastical buildings in this area.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: "St. John's-Mount St. Francis Monastery."

Character Defining Elements

All those elements that are representative of the Gothic Revival style of architecture, including:
pointed arch windows, quoining etc.
window style and placement;

- stone construction;
- exterior colours of building;
- building height, number of storeys, roof shape and dimensions; and,
- 2 double bay windows with steep gabled roof on front façade.

All those features which speak to the environmental values of the historic place, including:

- building setback on the lot; and,
- positioning of the building relative to the nearby ecclesiastical precinct.

St. Bonaventure's College (Mullock Hall) (Map Reference 10)

Description of Historic Place

St. Bonaventure's College (Mullock Hall) is part of a larger complex of Roman Catholic ecclesiastical buildings located on Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's, Newfoundland. Built of stone, the building is influenced by the Gothic Revival style. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

St. Bonaventure's College (Mullock Hall) is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its historic, cultural, architectural and environmental values.

St. Bonaventure's College (Mullock Hall), known locally as St. Bon's, is historically valuable as one of the earliest collegiate schools for Roman Catholic boys in St. John's. The original St. Bonaventure's College was in the adjoining and earlier building, The Monastery, but by the early 20th century St. Bonaventure's College had become well established and was in need of more space. Mullock Hall was constructed in 1907-1908 to accommodate the growing number of students. Mullock Hall is historically valuable as a tribute to the school's founder, Bishop Mullock.

St. Bonaventure's College is also historically valuable for its association with many of Newfoundland's political and cultural leaders in the past century including Sir Edward Morris and Sir Michael Cashin as well as countless Rhodes Scholars and religious scholars. Furthermore, St. Bonaventure's College is historically valuable as the first school in St. John's to institute an annual sports day and in turn, St. Bon's has an excellent athletic record.

St. Bonaventure's College is culturally valuable as one of the most well-known educational facilities in St. John's. The College evokes a sense of time and place when religion and education were synonymous with one another. Furthermore, St. Bon's and its graduates stand as a testament to tradition and community. Many members of the St. Bon's community have made significant contributions to the community of St. John's and the province of Newfoundland. Since 1999 St. Bon's has been operating as a private kindergarten to grade 12 Jesuit Catholic School.

St. Bonaventure's College is architecturally valuable as an example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. The building features a number of Gothic elements in

cluding pointed arch windows and quoining at the corners of the building. There is a Classical pediment in the centre of the building with a rounded window. St. Bonaventure's College (Mullock Hall) is also architecturally valuable for its associations with local architect, Jonas Barter who later worked on renovations of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

St. Bonaventure's College is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. The College is located in the centre of the city and is one of a larger number of buildings that create a complex of ecclesiastical buildings



in this area. Furthermore, it is a landmark in St. John's, located on the top of a hill and next to the Basilica of St. John the Baptist. St. Bonaventure's College contributes to the skyline of St. John's.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's-St. Bonaventure's College.

Character Defining Elements

All those elements that define the building's Classical Revival style, including:

- pointed arch windows and doorways;
- classical pediment in centre of Mullock Hall;
- stone construction;
- quoining;
- keystone motif around windows;
- window style and position;
- general massing and number of stories; and
- location, orientation and dimensions.

The Monastery (Map Reference 11)

Description of Historic Place

The Monastery is a Georgian style, four and one half storey, cut stone ashlar building attached on one side by St. Bonaventure's College and attached on the other by the Bishop's Library in the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical district on Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Monastery was designated a registered heritage building because it has historic and aesthetic values.

The Monastery has historic value because it was constructed in 1857. Catholic Bishop Right Reverend John Thomas Mullock laid the cornerstone of a college, then St. Bonaventure's College, in 1857, and so began the first college in Newfoundland. It was officially founded and formally opened by Bishop Mullock and was so named for the Franciscan Order's most famous and scholarly theologians, St. Bonaventure. The College was instituted as a seminary for the development of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Courses were carried out in strict adherence to the standards of universities and colleges on the European continent. When the Bishop founded the College he opened an era of educational enlightenment that brought Newfoundland into the realm of Arts and Letters courses comparable with those granted by colleges throughout the world.

The Monastery is also historically valuable because it was designed by renowned Newfoundland architect James Purcell. Purcell is known for his work on the Roman Catholic Basilica of St. John the Baptist, the Colonial Building, Presentation Convent and Christ Church in Quidi Vidi. Purcell is also known for his association with builder Patrick Keough, who also worked on St. Bonaventure's College.

The Monastery also has historical value because the exterior stone was obtained at public auction in 1855 when the stones brought to St. John's from Waterford, Ireland for the new penitentiary were made available. The government had initially planned a larger penal institution, but later downsized, making the excess stone available.

The Monastery is aesthetically valuable because it is a fine example of early Georgian style in an institutional building. The building has typical Georgian symmetry, with an eight bay façade and two classical, main

entrances. At each doorway there are sidelights and a heavy, stone entablature. There are three stone chimneys and a returned, exposed eave on the building. Twin, arched windows in the gable end feature Romanesque tracery, but otherwise the Monastery has a regular fenestration pattern with slightly arched openings. The rear of the building is parged and shed and arched dormers can be found placed above the eaves. Also seen only at the rear is the quoining and the 8/8 large stairwell windows with a stone sill. The building is otherwise devoid of any ornamentation or decoration.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered files - Roman Catholic Ecclesiastical Precinct St. Bonaventure's College

Character Defining Elements

All those original, exterior elements that represent Georgian style, including:

- cut stone ashlar façade;
- mid-pitch gable roof;
- stone chimneys;
- eight bay façade with slightly arched windows;
- regular fenestration pattern;
- returned, exposed eave;
- existing building height and number of stories;
- two classical entryways with side lights and heavy stone entablature;
- twin arched window in the gable end with Romanesque tracery;
- orientation and location attached to St. Bonaventure's College and the Bishop's Library;
- rear parging;
- rear shed & arched dormers located above the eaves;
- quoining;
- 8/8 large stairwell windows with stone sill; and
- lack of ornamentation or decoration.



