

4124 Sainte-Catherine Street West

Category: 2



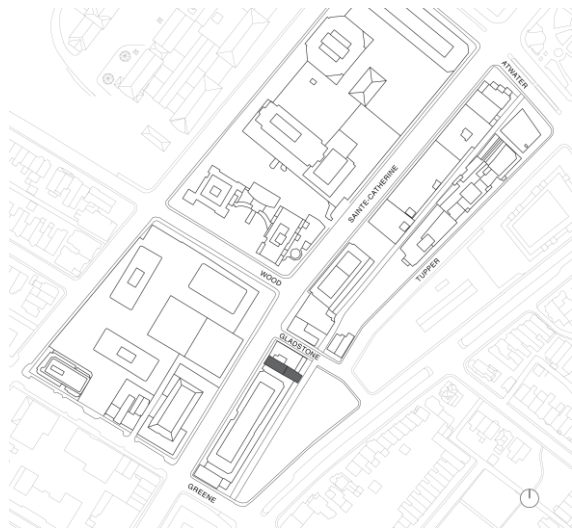
North (Front) Façade



South (Rear) Façade



Front Façade: Detail

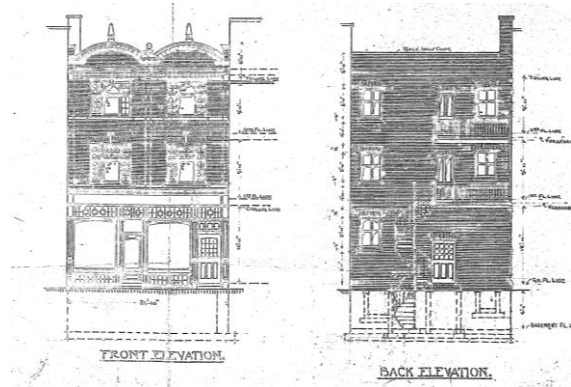


Key Plan

Description	<p>This is a three-storey commercial building, designed with neoclassical influences and detailing. Completed in 1909, to the designs of James Edgar Adamson, (active between 1888 and 1920), the building was purpose-built to house a commerce on the first floor and two apartments on the upper floors.</p> <p>James Edgar Adamson designed several churches and private residences in Westmount and Outremont. His most noticeable project is the house for Mr John Bolingbroke Sparrow on Côte-des-Neiges.</p> <p>The building at 4124 Sainte-Catherine Street testifies to an earlier era in Westmount, when the buildings were of more modest size. Very few buildings from the beginning of the 20th century survive on this portion of Sainte-Catherine Street. Most have been replaced by higher structures.</p>
Heritage Values	<p>Historical Values: 4124 Ste-Catherine Street is linked to the first development of Ste-Catherine Street in Westmount at the beginning of the 20th century. It is typical of the first type of construction along this portion of the street: a building with commercial space on the ground floor and apartments on the upper floors.</p> <p>Environmental Values: The siting of 4124 Ste-Catherine Street speaks to its commercial vocation, and contributes to the streetscape.</p>
Heritage Character Defining Elements	<p>The key elements which contribute to the heritage character of each building of this site are as follows:</p> <p><u>Setting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building facing Sainte-Catherine with no setbacks, referencing its commercial nature; - Hierarchy of the facades: the front façade facing Sainte-Catherine Street is articulated, while the rear facade is secondary <p><u>Exterior:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symmetrical composition of the upper two floors of the front façade; - Red clay brick (American bond) on the upper two floors of the front façade; the bricks form soldier course lintels over the arched window openings; - Ornamental elements in Montreal grey limestone: stringcourses and keystones; - Keystones over the windows on the second floor - Denticulated sheet metal cornices, both applied to the walls and to the semi-circular parapets.
Date of Construction	1909
Persons of Significance	Architect: James Edgar Adamson Original owner: Charles F. Skelton Esq.
Stylistic Influences	Neoclassical with Italianate influences
Building	
<i>Number of stories</i>	3 + basement
<i>Plan/Footprint</i>	Rectangular Main building 7.8 metres wide x 17 metres long Extension 7.8 metres wide x 13,7 metres long
<i>Height</i>	11 meters

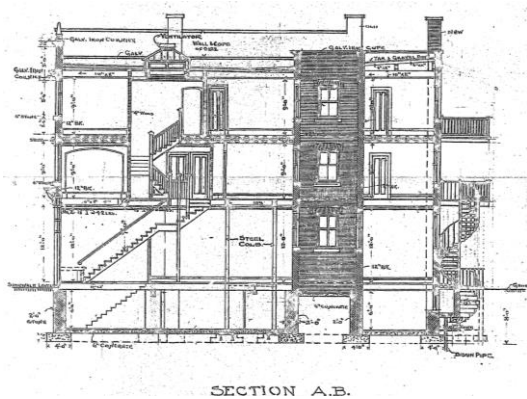
Architectural Elements	
<i>Foundations</i>	Montreal grey limestone walls on a concrete ledge (original building) Concrete (rear extension)
<i>Walls</i>	The front north façade is articulated. The south façade is secondary. The east and west facades are party walls. Front façade: - Storefront: Red clay brick, (stretchers only); non-original - Upper Two Storeys: Red clay brick, (American bond)
<i>Roof</i>	Flat roof covered with tar and gravel
<i>Windows</i>	Large non-operable windows on the 2 nd and 3 rd floors (non- original) Large storefront on the 1 st floor (non- original)
<i>Others (entrance, porch, chimneys...)</i>	Painted sheet metal cornice Limestone keystones over the windows on the 2 nd floor Limestone window stringcourse
<i>Construction Methods</i>	Load-bearing brick walls
Composition	The front façade is symmetrical on the upper two-floors. Three brick pilasters divide the façade in two parts. The building parapet is terminated with two semi-circular elements.
Context <i>(setbacks, surroundings, landscape, landmark status)</i>	No setbacks. The building is in line with the sidewalk of Sainte-Catherine Street. The façade is in continuity with the facades of the buildings on both sides. The back of the building faces a lane.
Additions/Alterations	1922: Extension to the rear of the existing building for a bakery 1941: Addition of an extra storey over the addition, by Hutchison and Wood Architects 1946: Maitland Confectioner and Caterer. Basement and tunnel heating system
Integrity	Medium. The general composition of the front façade retains some of its original qualities. The lower part of the front façade has been drastically altered. Many architectural elements have been replaced: the cladding, the storefront windows and the doors. The upper storeys are closer to the original appearance, although the Palladian windows have been removed and the finials that once crowned the sheet metal are gone. The addition of steel channels across the façade suggests that there has been a localized loss of structural integrity.

Historical Images



Aerial view
1968
Source: Westmount City Hall

Front and rear facades
Around 1909
Source: Westmount City Hall



Section
Around 1909
Source: Westmount City Hall

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
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