

The property at 659 Markham Street is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value.

### Description

The property at 659 Markham Street contains St. Peter's Parish Hall, which was completed in 1928 according to the designs of architect Lindsay Alexander Wardell, who concentrated on institutional buildings employing the Neo-Gothic styling he learned during his training with American specialist, R. A. Cram. St. Peter's Parish Hall was constructed after the opening of the adjoining St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church (1925). It forms part of an ecclesiastical enclave on the east of Bathurst Street, north of Bloor Street West that extends west to Markham Street and encompasses the former Catholic Information Centre (more recently known as the Paulist Centre for Catholic Evangelization at 830 Bathurst).

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

St. Peter's Parish Hall has cultural heritage value as a well-designed, early 20th century institutional building that was designed in the Neo-Gothic style to complement the adjoining church. It is particularly distinguished by its decorative detailing that includes the bell tower on the west elevation that extended from a wall dormer.

As part of the religious enclave that extends between Bathurst and Markham Streets, north of Bloor Street West, St. Peter's Parish Hall is historically linked to St. Peter's Parish, which was officially formed in 1896 and established its first church on Bathurst Street (1906, on the east side of the street, south of Bloor Street West) before building the current edifice at 840 Bloor Street West. The development of the ecclesiastical campus with the church, parish hall and former Catholic Information Centre (1956, and more recently known as the Paulist Centre for Catholic Evangelization at 830 Bathurst) followed the arrival in 1914 of the Paulist Fathers (founded in New York City in 1859 as the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostles) who oversaw St. Peter's Parish for over a century.

Contextually, St. Peter's Parish Hall 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 neighbouring church and Catholic Information Centre, it is an integral part of the institutional enclave that is a local landmark in Seaton Village.

### Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the building known historically as St. Peter's Parish Hall on the property at 659 Markham Street are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on the east side of Markham Street

- The scale, form and massing of the L-shaped plan
- The materials, with the stone cladding and the stone, wood and glass detailing
- The gable roof with the slate cladding and the stone coping, the wall dormers, the bell tower (west), and the stone chimneys, including the oversized one extending above the west wall
- The entrance on north elevation, with the wood door placed at the base of a frontispiece that extends above the roof
- The symmetrically-placed fenestration with the mixture of pointed-arched and flat-headed openings placed in stone surrounds with quoins, and the single-storey bay window on the south wall
- The decorative detailing in the Neo-Gothic style, including the archway (north) linking the building to St. Peter's Church

The adjoining garage is not identified as a heritage attribute.