Bishop's Library (Map Reference 12)

Description of Historic Place

The Bishop's Library is a two-storey stone building built in the Neo-Classical style of architecture. Built in 1859, the Bishop's Library is located on Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Bishop's Library is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its architectural, historical and environmental values.

The Bishop's Library is architecturally valuable as a good example of Neo-Classical architecture. The library employs many classical elements especially on the front façade of the building. The main façade features a large central pediment supported by four Doric pilasters. The windows are spaced in a symmetrical fashion and are rounded arch windows. As is typical of Neo-Classical buildings, the central window has a different trim that the rest of the windows, employing a keystone theme. The interior of the building is also well-preserved including a fine coffered ceiling and original bookcases in the library. Another interesting architectural feature is also in the centre of the building and that is the carriage entrance that is directly below the main window and the large pediment. The placement supports the classical symmetry of the main façade of the building.

Built in 1859, shortly after the original Bishop's Palace, the Bishop's Library survived the fire of 1921 which destroyed the adjoining palace. The Library originally opened as a public library and reading room, then became the Episcopal library and reading room for the clergy. Built under the direction of Bishop Mullock, the Bishop's Library is historically valuable for its association with Bishop Mullock. Mullock had an important impact

social on the development of Catholic Education and other programs in Newfoundland during his episcopacy. In fact he is the namesake for one of the two buildings that comprise St. Bonaventure's College; Mullock Hall. The Bishop's Palace is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. The Bishop's Palace is located in the centre of the city and is one of a larger number of buildings that create a complex of ecclesiastical buildings in this area.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, unnumbered property designation file: "St. John's - Bishop's



Library".

Character Defining Elements

All elements that reflect the building's age, use and Neo-Classical design including:

- symmetrical front façade with Classical pediment;-pilasters;
- interior coffered ceiling;
- original bookcases in reading room;
- stone construction;
- rounded arch windows,
- location in relation to adjacent ecclesiastical buildings;
- arched carriage entrance; and,
- building height, massing, detailing and dimensions.

Bishop's Palace (Map Reference 13)



Description of Historic Place

The Bishop's Palace is a three storey stone and concrete building built in the Neo-Classical style of architecture. Commissioned by Archbishop Roche in 1923, the Bishop's Palace replaced a previous Palace on this site. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Bishop's Palace is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its architectural, historical and environmental values.

The Bishop's Palace is architecturally valuable as a noteworthy example of the neoclassical designs of New York architectural firm Delano and Aldrich. The firm of Williams Adams Delano and Chester H. Aldrich are also credited with the design of the King George V Building. This building is constructed with the typical Delano and Aldrich material of stone. In particular, this exterior stone is bluestone quarried at Signal Hill. Moreover, the clarity and simplicity of the design is representative of the firm's work. The building features many Neo-classical elements such as the portico supported by Doric columns, the pedimented central window and the symmetrical three bay façade on the front and the four bay façade of the other three sides.

The Bishop's Palace is also architecturally valuable for its association with well known St. John's architect John E.

Hoskins. While the designs of the building were from the firm Delano and Aldrich, the construction was supervised by Hoskins and built by contractors Pidgeon and Murphy.

The Bishop's Palace is historically valuable as a symbol of the affluence of the Roman Catholic Church during this period. Built adjacent to the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, the Bishop's Palace is the second such building on this site. The first building, built in 1856 by Bishop Mullock burned in 1921. The current building was built in 1923, under the direction of Archbishop E.P. Roche. Archbishop Roche played a central role in the social and political history of Newfoundland. Roche was associated with many important events including the opening of St. Clare's Mercy Hospital in 1922 and the Catholic Responsible Government movement in the 1940s. Roche's private opposition to it was based upon his fear that the systems of education found in Canada would be different and would challenge Newfoundland denominations' rights in education which had existed from the 1830s, and he articulated and maintained this same position from 1916 onwards. Nevertheless, the Catholic newspaper, The Monitor's editorials prompted some confederates to claim that the Church had attempted to influence voters in the confederation referenda of 3 June and 22 July 1948. This building stands as a symbol of one of Archbishop Roche's many works during his episcopacy.

The Bishop's Palace is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. The Bishop's Palace is located in the centre of the city and is one of a larger number of buildings that create a complex of ecclesiastical buildings in this area.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's-Bishop's Palace

Character Defining Elements

All elements that define the building's Neo-Classical design including:

- symmetrical facade;
- use of locally quarried stone;
- use of imported freestone for building trim;
- window and door trim;
- square floorplan; and,
- eaves brackets.

All elements that relate to the environmental value of the building including:

- location within the ecclesiastical district.

Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (Map Reference 14)



Description of Historic Place

The Basilica of St. John the Baptist is a massive, stone cathedral built in the mid 19th century in the Lombard Romanesque Revival style. It forms the core of a complex of religious buildings comprised of the Bishop's Palace, Bishop's Library, a school (Mullock Hall, St. Bonaventure's College), two monasteries, and two convents. The Basilica is prominently located on an elevated site, overlooking the city of St. John's, Newfoundland and its harbour. The formal recognition consists of the Basilica on its footprint.

Heritage Value

The Basilica of St. John the Baptist was designated a Registered Heritage Structure because of its important role in the religious, political and social history of its region, and its Lombard Romanesque architectural style.

The Roman Catholic Church has played a very important role in the religious, political and social history of Newfoundland. The Pope officially recognized Newfoundland as a separate ecclesiastical territory in 1784. However, despite the significant numbers of Roman Catholics who immigrated to Newfoundland from Ireland during the 18th and early 19th centuries, their rights with respect to worship, education, property and political participation were severely restricted until 1832, when representative government was granted to Newfoundland and restrictions on Catholics were lifted. Catholics bishops began to play an increasingly important role in Newfoundland's social relations and its educational system. They also maintained strong links with civil authorities during various disputes that threatened to divide Newfoundlanders on religious lines.

The Basilica of St. John the Baptist symbolizes the status of the Roman Catholic Church in Newfoundland. Built between 1839 and 1850, and consecrated as the cathedral for Newfoundland in 1855, it was elevated to the status of a basilica a century later to reflect its historic and religious significance. It is part of a complex of Church buildings, constructed with the financial support of Catholics across the island, that includes a school and three convents.

