



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act e-Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre électronique, tenu aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR

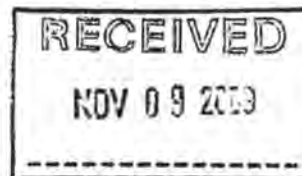
MBA/10446

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN AS  
2895 SEMINOLE STREET IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

REGISTERED MAIL

ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
10 ADELAIDE STREET EAST  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M5C 1J3



**TAKE NOTICE THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the City of Windsor intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings known as 2895 Seminole Street as a property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act:

**Statement of Significance/Reasons for Designation**  
**2895 Seminole Street**  
(Plan 784 closed part St. Joseph Avenue)

**Description of Historic Place**

The Descent of the Holy Ghost Romanian Orthodox Church at the intersection of Seminole Street and Drouillard Road, and next to a cemetery of another denomination. The church was built in 1934, and has been in continuous use.

**Heritage Value**

**Historic Value:**

**Historical Importance:**

In 1933, church members mainly from the Bucovina area of northern Romania elected a committee to form a new congregation in order to observe the "Old Calendar" (Julian) for holy days within the church year. According to church history, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Baby (of the early Sandwich family) donated the land for the current location to the new Holy Ghost congregation. The first church services in the partially completed building were held in 1934.

**Architectural Importance:**

The most prominent design feature of this one-storey, orange-red-brick church are the five domes – two onion-shaped and three with faceted cones. All domes are topped with crosses, with stained glass in the colours of the Romanian flag; there are also small concrete crosses above two parapet corners. The overall design is symmetrical. The main entrance faces west to the street corner; it includes a round arched canopy and a pair of original wood doors with inserted crosses, and is under a three-storey tower with the tallest dome. East of the doorway tower is a parapet wall that descends with scalloped caps above the sloped roofline. The rectangular main body of the building has an east-west ridge, with an onion dome at its centre. Conical domes top small curved extensions north and south, and a half-round east end has a small onion dome at its peak. All the windows have Gothic-pointed arches; between window sets on the sides there are vertical ribs of brick. Under the eaves are curved wood braces.

The overall building style is a simplified Gothic Revival, with Orthodox traditional domes added. It was built by skilled crafts people in the church. The designer is not indicated in church records, but it is presumed that it was by a member or someone familiar with design conventions of the denomination.

### **Contextual Importance:**

The Descent of the Holy Ghost Romanian Orthodox Church is next to the intersection of Seminole Street and Drouillard Road, both busy local commercial streets. The side away from the corner abuts a Roman Catholic cemetery; thus no buildings are next to it. It is one of several churches in the Drouillard and Seminole area that have origins in eastern Europe; others on the heritage register include St. John the Divine Russian Orthodox (1094 Drouillard Rd, built 1949 replacing 1914), Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox (1406 Drouillard Rd, 1947), and St. Dimitrije Serbian Orthodox (2690 Seminole St, built 1945 for Ukrainian). Also, Saints Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Church was built for the Slovak community two blocks east (3065 Seminole St, 1935). Most of the other nearby buildings are small houses, with a few commercial units.

### **Character Defining Elements**

#### **Items that contribute to the historical value include:**

- Its association with the eastern European immigrants from the early 20th Century to date.

#### **Exterior features that contribute to the architectural value include:**

- Simplified Gothic Revival style, with Orthodox elements.
- Five domes, including two onion and three faceted cones, all with metal caps and stained-glass crosses.
- Symmetrical front (west) façade with pair of wood doors with inset crosses, and three-storey tower.
- Cruciform shape, with north and south small alcoves and curved east end.
- Scalloped-edge parapet wall.
- Orange-red brick.
- Rounded rafter ends under eaves.
- Iron fence on north and south sides, within each panel is centred a large circle and crosses.

#### **Interior features that contribute to the architectural value include:**

- Arched plaster ceiling.
- Cruciform shape, with north and south small alcoves with wood ceilings.
- Dark-stained woodwork, including seats along side walls, stair to balcony, panelled main interior doors, and wainscot.
- Stained-glass windows with red, yellow, and deep blue colours.

#### **Characteristics that contribute to the contextual value include:**

- Its location in the former Ford City near several churches serving eastern European communities.
- Its visibility at the intersection of commercial streets Drouillard Road and Seminole Street.

Any person may, within thirty days of the publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the City of Windsor notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Windsor shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

**DATED** at Windsor, Ontario this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009  
Steve Vlachodimos, Manager of Council & Committee Services / Deputy Clerk



Steve Vlachodimos  
Manager of Council & Committee Services / Deputy Clerk