

A CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION REPORT

L'Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste and Saint-Jean-Baptiste Dominican Convent, Ottawa



April 2023

Prepared for: Les Dominicains ou Frères Prêcheurs du Canada
Prepared By: Commonwealth Historic Resource Management



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1	Scope	3
1.2	Summary of Findings	4
1.3	Context - Site Location and Current Conditions.....	4
1.4	Cultural Heritage Context.....	6
2.0	Neighbourhood and Site History	7
2.1	History	7
2.2	Evolved Design Built Form.....	9
2.3	Function and Use.....	12
2.4	Architects / Designers - People	12
2.5	Institutions / Organizations:.....	14
2.6	Chronology	14
3.0	Character Defining Features.....	15
3.1	Themes:	15
3.2	Context and Associations	15
3.3	Built Description	15
3.4	Landscape Description	16
4.0	CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION.....	20
5.1	Conclusion	21
5.0	AUTHORS QUALIFICATIONS.....	23

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope

This Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) evaluates the cultural heritage values of the property at 90 Primrose and 96 Empress Avenues in the City of Ottawa, Ontario. The property is located in the Hintonburg neighbourhood on Primrose Hill overlooking LeBreton Flats. The site consists of 18 lots where the Saint-Jean-Baptist Roman Catholic Church and the Saint Jean Baptiste Convent were constructed between 1883 and 1932.

The property has been added to the Heritage Register as a 'listed' or 'non-designated' property under Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). The property has been identified by the City as a property of potential cultural heritage value or interest. Under Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) municipalities may include properties of cultural heritage value or interest on their Heritage Register, which have not been designated under Parts IV or V of the OHA. per Section 27 (3). Ontario Regulation 9/06 stipulates the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report and requires that at least two of the three criteria – **design, history, and context** – are met in order for the municipality to designate a property under Part IV or V of the OHA.

The property consists of a church constructed in 1883-86 to the design of Joseph Michaud extending over four lots fronting onto Primrose Avenue, and a monastic cloister the Saint Jean Baptiste Convent constructed between 1899 and 1932. The church and 1899 addition were destroyed by fire in 1931 and rebuilt in 1932 transforming the church and completing the monastic enclosure.

This assessment follows the criteria for the identification and evaluation of properties for their cultural heritage value or interest contained in *Ontario Regulation 9/06: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest under the Ontario Heritage Act (O.Reg. 9/06)*". The process included background research, an on-site assessment, and evaluation of the cultural heritage values of the property.

The historical research was primarily obtained from sources identified below, as well as material available on the internet. The author is aware that additional historical information is available at the Dominican Archives in Montreal; however, the consultant believes that the information collected, reviewed, and analyzed is sufficient to undertake an evaluation based on the criteria in O. Reg 9/06.

The following sources were reviewed in the preparation of this report:

The Dominican Archives, Montreal, Quebec;

Lorne Avenue Heritage Conservation District Plan (July 2006), City of Ottawa Heritage Planning Department;

Biographical Dictionary of Canadian Architects: Joseph Michaud (1822 - 1902); Georges Bouillon (1841 - 1932); Joseph Albert Larue (1891 – 1985),

Collections Canada – 1888, 1902/1912, 1925/1948, Goad Fire Insurance Plans, City of Ottawa, Volume 1, Sheets 49, and 120;

Dictionary of Canadian Biography; Joseph Michaud;
Dominican Newsletter 'The Dominican Order in Canada', circa 1917;
Centretown Buzz, December 2016. *Heritage Skyline: The bells of St. Jean Baptiste... will they ring again?*
and,
St.-Jean-Baptiste D'Ottawa. 125th Anniversary 1872-1997. Élisabeth J. Lacelle, and Pierre Savard. 1997.

1.2 Summary of Findings

The assessment of the potential cultural heritage value or interest of the property against O. Reg 9/06 provides an overview of the historical patterns. In summary the property scores high and meets all three criteria – design, history, and context - contained in the O. Reg. 9/06 for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The complex is a very likely candidate for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Contact:

Frère Yves Bériault
Les Dominicains ou Frères Prêcheurs du Canada
2715, Chemin de la Côte Sainte-Catherine
Montréal (Qc) H3T 1B6
Represented by: Marc-Antoine Béchard Gestion Providentia,
mabechard@gestionprovidentia.ca

1.3 Context - Site Location and Current Conditions

The property at 90 Primrose and 96 Empress Avenue is located in the Hintonburg neighbourhood in the block bound by Empress Avenue (east), Somerset Street West (south), Upper Lorne Avenue Pl. (west) and Primrose Avenue (north). The site is located on Primrose Hill overlooking LeBreton Flats. The property consists of a church (Saint-Jean-Baptiste) completed in 1886, and a monastic cloister to the south completed between 1899 and 1932. The church and portions of the monastic cloister burnt in 1931 and were rebuilt in 1932 transforming the church with the introduction of a bell tower. The monastic cloister consists of a stone church extending east-west along Primrose Avenue with the monastic enclosure to the south. The monastic enclosure consists of three and four-storey stone clad linked structures articulated with tower massing at external corners. The southern portion of the site consists of asphalt parking areas, with a landscaped area consisting of turf and trees in the south-east quadrant and an isolated area of turf, shrubs, a statue, and a maintenance structure. The lot is enclosed with limestone walls extending along Empress and Lorne Avenues to the southern lot line.



Figures 1 (left) & 2 (right): Left - Block plan illustrating the built context within and adjacent to the property at 90 Primrose and 96 Empress Ave. Right - Aerial view illustrating the built and landscape context within and adjacent to the property at 90 Primrose Ave. and 96 Empress Ave. Site arrowed. Source: Geoottawa, and Google Earth.