The Basilica was built under the direction of Bishop Michael Fleming, who served as bishop from 1830 to 1850. Fleming transformed the face of Roman Catholicism in Newfoundland while maintaining strong ties with his European colleagues. He created many new parishes, installed permanent resident priests and brought in two religious teaching orders of Sisters. His greatest preoccupation and most enduring achievement was the construction of the massive cathedral on the height of land overlooking St. John's harbour. Through his personal efforts, land, materials and funding were secured for the building which, when built, was North America's largest church.

The Basilica is a very early North American example of the Lombard Romanesque Revival style. Inspired by 12th-century Italian architecture, the style became popular in the mid-19th century for Roman Catholic churches, especially in North America, due to its association with Rome. The original designs called for the building to be faced with local stone, but the builders used less expensive Irish stone instead. The Irish stone failed under Newfoundland environmental conditions and was gradually replaced with local stone, thereby reflecting original design intentions, but not original materials.

The physical dominance and visibility of the Basilica reinforces the enormous significance of the Catholic church both to St. John's and to the province of Newfoundland.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, Fall 1983; Commemorative Integrity Statement, 2000; HFNL unnumbered designation file "St. John's - Basilica."

Character Defining Elements

Key elements which relate to the heritage value of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist include:

- features which define the building as a cathedral, including its massive scale, and cruciform plan;
- its Lombard Romanesque Revival style, evident on the exterior in the triple entry, round arched door and window openings, the use of roundels and arcading as decorative motifs, masonry facing material, and twin bell towers with pyramidal roofs;
- the high quality of craftsmanship;
- its facing with local limestone and granite trim;
- its nine bells, including the St. John Bell in the east tower, cast in Ireland by James Murphy (c 1855); the three large bells of the west tower, cast in Dublin (c1855); and the five smaller bells of the west tower (c1906);
- interior features associated with the Lombard Romanesque Revival style, including the classically styled High Altar, the repetition of the round arch in the nave and side aisles, pilasters topped with Corinthian capitals, and classically inspired features and detailing;
- the classically styled High Altar with its form, based on a tripartite triumphal arch, with the canopy supported on eight polished granite Corinthian columns, and its use of Caen stone faced with white marble;
- interior features associated with the religious, political and social history of Newfoundland, including a 1905 stained glass window commemorating appointment of the first archbishop of Newfoundland in 1904, a 1955 shrine commemorating the historical ties between Newfoundland and Portugal, and a Casavant organ installed in 1955 to commemorate parishioners who died in World Wars I and II;
- seven stained glass windows by William Warrington;
- marble statuary and carvings by well-known, mid-19th century, Irish, Neo-classical sculptors, including exterior and interior statuary by John Edward Carew (1785-1868), and interior statuary and bas-relief by John Hogan (1800-1858);
- the ornate plaster ceiling designed and crafted in 1903 by Newfoundland artist Dan Carroll and the Conway family of plasterers, and polychromed in 1955 by the Rambusch Decorating Company of New York;
- its functional and spatial relationship to other buildings in the complex, including the convents of the Presentation Sisters and the Sisters of Mercy, Mt. St. Francis Monastery, the bishop's residence and library, and St. Bonaventure School;
- its prominent, elevated siting on one of the highest pieces of ground in the city, overlooking the city and harbour;
- its orientation towards the harbour; and,
- viewsapes to and from the Basilica and the harbour

Presentation Convent and School (Map Reference 15)

Description of Historic Place

Presentation Convent and School are 3 storey stone buildings influenced by the Classical Revival style of architecture. The Convent and School are located in Cathedral Square in St. John's, Newfoundland. This designation is confined to the footprint of the buildings.

Heritage Value

Presentation Convent and School are designated as Registered Heritage Structures due to their historic, architectural and environmental values.

Presentation Convent and School are historically valuable for their association with the Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Presentation Sisters in Newfoundland originated with the Presentation Congregation founded by Nano Nagle in Cork, Ireland. By 1833, Bishop Fleming was building the Catholic Education System in St. John's and visited Ireland to recruit some teachers. Bishop Fleming requested a meeting with the Presentation Sisters in Galway, Ireland, and as a result of that meeting four Sisters volunteered to cross the Atlantic to minister as educators in Newfoundland. During their first twenty years, the Presentation Sisters moved the Presentation Sisters moved their residence several times in in order to accommodate the growing number of young girls.

Finally, a convent and a school were built on Long's Hill in 1844 but both were razed in the fire of 1846. In 1850, Bishop Mullock laid the cornerstone for a new convent and in 1853 the Presentation was officially opened. This historic building, the Presentation Motherhouse, remains today the central convent of the congregation in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Both the Presentation Convent and School are historically valuable as a symbol of the contribution made by the Presentation Sisters to Newfoundland society and as a testament to the significant growth of Catholicism during the late

1800s in part due to their influence in apostolic endeavors.

Presentation Convent is architecturally valuable as a good example of an institutional building influenced by the Classical Revival style of architecture. With a symmetrical façade, a large tetrastyle portico with ionic columns, and quoining, Presentation Convent features of a number of classical elements. Presentation School is also architecturally valuable for its Classical Revival elements including a pediment, quoining and rounded arch windows. Presentation Convent and School are also architecturally valuable for its association with renowned architect James Purcell and his partner, builder Patrick Keough. Purcell and Keough are well known for their work on Christ Church in Quidi Vidi, St. Bonaventure's College and the Colonial Building among others.

Presentation Convent and School are environmentally valuable for their location in St. John's. The Convent and School are located in the centre of the city and are two of a larger number of buildings that create a complex of ecclesiastical buildings in this area.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's, Presentation Convent and School

Character Defining Elements

All elements that define the buildings' Classical Revival design including:

- symmetrical facade;
- portico on main facade;
- stone construction;
- eaves brackets;
- window size and position;
- returned eaves on gable ends of convent;
- general massing; and
- orientation, location, dimensions.



