Westmount:
a heritage
to preserve

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The Raynes' Residence, Notman Archives.

Introduction

It is impossible to take even the shortest stroll through the streets of Westmount without noticing the extraordinary richness of the city's architectural heritage: Victorian row houses, imposing apartment blocks, elegant hillside mansions, dignified public buildings and magnificent parks.

This book is intended to serve as an introduction to that heritage, which every Westmount resident should take pride in and guard a little jealously. There are few municipalities on the island of Montreal which can lay claim to an architectural heritage of such vast scope and diversity.

Perched on the smallest of Mount Royal's three hills, the "Little Mountain", Westmount's settlement followed its geography. The area below Sherbrooke Street is a relatively flat terrace ending in an escarpment down to St. Antoine Street. Above Sherbrooke Street, the land rises gently to The Boulevard and then steeply up to the Summit which is 180 meters above sea level.

Westmount retained its largely rural nature until the beginning of the 20th century. A multitude of streams and the steep slope of the land prevented more intensive land development.

For all practical purposes, Westmount was built in the space of 25 years, from 1890 to 1914, with the appearance of public transit in the form of trains and streetcars. In the rapid transition from country to city, some indelible marks remain from earlier periods; we can still see how the first fiefs of the seigneurial era were laid out in long strips of land on either side of Côte St. Antoine, reflected in the north-south alignment of the streets today, and how some of the grand estates of the 19th century have become magnificent parks.

The first part of the book traces the development of the city. The second part of the book consists of a voyage of discovery, as we explore Westmount's architectural heritage as it stands today.

We hope that, with book in hand, you will be tempted to stroll through the various regions of our city, appreciating the details of our architectural heritage from the notes contained within.

1. **History**
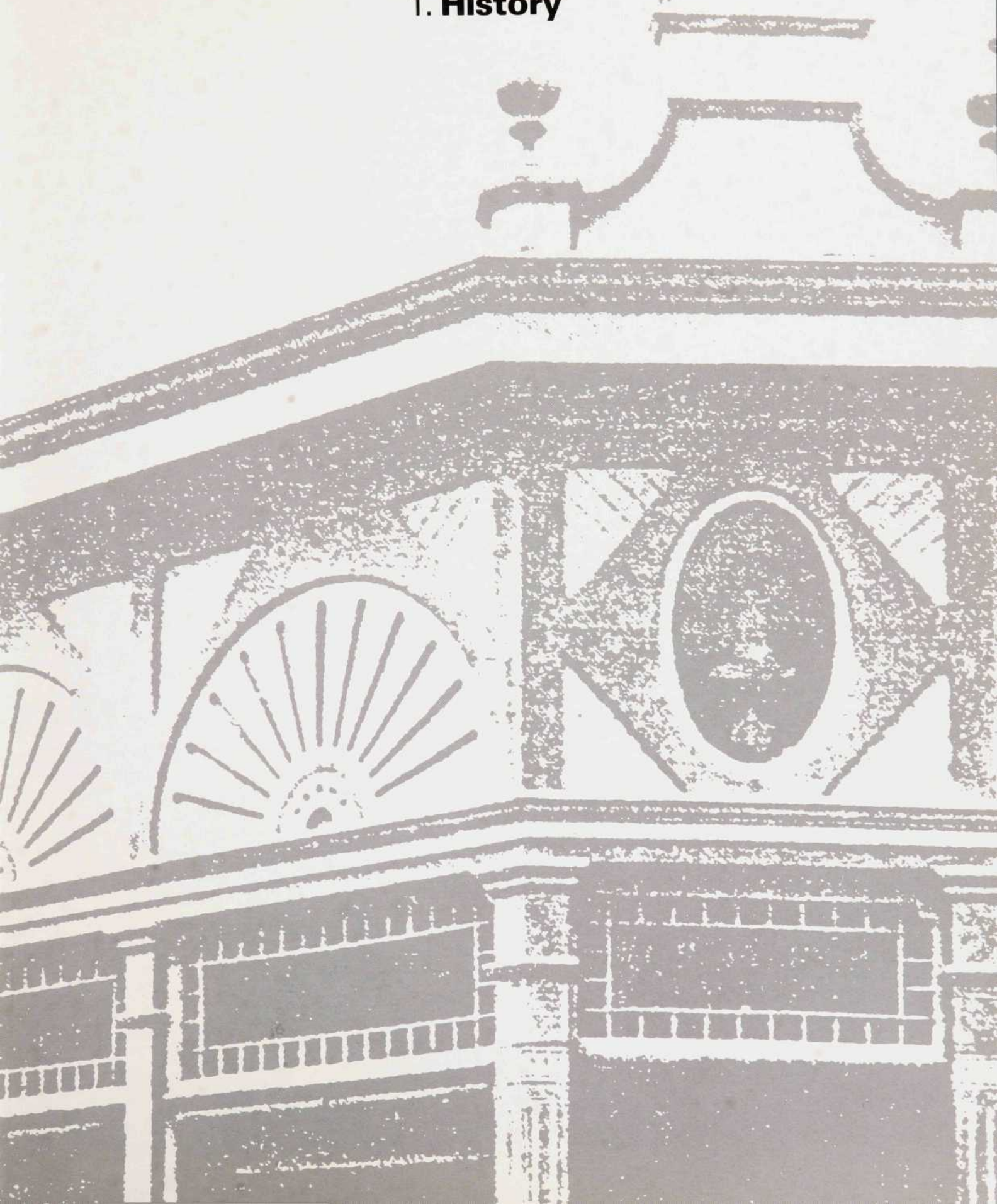
The orderly layout of the streets of Westmount dates back to the late 17th century

Chapter 1

The pioneers

Between 1683 and 1718, the Sulpicians, the powerful seigneurs of Montreal, granted 13 lots at Côte St. Antoine. From west to east, the lands crossed by the Côte went to the Descaris*, Hurtubise, Prud'homme, Desrochers, Langevin, Cousineau, Chevaudrier and Bouchard families.

These early inhabitants built their homes with stone from Mount Royal, cut wood for heating on the mountain and harvested the abundant fruits that grew on its slopes. The number of families remained stable until the end of the 18th century; the censuses of 1731 and 1781 show only about ten families established on the territory of today's city of Westmount.

That handful of colonists left their mark on the land, which proved to be extremely fertile. The major arteries of the settlement could already be seen. The winding Côte St. Antoine, dictated by the ravine of the Glen stream, came first. A road through the Descaris family property, today's Décarie Boulevard, connected Côte St. Antoine with the lands of Côte St. Luc, Côte St. Pierre and Côte St. Joseph.

Today's Greene Avenue, another road up the slope cutting through the land of the Bouchard family, linked with the Grand chemin de la Haute-Folie (today's Dorchester Boulevard) and ended at the city walls at the Récollets gateway. The layout of the streets and the divisions of the land grants can still be seen in the urban fabric of the city of Westmount.

Several rural buildings still survive from this era: the Hurtubise house (561 Côte St. Antoine), the east Descaris house (39 Côte St. Antoine), and the west Descaris house (5138 Côte St. Antoine) in the city of Montreal.

*The reader will note the disparity of spellings for this family name. The spelling varies from era to era and from document to document.

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1. Leduc house, 1896, since demolished, Notman Archives.

2. Hurtubise house, built in 1688, Notman Archives.

3. St-Germain house, 1897, since demolished, Notman Archives.

The first seigneurial
concessions passed into the hands of
wealthy Montreal merchants

Chapter 2
The fur traders

A new century brought new names. Gradually, prosperous fur traders began to carve up the lands of Côte St. Antoine. Simon Clarke acquired 2 3/4 arpents from the Descaris family and opened up a private road, today's Clarke Avenue. William Hallowell built a country hillside home on the southern edge of the territory. William McGillivray bought land from the Bouchard family and built his own road, which would later be called Rosemount. And Charles Bowman built his estate, Forden, north of Côte St. Antoine Road. The Little Mountain, however, still retained its rural air.

A few surviving buildings bear witness to the life of these "gentlemen farmers". The Metcalfe Terrace houses (168 and 178 Côte St. Antoine) were built for Moses Judah Hayes, royal engineer; the former Forden stable (50 Forden Avenue) is now a private residence; Edgemont (512 Clarke Avenue) stands in the former orchard of the Clarke family. Two other important properties survived to the mid-20th century before succumbing to the wrecker's ball. The Hallowell house was demolished to make way for the east-west Ville Marie expressway, and Forden was demolished in 1950 to make way for four houses.
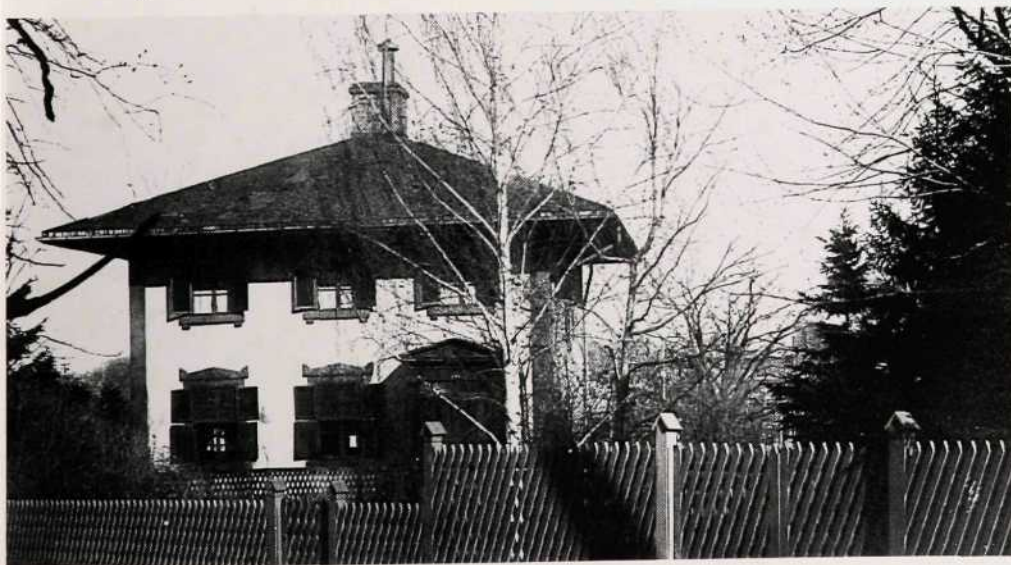
1. "Hallowell House," built in 1806, Selby Street, Doug Lin, Westmount Historical Society.

2. "Forden," the Raynes' Residence, built in 1895, Notman Archives.

3. The Goode Residence, part of Metcalfe Terrace, built in 1840, J.B. Goode, Westmount Historical Society.

The first subdivisions were
made on the Clarke and the McGillivray
properties

Chapter 3

The transporters

New names from the field of
transport now made their appearance in
the registers of Côte St. Antoine.
The Honourable John Young, Commis-
sioner of the Port of Montreal, built on
the site of the former McGillivray estate.
The Honourable George Moffat built
Weredale Todje on the southern edge of
the territory. Their neighbours were
such figures as the Honourable J.H.
Holton, founder of the Grand Trunk
Railway, and William Murray, founder of
Beaver Steamship Lines.

Another type of busi-
nessman, the speculator, was also
beginning to take an interest in the Côte.
Eadie and William Footner were the
owners of Clarevue and Braemar, to
which access was provided by a private
road (today's Mount Pleasant Avenue).
Architect and surveyor John Ostell drew
a plan for the subdivision of the Leduc
and St. Germain properties (the latter
near today's Lansdowne Avenue). A
longtime resident also expanded her
property during this era. Justine Hurtu-
bise and her husband Ephrem Hudon
started construction of 'Riverview' (513-
515 Côte St. Antoine) around 1847.

1. "West Mount," the William
Murray Residence, built c. 1849, demolished
c. 1930, located in the vicinity of the King George
(Murray) Park tennis courts, City of Westmount.