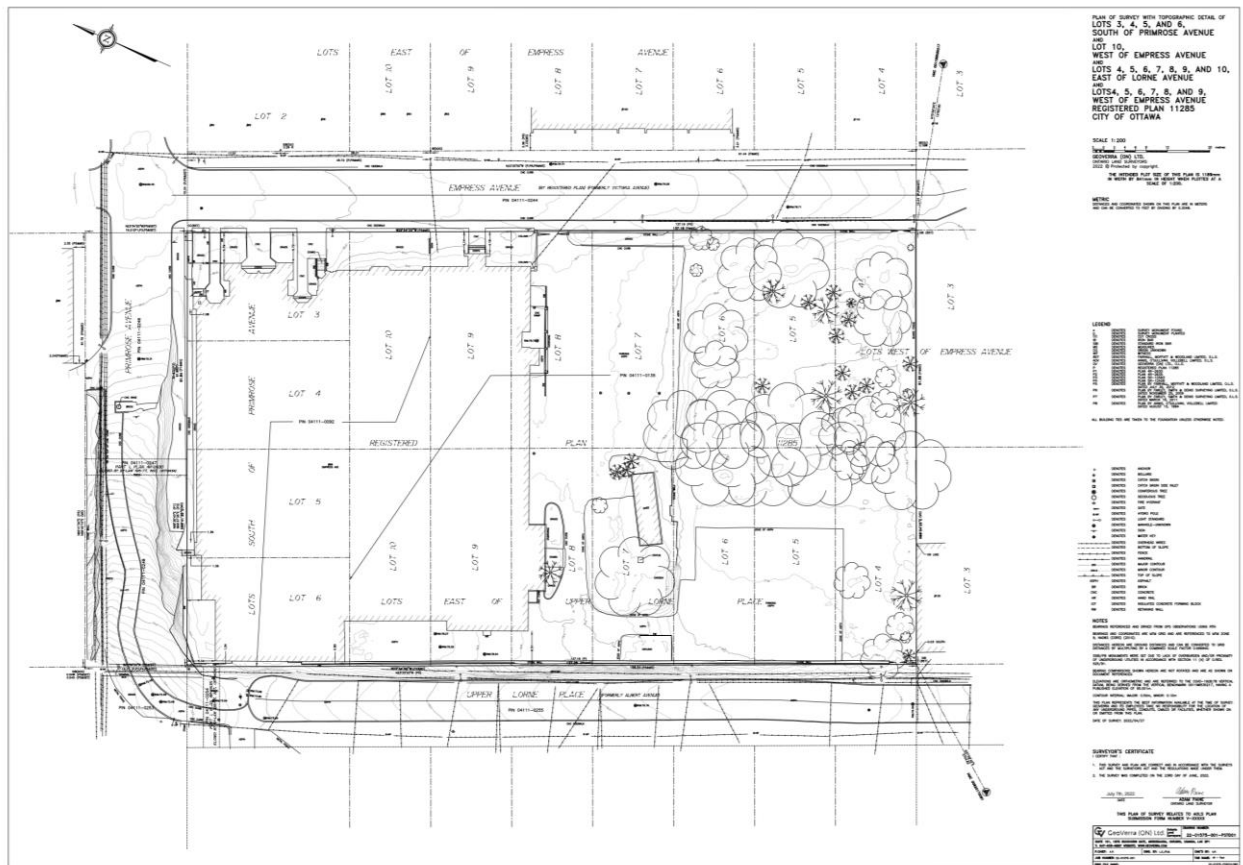


Figure 3: Site survey plan illustrating the original lots, placement of structures, topography, and landscape elements. Source: GeoVera ON Ltd. Ontario Land Surveyors, July 7, 2022.

1.4 Cultural Heritage Context

The area extending along the Empress (Princess) Avenue from Somerset Street West to north of Primrose Avenue includes a number of religious and educational institutions and a residential tower constructed by the Dominican Parish between 1887 and 1975. The Lorne Avenue Heritage Conservation District is adjacent to the south-east corner of the site.



Figure 4: View of the St. Jean Baptiste School (135 Empress) constructed between 1887 and 1907 set adjacent to the south lot line of the property. The school was constructed on one or two of the original lots purchased by the Dominicans in 1883. Georges Bouillon designer for the Ottawa Diocese may have been involved in the design. The free-standing stone wall was completed as part of the original 1880s development of the site. Source: Commonwealth 2023



Figure 5: View of the St. Jean Baptiste Parish Hall (100 Empress) completed in 1924 to the design of Joseph Larue Dominican Architect. The parish hall was sold in 1989 to the Chinese Christian Church. The residence to right of the hall was the original location of the St. Jean Baptiste Caisse Populaire Source: Commonwealth 2023.



Figure 6: View north along Empress Avenue with the St. Jean Baptiste Convent and Church to the left with the Convent Notre Dame du Rosaire in the distance completed in 1890 to the design of Georges Bouillon, and the coop apartment residences (left) completed by the parish in 1975. Source: Commonwealth 2023

2.0 Neighbourhood and Site History

The following is a brief synopsis of the development of the block extending along Empress Avenue from Somerset St. W to Primrose Avenue where a religious community centred on the parish church of St. Jean Baptiste developed and evolved between 1883 through to the present day. The history of the parish is outlined in the 1997 125th Anniversary book which was the source of the narrative history contained in this report.

