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THE CITY OF WINDSOR

COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

VALERIE
CITY CLERK



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER
TO OUR FILE NO. **MBA-9829**

REGISTERED MAIL

May 30, 2008

Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide St. E., 3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

Dear Sirs:

Re: Designation of Academie Ste. Cecile International School – 925 Cousineau Road

Council, for the Corporation of the City of Windsor, at its meeting held February 11, 2008 passed By-law Number 28-2008 to designate **Academie Ste. Cecile International School – 925 Cousineau Road** as a property of architectural and/or historic significance under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

- * A copy of the by-law outlining the reasons for designation is attached. Notice of the designating By-law will be published in the Windsor Star on June 7, 2008.

Yours very truly,

Steve Vlachodimos
Manager of Council & Committee Services / Deputy Clerk

KK/ml
Attachments

BY - LAW NUMBER 28-2008

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE LANDS AND PREMISES SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF WINDSOR, MUNICIPALLY KNOWN AS 925 COUSINEAU ROAD, TO BE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.18, AS AMENDED

Passed the 11th day of February, 2008.

WHEREAS by virtue of the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, the Council of a municipality may, by by-law, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest.

AND WHEREAS upon consideration of the recommendation of the Windsor Heritage Committee, The Corporation of the City of Windsor deems it desirable and expedient to designate the lands municipally known as 925 Cousineau Road, more particularly described in Schedule "A" annexed hereto and forming part of this by-law (the subject lands), to be of cultural heritage value or interest, for the reasons stated in Schedule "B" annexed hereto and forming part of this by-law.

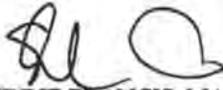
AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the subject lands, was served on the owner(s) of the said subject lands and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and such notice was published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality, on *Saturday, November 3, 2007*.

AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intention in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Windsor enacts as follows:

1. That the lands municipally known as 925 Cousineau Road, more particularly described in said Schedule "A" annexed hereto, be and the same is hereby designated to be of cultural heritage value or interest, for the reasons stated in said Schedule "B" annexed hereto.

2. This by-law shall come into force and take effect after the final passing thereof on the day upon which it is electronically registered in the Land Registry Office for the County of Essex (No. 12).


EDDIE FRANCIS, MAYOR


CLERK

First Reading - February 11, 2008
Second Reading - February 11, 2008
Third Reading - February 11, 2008

BY-LAW NO. 28-2008

SCHEDULE "A"

Part of Lot 3, Concession 5 or 3 and Part of Lot 4, Concession 5 or 3

P.I.N. 01134 - 0116 (LT)

formerly in the Township of Sandwich West, now in the City of Windsor, County of

Essex

Reasons for Designation
Académie Ste. Cécile
The former Holy Redeemer College
925 Cousineau Road
(Con 5, Pt Lot 3, Pt Lot 4)

Description of Historic Place

The former Holy Redeemer College (now Académie Ste. Cécile International School) is located on a 25-acre site at 925 Cousineau Road between Highway 3 and Howard Ave. in south Windsor. Built in 1957, it is a low profile buff brick Mid-Century Modernist style building with a pinwheel plan and dominant tower. It is the largest built work of renowned Prairie School architect Francis Barry Byrne.

Heritage Value

Historic Value

Holy Redeemer College was built for the Redemptorist Fathers in 1957 as a teaching seminary affiliated with Assumption University, later the University of Windsor. The seminary prepared missionaries for Canada and Japan. It later evolved into a religious retreat center. It was purchased in 1995 by Académie Ste. Cécile International School, an interfaith, international private elementary and secondary school based on Roman Catholic principles.

Architectural Value

Holy Redeemer College is Windsor's only example of the work of Prairie School architect Francis Barry Byrne. This internationally renowned architect (1883-1967) began his architectural career with Frank Lloyd Wright. Using Wright's teachings as the basis for developing a personal style, Byrne set new precedents in modern ecclesiastical architecture. Holy Redeemer College, in the Mid-Century Modernist style, is considered one of Byrne's greatest works and is his largest built work.