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Fortification Survey
(enlargement), 1868, National Archives
of Canada.
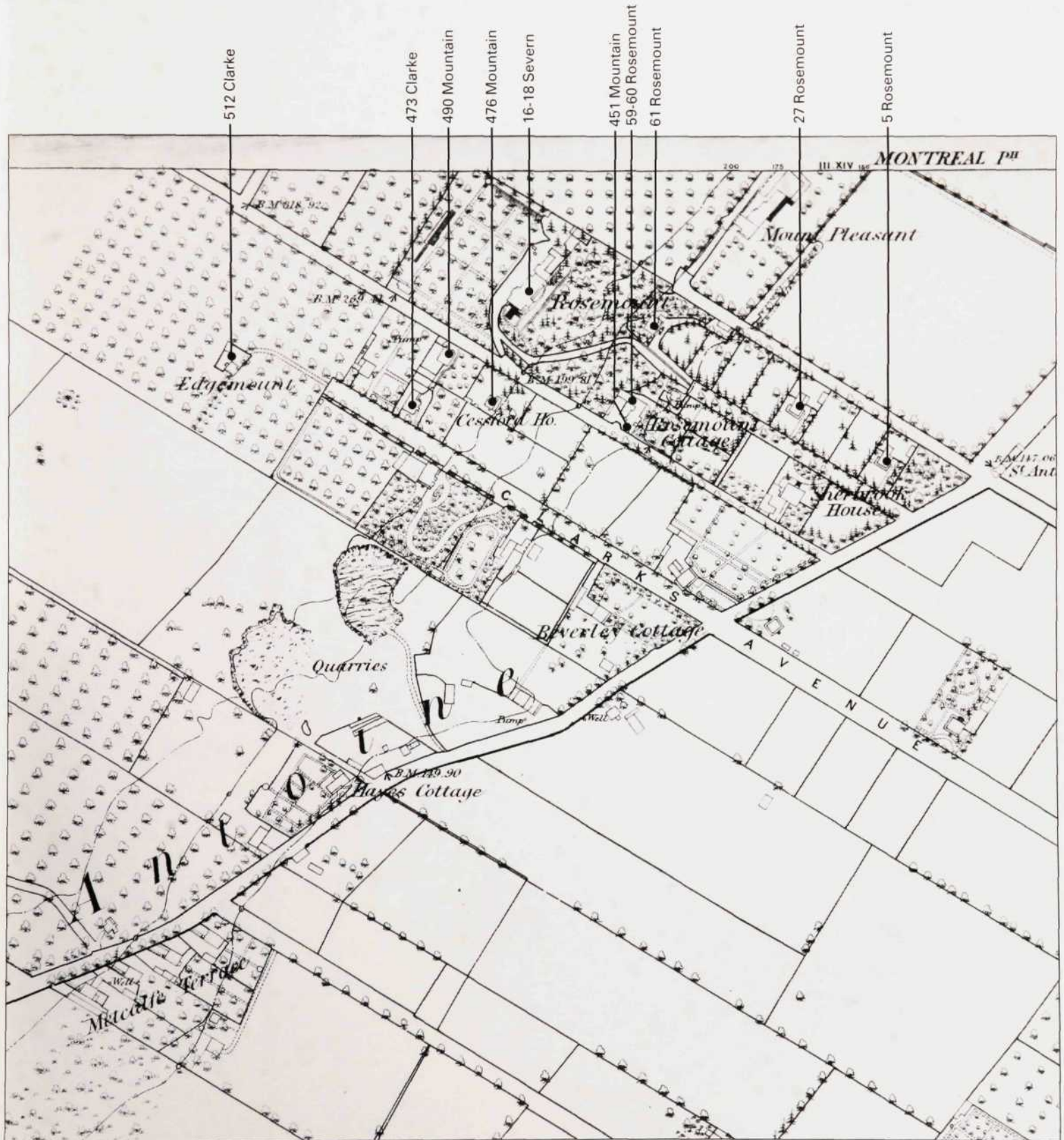
The first lands to be subdivided belonged to the Clarkes and the McGillivrays. The McGillivray property was easily accessible by a road up the hill (today's Greene Avenue) leading from Dorchester Boulevard.

The fortifications map shown here, drawn near the end of this period, is full of information on the territory of Westmount at that time. Several surviving houses appear on the map: numbers 5, 27, 52 to 60 and 61 Rosemount Avenue; numbers 451, 476 and 490 Mountain Avenue; and numbers 473 and 512 Clarke Avenue.

From east to west, we can also see the houses called Mount Pleasant and Rosemount (16 and 18 Severn Avenue), the Braemar and Clarevue residences, the Forden and Westmount estates, and Metcalfe Terrace on the other side of Côte St. Antoine Road. We can also see the quarries between the Forden and Clarke properties from which came the stone used to build public roads.
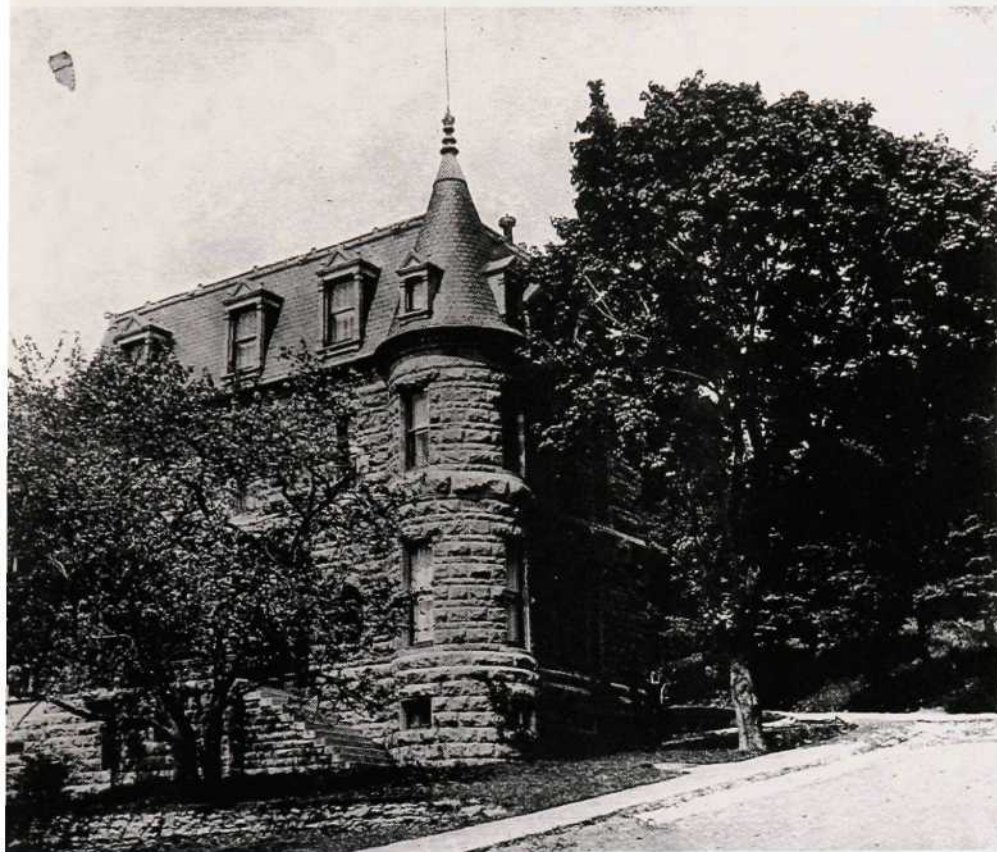
3. Snyder Residence, neighbouring William Murray House, King George Park, 1894, Notman Archives.

4. "Cloverley," residence of Horace A. Hutchins, K.C., 62 Rosemount Avenue, Notman Archives.

5. Mrs. R.D. Martin Residence, 4 Murray Avenue, Notman Archives.

An English community
began to form in Côte St. Antoine Village

Chapter 4
The founders

Montreal was expanding. Successive waves of immigration, a sad string of epidemics and a series of floods drove citizens from their old neighbourhoods. Westmount welcomed its share of these Montrealers; between 1876 and 1890, the population soared from 200 to 1850 citizens.

A community gradually developed. Several downtown churches followed the faithful to Westmount, including St. Matthew's, Melville Presbyterian, St. Stephen's, the Church of the Advent and Westmount Methodist. Social life revolved around the many sports clubs; the YMCA and clubs for snowshoeing, cricket, curling, tobogganing and tennis, as well as the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, all date from this era.

To serve these new citizens, horse-drawn streetcars began to travel along St. Catherine Street as far as Atwater Avenue in 1879. Tracks were extended from Notre Dame Street to the stream in the Glen. The Canadian Pacific opened a railway line on the top edge of the escarpment.

It was during this period that Westmount, still known as Côte St. Antoine Village, became a distinct political entity. Initially part of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Village, which was incorporated in 1874, Côte St. Antoine Village separated following a debate on school confessionality. It was incorporated in 1879 (see the Hopkins map, which dates from that same year).

Many land owners saw this as a golden opportunity. Ephrem Hudon junior, son of Justine Hurtubise, subdivided his land along both sides of Victoria Avenue between St. Catherine and Côte St. Antoine (the western part of the Hurtubise property between Claremont and Victoria had already been purchased by the developers Brisson and Warminton).
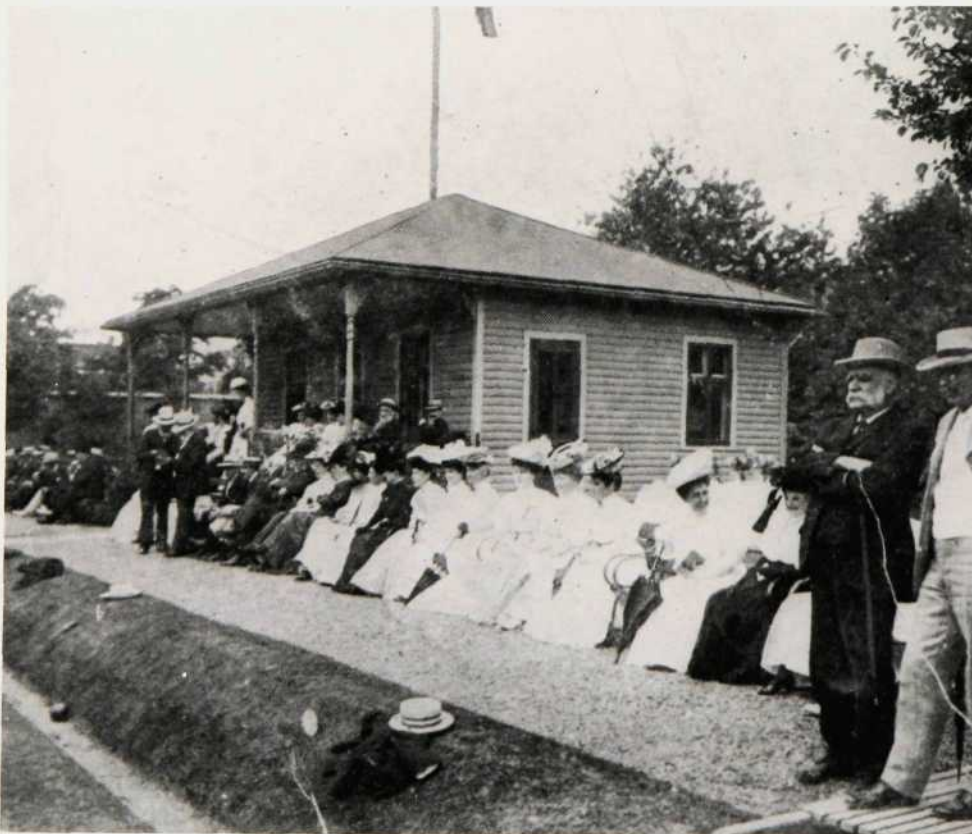
1. Early days at the Westmount Bowling Green, Notman Archives.