2.1 History

The parish of Saint Jean Baptiste was founded in 1872 by Mgr. J. E. Guigues and the first parish church constructed on Queen Street in LeBreton Flats. The church was subsequently converted to a parish hall that was destroyed in the 1900 LeBreton Flats fire. In 1883 at the behest of the Ottawa Diocese, the Dominican Order of the Roman Catholic Church purchased a number of lots on Primrose Hill overlooking the flats with the intent of building a parish church and eventually forming a seminary. In 1883 the cornerstone of a new parish church was dedicated, and a new church and rectory were completed in 1886

to the design of Joseph Michaud Architect (structure) and Georges Bouillon (interior) a designer for the Ottawa diocese (Figures 8 & 9). In 1887 the St. Jean Baptiste School was constructed on lots to the south of property possibly to the design of Georges Bouillon. The Notre-Dame de Rosaire Convent was completed in 1890 to north of the property to the design of Georges Bouillon.

In 1899, Georges Bouillon developed a conceptual bird's eye view (Figure 12) of the completed seminary enclosure and the first wing of the enclosure was completed (Figures 10 & 11). In 1924 a new parish hall was completed on the east side of Empress to the design of Joseph Albert Larue Architect for the Dominican Order. By 1928 the monastic enclosure was completed more or less to the 1899 plan (excluding the bell tower) with the retention of the 1886 Rectory.



Figure 7: Views of the gutted church, 1899 wing, and the rectory following the 1931 fire. Source: Dominican Archives, Montreal.

In February 1931 the church, the 1899 wing, and the rectory were gutted by fire leaving the standing masonry walls; steel fire doors installed between the 1899 wing and subsequent construction saved the south and east structures of the enclosure. In 1931-32 the gutted portions of the complex were rebuilt to the design of Joseph Albert Laure Architect for the Dominican Order when the complex took on its existing form. The multi-level library located in the former apse of the church was completed as part of the 1931-32 rebuild.

In 1948 the carillon bells were installed in the bell tower, and in 1971 the interior of the church was remodeled to conform to the 1972 Papal Decree. The co-op apartment tower was completed in 1975.

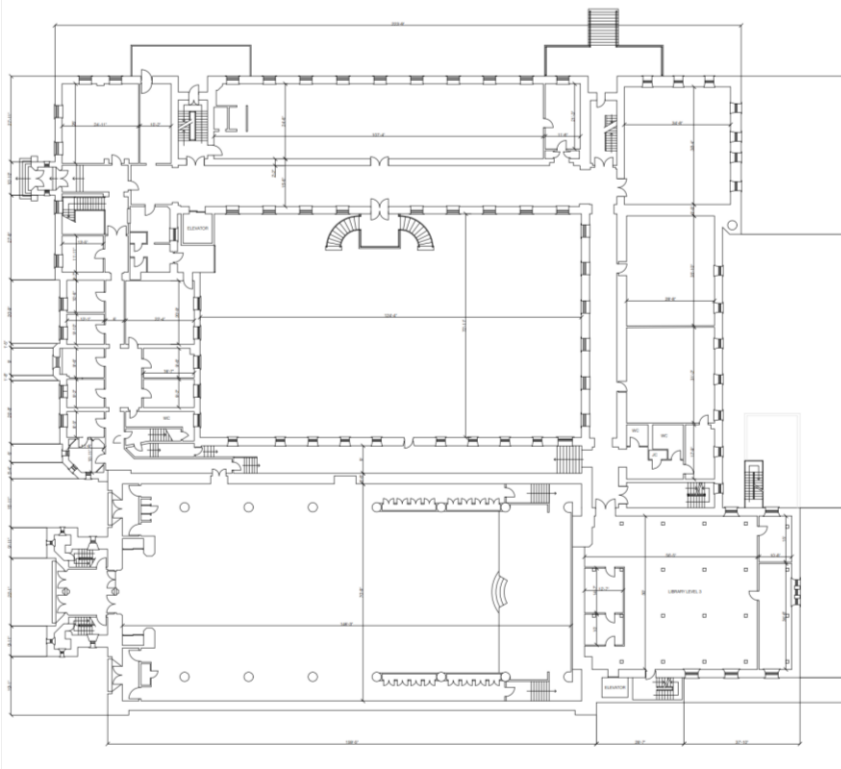
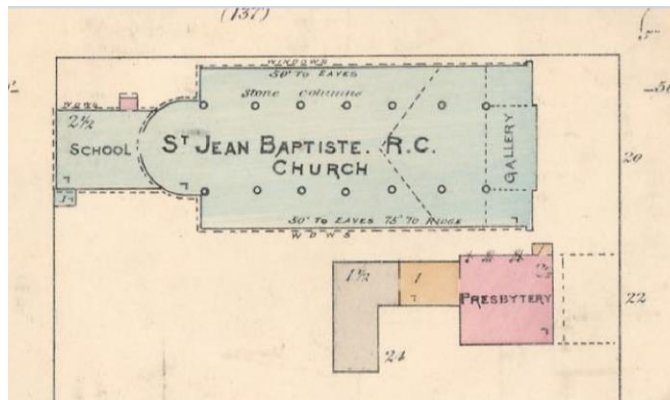


