



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE**

**ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE**

City of Winnipeg  
Historical Buildings & Resources Committee  
Researcher: M. Peterson  
March 2018

This building embodies the following heritage values as described in the *Historical Resources By-law*, 55/2014 (consolidated update July 13, 2016):

- (a) As one of Western Canada's older buildings, the Archbishop's Residence is an important illustration of the region's early European settlement period;
- (b) It is associated with the dramatic growth of St. Boniface, the Roman Catholic Church in Western Canada and the central role played by the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface;
- (c) The building is an early example of the Georgian Style of architecture of which on a few pre-Confederation era examples remain in Western Canada;
- (d) The 1846 building is an extremely early example of a large stone building in Western Canada;
- (e) It is a highly conspicuous building within its neighbourhood; and
- (f) The building's exterior has suffered alteration and replacement but it continues to exhibit a high degree of originality.

## **151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**

The founding of a Roman Catholic mission on the east side of the Red River near the meeting of the Red and Assiniboine rivers in 1818 by Bishop Provencher was the first step in the establishment of the Francophone settlement of St. Boniface, the centre of the French culture and religion on the Western prairies.

The new mission, established for the Métis and First Nations bands that lived or traded near the confluence of the area’s two major rivers, was named for a sainted German missionary, St. Boniface (675-754), and gradually expanded with the arrival of other priests and sisters, including the Sisters of Charity of Montréal, the Grey Nuns, who arrived in 1844. The various orders established churches, schools, and hospitals, all among the earliest in the West. The Roman Catholic Church hierarchy, especially Bishop Taché, worked to attract French-speaking Catholic businessmen and intellectuals from Eastern Canada to support the new settlement and firmly establish the Francophone culture. St. Boniface was incorporated as a Town 1883 and a City in 1908 and has, because of this early history, developed separately and uniquely from the larger City of Winnipeg to the north and west.

And the site on the east side of the Red River has been the religious centre of Western Canadian Francophone Catholicism since the mission’s establishment and the construction of the first church, built between 1818 and 1823.

The first cathedral building constructed on the site was started in 1818 (completed in 1823), a modest 15.2 x 9.2-metre log structure used as a chapel, residence and school for newly arrived Father Joseph-Norbert Provencher (1787-1853).<sup>1</sup> A year later, a formal church was begun. Lack of funds delayed its completion until 1825 – the oak log structure measured 24.4 x 10.7 metres. It became St. Boniface’s first cathedral when Father Provencher was consecrated Bishop in 1822 (Plate 1) – see Appendix II for a list of St. Boniface Bishops and Archbishops.

---

<sup>1</sup> La Cathédrale de Saint-Boniface (Saint-Boniface, MB: Unnamed, 1974), pp. 14-15; and Welcome to the St. Boniface Cathedral, undated pamphlet, courtesy of the St. Boniface Parish office.

The cornerstone of the second cathedral was laid in 1832, construction lasting 7 years. This was the twin tower building (Plate 2) and was destroyed by fire in 1860.<sup>2</sup> Between 1862 and 1863, the third cathedral was completed, a single bell-tower church built under the guidance of Bishop Alexandre-Antonin Taché (1823-1894) who had been installed as Bishop in November 1854. The stone church measured 45.8 x 18.3 metres (Plate 3).

This structure took the Parish into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but it became clear that it had become too small for the growing work of the Church not only locally but on a more regional scale. It was under Bishop Louis Philippe Adélard Langevin (1855-1915), who had been named Bishop in 1894, that the Parish sought larger quarters. Construction began in 1905 and the new edifice was blessed on October 4, 1908 (Plate 4). It continued to be one of the centres of Francophone life in Manitoba until the \$2.5 million fire<sup>3</sup> of 1968 (Plate 5).

In 1846, however, the congregation moved to provide permanent residential space for its Bishop; constructing the fourth residence on the site (the other three had been destroyed by fire or flooding). The solid stone structure just north of the cathedral (Plates 6-8) and is often referred to as the “Bishop’s Palace” or the “Archiepiscopal Palace”.

## STYLE

The Residence is an excellent and very early example of the Georgian Style, popular in the 1820-1870 period. In Western Canada in general and St. Boniface in particular, the style was heavily influenced by the French-Canadian Quebec Style.<sup>4</sup> In Manitoba, it was used extensively in the early development stage, especially by religious groups and the Hudson’s Bay Company. Elements associated with the style include box-like massing, symmetrical layouts with a central entrance, simple roofs with dormer windows and usually no eaves. Wood and stone were most

---

<sup>2</sup> Loc. cit.