2. Map from Hopkins Atlas, Village of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, 1879, National Archives of Canada

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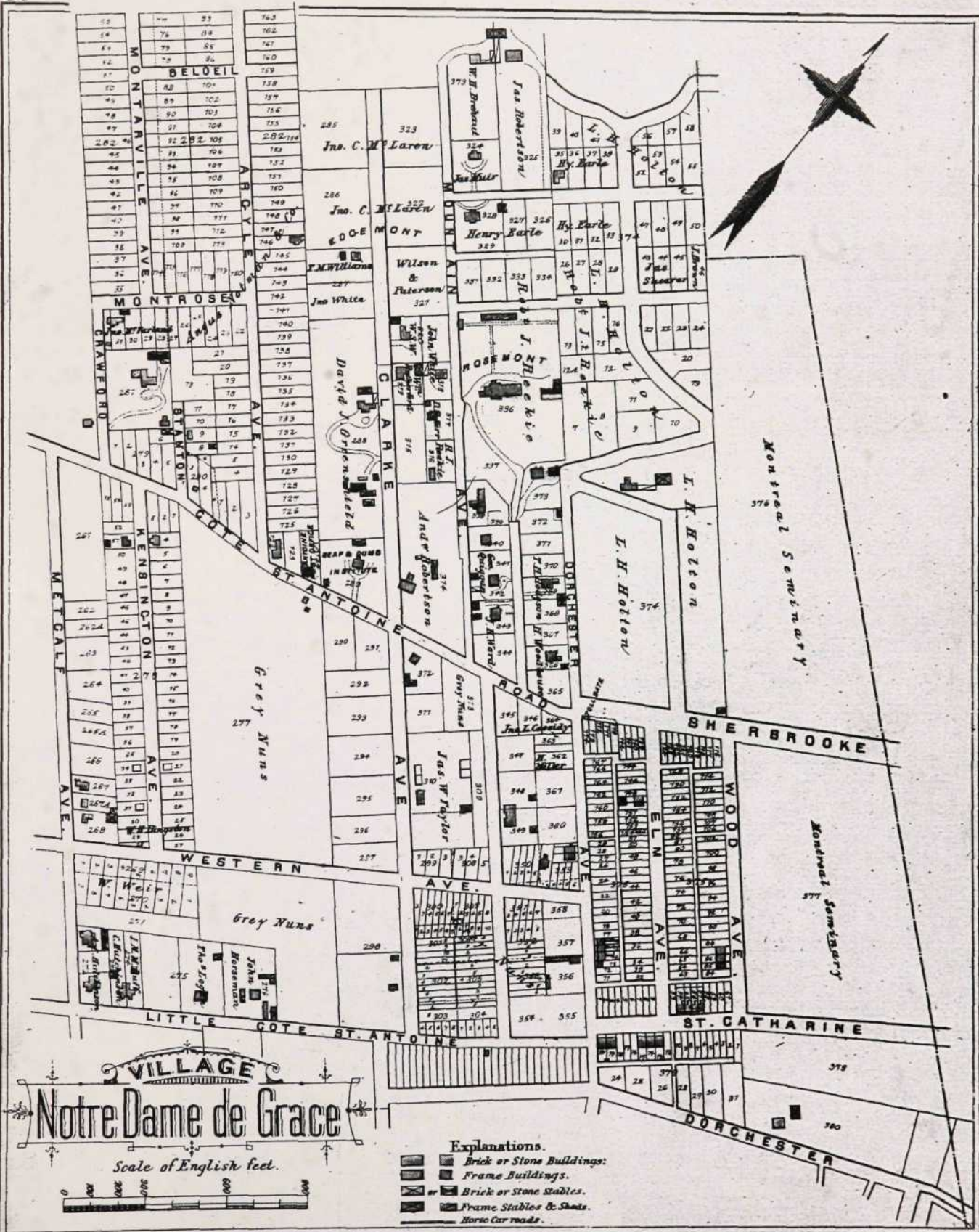
R.J. Reekie, builder of several houses around Rosemount Avenue, and R.T. Raynes, the owner of Forden, were members of the Montreal West Building Society, which built between St. Catherine and Sherbrooke on the eastern edge of the territory. Row housing gradually spread along Dorchester Boulevard and St. Catherine Street between Wood and Greene Avenues.

However, these were all isolated initiatives, and Côte St. Antoine Village retained its rural character, as can be seen from photographs of Greene Avenue in 1875 and Rosemount Avenue in 1872. Meanwhile, villas continued to be built on the Clarke and McGillivray properties accessible from Mountain and Rosemount Avenues.

About thirty buildings survive from this period – a varied inheritance ranging from farmhouse (605 Côte St. Antoine) to villa (523 Argyle Avenue and 649 Côte St. Antoine) to row house (4130 to 4140 Dorchester Boulevard). The villas were generally built of brick. For row houses, the most common choice was rock-faced stone with cut stone quoins, a technique widely-used in Montreal at the time.

House on Clarke Avenue – 1868 map

House on Greene Avenue – 1879 map

Earle House contract – 1873

Rosemount

Muir House

Clarevue

Braemar

Gatekeeper's Lodge

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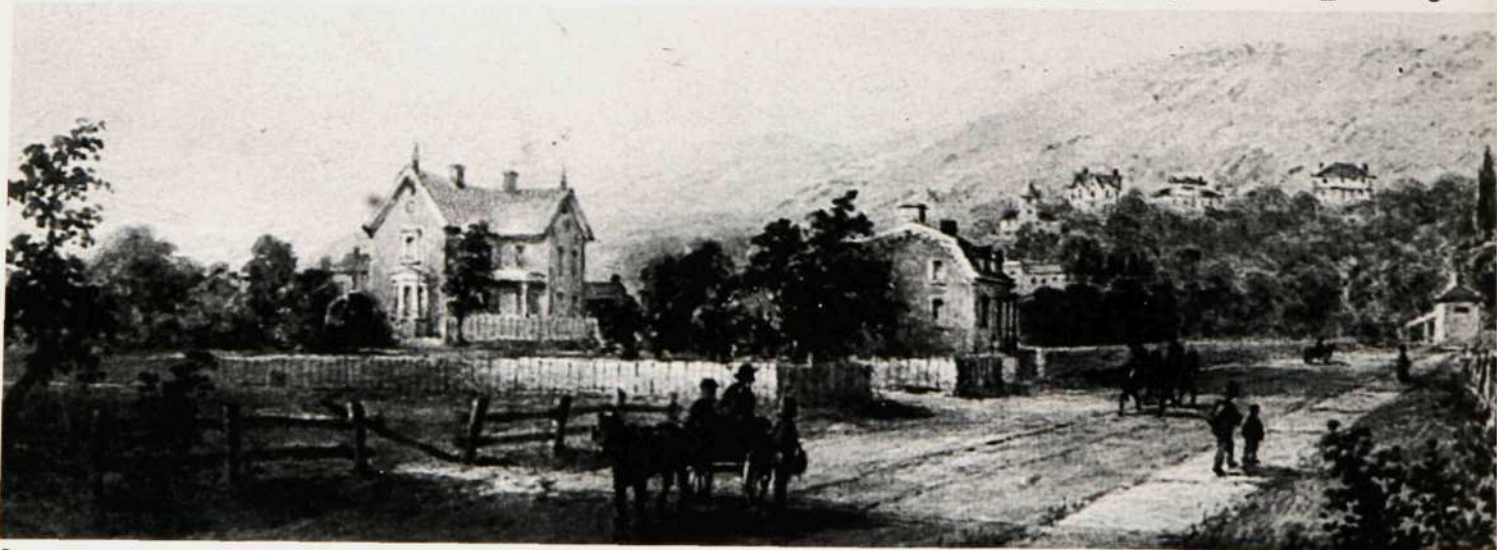
3. Painting of Greene Avenue by James Duncan, c. 1875.

4. 649 Côte St Antoine, built in 1875, City of Westmount.

5. "Streetscape" (Rosemount Avenue), taken by Miss Reekie, c. 1872, Notman Archives.

6. The Sergeant Residence, c. 1885, since demolished, Notman Archives.

7. The Lithcoe farm, St Catherine Street, east of the Glen, Westmount Historical Society.

7

Construction boom in
Westmount

Chapter 5

The speculators

During this quarter-century, Westmount was a beehive of activity. Côte St. Antoine Village became Westmount in 1895, and the population multiplied sixfold. The city which had grown around the largely rural enclave was transformed into a large construction site.

The urbanization of Westmount was particularly intense in the southern part of the territory. In 1890, Westmount signed an agreement with the Montreal Street Railway to establish electric streetcar lines running on St. Catherine and Sherbrooke Streets and Victoria and Greene Avenues. The construction of two train stations, the first at the end of Abbott Avenue in 1896 replaced a few years later by a second station at the foot of Victoria, also accelerated the growth in density of this part of the city.

A new chapter in Westmount history was being written by a new group of people. Land speculators were gradually appropriating most of the land in the southern part of the city. Their projects remained of limited scope, from three to ten houses, since this sort of investment was considered quite risky. Houses were built to be sold individually or resold as a block to an investor who would rent them out. The forty or so projects built between 1890 and 1914 involved people from a wide range of professions: contractors, merchants, notaries, lawyers, pharmacists, manufacturers, architects and engineers.

The rapid development of Westmount did not proceed entirely smoothly. Two "visions" for the city

collided within City Council. One group saw the boom as an opportunity for a windfall, and the other wanted to conserve Westmount's rural character and quiet streets shaded with large trees. Already unhappy with the erection of row houses, the second faction fiercely opposed the development of duplexes, triplexes and apartment houses and succeeded in blocking their construction for some time.

Those in the second camp also opposed all commercial and industrial development of the city. Industry was concentrated in the southwest part of the territory and was limited to the POM Bakery (the world's first completely mechanized bakery), John Stewart's stone-cutting business on Hillside (which employed close to 300 workers around 1910) and the municipal power plant at the foot of the Glen stream, which was the first utility in North America to convert municipal refuse into electric power.

Retail trade was limited to St. Catherine Street and Greene and Victoria Avenues. There was even some opposition to the opening of a post office at the corner of Sherbrooke Street and Arlington Avenue in 1911 on the grounds that it would turn Sherbrooke Street into a commercial artery.

Another noteworthy event of this period was the formation of the Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee in 1890. The committee proposed that the City purchase 16 acres of land, crisscrossed by the eastern fork of the Glen stream, to develop an English-style public park, later named Westmount Park. This killed two birds with one stone, eliminating levelling and channelling problems while increasing the value of the neighbouring lots. (Ten of the 16 acres happened to belong to committee

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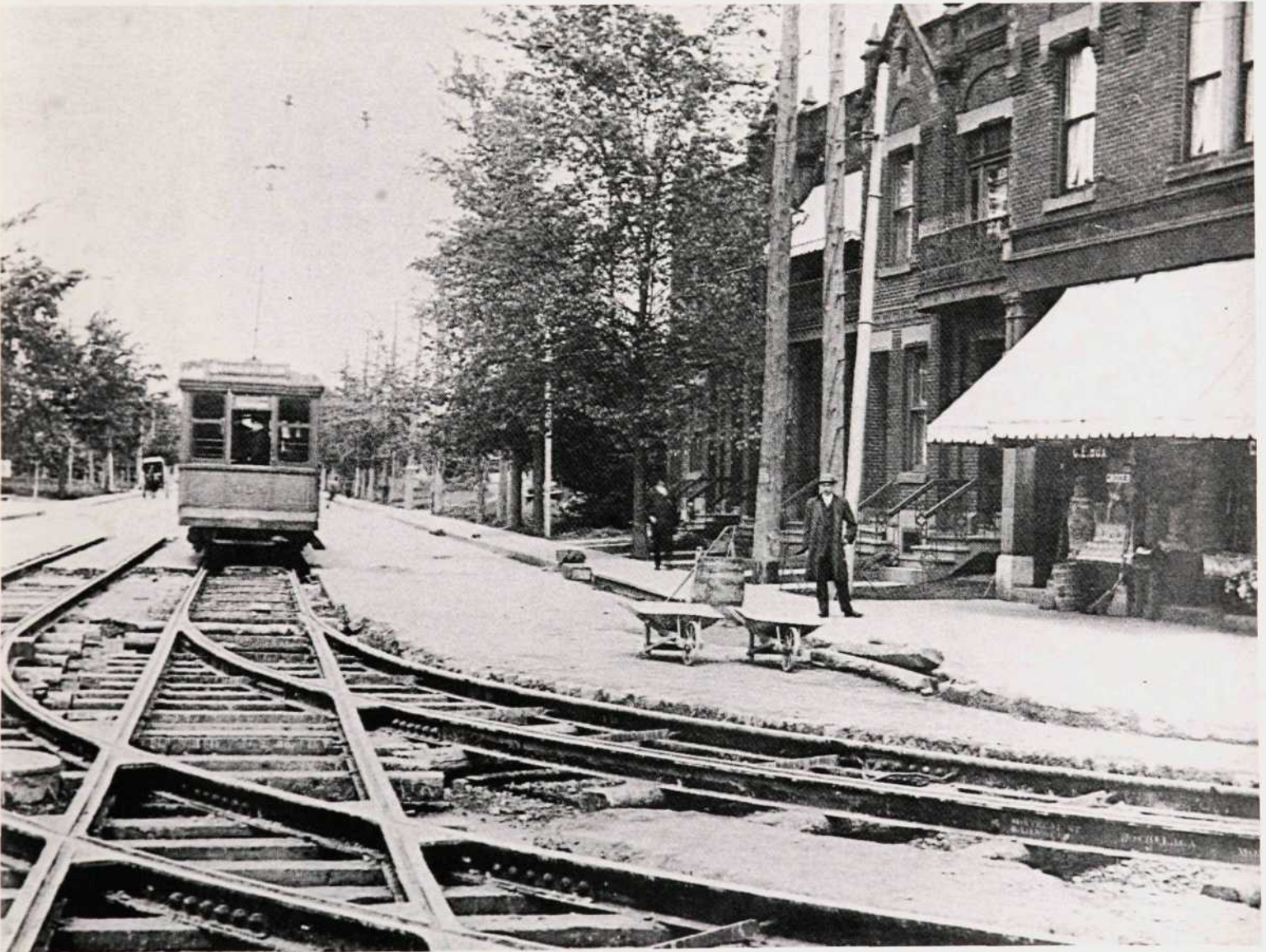
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1. View from the Alex Murray Garden, today's King George Park, Westmount Historical Society.
2. Corner of Westmount Boulevard and Aberdeen Avenue, c. 1906, J.D. Duggins, Westmount Historical Society.
3. Corner of Victoria Avenue and Sherbrooke Street, 1912, Montreal Transport Commission.

member William Murray.) The construction of the municipal library, the first in Canada, and of the first version of Victoria Hall, later destroyed by fire in 1924, further increased the value of the site; construction soon followed along Metcalfe, Arlington and Lansdowne Avenues.