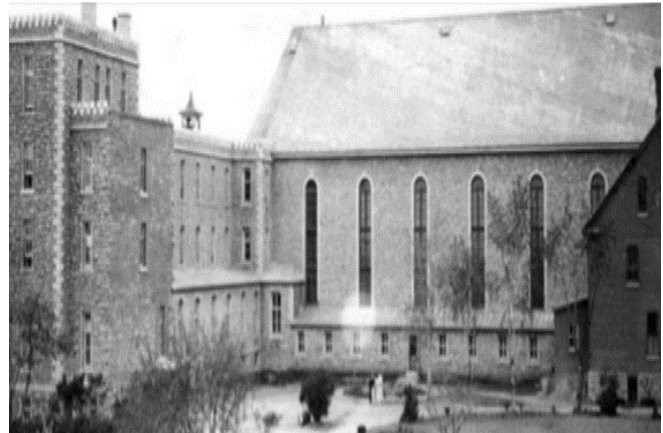
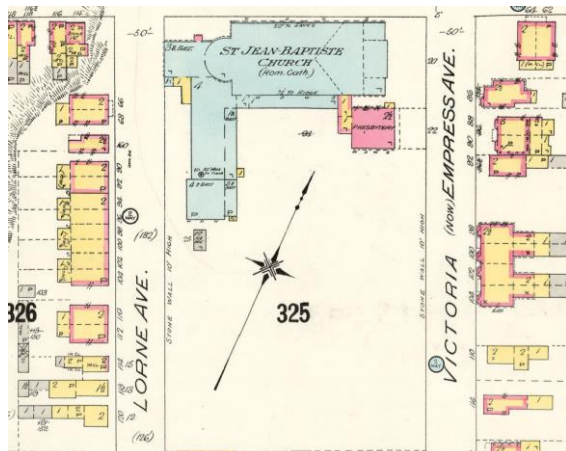
Figure 8: First floor plan of the complex as completed in 1932. The church and library extend along the bottom of the image. North at bottom of image. Source: Keller Engineering, Jan. 2019

2.2 Evolved Design Built Form

The following plans and images provide a sense of the physical development of the site at 90 Primrose and 96 Empress Avenues. The Biographical Dictionary of Canadian Architects (online) provides biographies for the architects.



Figures 9 & 10: Detail 1888 Fire Insurance Plan Volume 1, sheet 59 illustrating the built form at the time. The church and rectory were completed by 1886 to the design of Father Joseph Michaud Architect of Montreal. The interior of the church (burnt 1931) was designed by Georges Bouillon designer for the Ottawa Diocese. The photograph dates to circa 1886. Source: FIP Collections Canada, Photograph Robert Smythe, Centretown Buzz Article December 2016 – The Bells of St. Jean Baptiste. Dominican Archives Montreal.



Figures 11 & 12: Detail 1902 Fire insurance plan Sheet 59, illustrating the built form at the time. A three-storey stone clad building extending south from the apse of the church with a four-storey tower was completed to the design of Georges Bouillon designer for the Ottawa Diocese. Note the beginnings of a monastic style cloister and the stylized corner tower. Note the north side of the apse of the church is not enclosed, an alteration that was completed in 1932. PHOTO - Note the round headed windows in the church and the ambulatory at the base of the church, a feature that remains. Note the bell in a cupola atop the apse and the crenellated parapet on the 1899 addition. A parterre garden with paths and a central feature define the cloister landscape. Source: FIP Collections Canada. Photograph-Dominican Archives Montreal.



Figure 13: Conceptual bird's eye sketch circa 1899 of the completed monastic cloisters as envisioned by Georges Bouillon designer for the Ottawa Diocese. Bouillon designed the 1899 wing extending south from the apse of the church visible in the left background. The design as illustrated was never executed; however, the south wing and the tower massing approximates what was completed by 1928. The monastic cloister was completed in 1932 to the design of Joseph Albert Larue Architect for the Dominican Order. The convent of Notre Dame de Rosaire constructed in 1890 to the design of Georges Bouillon is visible to the right of the image. Source: Robert Smythe Centretown Buzz article December 2016. Dominican Archives Montreal.



Figure 14: 1928 aerial view of the site at 90 Primrose and 96 Empress Avenue. Note the lack of a bell tower and the completed buildings that formed the monastic enclosure, although not extending to the south side of the church where the 1886 Rectory was located. A new rectory was completed as part of the 1932 rebuild designed by Joseph Albert Larue Architect for the Dominican Order. Note the landscape pattern to the south of the complex, with a cruciform path system illustrated in figure 12. The trees are limited to the edges of the property and what appears to be gardens, and a parking area. Source: Geotawa.



Figure 15: Post 1932 photo of the rebuilt church that was transformed with the introduction of a buttressed bell tower as part of the 1932 rebuild and a new rectory replacing the 1886 rectory after the February 1931 fire that gutted the church and portions of the monastic enclosure structures. Joseph Albert Larue the Dominican Architect was the architect for the 1932 rebuild. Alterations to the church included a new roof structure, new interior, bell tower, corner buttresses, window head alterations, and crenelated stone parapets. Source: Dominican Archives, Robert Smythe.

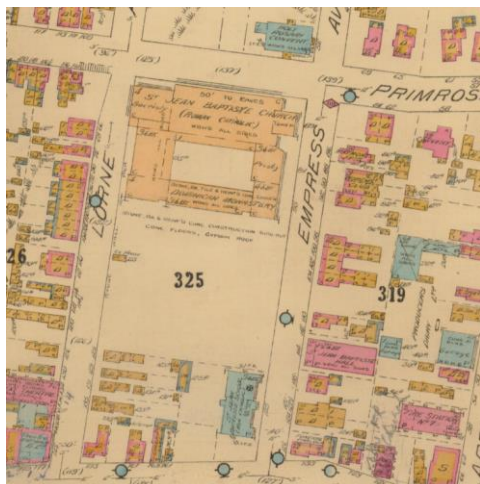


Figure 16: 1948 Fire Insurance Plan Sheet 120 Detail. The plan illustrates the built form and land use at the time. The church, monastery, Notre Dame Convent, Parish Hall, and the St. Jean Baptiste School that formed the religious community are evident in the plan. The plan notes the construction of the rebuilt structure – stone applied to BK tile and reinforced concrete construction, concrete floors and roof construction supported on steel framing and trusses. Source: Archives Ottawa.