Our Lady of Mercy Convent (Map Reference 16)



Description of Historic Place

Our Lady of Mercy Convent is a four storey, granite building built in the Second Empire style. Constructed in 1857, it replaced the original convent built in 1842. This first convent was a wooden structure, situated approximately where the chapel now stands. The present convent has been the home of the Sisters of Mercy for almost 150 years. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

Our Lady of Mercy Convent is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its historic and environmental value:

Our Lady of Mercy Convent was built in 1857 under the supervision of Rt. Rev. Mullock to house the Sisters of Mercy. The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy are a Roman Catholic religious institute that started their work in Newfoundland in 1842. Our Lady of Mercy Convent is historically valuable for its association with the Mercy Sisters. This Order was founded in Dublin in 1831 by Sister Catherine McAuley. In 1841, Bishop Fleming decided to establish a convent and school for families that were capable of paying educational fees. This institution was intended to complement the existing school for the poor, operated by the Presentation Sisters. The Sisters of Mercy were commissioned by Bishop Fleming to accomplish this task. The Sisters of Mercy have made a very important contribution to the community of St. John's through their work in various fields. The Mercy Sisters are known for their work in health care at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital as well as their work with the elderly at St. Patrick's Mercy Home and especially their work in education at Our Lady

of Mercy School. The convent is historically valuable as a symbol of the work of the Sisters of Mercy. Our Lady of Mercy Convent serves as the point of origin for all of the paths of Mercy in Newfoundland.

Our Lady of Mercy Convent is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. Mercy Convent is located on Military Road near the Basilica of St. John the Baptist and Presentation Convent. Furthermore, it is one of a larger complex of ecclesiastical buildings in this area of St. John's.

Our Lady of Mercy Convent is architecturally valuable as an example of the Second Empire style employed in an institutional building. Our Lady of Mercy Convent is a four storey granite building that exhibits elements of this style. Many of the typical Second Empire elements are preserved in this building including peaked dormers, a mansard roof, and eaves brackets. Furthermore, an interesting feature of the building is an M-shaped red stone on the west wall of the building. Bishop Mullock received the stone from the mother house of the Carmelite Sisters in Spain. The stone was meant to link Our Lady of Mercy Convent with Bishop Mullock's alma mater, the Carmelite University of Salamanca.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file, St. John's - Our Lady of Mercy Convent

Character Defining Elements

All those elements that are representative of a Second Empire style convent within a larger grouping of ecclesiastical buildings, including:

- mansard roof, eaves brackets, and peaked dormers;
- window style and placement;
- single hung 1/1 windows;
- granite construction;
- M-shaped red stone on west wall;
- dormer configuration and placement;
- central window in fourth storey;
- transom windows over doorways;
- building placement and location in relation to the Basilica of St. John the Baptist; and,
- general massing of the building.

Oratory of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Mercy Convent (Map Reference 16)

Description of Historic Place

The Oratory of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Mercy Convent, is a granite building built in the Renaissance Revival style of architecture. Located on Military Road in St. John's, this chapel has served the Sisters of Mercy since 1892. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

Our Lady of Mercy Convent is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its architectural, historic, environmental values.

The Oratory of the Sacred Heart is architecturally valuable as a fine example of Renaissance Revival architecture in an ecclesiastical context. Constructed of granite, the Oratory of the Sacred Heart features rusticated quoining on the exterior and large stained glass windows. The front façade of the chapel features a large stained glass window, and a large entranceway with decorative trim. The main entrance is flanked by a small turret on each side and a statue of the Sacred Heart in the centre. The roof of the chapel is gambrel and there is a rounded apse at the east end of the church with a domed ceiling. This chapel has a well-preserved interior that features many elements of the Renaissance Revival style of architecture. The interior of this chapel features a domed ceiling over the altar. The walls and ceiling feature elaborate plasterwork and the trim is painted in bright colors typical of the Renaissance Revival style. There are also decorative pilasters with Corinthian capitals and intricate stained glass windows throughout the chapel.

The Oratory of the Sacred Heart was built in 1892 as a memorial to the Golden Jubilee. The room that had served as a chapel since 1857 became the present community room. Our Lady of Mercy Chapel is historically valuable due to its association with the Sisters of Mercy. The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy is a Roman Catholic Religions Institute founded in Dublin in Catherine McAuley. After the arrival of the sisters of Mercy in Newfoundland in 1842, Bishop Fleming built the first Mercy Convent a day school for

families that were capable of paying educational fees. This institution would complement the existing school for the poor, operated by the Presentation Sisters. The Sisters of Mercy were commissioned by Bishop Fleming to accomplish this task.

The Sisters of Mercy have made a very important contribution to the community of St. John's through their work in various fields. The Mercy Sisters are known for their work in health care at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital as well as their work with the elderly at St. Patrick's Mercy Home and especially their work in education at Our Lady of Mercy School. The convent is historically valuable as a symbol of the work of the Sisters of Mercy. Our Lady of Mercy Convent serves as the point of origin for all of the paths of Mercy in Newfoundland.

The Oratory of the Sacred Heart is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. It is connected to Our Lady of Mercy Convent and is located on Military Road near the Basilica of St. John the Baptist and Presentation Convent. Furthermore, it is one of a larger complex of ecclesiastical buildings in this area of St. John's.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, unnumbered property file: St. John's: Our Lady of Mercy Convent



Character Defining Elements

All those exterior elements that are representative of the Renaissance Revival style of architecture as applied to a chapel, including:

- plaster work, bright colors;
- window style & placement;
- rounded apse with domed ceiling;
- granite construction;
- stained glass windows;
- statue of Sacred Heart on front facade;
- twin spires; and,
- rusticated quoining on exterior.

Benevolent Irish Society (BIS) (Map Reference 17)



Description of Historic Place

Built of stone in Second Empire style, the Benevolent Irish Society Building is a three storey mansard roofed building with attached tower. Constructed between 1877 and 1880, with the addition of the O' Donel wing in 1906, the structure is located at 48 Queen's Road in St. John's, NL. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Benevolent Irish Society Building is designated because of its historical, cultural and aesthetic value.