<sup>3</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, September 16, 1968, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> L. Maitland, et al, A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1992), pp. 15-20.

often the materials used in Manitoba.<sup>5</sup> The Grey Nuns Convent, built of logs at the same time as the Bishop's Palace, is another good example of the style (Plate 9).

## CONSTRUCTION

Built of solid stone, the 1846 building and its 1899 addition are excellent examples of the high degree of skill of the local stone masons in Red River during the mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> century.

European born and trained stonemasons came to the Canadian interior in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) to build their fur trading forts and posts. In 1733, stonemason, J. Robson and several other Scottish masons, arrived at the mouth of the Churchill River to commence construction of Fort Prince of Wales for the HBC.<sup>6</sup> This was followed by stonemasons arriving with the Red River Settlers in the early 1810s. Work for these men had grown to include the planning and construction of churches, homes and schools and public structures.

The Archbishop's Residence has 91.4-centimetre stone foundation walls throughout, the stone walls of the 1899 addition are 40.6 centimetres thick (see Appendix I for additional construction information).

## DESIGN

This solid stone, 3-storey residence is a T-shaped building, the western portion running north/south and with a rectangular section running east from it. The front portion's front (west) façade is symmetrically designed, with an open wood porch stretching its entire width and wrapping around and running a short distance along the south façade (Plates 10 and 11). The centrally placed door was originally set in an entrance enclosure that was removed by the 1960s (Plates 12

---

<sup>5</sup> Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 6.

<sup>6</sup> R.E. Emmett, "One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in Manitoba," MHS Transactions, Series 3, Number 31, 1974-75 Season, online.

and 13). All window openings on this elevation are square headed. The building was originally built with a gable roof with a square cupola and with gable dormer windows and brick chimneys at the north and south ends (Plate 8). Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> or early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the roof was converted into a gambrel roof (Plates 13 and 14).

The south façade includes an enclosed area at the east end of the porch with a balustraded second storey balcony and an arched window opening on the third floor (Plate 15). The north façade is covered by an addition (Plate 16), the small portions of uncovered east façade show similarly designed elements to the front and south elevations (Plate 17).

The 1899 rear addition is built of lightly coloured common clay brick and continues the basic design of the older structure. It rises three storeys and its gambrel roof features gable dormers on its side and rear slopes (Plate 18). The south façade includes a centrally-placed raised entrance with unfluted columns and hood (Plate 19).

A small connector building runs off the north end of the east façade of the 1899 building to another structure (Sisters' Residence), built in 1963 (Plate 20). A large building (Seminary) was constructed onto the north façade of the 1846 building in 1948 (Plate 21). See Plate 22 for entire site plan.

## **INTERIOR**

The interior of the Residence has undergone significant alterations over the years, little remains of the original layout or finishes, most recently, major upgrades in 1964.

Today, the basement holds the Archbishop's Chapel (Plate 23) and a refectory, the ground floor includes offices and Salon Taché and the Salon Provencher (Plates 24 and 25). The second floor includes the Archbishop's office and apartment, other associated offices and the library (Plate 26). The third floor features suites for retired and active priests and visitor rooms (Plates 27 and 28). The main entrance to the original 1864 structure includes panes of coloured glass (Plate 29).

**INTEGRITY**

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. Window replacement throughout has affected the appearance of the building although there are still many original details and the overall layout has remained unaltered.

**STREETSCAPE**

The Residence, although it has an Avenue de la Cathédrale address, faces west onto Avenue Taché and is set back considerably from the street (Plate 30). It is one of a group of religious structures along the Avenue – the Cathedral and the Grey Nuns Convent (now St. Boniface Museum) – that comprise an important historic streetscape (Plate 31).

**ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS**

It is unknown who designed and built the Residence, it is likely that parishioners volunteered their time and expertise for its completion.

Local architect Etienne Gaboury was in charge of the updating and restoration work on the building in 1964.

**PERSON/INSTITUTION**

This is the fourth residence built on this site used as the official residence of the Archbishop of St. Boniface and his administrative centre. Over the years, it has also provided office and residential space for related staff for the Archdiocese that now encompasses almost all of southern and eastern Manitoba (Plate 32).

**EVENT**

There is no known important historical event connected with this building.

**CONTEXT**

This is one of the older buildings in St. Boniface and was built to house the growing responsibilities and duties of the Roman Catholic Church in St. Boniface and what would become Western Canada.

**LANDMARK**

As part of a collection of religious structures along Avenue Taché, the Archbishop's Residence is a well-known structure.