2.3 Function and Use

The parish church has been in use from completion in 1886 to the present day, celebrating their 150th anniversary in 2022. The St. Jean Baptiste Convent has been in use since 1900 when the institutional centre of studies of the Dominican Order was established in Ottawa and officially recognized as 'stadium general' in 1909. The term 'convent' referred to a community of friars, monks, and nuns (now usually nuns); the term 'seminary' a place of education for men for the priesthood is a more accurate term. In 1900 the first students in theology were admitted and 1902 students in philosophy were admitted. In 1967 the school of philosophy and theology was accredited by the Province of Ontario, now the Dominican University College.

2.4 Architects / Designers - People

MICHAUD, Father Joseph (1822-1902) MICHAUD, JOSEPH, teacher, Cleric of St Viator, priest, and architect; b. 1 April 1822 in Kamouraska, Lower Canada, son of Joseph Michaud, a farmer, and Charlotte Michaud; d. 13 Dec. 1902 in Joliette, Que. The exteriors of a number of the stone buildings designed by Michaud show a Georgian influence and are truly austere.

Michaud, Father Joseph Completed Projects in Ottawa Area

OTTAWA, ONT., St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Church, Empress Avenue at Primrose Avenue, 1883-84 (Daily Citizen [Ottawa], 5 May 1883, 1, descript.; Free Press [Ottawa], 7 May 1883, 4, descript.)

CHELSEA, QUE., St. Stephens Roman Catholic Church, 1880 (Free Press [Ottawa], 7 June 1880, 4, descript.; Andrew Waldron, Exploring the Capital: An Architectural Guide to the Ottawa Gatineau Region, 2017, 243, illus. & descript.)

BOUILLON, Rev. Georges (1841-1932) was a priest in Ottawa who exhibited an unusual talent for architectural design and planning. Born on 10 February 1841 in Rimouski, Que. he was educated at the Christian Brothers school there and was sent to Mexico City in 1865 for a year to teach drawing and calligraphy. Upon his return he studied theology at the Roman Catholic College in Ottawa and at the Grand Seminaire in Montreal, but there is no evidence that he had any formal training in architecture, nor does he appear to have served an apprenticeship under another architect. He was ordained as a priest on 25 January 1874 and the following day became vicar at the Cathedral in Ottawa. In 1878 he was appointed priest for the Parish of Notre Dame, Ottawa, and during the next thirteen years executed some of his most important commissions for the Ottawa diocese including his best-known work, the neo-Gothic chapel for the Rideau Street Convent in Ottawa (1886). It featured a cast iron structural system supporting elaborate fan vaults which were executed in wood rather than in plaster or stucco; the rich and ornate interior was unique in eastern Canada and contrasted dramatically with the austere gray stone exterior of the chapel. When the convent was demolished in 1972 the chapel interior was carefully dismantled and later reassembled inside the new National Gallery of Canada in 1987-88. Bouillon retired as parish priest in 1891 (Ottawa Free Press, 11 Aug. 1891, 4).

BOUILLON, Rev. Georges (1841-1932) Sample of Completed Projects

NOTRE DAME ROMAN CATHOLIC BASILICA, Sussex Street at St. Patrick Street, extensive alterations, and improvements to the interior, with new galleries, 1876; tomb in the crypt for Monsignor Guigues, 1877-78; vaults and columns, 1878; side aisles, 1880; sanctuary, stalls, and high altar 1881-83 (Free Press [Ottawa], 23 Dec. 1880, 4, descript.; M. MacRae & A. Adamson, *Hallowed Walls*, 1975, 245, 247, illus.; L. Noppen, 103)

SISTERS OF CHARITY MOTHER HOUSE, Sussex Street at Cathcart Street, addition of the **Grey Nuns Chapel to link St. Patrick's Orphanage to the Convent, 1883-85**; burned 1903 (Ottawa Daily Citizen, 26 March 1885, 3, descript.; Catholic Record [London], 2 July 1887, 1, descript.)

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Empress Avenue, interior decor, 1885-86; burned 1931 (L. Noppen, 104)

NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Montreal Road, begun 1886-87; completed 1913; burned 1973 (L. Noppen, 104)

DOMINICAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CONVENT, Empress Avenue, adjoining St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Church, 1899; burned 1931 (C.R., x, 30 Aug. 1899, 2; xi, 21 March 1900, 3)

LARUE, Joseph Albert (1891-1958) held the unique position of official architect to the Roman Catholic Order of the Dominican Fathers in the province of Quebec and was responsible for the design of monasteries and convents for the Order which were built in Quebec City, Montreal and elsewhere in both Canada and the United States. Born in Quebec City on 14 July 1891, he was educated at the Ecole Polytechnique at the University of Montreal where he studied architecture, design, and construction. He also took summer courses in architecture at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. His early architectural training included work in the office of Charles Bernier (in 1914-15), and with Aristide Beaugrand-Champagne (in 1916-17). Then fully qualified, he was accepted as a member of the Province of Quebec Assoc. of Architects in July 1917, and, that same year, as a member of the Royal Architectural Inst. of Canada. He later joined the Ontario Assoc. of Architects in 1921 in order to carry out work in Ottawa and eastern Ontario. Larue also had a continuing interest in architectural education and held the appointment of Assistant Professor of Architecture at his alma mater, the Ecole Polytechnique, in 1918-23, and as Professor of Architecture & Applied Sciences at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Montreal from 1924 until after 1940.