The Benevolent Irish Society Building has historical value due to the age of the structure and its association with the Benevolent Irish Society and prominent Newfoundland citizens. It is one of few remaining buildings in St. John's built before the great fire of 1892. While the interior had to be rebuilt, the exterior survived the fire which destroyed much of the city. In addition, it was home to the oldest charitable, social and non-secret fraternal organization in Newfoundland. Founded in 1806, the Benevolent Irish Society was unique in that it was nonsectarian and offered assistance to the needy regardless of their religion. The founders of the Society were among the first generation of permanent residents in Newfoundland. They included politicians, businessmen and clergy who played significant roles in the political, economic and spiritual growth of the developing colony. The Benevolent Irish Society Building has cultural value because of the role it served in the community. In addition to its charitable activities, the Society was involved in the education of the young in St. John's. Members of the Benevolent Irish Society saw education as an answer to improving the situation of the poor in

the city. In addition to operating the non-denominational Orphan Asylum School, they provided monetary assistance to help establish Roman Catholic schools in the city. Roman Catholic schools also operated out of the Benevolent Irish Society Building for many years. Also of significance was the 1906 conversion of the third floor assembly hall into the Nickel Theatre. It was one of the first North American theatres to show silent films and remained a popular cinema and gathering place for several decades.

The Benevolent Irish Society Building has aesthetic value as is it one of the few

surviving Second Empire style masonry buildings in Newfoundland and Labrador. Second Empire influences are evident in the roof type, exterior decorative features, window style and placement and symmetrical lines on the facade. The building's most prominent feature is the central tower on the front facade. It stands four full storeys and is topped by a decorative cupola and cresting.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property designation file, St. John's - Benevolent Irish Society

Character Defining Elements

- inset figure of St. Patrick on tower with the BIS motto "He that gives to the poor lends to the Lord" surrounding it;
- the inscription "INS BIS 1806" above front door;
- mansard roof;
- number of storeys;
- stone walls with cement parging;
- granite quoining;
- heavy moulded cornice on eave;
- eaves brackets;
- belt course to denote separate storeys;
- window size, style, trim and placement;
- size, style, trim and placement of exterior doors;
- entablature, shaped trim, moulded pilaster and bracketing on main entrance;
- location of tower on front facade;
- cupola on central tower;
- cresting on cupola;
- original style, form, scale and massing of O'Donel Hall; and
- dimension, location and orientation of building.

St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk) (Map Reference 18)

Description of Historic Place

St. Andrew's Church is a red and grey brick church built in the Gothic Revival style. Built between 1893 and 1896, St. Andrew's Hill is located prominently on a hill above Queen's Road at Long's Hill in St. John's. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

St. Andrew's Church is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its architectural and historic values.

St. Andrew's Church is architecturally valuable as a good example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. Built of brick and stone imported from Scotland, the exterior of the church features a number of Gothic elements. Some of these elements include, pointed arch windows and doors, spire, finials, buttresses and arcading. The church also has a cruciform layout which is typical of a Gothic Revival style church built during this period. While the design of this church is generally very traditional there are some features that make the church unique. For instance, St. Andrew's has an apsidal front on its south end, which provides an architecturally interesting entrance to the church. Furthermore, the red and black Newfoundland slate used for the roof shingling provides an interesting striping to the building. The size and scale of this church are also important as they stand as a testament to the determination of the Presbyterian community in St. John's. In 1892, a year before the construction of this church, the Presbyterian community made up only 3% of the total population of St. John's.

St. Andrew's Church is also architecturally valuable for its association with architect James Wills. Wills was commissioned to come to St. John's to repair the Anglican Cathedral after the Great Fire of 1892. While he was here, the congregation of St. Andrew's Church commissioned him to design their new church. He is also known for designing the Masonic Temple on Cathedral Street.

St. Andrew's Church boasts one of the world's best collections of Ballentine stained-glass windows from the renowned firm A. Ballentine & Sons of Scotland. Between 1902 and 1926 James Ballentine installed a series of twelve windows depicting various episodes in the life of Jesus Christ. Other windows were added in 1922, 1963, and 1989.



St. Andrew's Church is historically valuable as a symbol of the longevity and determination of the Presbyterian community in St. John's. The Presbyterian congregation in St. John's has had a lengthy and colourful history. St. Andrew's Church, built between 1893 and 1896 is the fourth Presbyterian Church in St. John's. The first church was built on this site in 1843 and remained on this site until 1876 when it was burned. In 1843, the Established Church in Scotland divided, with many in the congregation following the new Free Church. In 1849, St. Andrew's Church in St. John's divided and there was a Free Church built on Duckworth Street. These separate congregations continued for about 30 years, until the Free Church burned in 1876. The third Presbyterian Church in St. John's marked the reunion of the two congregations of the Presbyterian faith. This church was constructed in 1878 on Duckworth Street. This church burned in the Great Fire of 1892. Built after this fire, the current church stands as a testament to a period of great rebuilding in St. John's. It is built on the site of the first church and incorporates the cornerstone of the third church as well as a medallion featuring a burning bush. This church is likely built on the foundation walls of the original church. In general, St. Andrew's Church survives as a monument to the 19th Century Scottish influence in the development of St. John's.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's-St. Andrew's Church

Character Defining Elements

All those exterior elements that are representative of the Gothic Revival style of architecture as executed in brick, including:

- spire, pointed arch windows, finials, arcading;
- imported stone and brick construction;
- cruciform layout;
- apsidal south front;
- cornerstone;
- burning bush medallion;
- red and black slate roofing;
- tower with spire;
- dentils;
- eaves brackets;
- rose window and other stained glass windows; and
- building height, massing, size and dimensions.

Gower Street United Church (Map Reference 20)

Description of Historic Place

Gower Street United Church was built in the wake of the Great Fire of 1892. Built of brick, this church was designed by British architect Elijah Hoole in the Gothic Revival style. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

Gower Street United Church is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure for its architectural, historic, and environmental values.