## APPENDIX I

### *CITY OF WINNIPEG - Preliminary Report*

Building Address: 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale  
(622 Avenue Taché)

Building Name: Archbishop's Residence

Original Use: residence (religious)

Current Use: residence (religious)

Roll No. (Old): 06060607100 (606130; 606070; 606071) RSN: 1488

Municipality: 06

Ward: ---

Property or Occupancy Code: 96

Legal Description: 76 St. Boniface, Plan 19333, Lots 5/6 (Old: Plan 711, Part Block A)

Location: northeast corner Avenue Taché

Date of Construction: 1846 & 1899

Storeys: 3

**Heritage Status: NOMINATED LIST**

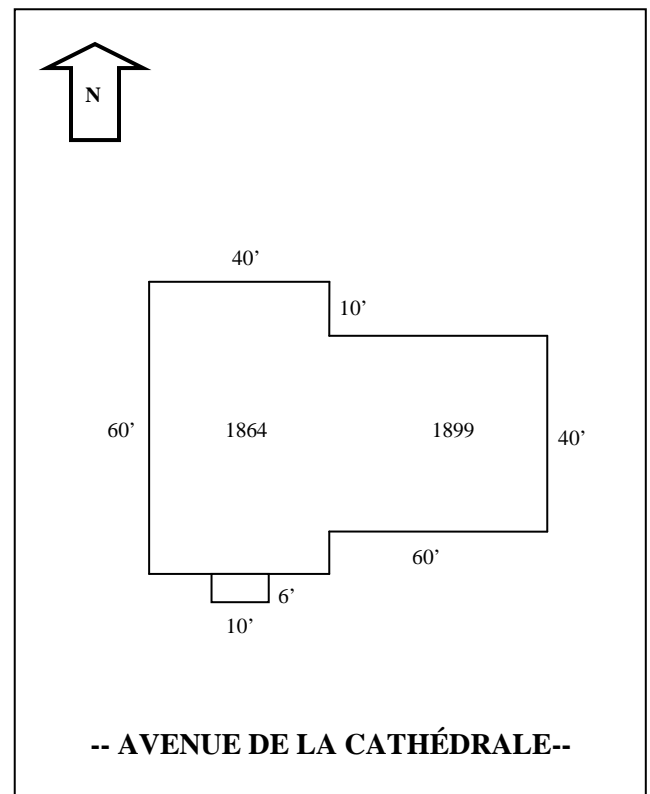
Construction Type: stone

Building Permits (Plans available: [CS] City Storage; [M] Microfilm):

--SEE NEXT PAGE--

#### Information:

- 36" stone foundation walls throughout, 1899 building has 16" solid brick walls on all floors
- 1963- basement has chapel, 1<sup>st</sup> has 12 offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> has 10 rooms & 3<sup>rd</sup> has 16 rooms all rooms on all floors off central corridor



**ARCHITECT – UNKNOWN**

**CONTRACTOR – UNKNOWN**

## City of Winnipeg Building Permits (CS- City Storage):

YEAR	NO.	PLANS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1955	11980	CS	Unknown	Addition
1955	12078	CS	Unknown	Addition
1955	12079	CS	Unknown	Addition
1963	2519		\$10,000	Foundation for east addition to Archbishop's Residence
1963	3726		\$89,900	Superstructure for east addition to Archbishop's Residence
1968	229		\$11,000	Alterations to Archbishop's Residence
1968	4621		\$4,400	Alterations to Archbishop's Residence
1971	7134		\$8,000	Elevator in existing stairwell
1972	7873		\$3,000	Alterations to residence
1975	3998	CS	\$8,600	Construct monument
1983	2375		\$23,000	Interior alterations and upgrades to Seminary School (1955 and 1956 sections)
1983	5614		\$425,000	Interior & exterior alterations to Seminary School (1948 section)
1986	136	CS		Interior alterations
2006	149777			Addition
2017	114452			Interior alterations

### Permit information:

229/1968: basement dining room redone

4621/1968: new office partitioning on 1<sup>st</sup> floor

2375/1983: tunnel upgrades, some partitioning added to 1955 section and new basement gym in 1956 section of seminary

5614/1983: main and second floors of residence converted to 8 @ 1 bedroom suites, 1 whirlpool room, activity/chapel, 2 sick bays, basement dining room upgraded, concrete balconies added, building gutted with new electrical & plumbing (1948 section of seminary)

### Seminary Buildings:

1948 building – cost \$70,000, originally basement held student & employee dining rooms, kitchen; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors residential suites

1954 building – cost \$41,000, originally 1<sup>st</sup> floor 2 chapels and classroom and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor residential suites (15)

1955 building – cost \$167,500, originally 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> storey offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for student residences

1956 building – cost \$177,000, in 1983 basement is gym and seminary offices, 1<sup>st</sup> is seminary and 2<sup>nd</sup> is seminary and residences for students and teachers