The sale of other large properties further accelerated the development of the territory. Weredale was sold, and its former driveway became a public thoroughfare. The Murray and Raynes estates on the summit were also put up for sale, sounding the death knell for the golf club. Groups pressured the City to purchase the central part of the estates, on the sites of the "West Mount" and Forden residences, to develop a park. (The City finally bought the land in 1928).

Meanwhile, another park was taking shape on the summit of the Little Mountain. In 1895, McGill University acquired land from seven different owners and set up its botany department on the site. Soon afterwards, the university came to an agreement with the City to rent the land and turn it into a park, and it was subsequently sold to the City in 1940.

Finally, Mayor Redfern came to an agreement with the superior of the Sulpicians to open The Boulevard onto part of the former Domaine de la Montagne. The area north of The Boulevard was opened for development, but only villas could be built there; row housing was prohibited by municipal bylaw.

With all this activity, the housing constructed during this period was extremely varied. Early on, the builders used the proven technique of rock-faced stone row housing, frequently finding inspiration in stock models. Brick then appeared in more modest dwellings to the south of Dorchester Boulevard and in more

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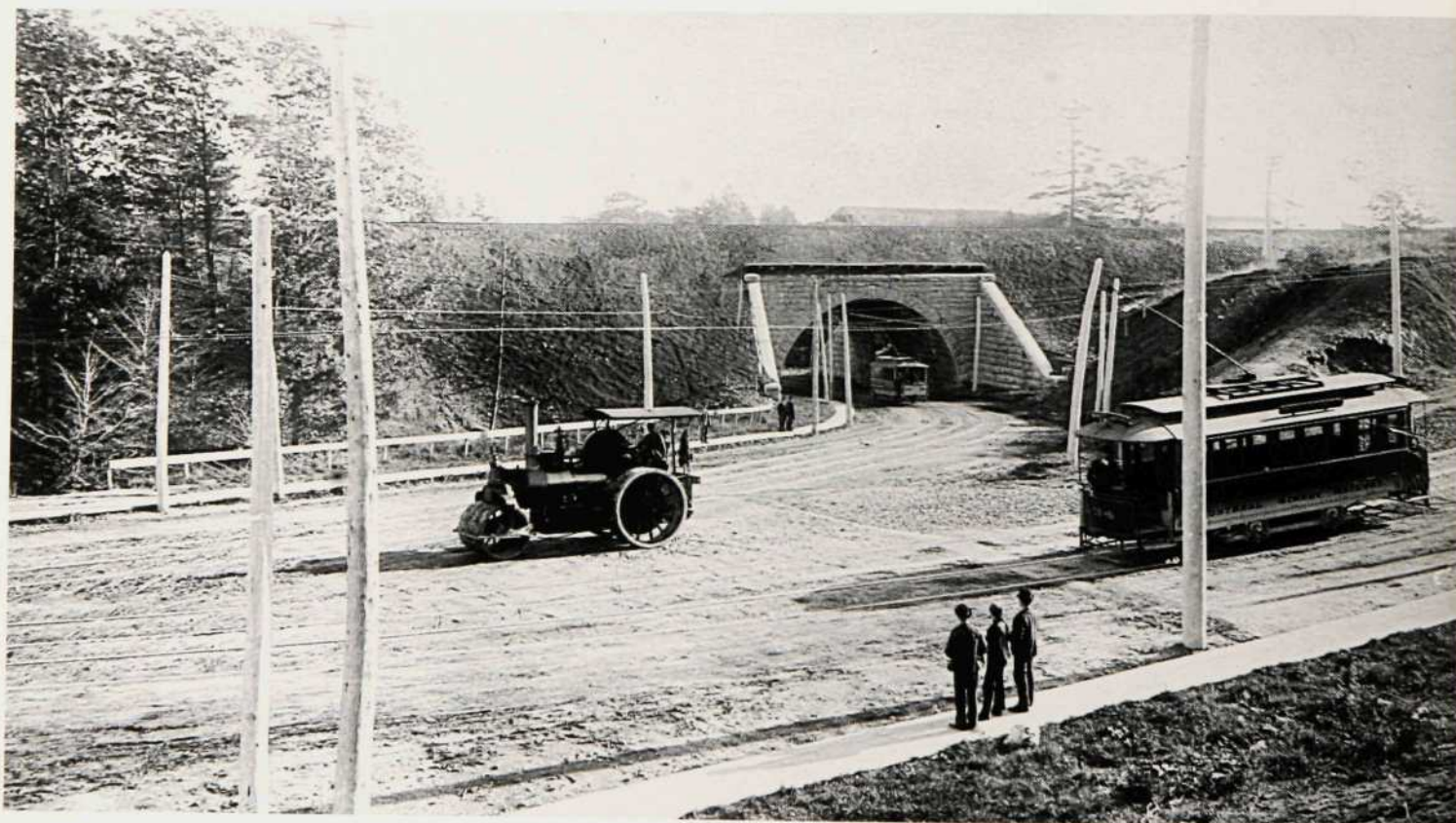
4. Construction of the C.P.R. bridge at Glen road & St Catherine Street, c. 1910, Westmount Historical Society.

5. Shop of Mr. H.F. Jackson, Greene and St Catherine, c. 1895, H.W. Jackson, Westmount Historical Society.

6. Abbott Street station, 1917, since demolished, H.W. Jackson, Westmount Historical Society.

flamboyant groupings, as on Blenheim Place. Builders favoured various styles: Flemish (4616-4630 St. Catherine Street), Elizabethan (1109-1119 Greene Avenue), Romanesque (373-383 Olivier Avenue) and Queen Anne (376-384 Metcalfe Avenue, one of the few Queen Anne groupings with such elaborate brick patterns still surviving in North America). Elegant residences were of the Château (4220 Dorchester Boulevard) and Queen Anne (4100 Dorchester) styles.

At the turn of the century, row housing made way for semi-detached, flat-roofed, brick cottages. These were most often designed as a single building (96-98 Columbia Avenue). Elegant homes were designed in accordance with the Tudor vogue and the Arts and Crafts movements, the latest trends from the United States.

Several public buildings were also constructed during this period including the Mother House of the Congrégation Notre-Dame, the Institut pédagogique, St. Léon de Westmount church, Temple Emanu-el Synagogue, Roslyn School and the YMCA.

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7. Looking east on Western Avenue
(now de Maisonneuve Blvd.), at Greene Avenue,
Notman Archives.
8. A scene in Westmount Park,
c. 1910, Westmount Historical Society.
9. Convent of the Congregation
of Notre-Dame (now Dawson College),
3040 Sherbrooke Street, Notman Archives.

Chapter 6
The financiers

World War I brought the unbridled development of the past quarter-century to an abrupt halt. Westmount was no longer the "terminus" city it had been at the turn of the century; it had become a stop along the way to Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, which was undergoing rapid development.

Sherbrooke Street became a prestige address when the new City Hall was built on Garden Point in 1922, and this prompted the construction of a series of large apartment buildings along its length. This image was further reinforced with the construction of the new Victoria Hall in 1924, Selwyn House School and the Ascension of our Lord Church, all in the neo-Gothic style,
giving the city its own distinctive unity and identity.

Westmount was attracting a new category of residents: the financiers. The Birks, Nesbitt, Bronfman, Wood and Fortier families settled into their châteaux on the hillside. Many of these villas were faced with stone, inspired by trends in the United States. The most sought-after styles were Tudor, a longstanding tradition in Westmount; neo-Georgian, a direct U.S. import; and neo-Canadian, inspired by the research on old buildings of McGill's Ramesay Traquair.

Two major projects date from this period. These were the first housing projects in Canada based on the Garden City movement, which first became popular in England and spread to the United States in the second decade of the 20th century. The first project, Priests' Farm, was located on a portion of the old Domaine de la Montagne site and included more than 70 semi-detached homes in the Anglo-Norman style designed by architects Shorey and Ritchie. The second project, north of King George Park on Murray Hill and Renfrew Avenue, included over 80 semi-detached homes inspired by the American Arts and Crafts movement.

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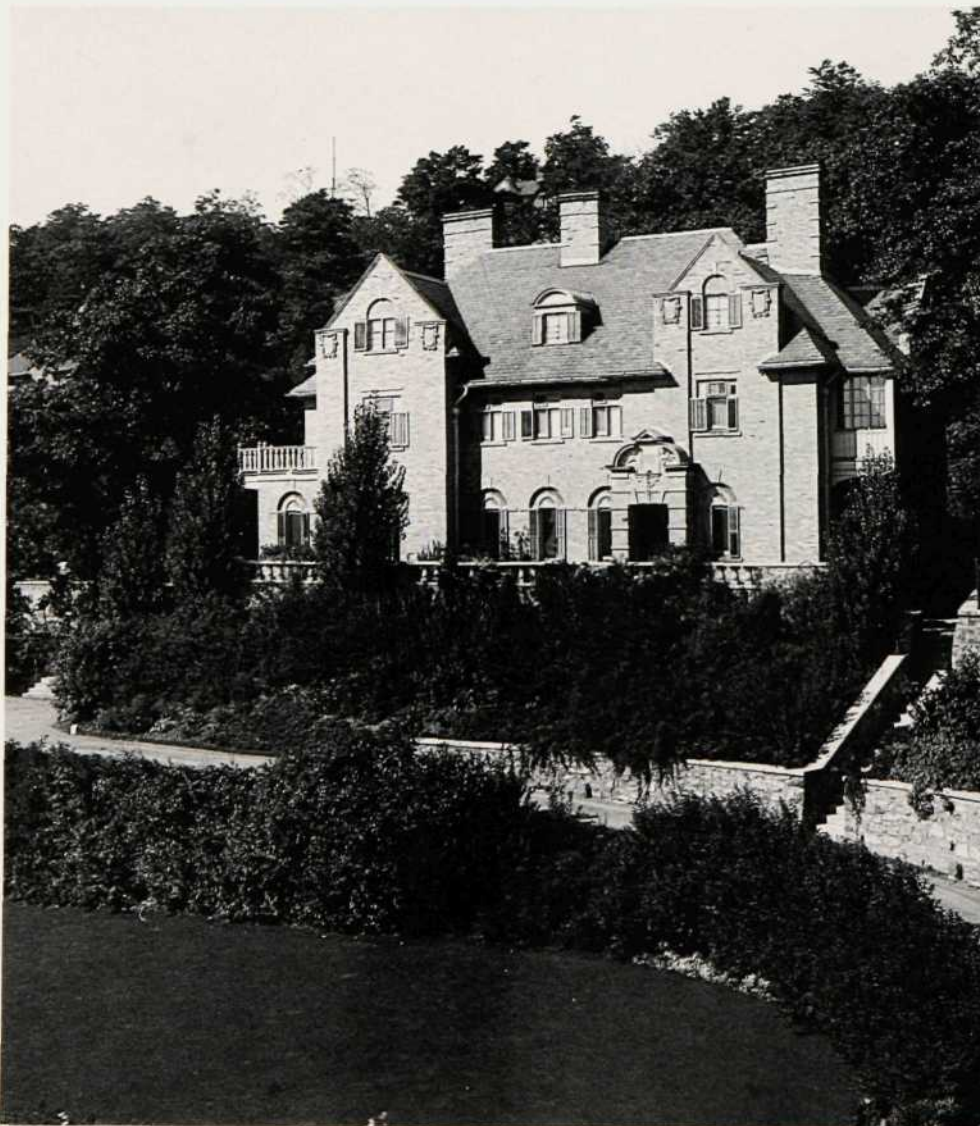
1. A.F.C. Ross Residence, 9 Braeside Place, 1915-1916, Notman Archives.

