

Notice of Intention to Designate Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay intends to designate the following property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18

716 PACIFIC AVENUE, PLAN 54, BLOCK 39, LOT 5, THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

Description of Property

The property at 716 Pacific Avenue is quadrilateral-shaped parcel comprising a one-storey wood frame church and one-and-a-half storey wood frame hall constructed in 1937 for the Ukrainian Orthodox church. The church is situated just west of the small traffic island where Pacific Avenue and Connolly Street meet and is bordered by Pacific Avenue to the north, Connolly Street to the south, and McPherson Street to the east.

Summary Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property at 716 Pacific Avenue in the City of Thunder Bay has design value as a representative example of Ukrainian-Canadian architectural fusion style church which combines design sensibilities of the Ternopil nave, Bukovinian, and Cossack Baroque styles of Ukrainian architecture with Western architectural elements. The property has historical associative value through its association with St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish, the first Ukrainian Orthodox congregation in Fort William and the first in Northwestern Ontario. Established in 1909, the parish acquired this property in 1911, and construction of the church was completed in 1912. The church served as an important spiritual and cultural centre for early Ukrainian immigrants and was rebuilt in 1937 following a major fire. The property also has historical associative value as it is linked to significant community figures, including Father Luke Solohub, who served the parish for nearly 33 years, and long-time parish leader and businessman George Ostaff, whose leadership and involvement strengthened the parish. The property also has historical value since it yields information that contributes to an understanding of the cultural development of the Ukrainian community in Thunder Bay, reflecting the experiences of early settlers who faced social marginalization and relied on their church as a centre of cultural preservation and community cohesion. Lastly, the property retains contextual value as a long-recognized landmark in the East End neighbourhood, where the presence of a Ukrainian church for more than 110 years and the continued visibility of its domes along Pacific Avenue have ensured its enduring landmark status within the neighbourhood.

A copy of the designation report, including a full statement of its cultural heritage value and heritage attributes, is available in the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 500 Donald Street East, in the City of Thunder Bay, from Monday to Friday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, or by email at cityclerk@thunderbay.ca.

Written Notice of Objection

Any person may, within 30 days after the date of the publication of this notice, may serve written notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement for the objection and all relevant facts to the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 500 Donald Street East, P.O. Box 800, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5K4.

DATED at the City of Thunder Bay this 23rd day of May, 2026.

Jeff Walters, Manager – Legislative Services & Deputy City Clerk