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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR

MBA/9718

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING  
MUNICIPAL ADDRESS IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

REGISTERED MAIL

To: Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
TORONTO, Ontario  
M5C 1J3

RECEIVED

AUG 23 2007

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

**891 ST. ROSE AVENUE**

**REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:**

**Owner:** Diocese of London, Ontario

**Property:** 891 St. Rose Avenue (Concession 2, Lot 122 and 123)

**Reasons for Designation:**

**Historical:**

St. Rose of Lima Church was built in 1924 and was the first church of any denomination in the former Town of Riverside (amalgamated with Windsor in 1966). The church was built because the population of the Windsor area was growing rapidly, and urban development was expanding eastward along the Detroit River. Automotive factories were humming, immigrants were moving into the area, and former French farmsteads were being subdivided for housing. The parish church, Our Lady of the Lake in Ford City (now Our Lady of the Rosary), was becoming overcrowded. Rev. F.X. Laurendeau from Our Lady of the Lake received permission from the Diocese of London to build a new church and Messrs. Alfred St. Louis, Alphonse St. Louis and Eugene Mailloux generously donated the land needed. Architect Mr. John R. Boyde designed the church that was constructed by Blonde Contractors of Chatham at a contract price of \$69,700.

Some 2,500 people reportedly attended the cornerstone laying ceremony on June 21, 1924 and the church was completed by October 1924. The first mass was held in the building on November 16, 1924. Continued urban development in the Riverside area caused the St. Rose Parish membership to grow from 150 families to over 1000 families by 1951. This necessitated that daughter parishes be established: Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (1951), St. John Vianney (1955), and St. Thomas the Apostle (1965).

**Architectural:**

St. Rose of Lima was designed by renowned local architect John Boyde in the Romanesque Revival style. Some of the finest public buildings in Windsor can be attributed to architect John Boyde (1877-1955), a "faithful Catholic layman" who was often used by the Roman Catholic Diocese of London during the first half of the twentieth century.

Typical of the Romanesque Revival style is the solid, massive heavy appearance of the building. Also typical is the brick construction (common bond with full headers every sixth course), rounded window openings, and the parapeted entrance tower. The red brick is offset by limestone trim.

The most striking feature of the church is the central 60-foot high entrance tower with double wooden doors with crucifix design, limestone panels, central arched stained glass window and panel with the words "Ste Rose." There is a trio of louvered arched windows on each of three sides of the bell tower, above the stepped brick buttresses flanking the tower. The tower is topped by a brick castellated parapet with stone capping and an illuminated cross. Three unpainted limestone courses give the front tower its horizontal elements: at about the four foot level, at the arched window and at the bottom of the parapet wall. Behind the tower/buttresses is the main body of the church with a steep gable roof – originally of wooden shingles. Brick pilasters with stone coping divide the windows (of mixed styles) on the east and west facades.

The interior of the church has a domed ceiling in the Nave, reflective of the Romanesque design. Also reflective of the Romanesque style are the beautiful original stained glass windows.

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 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2007  
Valerie Critchley, City Clerk



Valerie Critchley  
City Clerk  
KK/ml