## APPENDIX II

### Succession of Bishops and Archbishops:<sup>1</sup>

<b>1822-1847</b>	Mgr Joseph-Norbert PROVENCHER, auxiliary bishop of Quebec, responsible for the North West Vicariate Apostolic
<b>1847-1853</b>	Mgr Joseph-Norbert PROVENCHER (1st bishop)
<b>1853-1871</b>	Mgr Alexandre-Antonin TACHÉ, omi (2nd bishop)
<b>1871-1894</b>	Mgr Alexandre-Antonin TACHÉ, omi (1st archbishop)
<b>1857-1871</b>	Mgr Vital-Justin GRANDIN, omi, coadjutor with right of succession, transferred to Saint Albert (1871-1902)
<b>1895-1915</b>	Mgr Louis-Philippe Adélard LANGEVIN (2nd archbishop)
<b>1915-1955</b>	Mgr Arthur BÉLIVEAU (3re archbishop)
<b>1933-1941</b>	Mgr Émile YELLE, p.s.s., coadjutor with right of succession, deceased in 1947
<b>1941-1952</b>	Mgr Georges CABANA, coadjutor with right of succession, promoted coadjutor of Sherbrooke, with right of succession, on January 29, 1952
<b>1952-1954</b>	Mgr Maurice BAUDOUX, coadjutor with right of succession
<b>1955-1974</b>	Mgr Maurice BAUDOUX (4th archbishop)
<b>1974-2000</b>	Mgr Antoine HACAULT (5th archbishop)
<b>2001-2009</b>	Mgr Émilus GOULET, p.s.s. (6th archbishop)
<b>2009 (since)</b>	Mgr Albert LeGatt (7th archbishop)

---

<sup>1</sup> Archidiocèse de Saint-Boniface Archdiocese website, [www.archsaintboniface.ca/main.php?p=102](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca/main.php?p=102), no date.

## 151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE

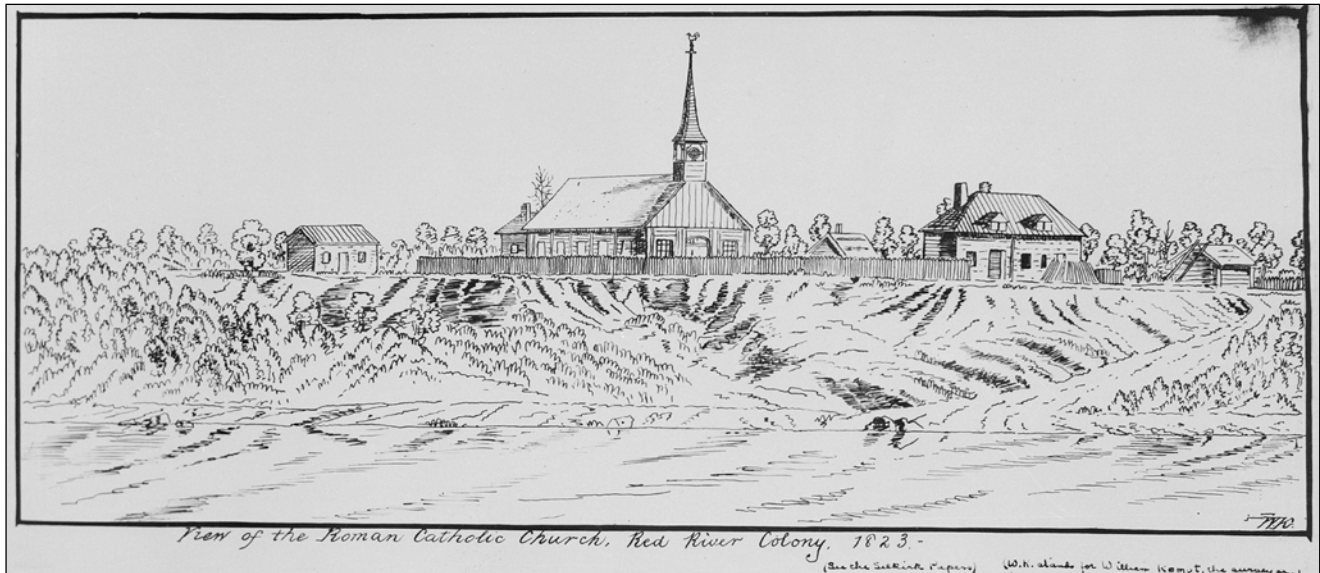


Plate 1 – This 1823 sketch by William Kemp shows the nearly completed second church (first Cathedral). (Archives of Manitoba, “St. Boniface- Cathedral (1823)- 1”, N10736.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**