Gower Street United Church is architecturally valuable as an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. Many Romanesque

Revival features have been employed in this church such as rounded arches in the windows and doors, arched corbels under the eaves, and the rounded towers with conical roofs. This style is unusual in the ecclesiastical architecture of St. John's and is in great contrast to that of the nearby Anglican Cathedral and Roman Catholic Basilica.

The interior of Gower Street United Church is also architecturally valuable as it has remained largely unaltered since its construction in 1896. The interior features a hammerbeam roof as well as original woodwork in the pews and many of the railings. Furthermore, the iron grillwork in the loft railings dates to the construction of the church. While the stained glass windows of the church are not original, there are a number of colored glass windows inside the church that are original. These windows are mainly transom windows and sidelights.

Gower Street United Church is also associated with well-known British architect, Elijah Hoole. Hoole was the son of a Methodist missionary to South India and he specialized in building Methodist churches and urban workers dwellings in England. He also designed George Street United Church in St. John's.

The congregation of Gower Street United Church is the oldest Methodist congregation in St. John's, dating to 1815. This church is the fourth building to house this congregation and has lasted the longest of the four. This church was rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1892 which destroyed much of the built environment of downtown St. John's. The period after the Great Fire was one of



great rebuilding and Gower Street United Church is an example of this rebuilding.

The location of Gower Street United Church is environmentally valuable. Located in the downtown area, Gower Street United Church is one of a number of buildings of varying faiths in this area. Together, these buildings create an ecclesiastical cluster in downtown St. John's.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's- Gower Street United Church.

Character Defining Elements

All those elements that are representative of the Romanesque Revival design including:

- rounded arches;
- round towers with conical roofs;
- arched corbels;
- hammerbeam roof;
- interior woodwork including pews and railings;
- colored glass windows in interior transoms and sidelights;
- iron grillwork in loft railings;
- red brick façade;
- terra cotta ornamental panels on exterior;
- decorative exterior brickwork;
- iron columns supporting gallery;
- and, location of church.

The Deanery (Cathedral Parish Rectory) (Map Reference 21)



Description of Historic Place

The Deanery was built between 1894 and 1895 to house the dean of Cathedral Parish. It is a two and a half storey, brick building with a multi-gabled roof. Inspired by Queen Anne Revival style, it is located at 22 Church Hill, St. John's, NL. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Deanery has been designated a heritage building by the city of St. John's due to its aesthetic, historic and environmental values.

The Deanery is aesthetically valuable as it is a fine example of brick construction in St. John's following the Great Fire of 1892. It has further aesthetic value as a restrained example of Queen Anne Revival design in St. John's. Typical features of this style utilized in the construction of The Deanery include the use of red brick, quoining, asymmetrical facade, multi-gabled steep pitched roof, chimney stacks, ornamental horizontal banding to visually divide storeys, three-sided multi-story bays and the use of an assortment of window styles. Similar in design to the Anglican Cathedral Clergy House and one of few such buildings in the downtown area of the city, The Deanery is reminiscent of a type of vicarage common in England during the Victorian era.

The Deanery has historical value because of its association with the Anglican Church (previously the Church of England) in Newfoundland and Labrador from the late 1800s into the late 1900s. Cathedral Parish was part of the greater bishopric of Newfoundland and Bermuda, established in 1839. Through missionary efforts during the later half of the 1800s, the church spread throughout the colony from traditional bases in

Harbour Grace, Bonavista, Trinity and St. John's. Despite these expansions, Cathedral Parish remained as a spiritual centre for Anglicans in the region.

The Deanery has environmental value as it is a component of a greater ecclesiastical area in downtown St. John's. This area is comprised of church properties owned by several denominations and is a recognized feature of the built landscape in the downtown core. In close proximity to the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, The Deanery shares a plot of land with the similarly designed Anglican Cathedral Clergy House. They are situated on a high hill and are surrounded by four city streets in the centre of this ecclesiastical area.

Source: City of St. John's Archives, 3rd Floor, Railway Coastal Museum, 495 Water Street, P.O. Box 908, St. John's, NL, A1C 5M2

Character Defining Elements

All those architectural features indicative of its Queen Anne Revival style, including;

- number of storeys;
- placement of chimneys and style (corbelled tops, ribbed pattern and chimney pots);
- red brick and stone construction;
- quoining on corners and window surrounds;
- sandstone detailing including moulded banding, lintels and sills;
- stone foundation;
- multi-gabled roof;
- Scotch gables;
- copper eaves trough;
- window size, style, trim and placement;
- two storey bay window with three sided roof and dentils on front facade;
- one storey bay window with mansard copper roof on right facade;
- peaked pedimented dormer windows on left and rear facades;
- peaked pedimented dormer window with Scotch gable on right facade;
- arched window trimmed with keystone pattern on left facade;
- size, style, trim and placement of exterior doors;
- size, style and placement of enclosed porch with pedimented roof on left facade;
- decorative sandstone plaque with floral design and date of construction 1894;
- dimension, location and orientation of building.

Anglican Cathedral Parish House (Map Reference 22)



Description of Historic Place

The Anglican Cathedral Parish House was built between 1894 and 1895. It is a two and a half storey, brick building with a multi-gabled roof. Inspired by Queen Anne Revival style, it is located at 9 Cathedral Street, St. John's, NL. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Anglican Cathedral Parish House has been designated a heritage building by the city of St. John's due to its aesthetic, historic and environmental values.

The Anglican Cathedral Parish House is aesthetically valuable as it is a fine example of brick construction in St. John's following the Great Fire of 1892. It has further aesthetic value as a restrained example of Queen Anne Revival design, executed in brick and stone, in St. John's. Typical features of this style utilized in the construction of The Anglican Cathedral Parish House include the use of red brick, quoining, asymmetrical facade, multi-gabled steep pitched roof, chimney stacks, ornamental horizontal banding to visually divide storeys and the use of an assortment of window styles. Similar in design to The Deanery (Cathedral Parish Rectory) and one of few such buildings in the downtown area of the city, the Anglican Cathedral Parish House is reminiscent of a type of vicarage common in England during the Victorian era.