Despite his success in the early period of his career after 1920, he appears to have gradually withdrawn from professional activity after 1941, devoting much of time to teaching architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts School in Montreal. He resigned from the Ontario Assoc. of Architects in May 1938, and later resigned from the P.Q.A.A. in November 1956. He was nominated as a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Inst. of Canada in 1956 and died in Montreal in 1958.

LARUE, Joseph Albert (1891-1985) Completed Projects in Ottawa

OTTAWA, ONT., parish hall for St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Church, Empress Street, 1922 (C.R., xxxvi, 28 June 1922, 92).

OTTAWA, ONT., St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Church, Empress Street at Primrose Street, rebuilding, and reconstruction of the church after a fire in February 1931, with addition of a new rectory, 1931 (Ottawa Journal, 9 Feb. 1931, 1, descript.; and 20 Feb. 1932, 23, descript.; C.R., xlv, 18 Feb. 1931, 48; C.R., xlv, 6 May 1931, 69)

2.5 Institutions / Organizations:

Diocese of Ottawa

The Parish of Saint Jean Baptiste 1872 - 2023

Roman Catholic Order of the Dominican Friars

Dominican University College 1967 – 2023

2.6 Chronology

- 1872 Parish of Saint Jean Baptiste founded by Mgr. J. E. Guigues, the fourth Roman Catholic Church in the City of Ottawa after Notre Dame (1828), Saint Patrick (1855), Saint Joseph (1857) and the first French Canadian church completed on August 31
- 1879 Foundation of the Conférence. Saint Vincent de Paul.
- 1880 A fire in Hull destroys more than 400 homes.
- 1882 Lots on Primrose Hill overlooking LeBreton flats purchased with the intent of building a new church. Dominican Order established in Ottawa.
- 1883 Construction began on the new church, Joseph Michaud (Architect), Pierre Foisy (Masonry), André Charlebois (Carpentry). Old church converted to a parish hall.
- 1884 The Dominican fathers arrive in August. Organization of the Saint Jean Baptiste Society. Novitiate established in the Parish of the Church of our Lady of the Rosary in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.
- 1886 The parish church is completed.
- 1887 Construction of the Saint Jean Baptiste School by the Dominicans.
- 1890 Convent of the Notre Dame du Rosaire constructed Georges Bouillon architect.
- 1894 Mgr. Duhamel, first Bishop of Ottawa, offered the Dominicans the parish of St. John the Baptist on the condition that they establish a House of Studies.
- 1899 The counsel of Dominicans approves plans prepared by Georges Bouillon architect for a chanoine.
- 1900 One wing of the proposed House of Studies completed opening on November 8 and 9, 1900. LeBreton Flats fire.
- 1902 The philosophers left St. Hyacinthe to complete their course at Ottawa.
- 1909 This House of Studies was elevated to the dignity of a formal college by Father Cormier on June 2, 1909, and now enjoys all the privileges determined in the Dominican Constitutions.
- 1911 The small collection of Dominican sites in Quebec and Ontario reorganized as Province of St. Dominic of Canada.
- 1924 Parish Hall constructed on the east side of Empress Avenue to the design of Joseph Laure Dominican Architects.
- 1931 Fire destroys the parish church, rectory and the 1899 wing leaving the standing walls.
- 1932 The parish church and monastic enclosure rebuilt.
- 1939 Carillon bells installed in the bell tower.
- 1967 The Dominican University College founded.

- 1971 Various renovation drawings by Schoeler and Heaton, dated July 6, 1971 & October 1979.
- 1975 Co-op Apartment tower completed by the parish.
- 2019 As-found plans of the complex completed by Keller Engineering.

3.0 Character Defining Features

3.1 Themes:

- The role of the Catholic Church and the Dominican Order in the religious, social development, and education of the Franco-Ontarian parishioners.
- The development of the block extending along Empress Avenue from Somerset St. West to Primrose Avenue.
- A religious community centred on the parish church of St. Jean Baptiste developed and evolved between 1883 through to the present day.
- A property important in maintaining, supporting, and defining the character of the west side of Empress Avenue in its scale and landscape elements.

3.2 Context and Associations

The property is physically, visually, functionally, and historically linked to a school, convent, parish hall, and residential tower on Empress Avenue. The monastic enclosure is linked to the former Notre Dame du Rosaire, and Saint Jean Baptiste School in its design (Georges Bouillon), date of construction and materials – limestone. The site is historically linked to the parish hall sharing a common architect – Joseph Larue, and the co-op apartment tower.

The church tower has a local presence located on a corner lot set on a bluff overlooking LeBreton Flats. The scale of the complex extending along Empress Avenue enclosed with stone walls dominates views along Empress Avenue.

The site, the activities and organizations associated with the parish church and convent/seminary yield information that contributes to an understanding of the French-Canadian catholic parish and its community, as well as the Dominican Order and their leadership role in Ottawa.

3.3 Built Description

The monastic plan with a central cloister/courtyard dates from 1932. The parish church forms the northern portion of the plan with three-storey stone clad flat roofed buildings extending between four-storey corner blocks completing the enclosure. The ground floor level includes the nave and sanctuary of the church, and a multi-level library in the former apse. The ground floor of the monastery includes a cafeteria, vaulted corridors overlooking the courtyard, classrooms, and offices among other uses. The upper floors consist of small rooms laid out around central corridors in a dormitory arrangement.