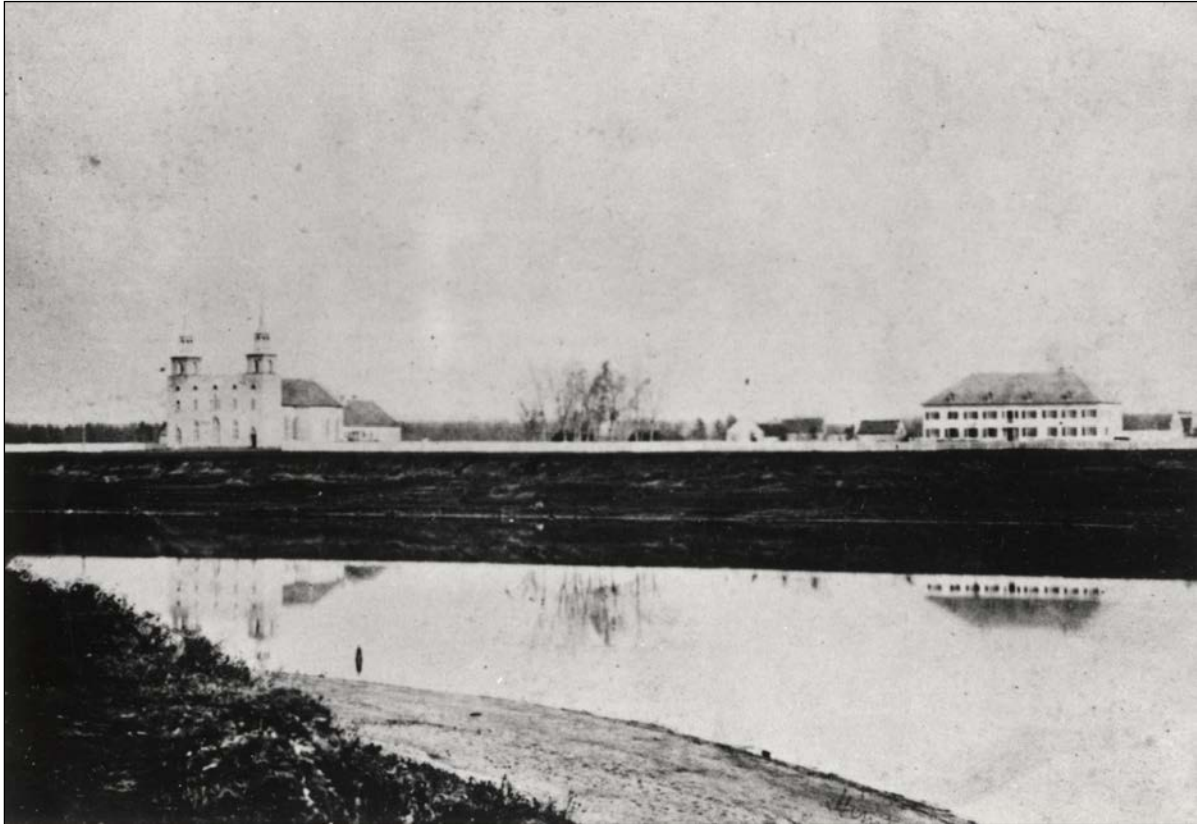


Plate 2 – St. Boniface Cathedral (left) and the Grey Nuns' Convent (right, present-day St. Boniface Museum), from the Winnipeg side of the Red River, ca.1857. (H.L. Hime photograph courtesy of Western Canada Pictorial Index, A0052-01574)

151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE



Plate 3 – The third Cathedral (fourth church), ca.1890. (Archives of Manitoba, “St. Boniface-Cathedral (1863)- 4”, N3451.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE**



Plate 4 – St. Boniface Cathedral shortly after construction. (Reproduced from St. Boniface Cathedral, Souvenir Book, October 4, 1908.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 5 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, July 1968 with the still smoldering ruins. (Reproduced from “viens, c’est vrai...” published by La Liberté to commemorate the blessing of the new Cathedral, July 12, 1972, p. 16.)