2. Murray House, 1913, Notman Archives.

3. Howley Apartments, 1084 Greene, c. 1932, since demolished, City of Westmount.

2. **Heritage today**

Now that you've had a brief historical overview, we invite you to join us on a tour of Westmount as we discover the streets and heritage buildings of the city.

For convenience, the city has been divided into six zones and, maps for each zone show its most significant heritage buildings. The buildings were selected based on a systematic survey and comprehensive evaluation of Westmount buildings carried out by the architectural firm of Beaupré and Michaud and published as The Westmount Heritage Study in 1988. Their criteria included the historic, architectural and contextual importance of the building, as well as its integrity. The study concentrated on isolated buildings; much of Westmount is made up of streetscapes and ensembles which also have considerable heritage significance but their individual buildings were not necessarily selected in the study.

The study identified 390 buildings considered to be of greatest heritage significance, ranked into four categories. Exceptional, and Important Buildings are briefly described in the section on each zone; they are shaded and numbered on the map. Those ranked Very Significant and Significant are shaded but not numbered on the maps and are listed on page 60 and 61.

This heritage list has been adopted by the Architectural and Planning Commission and will be regularly reviewed to add buildings of significant heritage value which may have been omitted. This list includes only the most significant buildings; even if a building is not on the list, it may well have considerable heritage value individually or as part of an ensemble.

First of all, some general observations on the City of Westmount.

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A profusion of greenery
Westmount could be called a green city since vegetation is everywhere. There are three large parks: Westmount Park south of Sherbrooke Street, King George (Murray) Park north of Côte St. Antoine, and Summit Park, still in its wilderness state, at the very top of the Little Mountain. To get to the two lookouts, which provide splendid views of the surrounding areas, there is a series of public stairways, of which the longest starts at The Boulevard and climbs to Summit Crescent.

Other small parks throughout the city, the beautifully landscaped private properties, as well as the tree-lined streets also help make Westmount a green city.

1. King George Park.
2. 58 Forden Crescent.
3. 4353 Westmount Avenue.

4

Public buildings: the Westmount tradition

Westmount has about forty public buildings, many in the neo-Gothic style. Montreal is sometimes known as the city of the hundred steeples; Westmount could be called the city of the ten belfries, a feature found in many of its public buildings.

These buildings are largely concentrated along Sherbrooke Street and Côte St. Antoine in two clusters of landmark buildings, one around Westmount Park and the other around Garden Point.
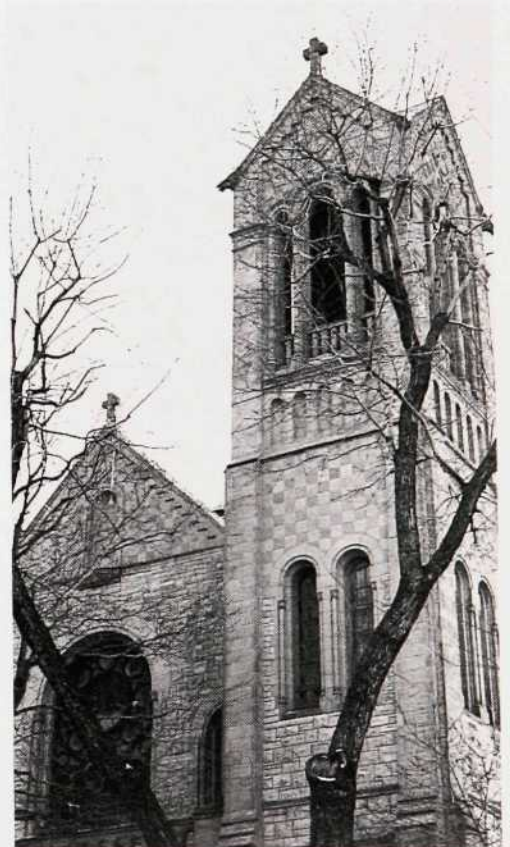
4. City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke.
5. Greenhouse, 4574 Sherbrooke.
6. 3040 Sherbrooke, Doorway.
7. Church of the Ascension of our Lord, 375 Kitchener.
8. St-Léon Church, 4311 de Maisonneuve.

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A residential city

Approximately 3,750 buildings that predate 1940 are used for residential purposes. Westmount's housing stock consists of single-family dwellings (82.5%), with duplexes accounting for only 13%, and triplexes 2%. Apartment buildings account for merely 2.5% of the city's older residential buildings.

As for building materials, the facades of 69% of buildings are of brick, and a further 14% are a combination of stone and brick.

The single-family house has changed over the years. First came the farmhouse (from the 18th century to the mid-19th century), massive and built close to the ground. Next came the country estate (1845-1890), facing south and surrounded by ornamental gardens. At the end of the 19th century, the suburban brick residence of modest design appeared around the stations and along the streetcar routes. Next came income properties, in the form of row houses or, more typical of Westmount, semi-detached cottages.

Westmount also has more than ninety apartment houses constructed before 1940, distinguished by the quality of their exterior architectural treatment (frequently in the neo-Gothic style) and their luxurious interiors.

Westmount has long been considered the ideal site for prestige homes. Over the years, the definition of prestige has always followed the very latest style, particularly American trends.

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9. Entrance, 12-14 Sunnyside.
10. Streetscape, Dorchester Boulevard.
11. View towards the mountain.

The first zone to become urbanized with the extension of the streetcar routes.

Zone A

The entrance to Westmount

This zone, the original gateway to Westmount, was the first to be developed and assume an urban character when the streetcar routes were extended at the end of the 19th century. It is also the richest zone in terms of heritage properties, with 125 listed buildings. The property developers of the Victorian era built entire streets of row houses here, low-rise buildings which generally had brick facades. Along Dorchester Boulevard and several other streets, stone was the preferred material. In the western sector, which was slower to become urbanized, row houses yielded to semi-detached cottages, a widespread form of housing in Westmount.
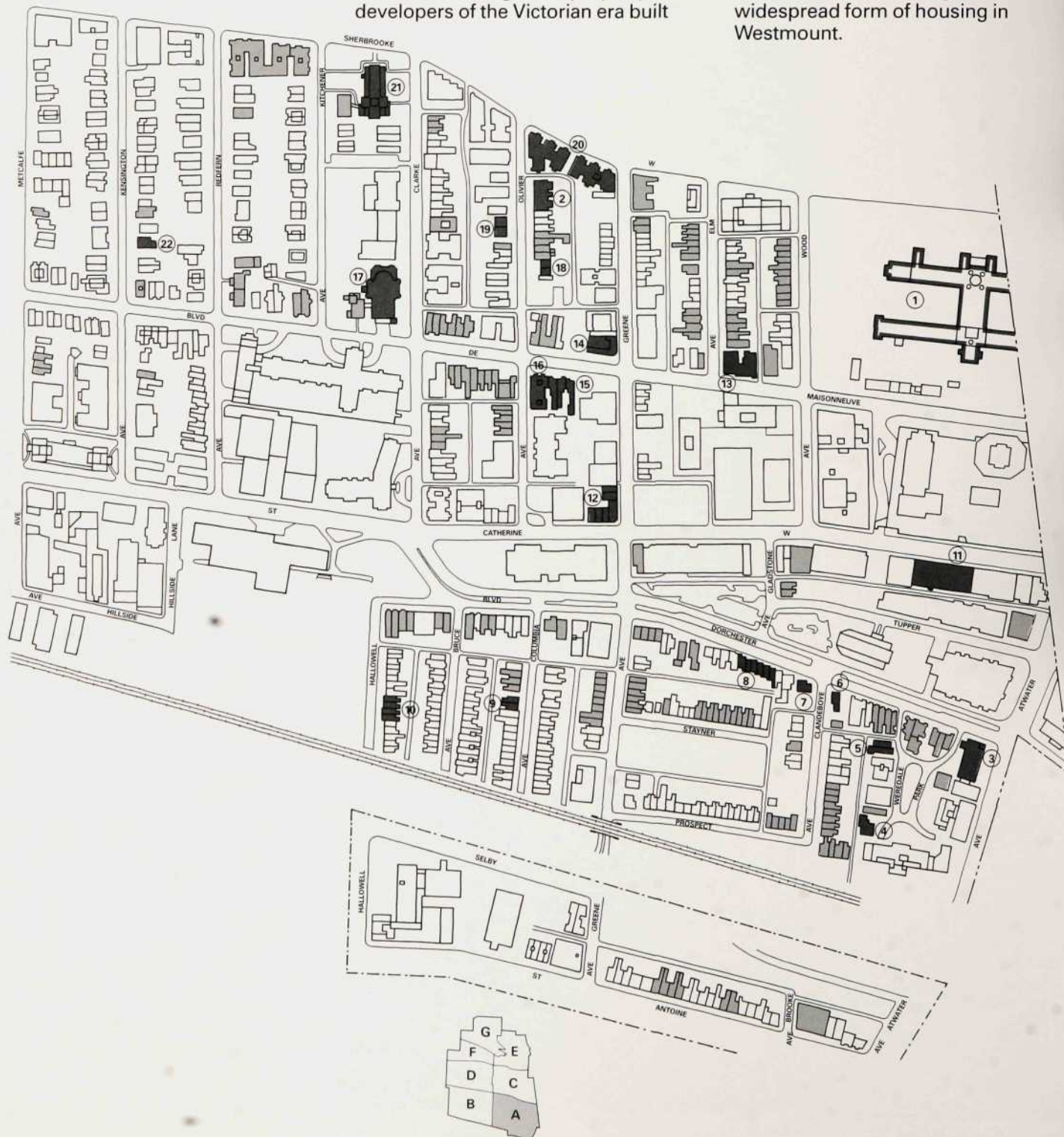
1. 4444 Montrose, detail.
2. Abbot Avenue.
3. 59 Clandeboye, detail.
4. 65-69 Clandeboye.
5. 8-10 Windsor.

The zone contains three clusters of heritage buildings:
the first around St. Léon de Westmount Church, consisting of row housing and apartment houses;
another between Hallowell and Weredale Streets, clearly dominated by row housing; and
a third south of the expressway, to the east of Greene Avenue, consisting of about twenty triplexes, a type of dwelling not commonly found in Westmount.

Among the best-known buildings in this zone are the former Mother House of the Congrégation Notre-Dame, the churches of St. Léon de Westmount, St. Stephen's and the Ascension of Our Lord, and the Old Post Office. Let's take a closer look at some of these heritage buildings.

6. 65 Prospect.
7. 4100 Dorchester.

1   Dawson College
     Exceptional
     3040 Sherbrooke Street West
     J. Omer Marchand, architect
     1905-1908

Set in the midst of magnificent grounds, the former Mother House of the Congrégation Notre-Dame has lost none of its imposing presence. The architect, at the time a recent graduate of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, chose the traditional H-shaped plan then popular for religious buildings, with the innovation of a light brick facade. The central chapel with its bronze dome uses Romanesque and Byzantine forms. The building was classified by the Cultural Affairs Department as an historic site in 1977.

2   373 to 383 Olivier Avenue
     Exceptional
     Alex Hutchison, architect
     1892

This series of row houses built in the style of the American architect Richardson has Romanesque elements, such as arched windows, loggias, and sculpted columns. The gables in the centre and at either end hide the presence of a flat roof, an artifice found in a number of Westmount residences.

3   St. Stephen's Church
     Important
     4006 Dorchester Boulevard
     J.R. Gardiner, architect
     1903

Of Gothic inspiration, the church has a modest and austere appearance. It is dominated by the square tower, which is characteristic of many public buildings in Westmount. The facade is embellished with magnificent stained-glass windows in the shape of ogives or pointed arches.

4   8 Weredale Park
     Important
     John James Browne, architect
     1878

A villa in the neo-Gothic style, with a fish-scale slate roof, interesting woodwork, ogival windows and a half-turret capped by an overhanging full turret.

