



**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE**

**ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**

City of Winnipeg  
Historical Buildings Committee

September 2012

## 190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL

The bells of the Roman mission  
That call from the turrets twain  
To the boatmen on the river  
The hunter on the plain

The voyageur smiles as he listens  
To the sound that grows apace,  
Well he knows the vesper ringing  
Of the bells of St Boniface

Excerpt from “The Red River Voyageur” by American poet John G. Whittier (1859)

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 whether it has been the voyageurs’ canoes rounding the bend in the Red River, paddlewheelers coming north from the United States, disembarked transcontinental railway passengers or families in their automobiles, the Cathedral near the banks of the river has always been a welcome site and a journey’s end.

After a spectacular fire in 1968 gutted their Cathedral (Plate 1), the Parish searched for and found a solution, a modern building nestled within the stone walls of the 1908 edifice (Plate 2).

## **STYLE**

The large stone church, completed in 1908, was an excellent example of the Roman Byzantine Style, developed during the Byzantine Empire (post 500A.D.) following the move of the capital of the Roman Empire to Byzantium (renamed Constantinople, present-day Istanbul, Turkey) and the creation of an ecclesiastical government and a unique architectural form.

It is a style characterized by ornamental domes and the heavy use of mosaics and other decorative elements, round arches and circular windows. Buildings are symmetrical and exterior walls are normally smooth and plain. Popular materials include buff brick in large, flat pieces, light-colored stone, often in bands and stucco or plastered and painted concrete.<sup>1</sup> The lavishness of the style led to its use by several religious groups including Orthodox Greeks and Roman Catholics.

The style also developed an interior openness which grew from the basilica plan, a modified gothic layout developed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century from Roman courthouses and public meeting places. As the religious form developed, it represented the movement to segregate the priest in the sanctuary from the laity in the nave.<sup>2</sup> The layout normally included one or two bell towers at its entrance, a narthex (entrance lobby), a choir loft and an elongated nave with side confessional booths (or under the choir loft). The narrow, deep sanctuary space was raised and located opposite the entrance at the east end of the building. The churches were symmetrical and axial, with columns supporting a pitched roof and a sacristy was located on either side of the sanctuary. This became the typical design of Roman Catholic churches, growing out of the evolution of the liturgy and the need to express and house the actions and rituals as they developed.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> New York Landmarks Conservancy, quoted at [www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org), 1997.

<sup>2</sup> The St. Boniface Cathedral, a liturgical analysis (St. Boniface, MB: Gaboury, Lussier, Sigurdson Architects, no date), pp. 16-18.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 18.

The new Cathedral building is Modern in style, although traditional in layout, including the heavy use of glass, the straight lines of the exterior walls and roof and the lack of historically-based ornamentation.

## CONSTRUCTION

Built of limestone, the St. Boniface Cathedral was one of the most spectacular structures in all of Western Canada when consecrated in 1908 (Plates 3 and 4).

The building measured approximately 95.2 metres long and 26.8 metres wide, although it was 30.5 metres wide at the front between the bases of the twin towers, which measured 45.8 metres high).<sup>4</sup> The vaulted ceiling inside rose 21.4 metres from the floor and the stained glass rose window was 7.6 metres in diameter. The side walls rose 12.2 metres above grade.<sup>5</sup> Cost of construction was \$325,000.<sup>6</sup>

The new Cathedral was built of reinforced concrete and steel and is located at the east end of the 1908 building (Plates 5 and 6). It cost \$575,000 to complete.<sup>7</sup>

## DESIGN

As built, the 1908 Cathedral was an imposing structure. The front (west) façade featured a wide set of stairs leading to three arched openings leading to the interior. Above these entrances was the rose window deeply inset in an arched opening. Above was the gable end embellished with a stone statue and stone cross. Corner towers with delicate arched windows and columned buttresses flanked the entrance and were topped with spectacular domed roofs. Other ornamental

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<sup>4</sup> Cathédrale St. Boniface Basilica (No date, courtesy of Parish Office), p. 4. Four bishops are buried under the tower : Béliveau, Langelier, Taché and Provencher, as are four missionaries: Darvot, Maisonneuve, Tissot and Tétreault.

<sup>5</sup> The Courier, September 30, 1970, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> Construction information from <http://www.venite.ca/>, no date; and City of Winnipeg Assessment Record, Roll No. 720802-12-3, PC 90.

<sup>7</sup> City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #4810/1971.

elements included carved floral panels, unfluted Corinthian Order columns, patterned stonework and carved bracketing. The north and south walls featured regularly spaced tall arched windows separated by pilasters. Projecting entrances were found on both elevations. The rear sacristy was lower, with square headed window openings and a projecting entrance.

Today, the front façade, portions of the side walls and the entire sacristy of the 1908 building remain (Plates 7-12).

The present Cathedral, which is undergoing renovations, features an angular front (west) façade with a projecting entrance, large windows and the metal roof. Low stone walls project past the front corners and beyond the walls of the 1908 structure (Plate 13).

## **INTERIOR**

The interior of the 1908 Cathedral was no less inspiring than the exterior (Plate 14). With seating for over 2,000 people, it boasted vaulted ceilings, rows of columns and a heavily embellished sanctuary. Only Monsigneur Béliveau's throne from 1916 (Plate 15), a sanctuary lamp and Holy Species were saved from the 1968 fire.<sup>8</sup>

As mentioned previously, the sacristy at the rear of the 1908 structure was saved from the fire and today exhibits some original elements, including high ceilings and windows and hardware (Plate 16).

The interior of the new cathedral (Plates 17-19), which seats approximately 1,000, features a spruce clad entrance with Gaboury-designed stained glass panels. The wide nave includes high cedar ceilings (Plate 20), oak benches and open confessionals along the side.<sup>9</sup> The sanctuary's

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<sup>8</sup> The Courier, September 30, 1970, p. 1. A small half-bell was also saved and has been mounted on a plaque and placed in the new cathedral's foyer.

<sup>9</sup> Cathédrale St. Boniface Basilica, op. cit., p. 2.

representation of Christ was designed and built by Manitoba-born artist Réal Bérard and is covered in mosaic clay tiles (Plates 21 and 22).<sup>10</sup>

The 1908 sacristy still fills its original role and the basement of the new building includes washroom and kitchen facilities as well as a large meeting room (Plate 23).

## **INTEGRITY**

The building stands on its original site. Since the fire, the stone ruins of the 1908 building have been stabilized and have not suffered major alteration. The new church is in the midst of major upgrades but significant changes have not occurred to the original design, materials or layout.