# 151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE

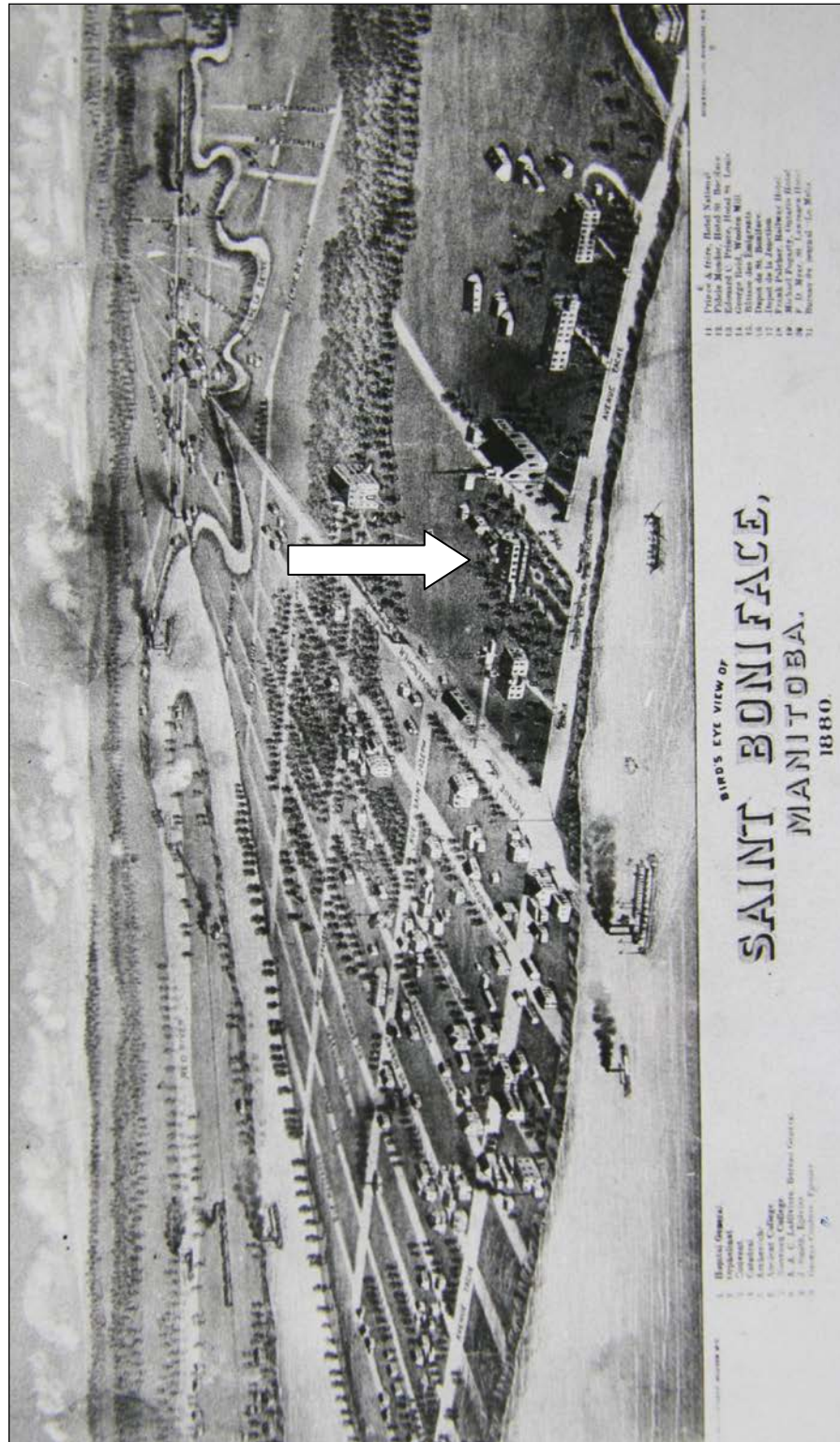


Plate 6 – “Bird’s Eye View of St. Boniface, Manitoba, 1880.” The Archbishop’s Residence facing Avenue Taché at arrow. (Archives of Manitoba.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 7 – This 1878 image shows, from left to right, St. Boniface College, the Archbishop's Residence and the Cathedral. (Archives of Manitoba, "St Boniface- College 1858- 1", N9360.)



Plate 8 – Archbishop's Residence, ca.1885. (Archives of Manitoba, "St Boniface- Archbishops Palace 9, c1885".)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 9 – Grey Nuns Convent, 494 Avenue Taché, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 10 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, front (west) and south façades, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



Plate 11 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, front (west) and south façades, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE**



Plate 12 – Archbishop's Residence, ca.1890 showing the entrance enclosure and cupola.  
(Archives of Manitoba, "St Boniface- Archbishops Palace 2, c1890".)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 13 – Archbishop’s Residence, ca.1910 showing the entrance enclosure but the cupola removed. (Archives of Manitoba, “St Boniface- Archbishops Palace 8, c1910”.)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 14 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, west façade, detail of roof, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



Plate 15 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, south façade, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 16 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, hidden north and east façades of 1846 building, north and east façades of the 1899 building, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