5   16-17 Weredale Park
     Important
     1899

Close relatives, but not identical twins, with brick quoins and stone arches over the windows. The differences become apparent when looking at the entrance doors and the pediments — one triangular, the other rounded.

6   Thynwald
     Important
     4064 Dorchester Boulevard
     1892-1895

A house of exceptional quality, especially the neo-Roman treatment of the ground floor with the set-back windows. The main entrance is distinguished by a double arch and an oriel with pediment supported by columns.

7   4100 Dorchester Boulevard
     Important
     Robert Findlay, architect
     1891

A director of the Sun Life Company, Thomas B. Macauley, called upon architect Findlay to build both the company's head office in Old Montreal and this Queen Anne style house with its complex volumes.

8   4130 to 4140 Dorchester Boulevard
     Important
     1888

A magnificent Second Empire ensemble with the openings provided within elliptical arches, large corbelled overhangs capped with wrought-iron grilles and black slate mansard roof decorated with red and green slate motifs.

9   **96-98 Columbia Avenue**
Important
J.W. and E.C. Hopkins, architects
1894

A striking example of castle-inspired architecture, with a corner tower, false mansard roof with a double row of dormers, and facade of red sandstone and rock-faced grey stone.

10   **61-75 Hallowell Street**
Important
1893

Unusual structures, with two-level dwellings on the upper floors. The original design consists of turned wood balconies topped with triangular pediments and enhanced by the varied stone treatment.

11   **Packard Building**
Important
4028 St. Catherine St. West
D.J. Spence, architect
1929

As the motorcar gained in popularity, large garages were built, such as this one with its magnificent Art Déco facade and huge glassed bay windows in the upper storeys.

12   **1208-1218 Greene Avenue and 4201-4215 St. Catherine St.**
Important
1887

Stone pilasters and pediments above the dormers accentuate the vertical lines of this corner building in the Second Empire style.

13   **The Denbigh**
Important
4123-4129 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
1898

One of Montreal's oldest apartment houses. The texture of the stone and the shape of the windows varies from building to building. Dormer details and the ornate wood cornice add further visual interest.

14   **The Old Post Office**
Important
1304 Greene Avenue
W.A. Ritchie, architect
1913

This neo-Baroque style building, with its imposing entryway topped by a copper dome, and its Ionic columns supporting triangular broken pediments on both facades, now houses a complex of shops.

15   **4210-4214 de Maisonneuve Blvd.**
Important
Jos. Sawyer, architect
1907

Three row houses reminiscent of the Beaux-Arts style, show a return to classical forms as demonstrated by the pilasters with Ionic capitals and corbelled cornices.

16   **The Western**
Important
4216-4220 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
J. Wechselberger, architect
1912

The play of volumes and intricate cornices were among the elegant architectural devices used to attract a select clientele to these luxurious apartments, which had as many as five bedrooms, three bathrooms and rooftop terraces.

17 St. Léon de Westmount Church
Important
4311 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West
Georges-Alphonse Monette,
architect
1901-1903

The present facade of the church,
neo-Romanesque in inspiration, with
semi-circular arches, dates from 1919. In 1920,
Father Oscar Gauthier directed major interior
alterations to the church. Of particular note are
the frescoes by artist Guido Nincheri.

18 339 and 343 Olivier Avenue
Important
1880

These semi-detached houses are unique in
Westmount for their architectural design and
their siting. Each house is identified by slightly
projecting end pavillions and bay windows on
the ground floor.

19 358-364 Olivier Avenue
Important
1878

The perfectly symmetrical facade of these
semi-detached houses features a slight
projection at each end topped with a triangular
pediment. A verandah and a cornice with
elaborate brackets further adorn the building.

20 Stonehurst and Stonehenge
Important
4200 and 4250 Sherbrooke St. West
J.J. Perrault and J.R. Gadbois,
architects
1928

These buildings present an interesting ensemble
where Sherbrooke Street curves slightly. The
brick and artificial stone decor highlight the
facade with its decorative panels and gargoyles.

21 Ascension of our Lord Church
Important
375 Kitchener Avenue
E.J. Turcotte, Magennis and Walsh
of Boston, architects
1927-1928

This imposing stone church took its inspiration
from the style of medieval cathedrals. The square
tower with belfry and pinnacles evokes the
Gothic style seen in England.

22 321 Kensington Avenue
Important
1885

Despite its modest size, this Second Empire style
home has interesting features, notably the
mansard tower, dormers with triangular
pediments, arched window openings and beige
brick quoins.

The essence of Westmount: the park with its public buildings, the elegant residences that line the adjacent streets, and the large apartment houses of Sherbrooke Street West.

Zone B
Around Westmount Park

Traversed by the various branches of the Glen stream (the bed of the stream is still evident around Lansdowne Avenue and St. Catherine Street), this second zone was developed at the end of the 19th Century. The presence of a cluster of industrial buildings in the south-west, and the construction in 1896 of the first railway station on Abbott Avenue followed by a second station at the foot of Victoria Avenue, soon attracted developers who built row housing for a clientele of more modest means. To serve them, merchants set up shop along the streetcar routes of St. Catherine and Sherbrooke Streets and Victoria and Greene Avenues.

During the same period, the municipal authorities finally settled the Glen stream drainage problem by creating Westmount Park, a celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The value of the surrounding lots soon rose, and luxurious semi-detached cottages were built along them in short order.

There are three clusters of heritage buildings in this zone: the first near the old station from Blenheim Place to Abbott Avenue south of St. Catherine Street, consisting of row cottages built by developers Blenheim, Lewis and Irving around 1895;
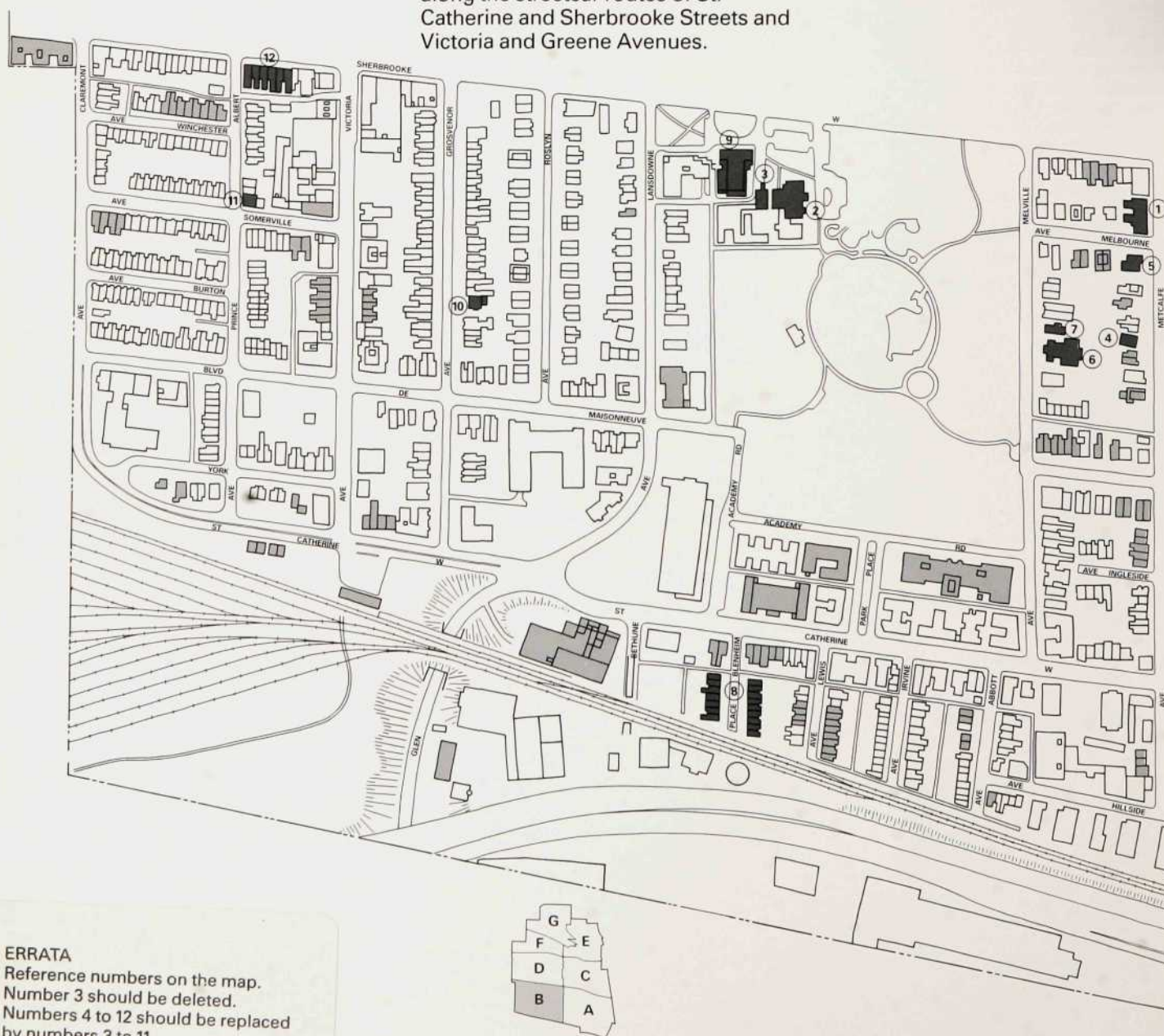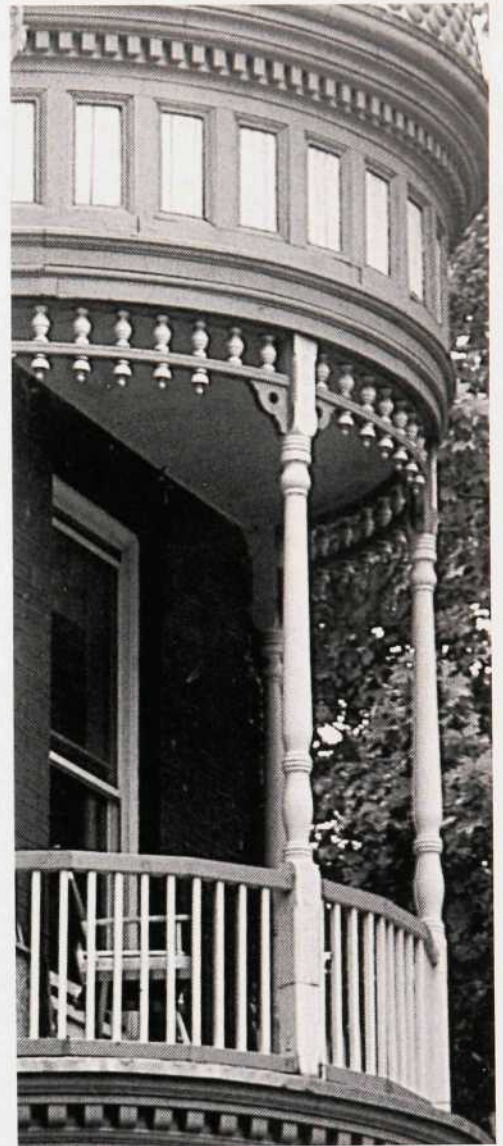
1. 117-119 Blenheim Place.
2. 72 York.
3. Wood Avenue streetscape.
4. Balcony detail, 260 Prince Albert.

– a second cluster near the second station, from Grosvenor to Claremont between Sherbrooke and St. Catherine Streets; and

– a third around Westmount Park, which contains all the elements typical of Westmount's architectural heritage: landscaping, public buildings, houses of worship, homes dating from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, and apartment houses on Sherbrooke Street, which has remained exclusively residential in this area.

Among the principal buildings in the zone are the Library, Conservatory, Victoria Hall, Melville Presbyterian Church and its presbytery, all of which will be described in this section.

5.   Detail.

1   376 to 384 Metcalfe Avenue
Exceptional
1896

A most successful adaptation of the Queen Anne style in row houses, enhanced in this case by the site at the corner of Melbourne Avenue. The rock-faced stone of the foundations contrasts with the brick patterns in various geometric motifs, characteristic of the Queen Anne style.

2   Municipal Library and Conservatory
Exceptional
4574 Sherbrooke St. West
Robert Findlay, architect
1898

The first municipal library in Canada reveals the neo-Roman influence of the American architect Richardson. The complex volumes and portal are typical of this style. Remarkable details include the masonry work, sculptures by George W. Hill, stained glass windows and interior woodwork. The roof of the adjacent Conservatory, with its metal ribs, is beautifully shaped.

