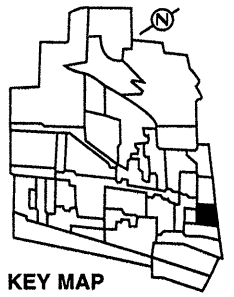


Character Area 26 Dawson College

For more than three-quarters of this century, the building that now houses Dawson College was called the Mother House of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame. Built between 1905 and 1908 on the former lands of the Sulpicians, this convent complex is centered on an immense site (48 903 m²), equivalent to roughly three city blocks. The architect, Jean Omer Marchand, designed the convent in the Beaux-Arts style, this being his first major commission in Montreal after having completed his studies at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. The Sherbrooke Street facade is the most opulent with its Romanesque and Renaissance influences. In 1977, the entire property was classified as an historical site by the ministre des Affaires culturelles. The recycling and the renovations which began in the mid 1980's have had little impact on the Sherbrooke Street facade. On the other hand, upon completion of the final phase, a new linear wing will totally mask the de Maisonneuve Boulevard facade viewed from the street level. All except one of the original accessory buildings on the site were demolished.

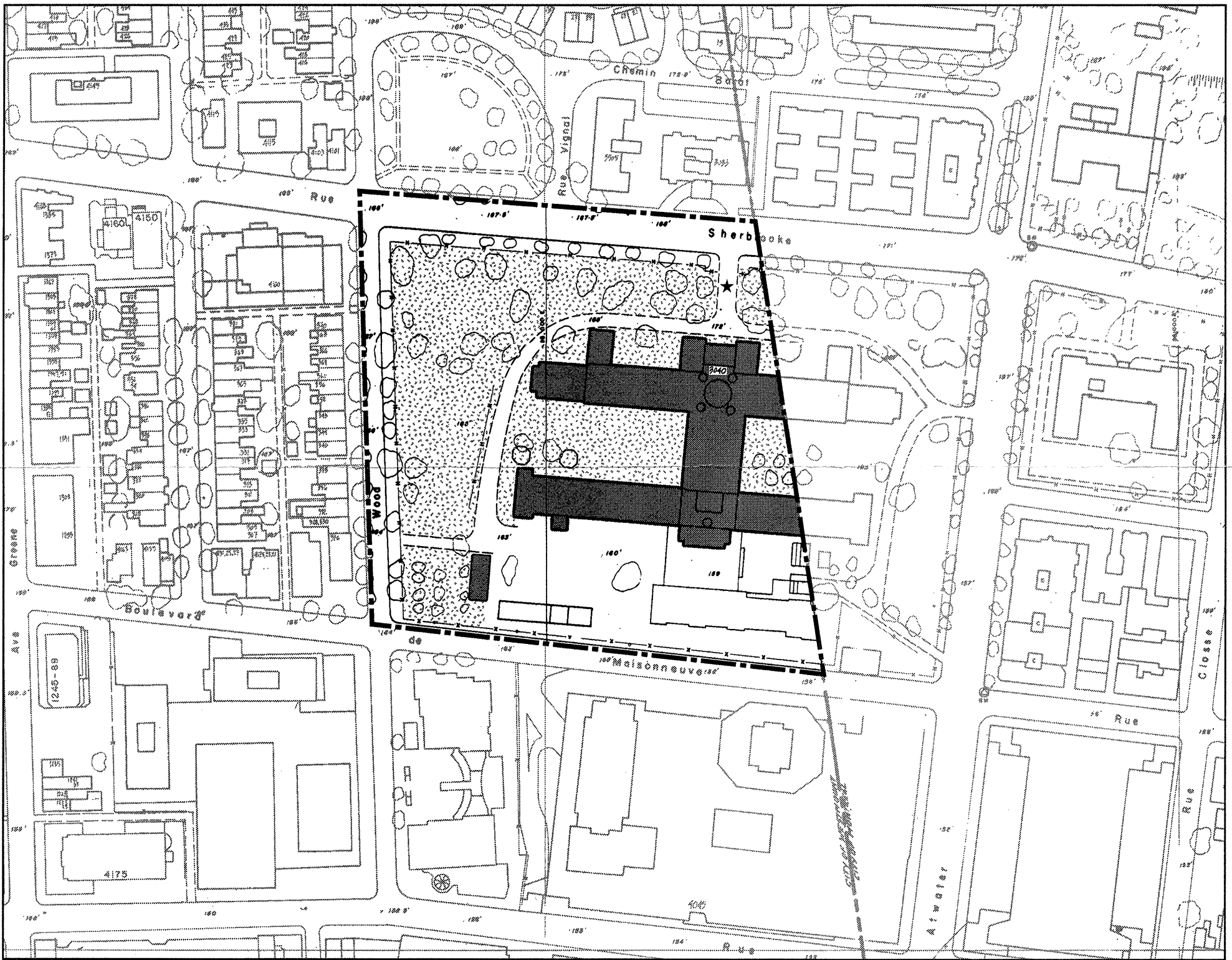
LEGEND

- Category I**
Exceptional(★) to Important
- Category II**
Significant
- Category III**
Neutral
- Architectural Ensembles**
- Buildings profiled in the 1988 Westmount Heritage Study**
- Public Green Space**
- Semi-private or private Green Space of importance**



KEY MAP

Area Heritage Value: HIGH
Degree of Homogeneity: HIGH



List of Building Addresses with Categories

Cat	Address
I*	Sherbrooke St., south side 3040

Defining characteristics of Character Area 26 Dawson College

The following are some of the key *defining characteristics* applying to the former Mother House.