The monastery walls are clad in regularly coursed limestone with tooled quoins at external corners. A tooled limestone belt course articulates the basement and roof levels. The parapet is crenelated with limestone blocks with a limestone cross and base at the midpoint of some walls. The fenestration pattern consists of uniformly sized rectangular openings with tooled limestone lintels and sills, and in the case of the east elevation tooled limestone jambs. The window heads on the first floor of the south elevation features segmentally headed openings possibly in deference to the round headed windows in the church prior to it being rebuilt in 1932. The window mullions form a cross pattern. The east entrance to the monastery consists of a stone clad gable roofed enclosure with crenelated verges, and side windows. The rectory features a projecting one storey bay clad in stone with a crenelated flat roof. Gothic style architectural elements are limited to the crenellated parapets with centred stone base and cross ornamentation on the monastic enclosure.

The east façade of the church was transformed in 1932 with the introduction of a buttressed bell tower centred on the façade and the addition of buttressed corners. The design features a central entrance with two recessed side entrances with tooled segmentally headed limestone door surrounds. The tower levels are articulated with limestone belt courses. The buttresses are articulated with tooled limestone gables and window openings in two levels with limestone surrounds. The second-floor level of the tower features a central rectangular headed window with tooled limestone surrounds with a cross formed by the window mullions. The bell tower level consists of paired segmentally headed openings with tooled limestone window surrounds. A stylized cross in limestone with a drop at the base separates the two tower openings above the main entrance door. The tower features crenellated parapets extending between buttress caps. The windows on the north and south facades feature segmentally headed openings with tooled limestone surrounds, with a rectangular tooled limestone panel with an incised Dominican cross above. The parapets are crenellated with limestone blocks extending between raised limestone blocks.

Built Form – Character-Defining Features

The enclosed monastic plan with constructed elements forming a central courtyard

The exterior masonry walls including the walls forming the central courtyard.

The massing with four storey corner blocks linked by three storey structures.

The fenestration pattern on the exterior walls and walls forming the central courtyard.

The French style casement windows with a transom forming a cross, and the hardware - cremone bolts.

The crenellated parapets interspersed with semi-circular stone bases with a stone cross.

The gabled entry porch, and bay window in the rectory fronting onto Empress Avenue.

The four oak door assemblies on the church, and the stained-glass window assemblies.

The stained-glass window in the library.

The two ground-floor vaulted corridors overlooking the courtyard.

The decorative tiled wall behind the alter conforming to the 1972 Papal Decree.

The 47 carillon bells in the belfry

3.4 Landscape Description

The formal landscape design and use of the area to the south of the complex has evolved over time. The terraced landscape would appear to follow the form of the underlying bedrock, which may have been quarried and used as fill in the construction of the church, and the free-standing stone walls extending along the east and west property lines. The 1928 aerial view (Figure 13) illustrates the landscape structure - a central north-south path bisecting the area into planting beds approximating the existing line of trees at the edge of the parking area. In 1937 three tennis courts were developed in the area that were subsequently removed. Aerial views (Geotown 1958, 1965, 1976, 1991, and 2005) provide a general time frame on recent alterations. The existing linear copse of trees to the side of the central foot path would appear to date to circa 1958. The development of parking areas in the lower level occurred post 1991. By 2005 a small parking area had been developed on the west side of the lot. The parking area was subsequently enlarged to its present limits.

Landscape – Character-Defining Features

The freestanding stone walls on the east and west property lines were completed in the 1880s and are character-defining features of the landscape, and historical use as a monastic enclosure and should be retained in any redevelopment of the property. Any alterations to the stone wall for site access be limited and respect the existing height of the wall.

The statue of Saint Domonic is a character-defining feature of the landscape that should be retained and relocated to the south-east quadrant and set in a new landscape setting to commemorate the use of the site.

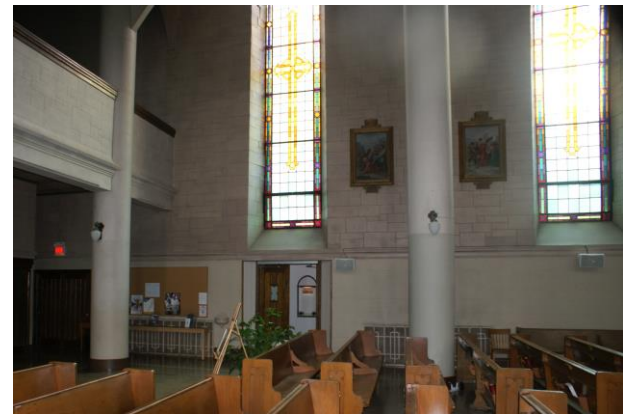
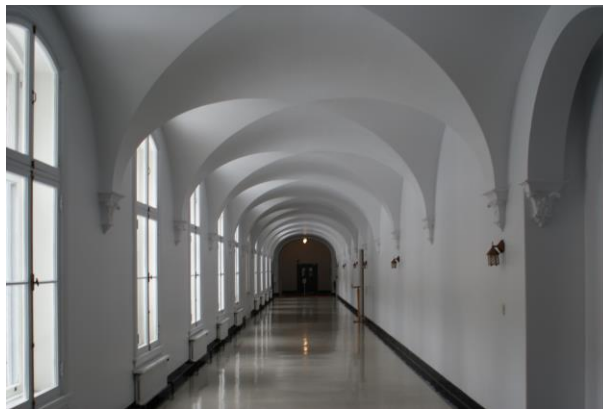
The informal landscape that includes trees, shrubs and turf that were used for contemplative and recreational uses extending along and adjacent to the Empress Avenue stone wall. The extent of the area set aside for soft landscape elements will be subject to negotiation.



Figures 17 & 18: Views of the church, rectory, and convent structures fronting onto Empress Avenue. Source: Commonwealth 2023



Figures 19 & 20: View to the south elevation of the convent. Detail view of the masonry work on the south elevation. Source: Commonwealth 2023.