3   344 Metcalfe Avenue
Important
1888

The detailed woodwork of this century-old house gives it a countrified air. Note the large balcony, fan-shaped columns and setting sun motif embellishing the gable.

4   374 Metcalfe Avenue
Important
1896

This house of Queen Anne inspiration has details borrowed from other styles, a common practice in the Victorian era. Note the pavilion roof, corner turret and generous verandah.

5   Serbian Orthodox Church
Important
349 Melville Avenue
Edward Maxwell, architect
1900

This church has all the hallmarks of public buildings in Westmount: neo-Gothic style, brick trim, square tower with belfry. Note the gabled portico and the buttresses supporting the tower, which give it a medieval air.

6   Serbian Orthodox Church,
        presbytery
        Important
        351 Melville Avenue
        J. Rawson Gardiner, architect
        1912

Built a dozen years after the church, the presbytery was designed to integrate with it in terms of scale, roof shape and facade materials.

7   Blenheim Place
        Important
        1894-1896

These row houses were built by contractors Riel and Brown. Each unit has a bay window and a balcony with a pediment in the Turkish vein.
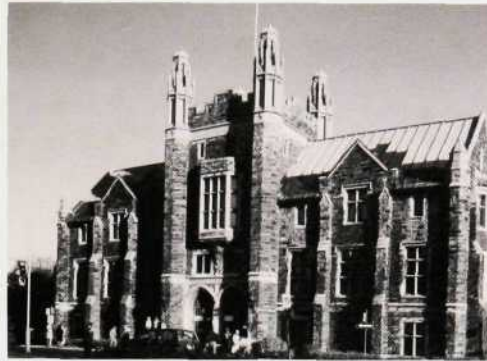
8   Victoria Hall
        Important
        4626 Sherbrooke St. West
        Hutchison & Wood, architects
        1924

The architects of Westmount City Hall drew upon the same Tudor inspiration in rebuilding Victoria Hall. Note the turrets, ogival-shaped doors and the oriel of the centre tower.

9   323 Grosvenor Avenue
        Important
        C.J. Saxe and J.S. Archibald,
        architects
        1898-1899

This house is a combination of Queen Anne style, as seen in the tower, pavilion roof, gingerbread woodwork and articulated brick facade, and neo-Renaissance style, as seen in the entry arcade and the first-floor loggia.

10   351 Prince Albert Avenue
        Important
        1899

Typical of Montreal commercial architecture, this corner building has retained its intricate wood cornice and balconies, and the old-fashioned decoration of the show windows.


11   4868 to 4896 Sherbrooke St. West
        Important
        Théo Daoust, architect
        1899

In 1914, architects McVicar and Heriot transformed these row houses into a commercial complex that is a lesson in rhythmic and well articulated architecture.

An independent village born in the shadow of the Domaine de La Montagne

Zone C

The cradle of Westmount

This zone was for many years dominated by the powerful Sulpicians, who had been established on the Domaine de la Montagne since the early days of the French colony. Because of this control, it was not until 1895 that the northern part of Westmount was developed, and only later were the lands that made up the Domaine finally subdivided.

However, part of this zone in the shadow of the Domaine had far earlier taken on a distinctive personality: it is considered the cradle of Westmount. The seigneurial grants passed into the hands of wealthy fur merchants: Simon Clarke opened up a private road (today's Clarke Avenue);

William McGillivray did the same on his Rosemount Estate (Mountain Avenue). Their estates were the first subdivisions; on either side of their private roads, villas were built surrounded by magnificent gardens, a type of development unique on the island of Montreal.

The four clusters of heritage buildings in this zone reflect the different stages in the development of the area:
– Rosemount Avenue between Mount Pleasant and Mountain Avenues was sparsely populated, with houses set well back and a great deal of landscaping;
– north of the Holton Estate between Wood and Mount Pleasant Avenues, three series of row houses are noteworthy for their homogeneity (the Holton villa, known as Mount Pleasant, was located between Holton and Mount Pleasant Avenues);
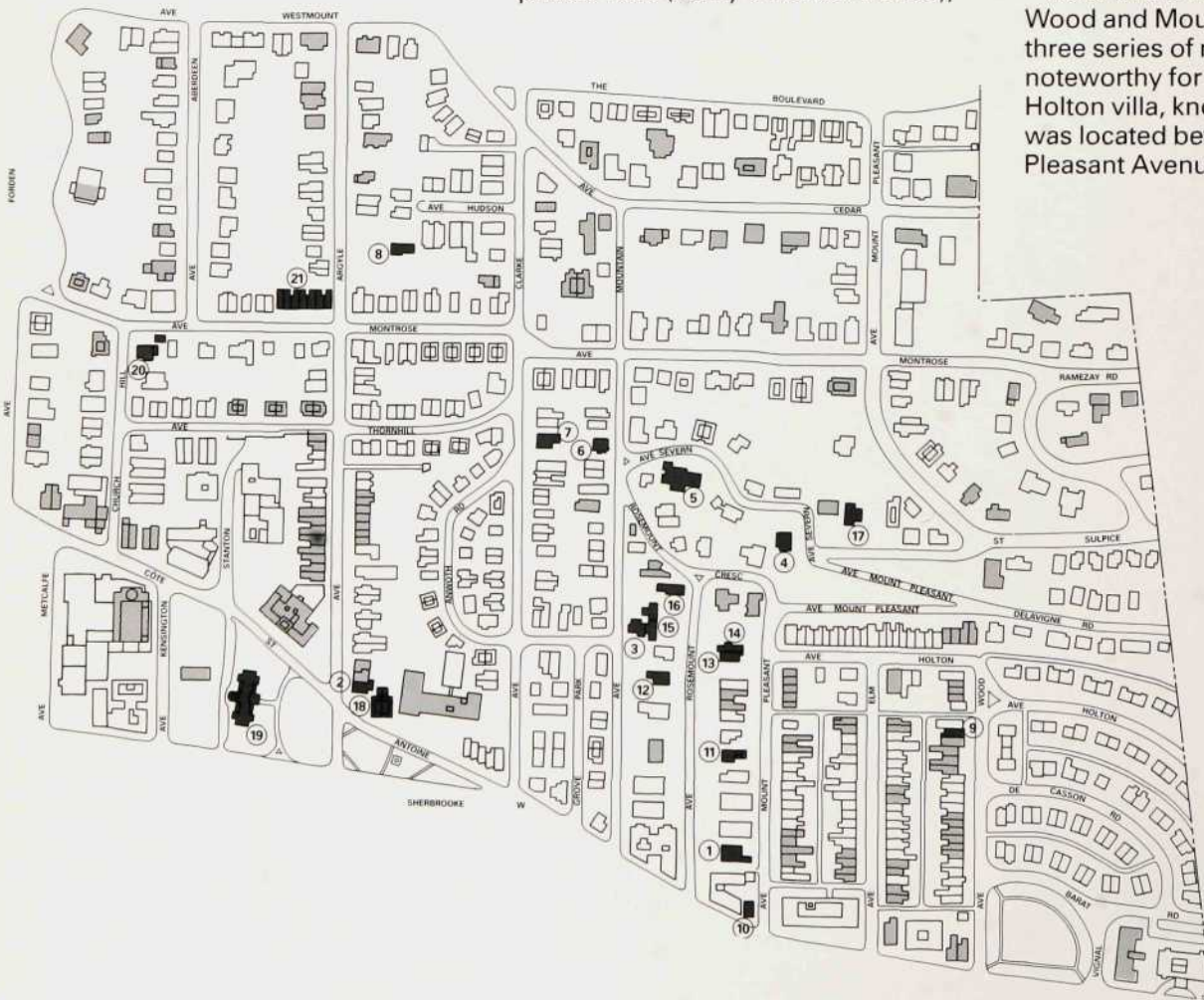
1. Holton Avenue.
2. Holton Avenue.
3. Rosemount Avenue.

– at the corner of Argyle and Montrose Avenues, the Notman project, the work of the famous photographer, came under attack because it involved building row housing in an area hitherto reserved for villas; and

– Priests' Farm was one of the first projects in Canada inspired by the Garden City movement in England, with its winding streets and semi-detached Anglo-Norman style houses.

There are about a hundred heritage buildings in this zone. Some are truly exceptional, such as the Décary home at 39 Côte St. Antoine; 523 Argyle Avenue; Rosemount, the Severn Avenue home of John Young, Commissioner of the Port of Montreal; the cottages built by developer R.J. Reekie on Rosemount Avenue; and the new City Hall on Garden Point.

4. 44 Rosemount.
5. 79 Holton.
6. 4 Belfrage Road.

1   5 Rosemount Avenue
Exceptional
Thomas S. Scott, architect
1863

An interesting example of the houses built in Westmount before 1865 on the early subdivisions of Rosemount. The house has retained several original elements, including the triangular pediments on the dormers, the cornice supported by corbelling, and the windows capped by elliptical pediments, with a return supported by pilasters. A belt course divides the ground floor from the upper storeys.

2   Décary House
Exceptional
39 Côte St. Antoine
18th century

Covered with stucco, crowned with a mansard roof and decorated with a Regency gallery, one can barely discern the old farm house that may have been the home of the Décary family, among the first families to settle on Côte St. Antoine. The shape and structure of the original gabled roof can still be seen in the attic. Architect Edward Maxwell is believed to have undertaken renovations in the style of the day.

3   Rosemount Cottage
Exceptional
451 Mountain Avenue
before 1868

Built on the site of the stables for Rosemount, (the estate of the Honourable John Young), this house is a bridge between the neo-Gothic and neo-Renaissance styles. Gothic features include the four-slope mansard and gables; the arched windows, the drips and the worked wood indentation which runs along the intricate cornice are reminiscent of the Renaissance style. The adjacent properties at 52 and 60 Rosemount Avenue are former stables converted into private homes after 1871.

4   474 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Exceptional
1892

When developer James R. Reekie's daughter Elizabeth married J.J. Ward, this magnificent villa was built on the hillside for the couple. To preserve the rural environment, the architect chose the Carpenter Queen Anne style, so named for the variety of its worked wood elements. A corner tower and a gallery in an inverted L-shape further enhance the elegance of this villa.

5   Rosemount
Exceptional
16 and 18 Severn Avenue
1859-1862

This Tuscan-style villa built by John Young, Commissioner of the Port of Montreal, has undergone several alterations over the years. The gambrel roof was replaced circa 1880 by the slate mansard roof we see today, and the position of the door with its Georgian decoration and the narrow arched window next to it also appear to be changes to that part of the facade.

6   490 Mountain Avenue
Exceptional
1868

Contractor Daniel Wilson built this villa in the style of the Square Mile. Evidence of his mastery of the formal Gothic vocabulary is abundant in the intricate wood details of the porch, the ogival-shaped stone lintels, and the combination of rock-faced stone and fine-cut stone. With its asymmetrical composition, the house opens out to the street and the river at the same time.

7　　473 Clarke Avenue
Exceptional
1865

This is one of the few neo-Gothic homes in Westmount — a style that became popular with the Loyalists in the Eastern Townships and Ontario. The prominent gables are pierced by ogival-shaped windows, and the bay windows emphasize the three-dimensional nature of the facade. The refined chimney treatment was probably reflected in the original woodwork details.

8　　523 Argyle Avenue
Exceptional
circa 1870

A wood fence, rock garden and row of apple trees enhance the countrified air of this villa. However, alterations such as the addition of a greenhouse and a bay window make it difficult to see the original house. The main entrance probably originally faced south to take advantage of the sunlight and the view over the river.

9　　400 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Important
1896

The storeys of this brick building are divided by stone belt courses. Note the oriels at the first floor level, the geometric designs of the brick reliefs, and the serrated gables, all of which give the building a Dutch character.

10　　27 Rosemount Avenue
Important
Thomas S. Scott, architect
1863

Yet another house built by contractor R.J. Reekie. Unlike 5 Rosemount Avenue, the original decoration of its openings was replaced by shutters.

11　　44 Rosemount Avenue
Important
circa 1880

The perfectly symmetrical facade of this house has two slight projections with arched windows on the upper floor and a bay window on the ground floor. The solarium and balcony face south.

12　　47 Rosemount Avenue
Important
E. and W. Maxwell, architects
1907

This home borrows some neo-Renaissance elements such as the broad cornice broken up by a pediment containing an arched window. The brick facing is embellished with reliefs forming pilasters.