## **STREETSCAPE/SITE**

The Cathedral, since its completion in 1908, has always had a great visual presence, from Winnipeg, the river or in St. Boniface along Avenue Taché.

No less important is the church's cemetery, which is the final home to many of the City's most influential leaders and family members (Plate 24). Some of the more prominent sites in the cemetery include:

1. Father Jean-Pierre Aulneau and J.B. La Vérendryé Memorial. Erected by La Société Historique de Saint-Boniface, this memorial honours missionary Father J.-P. Aulneau, J.B. La Vérendryé and 19 others who were killed on an island in the Lake of the Woods on June 6, 1736. The memorial, featuring sculptures of the two men, includes their remains.
2. Ambroise-Dydime Lépine- Riel's lieutenant in 1869-70, was buried in the cemetery in 1923 beside Riel.
3. Louis Riel, considered the Father of Manitoba, is buried at the north edge of the cemetery.
4. Jean-Baptiste Lagimodière, trapper who travelled nearly 3,000 kilometres from Red River to Montreal in 1815 to tell Lord Selkirk about the problems at the Settlement and his wife, Marie-Anne (nee. Gaboury), first French-Canadian woman to live in west.
5. Statue of Assumption (Holy Mary's Assumption), erected after 1950 flood is located in the northwest corner of the site.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

6. Abbé Provencher, honouring Bishop Provencher who arrived at Fort Douglas in 1818, was consecrated Bishop in 1822 and whose chapel became the first Cathedral.
7. Grey Nuns- arrived June 1844 and built Western Canada's first hospital – the stone monument was erected to replace the hundreds of iron crosses formerly used to mark the grave sites of the nuns buried in the cemetery.
8. Memorial to the Jesuits, 22 pensioners were killed in the 1922 fire at Collège de St-Boniface.

## **ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS**

The Cathedral was designed by the Montréal firm of Marchand and Haskell, with local supervision by St. Boniface architect/contractor Joseph-Azarie Sénécal. Marchand (1873-1936) studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in the 1890s and returned to Montréal in 1902 to open an architectural practice with Samuel Stevens Haskell (1871-1913) an American-born architect who had also studied in Paris. Much of their work was for the Catholic Church in Montréal including churches, chapels and residences but they also completed work for the provincial and municipal governments and several hospital boards.<sup>11</sup>

The modern cathedral building was the design of local firm Gaboury, Lussier and Sigurdson. Its principle, Étienne-Joseph Gaboury (Plates 25 and 26), is a Manitoba-born and trained architect whose work, including public structures, churches and private homes, has brought him to the fore of modern design (see Appendix I for biographical information). This is the first Gaboury, Lussier and Sigurdson structure evaluated by the Historical Buildings Committee.

Crozier, Greenberg and Partners were hired in 1970 as engineers for the new church building and local builders Bird Construction won the contract to complete the new edifice.<sup>12</sup>

## **PERSON/INSTITUTION**

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

<sup>11</sup> Biographical information from The Canadian Encyclopedia, online version, <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com>, Historica Foundation of Canada, 2009 (author Julia Gersovitz).

<sup>12</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, January 16, 1970 and June 29, 1971.

Father Joseph Norbert Provencher (1787-1853).<sup>13</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 27).

The cornerstone of the second cathedral was laid in 1832, construction lasting 7 years. This was the twin tower building (Plate 28) made famous by American poet Whittier's 1859 poem and was destroyed by fire in 1860.<sup>14</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 29).

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 Adélaide 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 30). It received the title Minor Basilica from Rome in 1949 and continued to be one of the centres of Francophone life in Manitoba until the \$2.5 million fire<sup>15</sup> of 1968 (Plates 31 and 32).

The fire, which destroyed almost all of the Church's possessions and records, was a devastating blow to the congregation and Catholics across the country.<sup>16</sup> In the months that followed, parishioners worshipped at other churches and in makeshift quarters including gymnasiums while the sacristy, which had not been damaged by fire, continued to be used.<sup>17</sup> On the question of a new structure, the Parish made a concerted effort to consult the congregation through public

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<sup>13</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.

<sup>14</sup> Loc. cit.

<sup>15</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, September 16, 1968, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, July 18, 1972, p. 1. According to Bishop Raymond Roy, the St. Boniface Archdiocese had "mothered 25 other dioceses and many churches" by the early 1970s.

<sup>17</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, April 19, 1969, p. 25; and Winnipeg Free Press, July 15, 1969.



meetings and opinion polls and a well-circulated questionnaire (Plate 33). Numerous proposals were brought forward from demolishing and starting over to rebuilding the 1908 structure in its entirety. By the summer of 1969, the debate had polarized into two camps: the Parish Trustees and the Cathedral Building Committee who favoured maintaining some of the stone of the 1908 structure and the construction of a new, smaller church; and rebuilding the Cathedral (championed by a citizens' group known as the Cathedral Restoration Committee).<sup>18</sup>

In the end, the Trustees and Building Committee's choice was approved, as Father Raymond Roy, Cathedral pastor stated, "The historical significance of the building must take second place to the functional."<sup>19</sup> This reflected a growing awareness by Parish leaders that the role of the Church within society was evolving and that the 1908 structure no longer suited this new reality.

As part of this awareness, the Parish decided that of the \$940,000 in insurance money, \$90,000 would be spent on clearing debris from the site and engineering studies and that a maximum of \$750,000 would be spent on the new church, freeing up the remaining funds for pastoral work and other parish needs.

The Parish hired noted St. Boniface architects Gaboury Lussier Sigurdson to create a new building that was "not a monument but only a sober and functional meeting place."<sup>20</sup> Sod turning took place on July 3, 1971 and the new building was blessed on July 17, 1972.<sup>21</sup>

Today, the entire site is undergoing extensive restoration, costing an estimated \$6 million. The stone ruins are to be repaired, the cathedral building is presently being re-roofed (Plate 34), a visitor reception area is being added, interior spaces and mechanical systems are being upgraded and repairs are being made to some of the stained glass windows designed by E. Gaboury.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> The Courier, September 30, 1970, p. 1. The Church had even considered building elsewhere and selling the ruins and the grounds to the Federal/Provincial governments to be declared an historical site.

<sup>19</sup> Loc. cit.

<sup>20</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, January 16, 1970.