Plate 17 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, south and east façades of 1846 building, part of south façade of the 1899 building, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 18 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, north and east façades of the 1899 building, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



Plate 19 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, south façade of the 1899 building, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 20 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1963 addition, south and east façades, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



Plate 21 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1948 addition, west façade, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



# 151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE

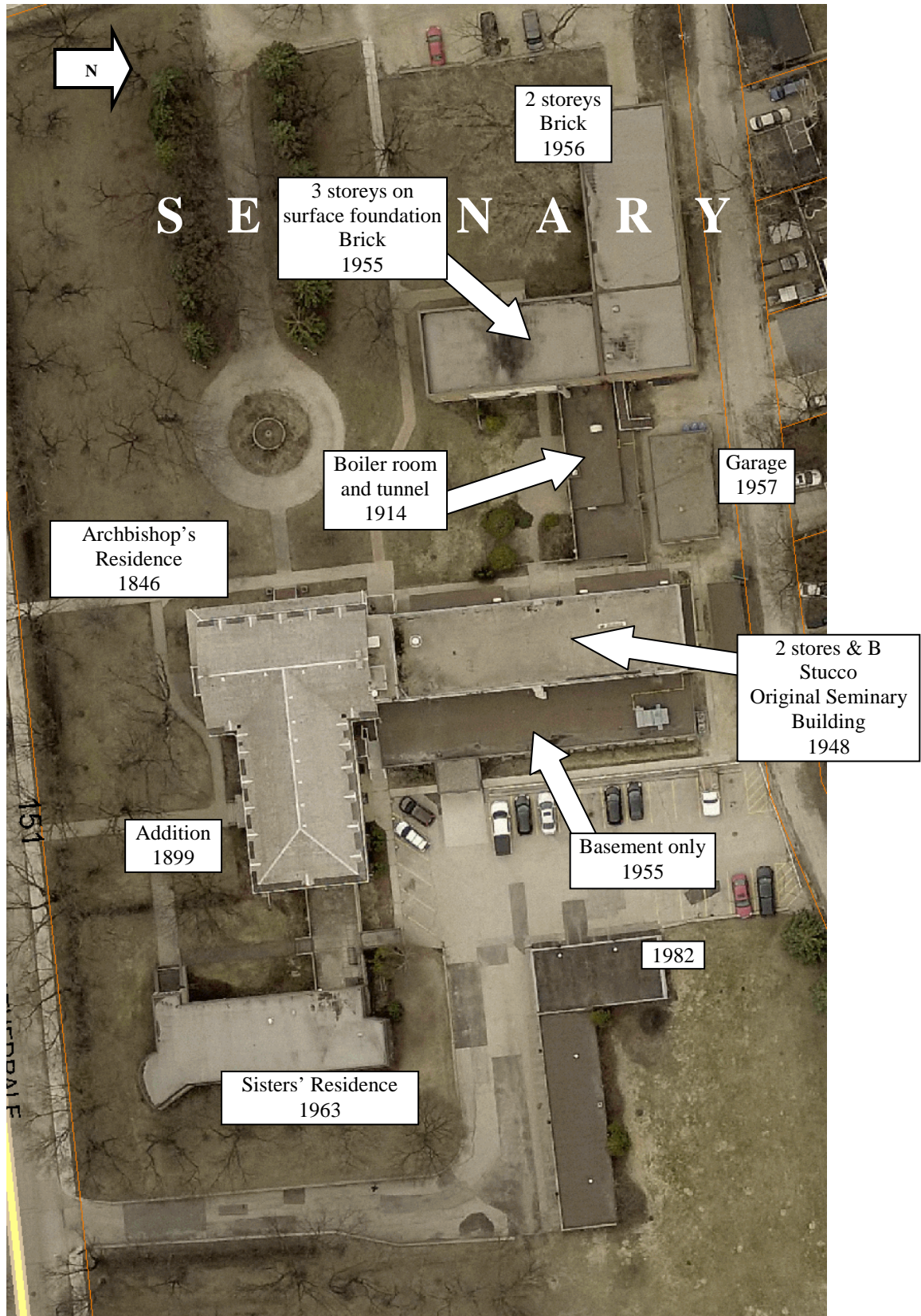


Plate 22 – Present-day buildings on site. (City of Winnipeg.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 23 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, basement, Archbishop’s Chapel, 2018. (A. Andreoglou, 2018.)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 24 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, main floor, Salon Taché, 2018.  
(A. Andreoglou, 2018.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 25 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, main floor, Provencher Salon, 2018. (A. Andreoglou, 2018.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 26 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, second floor, 2018. (A. Andreoglou, 2018.)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 27 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, third floor hallway and arched south window, 2018. (A. Andreoglou, 2018.)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 28 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, third floor hallway, 2018. (A. Andreoglou, 2018.)