The Anglican Cathedral Parish House has historical value because of its association with the Anglican Church (previously the Church of England) in Newfoundland and Labrador from the late 1800s into the late 1900s. Cathedral Parish was part of the greater bishopric of Newfoundland and Bermuda, established in 1839.

Through missionary efforts during the later half of the 1800s, the church spread throughout the colony from traditional bases in Harbour Grace, Bonavista, Trinity and St. John's. Despite these expansions, Cathedral Parish remained as a spiritual centre for Anglicans in the region.

The Anglican Cathedral Parish House has environmental value as it is a component of a greater ecclesiastical area in downtown St. John's. This area is comprised of church properties owned by several denominations and is a recognized feature of the built landscape in the downtown core. In close proximity to the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the Anglican Cathedral Parish House shares a plot of land with the similarly designed Deanery. They are situated on a high hill and are surrounded by four city streets in the centre of this ecclesiastical area.

Source: City of St. John's Archives, 3rd Floor, Railway Coastal Museum, 495 Water Street, P.O. Box 908, St. John's, NL, A1C 5M2

Character Defining Elements

All those architectural features indicative of its Queen Anne Revival style, including;

- number of storeys;
- placement of chimneys and style (corbelled tops, ribbed pattern and chimney pots);
- red brick and stone construction;
- quoining on corners and window surrounds;
- sandstone detailing including moulded banding, lintels and sills;
- stone foundation;
- multi-gabled roof;
- window size, style, trim and placement;
- round windows on front facade;
- one storey, three sided bay window on right facade;
- peaked pedimented dormer window on right facade;
- peaked pedimented dormer window with Scotch gable on rear facade;
- size, style, trim and placement of exterior doors and porches;
- dimension, location and orientation of building.

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (Map Reference 23)

Description of Historic Place:

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is a stone, English Gothic Revival church built on a hill in downtown St. John's. It is located at 016 Church Hill and is bound on all sides by city streets. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value:

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist was designated for its historic and aesthetic values.

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist has historic value because it is the oldest Anglican parish in North America, founded in 1699 by Reverend John Jackson. Between 1699 and 1905 an estimated seven churches built of wood and, later, stone, were built on or near the site of the Cathedral, including the present one. In 1720 the first of three wooden churches to occupy the site of the present Cathedral was built. In 1839 the parish had been elevated to diocesan status as the Diocese of Newfoundland; the parish church had become the diocesan Cathedral.

In 1844 Edward Feild became Bishop of St. John the Baptist Cathedral, succeeding Bishop George Aubrey Spencer. Spencer had commissioned the construction of a stone cathedral and a cornerstone was laid August 24, 1843. However, during the Great Fire of 1846 the wooden crating that held the Irish limestone purchased for the construction ignited and reduced most of the stone to chalk. When Bishop Feild assumed his position he put measures into place to re-dedicate the foundation stone and complete the church. Feild commissioned a new design from the noted English architect Sir George Gilbert Scott. The nave was built between 1847 and 1850 and it alone served as the Cathedral church for thirty years until the transepts and choir were begun in 1880 and consecrated in 1885.

During the episcopate of the fourth bishop, Llewellyn Jones, the Cathedral was almost destroyed in the Great Fire of 1892, and rebuilt under his leadership. This fire, which consumed much of St. John's, was equally devastating to the church. Timbers burned, the roof collapsed, the nave was destroyed, the clerestories fell and all but one stained glass window were destroyed. Restoration of the church commenced in 1893 and the choir and transepts were rebuilt first. This part served as a place of worship until the reconstruction of the nave, which was begun in 1902 and re-dedicated in 1905. The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist has been the recipient of the Southcott Award and it is designated a Registered Heritage Structure on three levels: Federally, Provincially and Municipally.

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist has aesthetic value because it is one of the finest examples of stone, Gothic Revival church architecture in the province. Built following the plans of Gilbert Scott, son of Sir George Scott, the building is an extraordinary expression of the Church's desire for a "proper" cathedral building. The Cathedral is built in English Gothic Revival style based on a Latin cross plan. The vaulting in the transept and choir ceilings was raised beyond that of the nave. The rock used in the building is white, fine-grained sandstone which was imported, dressed, from Scotland. Approximately 7500 tons of Newfoundland quarried bluestone was used in the building of the walls.

Other architectural features are the clerestory, the buttresses, the triple lancet windows and a slate roof. The multi-gables have finials at their peaks and there are round windows located prominently in each gable end and there is a rose window above the great west door. The Cathedral has numerous gargoyles and carvings; these include sculptures of actual people prominent in the Diocese, the nation and the Empire during the construction of the church, such as Queen Victoria. The oldest gargoyle located in the south transept is approximately 1000 years old; it came from the roof of Bristol Cathedral. The Cathedral also has numerous other plaques, relics, and historic pieces of stonework, as well as a museum and archives.

*Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador
unnumbered property designation file - St. John's, Anglican Cathedral*

Character Defining Elements

All those elements that embody the Gothic Revival style of architecture, including:

- mixed stone construction;
- steeply pitched gable roofs with slate shingles;
- lancet windows;
- mixed sandstone and bluestone construction;
- clerestory;
- round windows; and
- gargoyles and other sculptures.



Relevant Buildings Bordering the Ecclesiastical District

There are several provincially designated church buildings outside of the core of the Ecclesiastical District, but which contribute significantly to the religious and architectural character of downtown St. John's. The three active churches closest to the Ecclesiastical District are included here.

Cochrane Street United Church

Description of Historic Place

Cochrane Street United Church is a steel framed church reminiscent of the Mediterranean style of architecture. Built in 1915, Cochrane Street United Church is located on Cochrane Street in downtown St. John's. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

Cochrane Street United Church is designated as a City of St. John's Heritage Structure due to its architectural and environmental values.