<sup>21</sup> La Cathédrale de Saint-Boniface (Saint-Boniface, MB: Unnamed, 1974), pp. 14-15. "For the preservation and integration of the facade", the Cathedral was given the Heritage Canada Foundation National Award of Honour.

<sup>22</sup> Information from the Parish website at [www.cathedralestboniface.ca/main.php?p=87](http://www.cathedralestboniface.ca/main.php?p=87).

**EVENT**

It would be difficult to find a more important site/structure in the life of St. Boniface than the Cathedral site at Taché and de la Cathédrale. Events such as religious ceremonies, marriages, funerals, etc. have been held in the building and on the grounds for nearly 200 years and it continues to be an integral part of the day-to-day lives many Winnipeggers.

**CONTEXT**

The site, the Basilica ruins, the new cathedral and the cemetery are all important contextually in the history of St. Boniface, Winnipeg and Western Canada.

The site has been the centre of Roman Catholicism in Western Canada since the fur trade era – St. Boniface is known as the Mother Church for parishes throughout the West. The 1908 Basilica, built at the height of the region's major growth phase, was a reflection of the wealth and power of the parish and of its significant place within the Church in Canada. The cemetery is the final resting place of many of the City's most influential leaders and their families, as well as the location of several monuments recounting important events and people.

Even the devastating gutting by fire of the Basilica was an important event, bringing forth a public debate regarding the Parish and Church, its evolving role in the community and region and how this role would best be served with a new building. The modern cathedral building was the result of this debate and continues to serve the parish as an iconic Winnipeg structure.

**LANDMARK**

Few structures hold a higher landmark status in the City of Winnipeg than the stone front of the St. Boniface Basilica. Seen from either side of the river, it is one of the quintessential and most recognizable local structures.



## APPENDIX II

### *CITY OF WINNIPEG - Preliminary Report*

#### Assessment Record

Building Address: 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale

Building Name: St. Boniface Cathedral

Original Use: religious

Current Use: religious

Roll No.: 720802

RSN: 62235

Municipality: 12

Ward: 3

Property or Occupancy Code: 90

Legal Description: 76 & 80 St. Boniface, Plan 29300, Lots 2 and 5

Location: southeast corner Avenue Taché

Date of Construction: 1908 & 1972

Storeys: 1

Heritage Status: **ON INVENTORY**

Construction Type: Stone and steel & reinforced concrete

Building Permits (Plans available: [A] Archives; [M] Microfilm; [V] Vault):

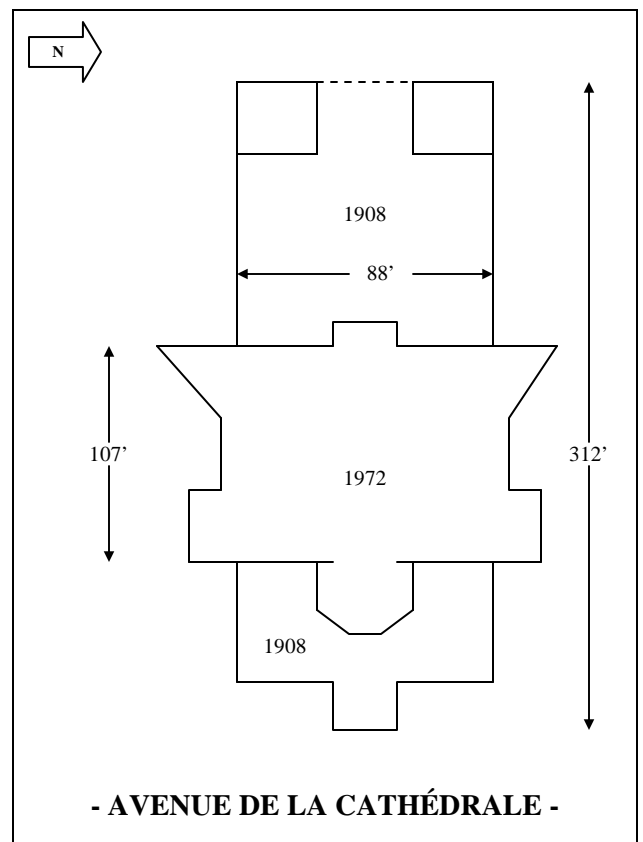
**-- SEE NEXT PAGE --**

#### Information:

- original cathedral \$325,000, full basement added later
- original towers 150' high

**ARCHITECT: MARCHAND & HASKELL (1908);  
GABOURY LUSSIER SIGURDSON (1972)**

**CONTRACTOR: SÉNÉCAL (1908); CROZIER,  
GREENBERG & PARTNERS - ENGINEER (1972)  
& BIRD CONSTRUCTION- CONTRACTOR (1972)**



**BUILDING PERMITS:**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NO.</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PLANS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
4099	1971			Partial demolition
4810	1971	\$575,000		New cathedral
3437	1976	\$6,800		Construct monument
8648	1963	\$5,000		Foundation for new rectory
8861	1963	\$117,000		Rectory superstructure (reinforced concrete, face brick & concrete block) – 2 storeys & basement
119901	2012	\$2,254,810		Exterior renovations/alterations to church

## APPENDIX II

### Étienne-Joseph Gaboury

Étienne Gaboury was born in Swan Lake, Manitoba in 1930 and received his professional training from the University of Manitoba (Bachelor of Architecture, 1958) and École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France (1959).<sup>1</sup> He returned to Winnipeg and entered the employ of Libling Michener Architects, staying with the firm for two years before opening his own architectural office, which grew to include Denis Lussier and Frank Sigurdson and, for a short period, Joe Venables. For over a decade, the firm was responsible for the construction of many fine structures throughout the City and Province.

Denis Lionel Lussier was born in Ste. Elizabeth, Manitoba and graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1962 and joined with Gaboury and Sigurdson.<sup>2</sup> He was named an associate architect with the firm in 1966.<sup>3</sup> He died in 1975.<sup>4</sup>

Frank Sigurdson studied architecture at the University of Manitoba (graduating in 1959) and received his Master of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania.<sup>5</sup> He had left the firm for his own practice in 1976.

In 1967, Joe Venables became a partner, creating Gaboury, Lussier, Sigurdson and Venables Architects (Plate 35). Venables had joined the firm in 1965 and was a graduate of the University of Manitoba.<sup>6</sup> By the early 1970s, he was no longer with the group.

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Encyclopedia, at <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/etiennejoseph-gaboury> (Historica-Dominion, 2012).

<sup>2</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, June 17, 1975, p. 33.