Figures 21 & 22: View of the vaulted concrete ambulatory overlooking the courtyard. View of the church interior. Source: Commonwealth 2023



Figures 23 & 24; View of the stature of Saint Dominic. View of the lower (south) parking area, and the treed area separated from Empress Avenue by a stone wall completed during the initial site clearance in 1883-86. Tennis courts were installed in the area in 1937. Source: Commonwealth 2023.



Figure 25 : A view along Empress with the stone wall and treed area associated with the seminary landscape. This bosch of trees is a remnant defining feature. Source Google Earth.



Figure 26: A view along Upper Lorne Pl. with the stone wall and the exposed limestone bedrock associated with the seminary landscape. Source Google Earth.

4.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION

The property is evaluated against the three criteria outlined in Ontario Reg. 9/06 – design, history, and context. Regulation 9/06 states that a “property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the three criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.”

Building Name & Address: 90 Primrose Avenue and 96 Empress Avenue

Construction Dates: Church (1886 rebuilt 1932; Cloister Structures (1899, circa 1922 rebuilt 1932) and 1932 Rectory).

Original Occupants / Owners: Diocese of Ottawa, Dominican Order of the Roman Catholic Church.

Criteria / Value	Meets Criteria (Y/N)	Summary
1. The property has design value or physical value because it,		
i. is a rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method,	Y	The St. Jean Baptiste Church and Convent are rare Canadian examples of the type – a monastic plan with a parish church forming the north wall and a seminary forming the east, west, and south walls with a cloister at the heart of the complex. Vaulted internal ambulatories on the ground floor of the monastic enclosure buildings overlooking the central courtyard are an interesting architectural feature of the plan. The three and four-storey flat roofed stone clad monastic enclosure buildings are representative of the type constructed in Ottawa. The design includes architectural elements and details that are associated with the Gothic Style including the buttressed bell tower, and crenellated parapets.
ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or	Y	The church and monastic enclosure buildings display a high degree of craftsmanship in the masonry work and detailing. The limestone panels above the windows of the church are incised with a Dominican Cross, and the stylized cross formed of tooled limestone above the church entrance are of artistic merit, as is the large wooden cross with the figure of Christ sculpted in 1938 by Médard Bourgault. The craftsmanship in the woodwork forming the doors and windows is also of a high quality, as is the hardware on the French windows and doors. The two vaulted concrete ambulatories also display a high degree of craftsmanship.

iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	Y	The forty-seven-bell carillon made in France and installed in the bell tower in 1939 displays a high degree of technical merit.
2. The property has historical value or associative value because it,		
i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community,	y	The parish history completed in 1997 outlines the people (friars and priests), activities, events, and organizations that have a direct association with the parish church and seminary.
ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or	Y	The site, the activities and organizations associated with the parish church and convent/seminary has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of the French-Canadian catholic parish and its community, as well as the Dominican Order of the Roman Catholic Church.
iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community.	Y	The form of the monastic complex reflects the work and ideas of three architects: Joseph Michaud; Georges Bouillon; and Joseph Larue.
3. The property has contextual value because it,		
i. is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area,	Y	The property is important in maintaining, supporting, and defining the character of the west side of Empress Avenue in its scale and landscape elements.
ii. is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings, or	Y	The property is physically, visually, functionally, and historically linked to a school, convent, parish hall, and residential tower on Empress Avenue. The monastic enclosure is linked to the former Notre Dame du Rosaire, and Saint Jean Baptiste School in its design (Georges Bouillon), date of construction and materials – limestone. The site is historically linked to the parish hall sharing a common architect – Joseph Larue, and the co-op apartment tower.
iii. is a landmark.	N	The church tower has a local presence located on a corner lot set on a bluff overlooking LeBreton Flats. The scale of the complex extending along Empress Avenue enclosed with stone walls dominates the views along Empress Avenue.

5.1 Conclusion

The assessment of the potential cultural heritage value or interest of the property against O. Reg 9/06 provides an overview of the historical patterns. The site, the activities and organizations associated with the parish church and convent/seminary has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of the French-Canadian catholic parish and its community, as well as the Dominican Order

of the Roman Catholic Church. In summary the property scores high and meets all three criteria – design, history, and context - contained in the O. Reg. 9/06 for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

5.0 AUTHORS QUALIFICATIONS

Commonwealth Historic Resource Management is a consulting firm that offers professional services related to conservation, planning, research, design, and interpretation for historical and cultural resources. A key focus of the practice is planning and assessment of heritage resources as part of the development process.

John J. Stewart, B.L.A., O.A.L.A., C.S.L.A., CAHP, a principal of Commonwealth is a specialist in the planning and design of cultural resources, building conservation, and commercial area revitalization. A graduate of the University of Guelph, he received additional training at Cornell University (USA) and Oxford University (UK) and holds a diploma in the Conservation of Monuments from Parks Canada, where he worked as Head, Restoration Services Landscape Section. Before Commonwealth's formation, Stewart served for four years as the first director of Heritage Canada's Main Street Program.

Stewart is a founding member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals. He has served as the Canadian representative of the Historic Landscapes and Gardens Committee of ICOMOS and the International Federation of Landscape Architects. Stewart is a panel member with the Ottawa Urban design Review Panel and a board member of Algonquin College Heritage Trades Program.

Ian Hunter, Built Heritage Specialist, Researcher is a specialist in the research and assessment of cultural heritage resources and building conservation. Experience in the heritage conservation field extends over 30 years primarily working for Commonwealth Historic Resource Management.