Cochrane Street United Church is architecturally valuable for its unique design. Designed in a Mediterranean style of architecture reminiscent of Romanesque Revival, Cochrane Street United Church is the only church of this type in St. John's. The church features many unique features including Roman arched windows and arcading as well as an impressive, open bell tower. The red and white colours of the building are further indicative of the Mediterranean style as is the use of Corinthian capitals throughout the structure. The interior of the church also features a number of unique elements including barrel vaults and a soaring Byzantine style dome. Built during World War I, the architecture of Cochrane Street United Church is a reminder of what is possible during times of restraint. Circumstances such as fire, wartime and limited resources prompted the congregation of Cochrane Street United Church to think and act in a more contemporary manner. The result was an architecturally unique structure designed by a leading architectural firm.

Cochrane Street United Church is also architecturally valuable for its association with the architectural firm of Ross and McDonald. Ross and McDonald are credited with being the longest continuous architectural firm in Canadian history, conducting business between 1913 and 1942. The Montreal firm is credited with many architecturally important building throughout Canada including the Royal York Hotel in Toronto and numerous buildings on the McGill University Campus in Montreal.

Cochrane Street United Church is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. This church forms part of a complex of select buildings which symbolize the early governmental, religious, and military history of Newfoundland.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's- Cochrane Street United Church

Character Defining Elements



All elements that define the building's Mediterranean and Romanesque Revival design including:

- use of local materials;
- location in St. John's;
- steel frame construction;
- colours of building;
- Roman windows and arcading;
- Byzantine dome;
- bell tower;
- decorative brickwork around doors & windows;
- eaves brackets;
- interior barrel vaulting;
- window style and placement;
- finials;
- stained glass windows; and,
- all interior features reflective of the arts and crafts movement.

George Street United Church



Description of Historic Place

Built in 1873, George Street United Church is the oldest Methodist church in St. John's. Designed by Elijah Hoole, it is a stone church built in the Gothic Revival style of architecture. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

George Street United Church is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its architectural and historical values.

George Street United Church is architecturally valuable as a fine example of a modified Gothic Revival church. Constructed of local stone quarried from the Southside Hills, the entire building is sheathed in concrete. Despite this, many typical Gothic elements remain intact including the pointed arch lancet windows and the large stained glass windows. Furthermore, the interior of this church is architecturally valuable for its well-preserved woodwork. The exposed timber hammerbeam roof of the nave is a typical Gothic element.

George Street United Church is also architecturally valuable for its association with British architect, Elijah Hoole. Hoole was a well known architect whose other works included Gower Street United Church in St. John's. Furthermore, George Street United Church was built by local master builder William Campbell and locally known mason Richard Atwill.

George Street United Church is historically valuable as the oldest Methodist Church in St. John's. Built in 1873, George Street United Church is one of the only churches in the downtown area to survive the Great Fire of 1892. This Church is also historically valuable because August 5, 1874 it was the site of the Organizational Assembly of the First Methodist Conference. Up until this point, Newfoundland had been a district of the Conference of Eastern British America. Reverend George Mulligan, who as Superintendent Minister of the St. John's circuit was the principal minister of George Street Church, was elected first President of the new conference at this meeting.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's-George Street United Church

Character Defining Elements

All those elements that are representative of the ecclesiastical Gothic Revival style of architecture, including:

- stained glass windows;
- hammerbeam roof;
- interior woodwork;
- stone construction;
- concrete sheathing;
- turrets at West end of church;
- kicked eaves; and,
- cruciform layout.

St. Thomas' Church

Description of Historic Place

St. Thomas' Church is a three storey, timber framed church built in the Gothic Revival style of architecture. This church, built in 1836, is the oldest church in the city of St. John's. This designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

St. Thomas' Anglican Church is designated as a Registered Heritage Structure due to its architectural, historical and environmental value.

St. Thomas' Anglican Church is architecturally valuable as an excellent example of an early Gothic Revival building in Newfoundland. As the oldest Anglican Church in Newfoundland, St. Thomas' exhibits a simpler plan than many of St. John's other large churches. St. Thomas' Anglican Church is a large wooden building constructed of local spruce and pine, featuring a simple shape, and timber frame construction and these features make St. Thomas' unquestionably a pioneer church. Furthermore, in its application of Gothic motifs to the exterior of the church St. Thomas' is also an example of the early development of Gothic Revival architecture in Canada. The early Gothic tradition in Canada involved the use of Gothic elements such as pointed arch windows on the exterior of traditionally simple buildings. Perhaps the most distinguishing Gothic feature of St. Thomas' Church is its spire which sets it apart from other Gothic churches in British North America during this period. Other structures had the same central square tower façade but the spire did not become common until the 1840s. Moreover, within the immediate neighbourhood of stone buildings, the appearance of St. Thomas' church is distinctive.

St. Thomas' Anglican Church is also architecturally valuable for its association with locally renowned builder Patrick Keough. Keough came to Newfoundland from Wexford, Ireland and is noted for his work on Government House, Presentation Convent and Harbour Grace Courthouse. St. Thomas' Church is valuable as a rare known surviving example of this prominent builder's work in wood. The fact that St. Thomas' church remains intact after almost 170 years stands as a testament to the quality of the craftsmanship of Keough.

St. Thomas' Church is historically valuable as the oldest, continuously used Anglican Church in St. John's (perhaps in Newfoundland) having survived both Great Fires of the

19th century in St. John's. Built in 1836, the land for the church was secured by Governor Sir Thomas Cochrane with the stipulation that space in the church be reserved for officers and troops of the nearby Garrison. St. Thomas' served as the Garrison church from 1837 until 1871 when the British Garrison in St. John's closed. St. Thomas' is also valuable for its association with Bishop Aubrey Spencer who commissioned the church and consecrated the church in 1840.

St. Thomas' Anglican Church is environmentally valuable for its location in St. John's. This church forms part of a complex of select buildings which symbolize the early governmental, religious, and military history of Newfoundland.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador unnumbered property file: St. John's-St. Thomas' Church

Character Defining Elements

All those elements which are representative of the building's age and construction in the ecclesiastical Gothic Revival style of architecture, including:

- central square tower, pointed arches, spire
- use of local materials;
- mid pitch gable roof;
- layout of building;
- location in St. John's;
- window style and placement;
- window and door trim;
- narrow clapboard sheathing; and,
- building height, massing, dimensions and size.



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