<sup>3</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, February 10, 1966, p. 64.

<sup>4</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, June 17, 1975, p. 33.

<sup>5</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, September 14, 1967, p. 33.

<sup>6</sup> Loc. cit.

After the death of Lussier in 1975, the firm disbanded and Gaboury worked alone, creating some of the Province's most memorable designs. In 1998, Gaboury merged his firm into a new partnership with Guy Préfontaine and David Perry to become Gaboury Préfontaine Perry Architects.

Mr. Gaboury has received many awards for his designs and was invested in the Order of Canada on November 17, 2010.

A list of his major works would include:

St. Boniface Police Station and Law Courts, 227 Provencher Boulevard (1964) – Manitoba Association of Architects award winning design  
Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, 710 Roanoke Street (1966)  
St. Claude Roman Catholic Church and Rectory, St. Claude, MB (1967)  
Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church, 200 Kenny Street (1967)  
Messiah Lutheran Church, 400 Rouge Road (1968)  
Gaboury House, 90 River Road (1968)  
Riel Statue, Legislative Grounds, 1970 (moved to St. Boniface College, 1995)  
Metro Plaza, Corydon Avenue at Osborne Street, ca.1971 (demolished)  
St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale (1971-1972)  
Chez Nous, 187 Avenue de la Cathédrale (1973)<sup>7</sup>  
Public Swimming Pool, The Pas, MB (1973)<sup>8</sup>  
Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, 340 Provencher Boulevard (1974)  
Royal Canadian Mint, 520 Lagimodière Boulevard (1978)  
Canadian Chancery, Mexico City, Mexico (1982)  
Nelson House School, Nelson House, MB (1986) – Manitoba Association of Architects award winning design  
St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Saskatchewan (1991)  
Provincial Remand Centre, 141 Kennedy Street (1992)  
PhysHealth Centre, Health Sciences Complex (1992)  
St. Boniface University College Student Centre, 200 Avenue de la Cathédrale (2002)  
Esplanade Riel Pedestrian Bridge & Provencher Bridge, Provencher Boulevard (2003)  
Nuns' Residence, 210 Rue Masson (date unknown)  
Performance Centre, International Peace Garden, ca.1997 – American Institute of Architects Award winning design

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<sup>7</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), November 24, 1973, p. 23.

<sup>8</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), February 26, 1973, p. 22.

**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**



Plate 1 – 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.)

**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**



Plate 2 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1972. (Courtesy of the St. Boniface Parish Office.)



**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**

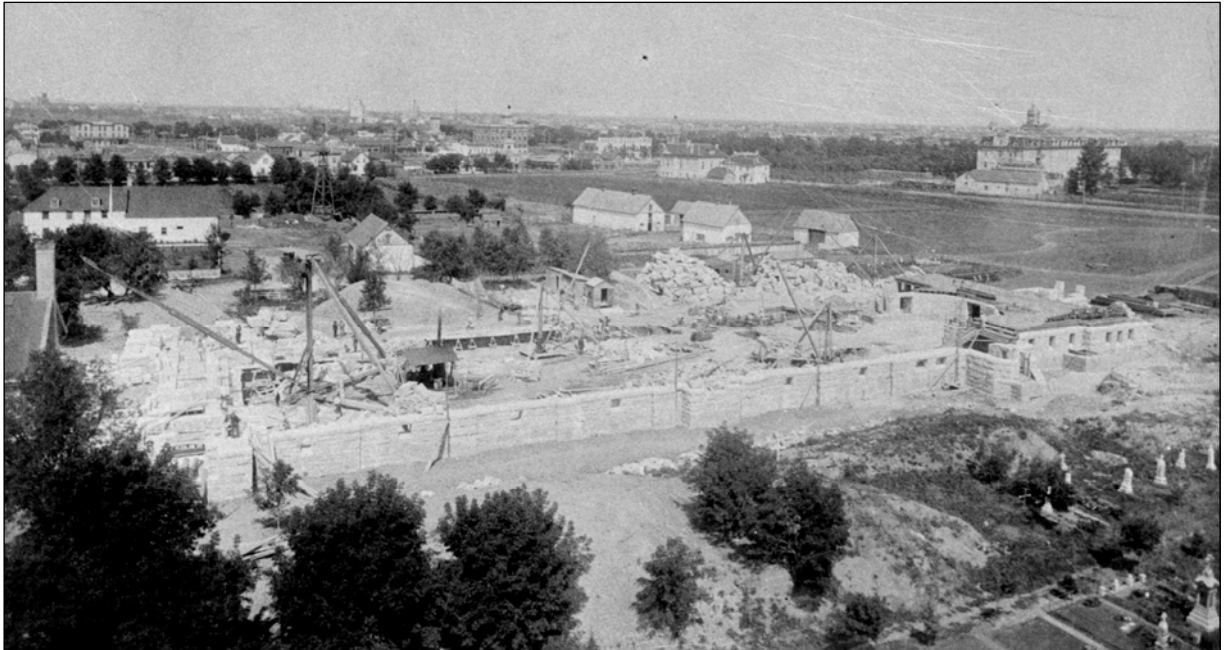


Plate 3 – Foundation work on the new Cathedral, 1906. (Courtesy of the Manitoba Archives, “St. Boniface- Cathedral (1908)- 2”, N22688.)



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

**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**



Plate 5 – Construction of the new Cathedral building, December 1971. (Courtesy of St. Boniface Parish Office.)