**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 29 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale, coloured glass, main entrance, 2018. (A. Andreoglou, 2018.)



Plate 30 – Archbishop’s Residence, 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale from Avenue Taché, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



**151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE**



Plate 31 – Aerial view, ca.1950, of St. Boniface east of Avenue Taché. Archbishop's Residence is at arrow. (Archives of Manitoba, "St. Boniface 29".)

151 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE

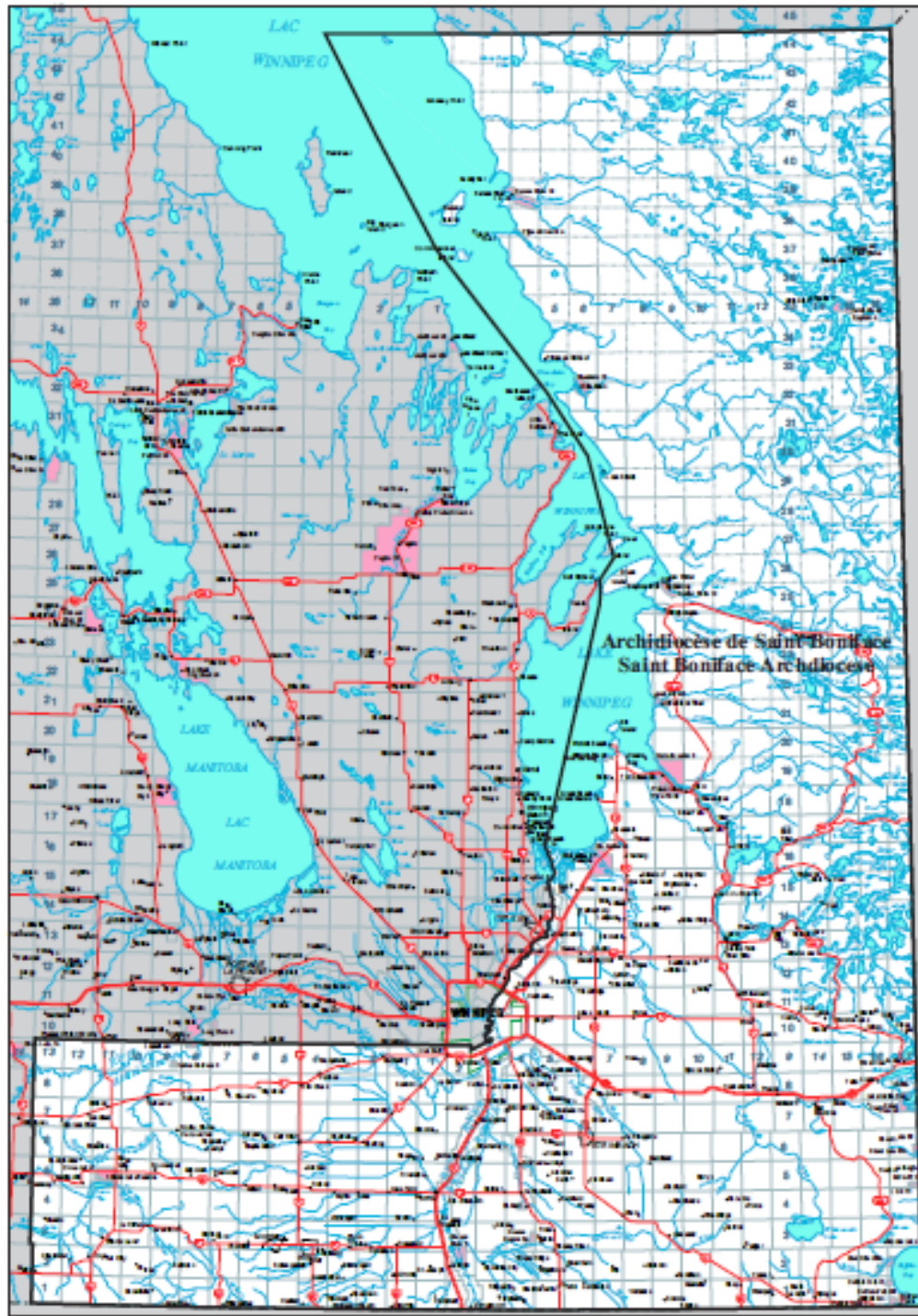


Plate 32 – Map of the St. Boniface Archdiocese. (Reproduced from the [St. Boniface Archdiocese website](#).)