The sprawling pinwheel design of the six connected buildings is anchored in the dominant tower at the center. Each wing of the building housed a different function that was reflected in the individual building form and different window treatments. The common buff brick cladding with stone trim serves as a unifying element as does the repeated use of the T form, brick piers, and glass block. The entrance proscenium boasts splayed knee walls and a crest over the recessed doors, accessed by a stone staircase.

The T shaped chapel is considered one of Byrne's best ecclesiastical spaces. On the exterior is a large stone cross and brick dancettes. Glass-block-filled tall altar windows are all but invisible from the outside, behind brick piers. These windows serve to direct diffused light to the marble altar, surmounted by the large crucifix. The remaining clerestory windows are coloured art glass by Cremin Byrne: deep blue lower nave windows and upper blue to yellow-green upper windows in non-figurative vertical patterns. Fixtures including lamps, pulpit, and candleholders are original. Wooden pews have metal armrests/trim. Figurative glass windows (angel and Mary) and a marble altar adorn the small Lady (or Madonna) side chapel at the rear. A wood beamed ceiling panel adds warmth and colour. A pipe organ is housed on the upper portion of the entrance wall.

Contextual Value

When Holy Redeemer College was constructed in 1957 it lay in a largely rural area outside the boundaries of Windsor, in the former Town of Sandwich West, amalgamated with the City of Windsor in 1966. Residential (largely single family) suburban development now surrounds the property. Un-observed public views of this neighbourhood landmark are from Cousineau Road, a two-lane collector street that runs the short distance from Highway 3 to Howard Avenue. Because of limited traffic volumes on Cousineau Road, the building is still in a relatively secluded location, with limited public exposure.

Character Defining Elements

Items that contribute to the historical value of Holy Redeemer College include:

- Its association with the Redemptorist Fathers who had the former educational seminary, associated with Assumption University, constructed in 1957, and who held the property until 1995, when it was sold to Académie Ste. Cécile International School.

Exterior features that contribute to the architectural value of Holy Redeemer College include:

- Its design by Francis Barry Byrne, internationally renowned Prairie School architect who began his architectural career with Frank Lloyd Wright. It is considered one of his most important signature buildings, and is Byrne's largest built work.

- Its overall Mid-Century Modernist design including elements such as the following:
 - Its unifying use of buff brick with stone trim, brick piers, pilasters
 - Its use of glass block, T forms, metal window frames
 - Its pinwheel design with six buildings – each with a different function and design, including:
 - Its Central Tower with strong vertical elements and a metal cross on top
 - Its Chapel wing with a T shape, hidden glass-block vertical windows, large cross with dancettes
 - Its Reception wing with main entrance with flanking knee walls, stone steps, recessed metal double door with vertical windows, large Holy Redeemer Crest over door and stone cornice.
 - Its Library wing with tall vertical windows with T-shaped sills

Interior features that contribute to the architectural value of Holy Redeemer College include:

- Its basic T shaped Chapel including:
 - Its glass-block-filled tall altar windows behind brick piers
 - Its marble altar, surmounted by the large crucifix.
 - Its clerestory windows of coloured art glass by Annette Cremin Byrne: deep blue lower nave windows and upper blue to yellow-green upper windows in non-figurative vertical patterns.
 - Its fixtures including lamps, pulpit, and candleholders.
 - Its wooden pews with metal armrests/trim.

 - Its wood beamed ceiling panel.
 - Its pipe organ.
 - Its Lady (or Madonna) side chapel with figurative glass windows (angel and Mary) and a marble altar.

Characteristics that contribute to the contextual value of Holy Redeemer College include:

- Its location on a large (approximately 25 acre) site in suburban south Windsor
- Its status as a neighbourhood landmark

Its status as the only Barry Byrne designed building in Windsor.