190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL

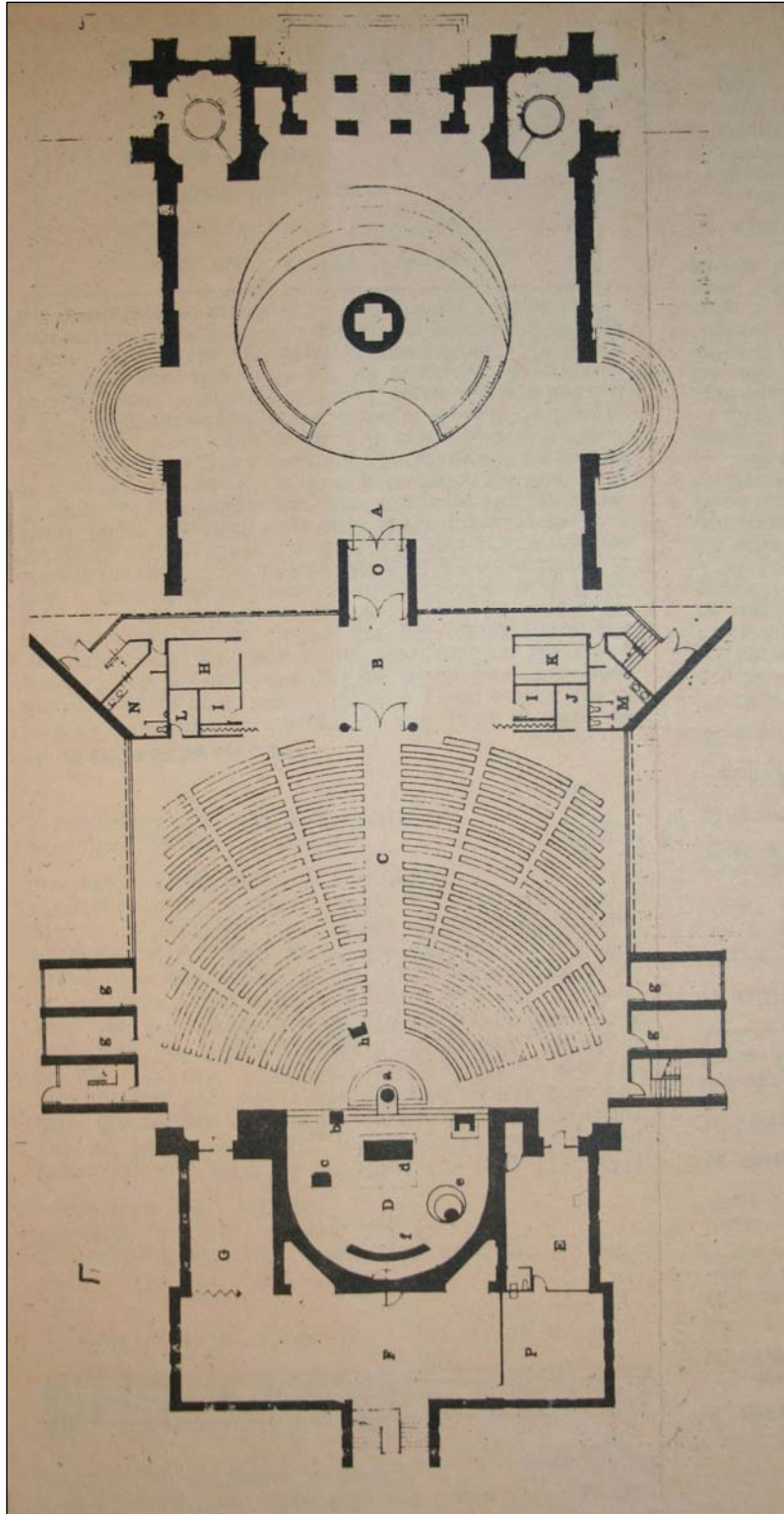


Plate 6 – Plan of the 1972 cathedral located within the walls of the 1908 structures. (Courtesy of the St. Boniface Parish Office.)

**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**



Plate 7 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1908 ruins, front (west) façade, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**

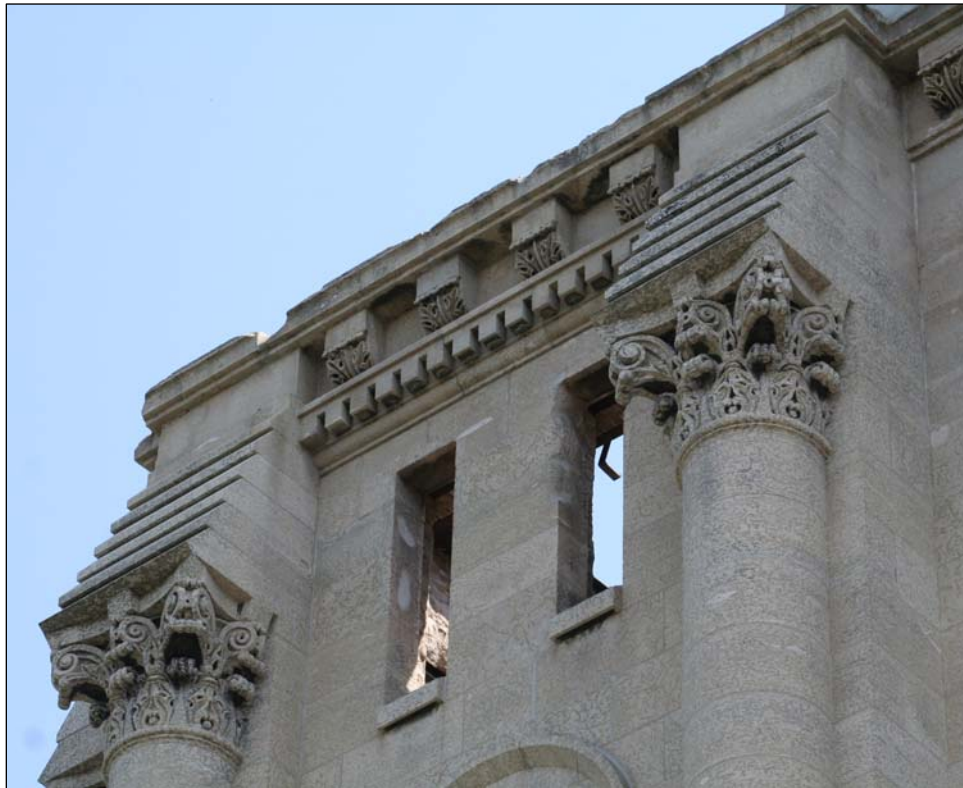


Plate 8 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1908 ruins, front (west) façade details, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)

**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**



Plate 9 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1908 ruins, front (west) façade detail, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



Plate 10 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1908 ruins, front (west) façade interior, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**



Plate 11 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1908 ruins, north façade, 2012.  
(M. Peterson, 2012.)



Plate 12 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1908 ruins, rear sacristy, 2012.  
(M. Peterson, 2012.)

**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**



Plate 13 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, new Cathedral, front (west) façade, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**



Plate 14 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, interior of the 1908 Cathedral in 1949 (left) and 1968 (right). (Courtesy of the Manitoba Archives, “St. Boniface-Cathedral (1908)- 12”, N22693 [left] and “St. Boniface- Cathedral (1908)- 29”, N22450 [right].)



Plate 15 – Bishop Langevin’s throne, rescued from the 1968 fire and placed in the new church, 1972. (Reproduced from “viens, c’est vrai...” published by La Liberté to commemorate the blessing of the new Cathedral, July 12, 1972, p. 14.)