Siting and orientation: The main sections of the building front on Sherbrooke Street and de Maisonneuve Boulevard with the central chapel joining them to form an "H". Each of the facades are well set back from the streets. The site has a south-eastern slope resulting in slight variations in site condition and building heights (see next paragraph).

Heights and frontages: The building is approximately 20.0 m in height from grade to the ridge of the roof on the Sherbrooke Street side. The number of storeys vary in each of the wings. The sloped site and the difference in the floor to floor heights on the Sherbrooke and the de Maisonneuve wings results in eight levels in the building, although from the street the building can be perceived as being 5½ storeys high. The building's longest facade is 176.0 m and its deepest section is 105.0 m.

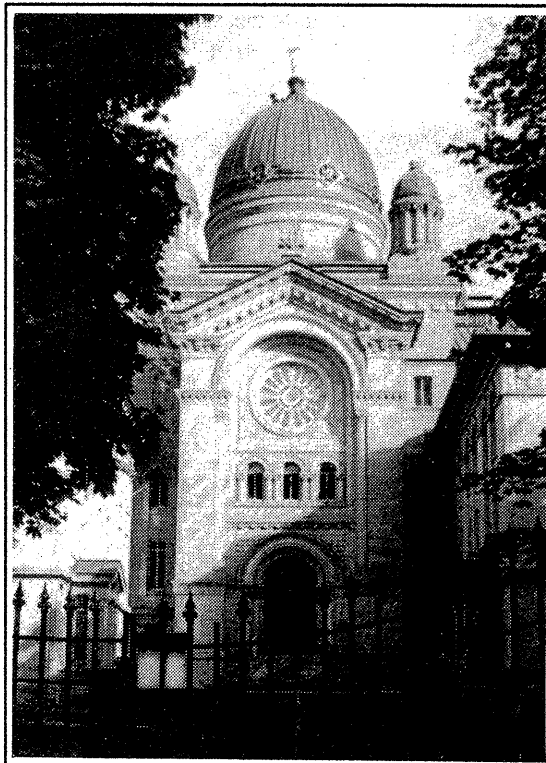
Roofs: A sloped copper roof with dormers caps the building. The added interest to the roofline is the large central dome framed by four smaller domes above the Sherbrooke Street entrance. Crowning the large dome is a replica of a bronze statue at Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde sanctuary in Marseille.

Facade materials: The building's principle facade material is brick of a yellow-beige color. Stone, of different varieties and finishes, is the secondary material on the facades.

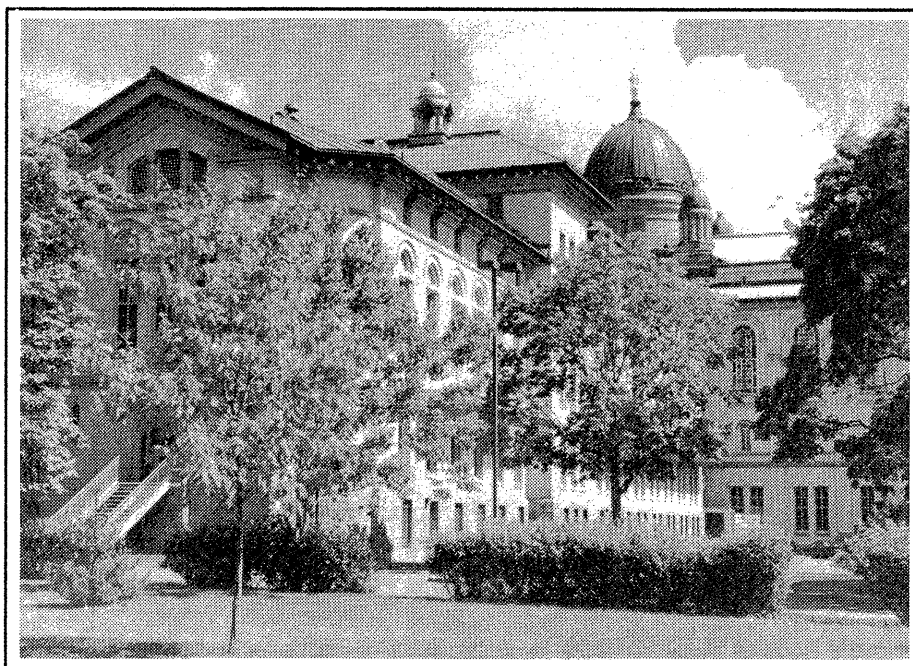
Facade treatments: Several finger-like projections from the main sections of the building add visual interest to the facades. Facades are articulated by stone bands, keystones and sills as well as decorative stone elements especially at the Sherbrooke Street entrance. Verticality is also expressed by vertical bands of slight wall recesses at the windows.

Windows: The windows are always single in very vertical openings. Although mostly rectangular, arched windows are also present. The window style is mostly casement.

Landscaping and parking: The site, surrounded by hedges and wrought iron fences, has ample green space with curvilinear driveways. Vehicular access is provided on the Atwater Avenue side (in Montreal) for service and limited parking on the site.



Sherbrooke St.: Jean Omer Marchand, the building's architect, elaborately designed and detailed the principle entrance of the complex in the Romanesque style.



The building's beaux arts symmetry is offset by the play in roof forms and by the variety of shapes of the window openings.