

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
830 BATHURST STREET

ATTACHMENT NO. 4D

The property at 830 Bloor Street West is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value.

Description

Located on the west side of Bathurst Street between Bloor Street West and London Street, the building was constructed in 1956 for the Paulist Fathers as the Catholic Information Centre for Toronto (and most recently known as the Paulist Centre for Catholic Evangelization).

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 830 Bathurst Street has cultural heritage value for its historical links to the Paulist Fathers, who oversaw St. Peter's Parish in Toronto for over a century from 1914 until 2015. Founded in New York City in 1859 as the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, the Paulist Fathers were invited to Toronto in 1914 to oversee the Newman Centre as the Roman Catholic chaplaincy for the University of Toronto as well as St. Peter's Parish. To support both practicing and non practicing Catholics, as well as to attract converts to the faith, the Paulist Fathers opened the first Catholic Information Centre in Toronto in 1938. Originally occupying space in St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, the Paulist Fathers opened the purpose-built facility containing a storefront reading room, classrooms, offices and a chapel at 830 Bathurst Street in 1956.

The building known historically as the Catholic Information Centre is also valued for its design as a mid 20th century institutional building that complements, with its placement on the site and its architectural detailing the adjoining St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church and Parish Hall, with which it shares an institutional setting.

Contextually, the Catholic Information Centre is historically, visually, physically and functionally linked to its setting on the west side of Bathurst Street directly north of Bloor Street on property that extends west to Markham Street. With the adjoining St. Peter's Church and Parish Hall, the Centre is an integral part of an institutional enclave that is a local landmark in Seaton Village.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the building known historically as the Catholic Information Centre on the property at 830 Bathurst Street are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on the west side of Bathurst Street
- The scale, form and massing of the single-storey rectangular-shaped plan with projecting covered entrances on the north elevation
- The materials, with the brick cladding and the stone, wood and glass detailing
- The flat roofline with the stone coping

- The fenestration, with the large flat-headed openings set in stone surrounds
- The east entrance on Bathurst Street, which is set in a projecting flat-roofed wing and features paired doors beneath a brick cross motif
- On the east elevation, the sculpted panel labelled "Paulist Fathers" and the crest