**190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL**

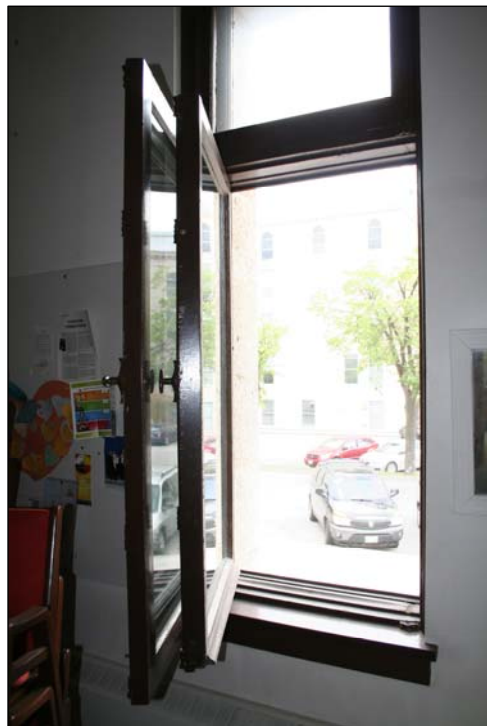


Plate 16 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, 1908-era windows in the sacristy, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



Plate 17 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, narthex, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)

190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL



Plate 18 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, nave, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)

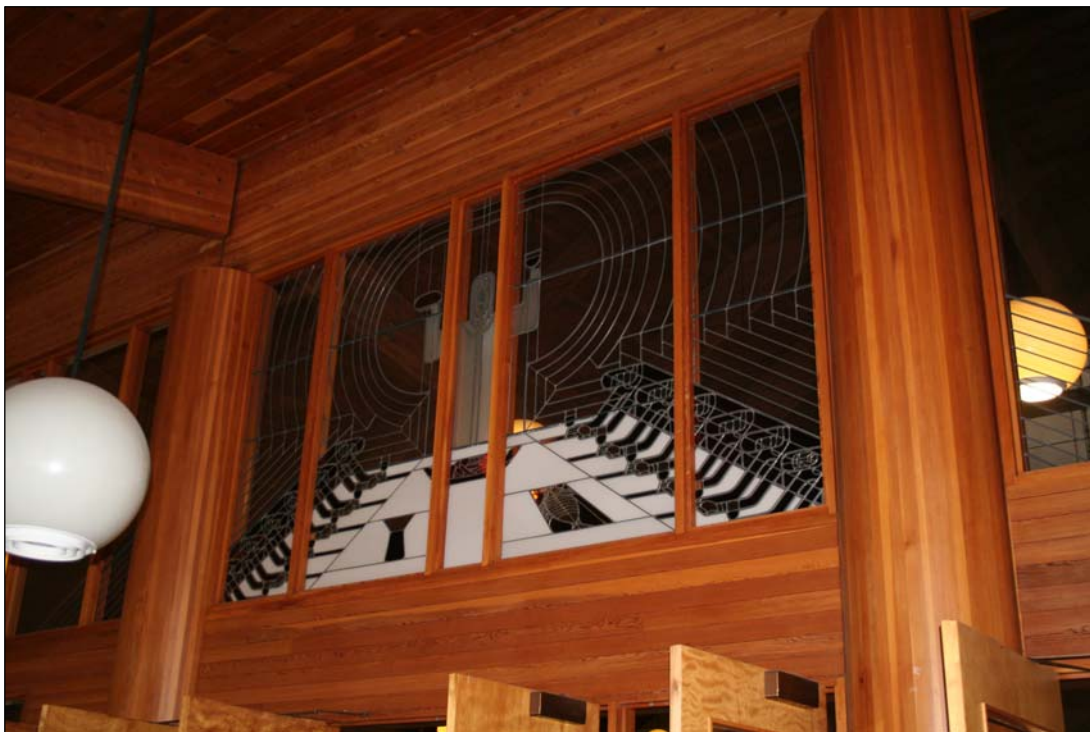


Plate 19 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, narthex stained glass, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



190 AVENUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE – ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL

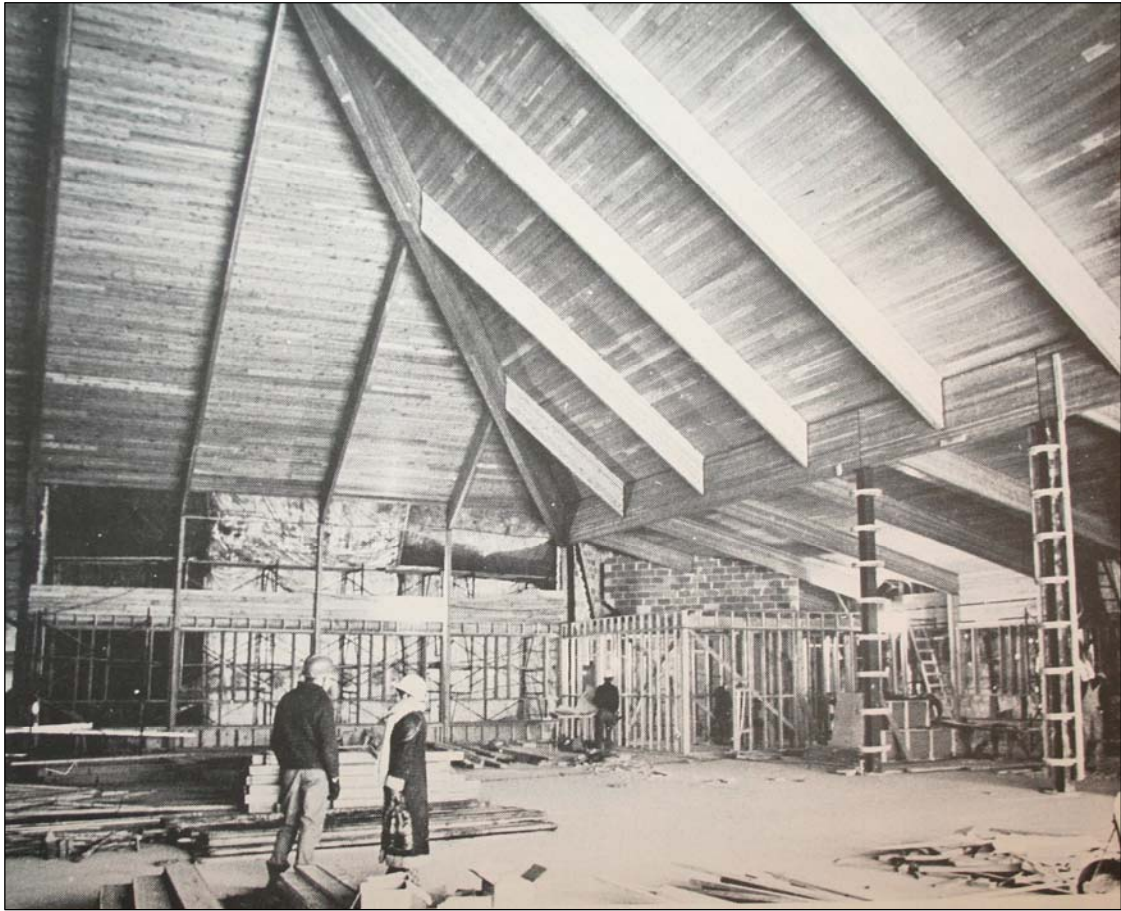


Plate 20 – Construction on the interior of the new cathedral, 1972. (Reproduced from “viens, c’est vrai...” published by La Liberté to commemorate the blessing of the new Cathedral, July 12, 1972, p. 20.)

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Plate 21 – Artist Réal Bérard at work on the figure of Christ, 1972. (Reproduced from “viens, c’est vrai...” published by La Liberté to commemorate the blessing of the new Cathedral, July 12, 1972, p. 21.)



Plate 22 – Christ and the Cross in the sanctuary of the new church, 1972(Reproduced from “viens, c’est vrai...” published by La Liberté to commemorate the blessing of the new Cathedral, July 12, 1972, p. 14.)

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Plate 23 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, basement, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



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1



2



3



4



5

Plate 24 – Monuments and gravestones at the St. Boniface cemetery. #1- Father Aulneau and J.B. La Vérendryé Memorial; #2- Louis Riel; #3- Bishop Provencher; #4- Jean-Baptiste & Marie-Anne Lagimodière; and #5- Grey Nuns. (M. Peterson, 2012.)

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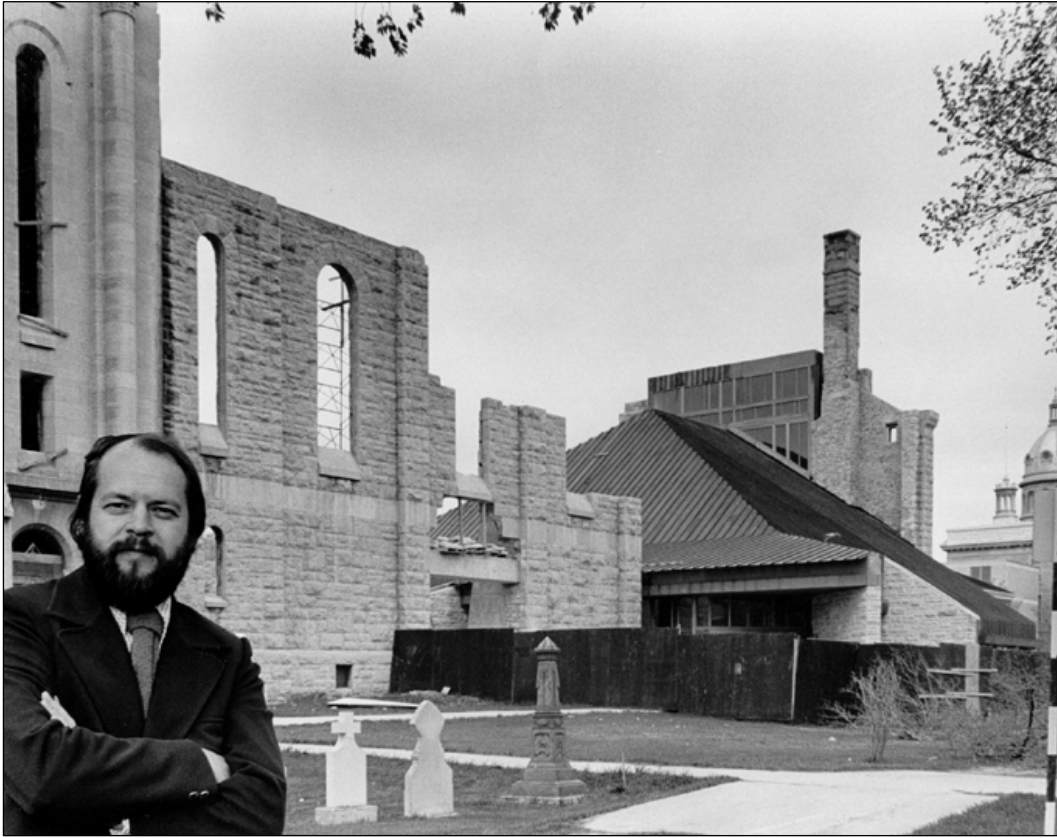


Plate 25 – Étienne Gaboury in front of the nearly completed St. Boniface Cathedral, ca.1972.  
(Reproduced from “Tribute to Gaboury” - <http://nearvana.ca/gaboury/px/family/10.jpg>,  
Sumner Group Inc., 2004.)



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Plate 26 – Precious Blood Church, 200 Kenny Street. Built in 1967, it is undoubtedly one of Gaboury’s finest and most recognized designs, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



Plate 27 – This 1823 sketch by William Kemp shows the nearly completed second church (first Cathedral). (Archives of Manitoba, “St. Boniface- Cathedral (1823)- 1”, N10736.)

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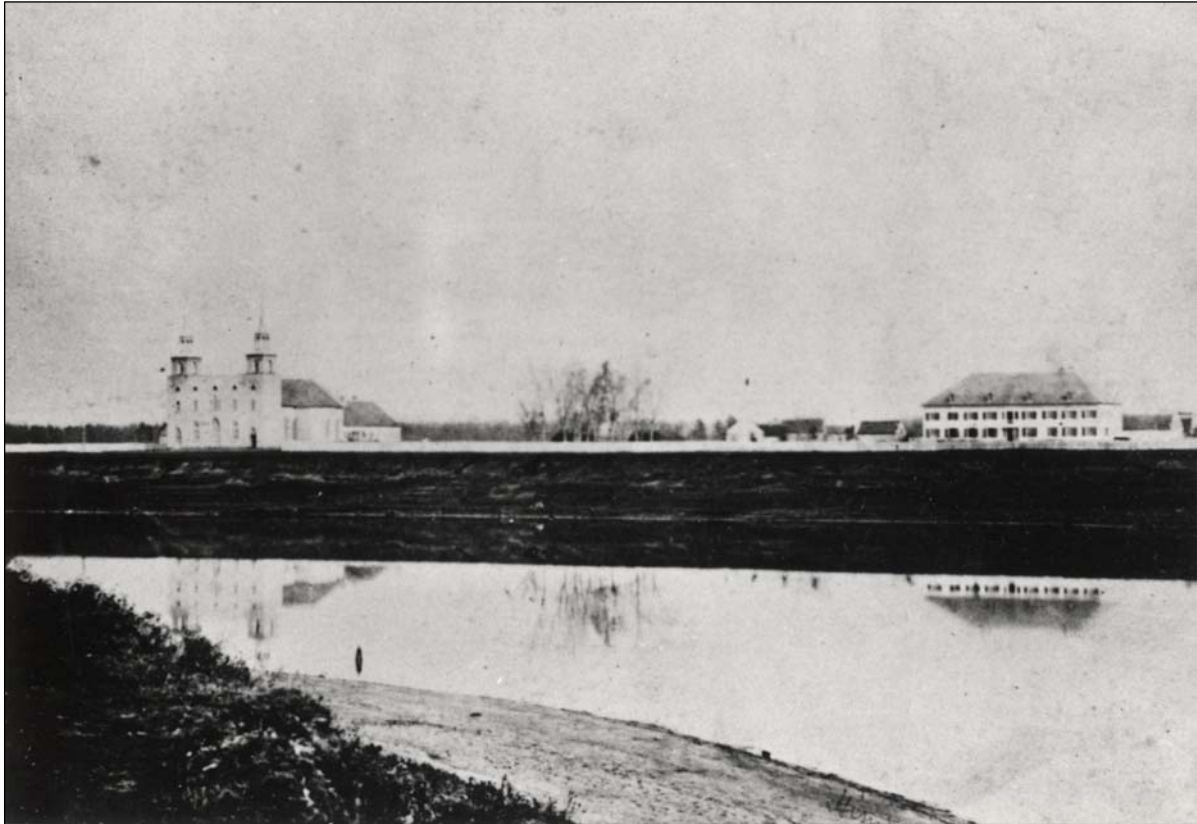


Plate 28 – St. Boniface Cathedral (left) and the Grey Nuns' Convent (right, present-day St. Boniface Museum), from the Winnipeg side of the Red River, ca.1857. (H.L. Hime photograph courtesy of Western Canada Pictorial Index, A0052-01574)

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Plate 29 – The third Cathedral (fourth church), ca.1890. (Archives of Manitoba, “St. Boniface-Cathedral (1863)- 4”, N3451.)



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Plate 30 – St. Boniface’s fourth cathedral, 1961. (Winnipeg Tribune Collection, “PC 18/5774/18-4922-006,” July 31, 1961.)



Plate 31 - St. Boniface Cathedral, fully engulfed in flames, July 22, 1968. (Courtesy of the Fire Fighters Museum of Winnipeg.)

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Plate 32 – One of the most famous images of the 1968 fire as the north tower collapses.  
(Winnipeg Tribune Collection, “PC 18/5774/18-4922-021”.)

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RIER Wednesday, October 16, 1968

## Cathedral Questionnaire

Age: 15 to 20 ..... Sex: Catholic  
 20 to 30 ..... Married ..... M ..... Yes .....  
 30 to 50 ..... Single ..... F ..... No .....  
 50 and over .....  
 Address .....

**The St. Boniface Cathedral was destroyed by fire on July 22, 1968**

**QUESTIONS — VIEWPOINTS**  
 (Note, we are not looking for the "right" answer, but for your preferences.)

- 1 — What would normally be your preference?  
 (Place an X in one of the blanks below.)
  - a) A church where one listens primarily?  
 or — a church where one prays with the priest and others? .....
  - b) To watch the ceremony only?  
 or — to join actively in the service? .....
  - c) A meeting place for self and God only?  
 or — a place for fraternal encounter where one meets God through his fellow-men? .....
  - d) A place where one worships God privately?  
 or — a place to worship God together? .....
- 2 — Are you in favor that we build on the same site? Yes ..... No .....
- 3 — The facade, walls and foundations have been declared sound and could be use as part of the building.
  - a) Are you in favor that we use the facade? Yes ..... No .....
  - b) Are you in favor that we use the walls? Yes ..... No .....
- 4 — The problem of this reconstruction is the concern
  - a) of the Cathedral parishioners only? Yes ..... No .....
  - b) of all the faithful in the diocese? Yes ..... No .....
  - c) of all interested parties? Yes ..... No .....
- 5 —
  - a) Should we only use the monies paid by the insurance companies? Yes ..... No .....
  - b) Should we also have a fund raising campaign? Yes ..... No .....
  - c) Should we also incur a debt? Yes ..... No .....
- 6 — What are the priorities when considering reconstruction?  
 (Please indicate your priorities by number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
  - a) The historical aspect? (including sentiment) .....
  - b) the financial aspect? .....
  - c) the practical and functional aspect? .....
  - d) the expression of faith aspect, that is an edifice that would stand as a manifestation of faith? .....
  - e) the artistic aspect? .....
  - f) the relationship between God and Man aspect? .....
 to other aspects? and what are these? .....
- 7 — Are you in favor of a multi-purpose building? Yes ..... No .....
  - a) where the area of worship would be used exclusively for the liturgy? Yes ..... No .....
  - b) where the area of worship will be used for other purposes? Yes ..... No .....
 Tell us in your own way what kind of building(s) you favor, and why?  
 .....  
 .....

Please hand in this questionnaire as soon as possible or mail it to  
**THE RECTORY**  
 190 Cathedral Avenue  
 Saint Boniface 6, Man.  
 Not later than Monday, Oct. 21, 1968

Plate 33 – Post-1968 fire public questionnaire circulated by the Parish. (Reproduced from The Courier, October 16, 1968, courtesy of the St. Boniface Parish Office.)



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Plate 34 – St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale, work on the roof, 2012. (M. Peterson, 2012.)



Plate 35 – The newly formed architectural partnership, Gaboury, Lussier, Sigurdson and Venables. (Reproduced from the Winnipeg Free Press, September 14, 1967, p. 33.)