13　　49 Rosemount Avenue
Important
Hutchison, Wood & Miller,
architects
1910

The architects of this building were careful to harmonize it with number 47 Rosemount, especially in the cornice treatment, with the arched pediment topped by a stone projection that contrasts with the brick facing.

14　　52-60 Rosemount Avenue
Important
1870-1917

Among the most intriguing houses in Westmount, these two residences, formerly stables on the Rosemount estate, were converted in 1917 and 1918 for residential use.

15   Cloverley
Important
62 Rosemount Avenue
John W. and E.C. Hopkins,
architects
1893

Note the corner tower, bracketed cornice and false mansard roof of this Queen Anne inspired mansion, built for Horace A. Hutchins, director of the Westmount Municipal Association.

16   478 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Important
Alex Cowper Hutchison, architect
1896

Several architectural features add particular interest to this residence, including the arched portico, stepped bay window, corner tower, stone lintels, and combination of red brick with geometric designs in beige brick.

17   35-37 Côte St. Antoine
Important
Edward Maxwell, architect
1897

This Anglo-Norman inspired, half-timbered beige brick building is typical of the work of the Maxwell brothers. Note the turrets and the chimneys of fanciful shape.

18   Westmount City Hall
Important
4333 Sherbrooke St. West
Robert and Frank R. Findlay,
architects
1922

The island of greenery known as Garden Point admirably sets off the medieval-like facade of the Tudor-style City Hall, with its square tower flanked by four angular turrets linked by crenellations, and pinnacles crowning the wall buttresses.

19   Hazelbrae
Important
85 Church Hill
1878

This house of Second Empire inspiration is distinguished by its rock-faced grey stone facing and the refined woodwork of the cornice, dormers and gallery.

20   4351 to 4363 Montrose Avenue
Important
1895

Each storey is distinguished by the varied textures of the stone and the size and shape of the window openings. The differentiated pediments and gables also enliven the line of the roof.

21   486 Wood Avenue
Important
J. Omer Marchand, architect

A Gothic-style residence built by a resolutely modern architect, with irregular stone quoins, heraldic medallions, wrought-iron decoration, and leaded windows. At the time, the immense window would have offered a magnificent view of the Domaine de la Montagne.

Zone D

Along Côte St. Antoine

This zone, more than any other, has retained its rural air, saved from more intensive development by the extension of Sherbrooke Street to the west.

The regular layout of today's streets crossing Côte St. Antoine still reflects the lands granted under the seigneurial regime, with long strips lined up along the "côte".

King George Park to the north-east has kept its country feeling, with its stands of walnut, willow and maple trees. The home of William Murray, known as West Mount (from which the city took its name) was on the site of today's lookout.

Noteworthy heritage clusters in this zone are:
– the gentle incline of Côte St. Antoine Road and Murray Park;
– the properties of the subdivided Hurtubise property between Claremont and Grosvenor Avenues, prestigious projects after 1874 of Ephrem Hudon junior, son of Justine Solomé Hurtubise; and
– the row houses that line Lansdowne and Arlington Avenues, noteworthy for their variety and dynamic architectural style.

In this zone we find some of Westmount's oldest buildings: the ancestral home of the Hurtubise family, the home of Justine Solomé Hurtubise right next door, the Forden stables, the property of merchant Alex Bowman, and the Metcalfe Terrace houses along Côte St. Antoine.
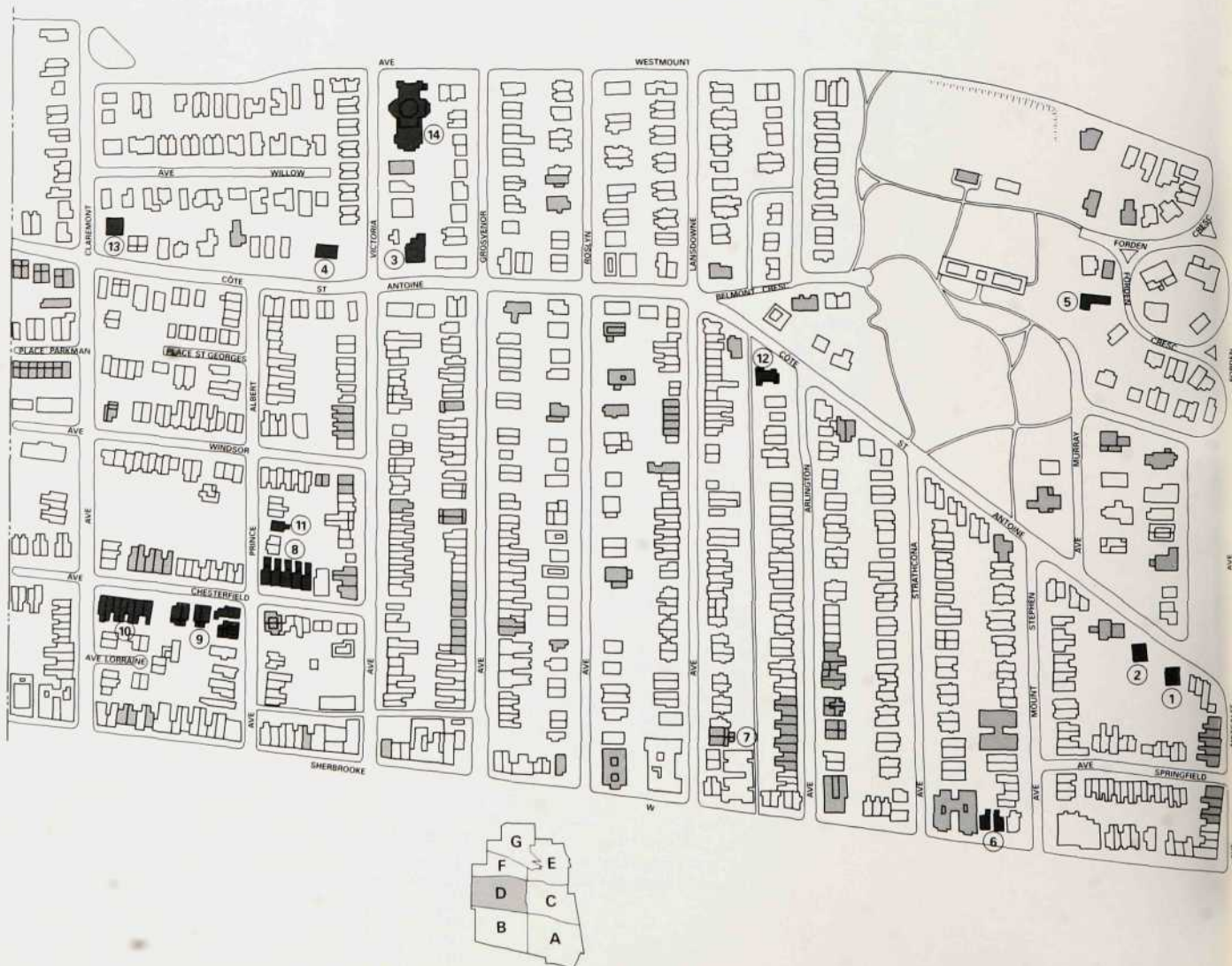
1. 178 Côte St. Antoine.
2. King George Park.

1   Metcalfe Terrace
Exceptional
168 Côte St. Antoine
Moses Judah Hays, architect
1840

Royal engineer Moses Judah Hays built four houses for rental purposes on Metcalfe Terrace, land acquired from the Sulpicians. Number 168 has retained several elements of its original architecture, notably the corner pilasters, the ornamented window lintels and the portico, all of neo-Grecian inspiration. However, the roof has been raised to form a false mansard and the stone has been covered with yellow stucco.

2   Metcalfe Terrace
Exceptional
178 Côte St. Antoine
Moses Judah Hays, architect
1840

Related to number 168 with its neo-Grecian inspired decoration, 178 has kept its original stone facing. The shape of the building is somewhat strange, with its extremely low pavilion roof and the generous projection of the eave. The wood trellis fence appears to be about a century old as well.

3   Riverview
Exceptional
513-515 Côte St. Antoine
1847-1879

A truly exceptional residence set off by an immense front lawn, built originally by Justine Solomé Hurtubise. Banker William Simpson is believed to have built the centre tower crowned by a decorative railing around 1880; the elaborate Gothic-inspired woodwork of the dormers and chimney also appears to date from the end of the 19th century. Also worthy of note is the polychrome motif of the roof slate.

4   Hurtubise House
Exceptional
561-563 Côte St. Antoine
early 18th century

One of the most beautiful farm houses remaining on the island of Montreal. Louis Hurtubise was one of the first to settle along Côte St. Antoine. The stone for the house was taken from Mount Royal, and masonry work was by Hurtubise's neighbours Leduc and Décary. The large overhanging roof covering the substantial gallery and the summer kitchen are 19th-century additions.

5   50 Forden Crescent
Exceptional
circa 1830

The former stables of the Forden property belonging to Alex Bowman, the founder of Bowmanville, Ontario, were converted into housing in 1928 by H.D. Campbell. Giving directly onto King George Park, the house blends in perfectly with its rustic bushhammered stone walls.

6   4547-4549 Sherbrooke St. West
Important
Cajetan Dufort, architect
1905

Admirable masonry work, with brick imitating cut stone forming small carved columns and cornices, as well as semi-circular arches. The elaborate pediments conceal the flat roofs.

7   419-421 Lansdowne Avenue
Important
Robert Findlay, architect
1895

These semi-detached houses reveal the identity of their architect in their exuberant decor, with sculpted-wood porches, detailed oriels, wrought-iron railing, windows framed in redstone, and black slate false mansard roof.

8   21 to 39 Chesterfield Avenue
Important
1896

Each of these units is enlivened by different capping, and each consists of two two-storey dwellings. The facade is remarkable for the varied texture of the stone.

9   42 to 56 Chesterfield Avenue and
444-446 Prince Albert Avenue
Important
Robert Findlay, architect
1898

A variety of colours, textures and materials, incorporating brick, stone, stucco, wood and slate. The treatment of the gables, covered either with clapboard or with half-timbered stucco, also varies from one house to the next.

10   60 to 72 Chesterfield Avenue and
449 Claremont Avenue
Important
1902

Each house in the row has a bay window on the ground floor and an ornate wood pediment. The corner building is more elaborate, with a corner tower and arched entryway capped with an oriel.

11   477 Prince Albert Avenue
Important
1891

A fine example of the Queen Anne style, with a corner tower, polychromy of red and beige brick and generous wood ornamentation.

12   334 Côte St. Antoine
Important
circa 1880

A cornice with elaborate brackets runs along the four-slope mansard of the main body of the building. A pediment with tiny quarter-moon windows crowns the neoclassic portico of the entryway.

13   649 Côte St. Antoine
Important
1875

This residence looks like it came straight out of a catalogue of American villas, with its portico with columns capped by a balcony, observation turret, mansard roof and bay windows with pleasing ornamental ironwork.

14   Seventh Day Adventist Church
Important
571 Victoria Avenue
Hutchison, Wood & Miller,
architects
1913

Originally built as the Stanley Presbyterian Church, this massive neo-Byzantine building distinguished by complex volumes and the use of the semi-circular arch and blind arch shapes.

Zone E

The little mountain

This zone is dominated by Summit Park, which was sold to the City of Westmount by McGill University on condition that it remain in its natural state. A true paradise for birdwatching, the park has more than 100 different species nesting there in the spring.

Between Summit Park and The Boulevard, whose steep incline delayed the development of this sector, imposing mansions were constructed in a variety of styles. Noteworthy among them are the original homes of the member of the provincial parliament Charles A. Smart at 14 Sunnyside and architect Percy Nobbs at 38 Belvedere Road, as well as the extraordinary homes known as Oaklands and Braemar.
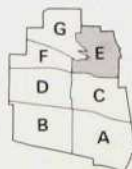
1   Braemar
Exceptional
3219 The Boulevard
W.M. Footner, architect
1847

This is the only other remaining building on the island of Montreal that bears the signature of the architect of Bonsecours Market. Originally, it had a twin, Clarevue. Braemar has a gallery running around all four sides of the building. The neo-Georgian details of the entryway, eaves and galleries were added in a 1924 facelift by architects Barott and Blackader at the request of the then owner of the property.

2   Oaklands
Exceptional
15 Belvedere Road
Robert Findlay and J.W. McGregor, architects
1906

A country house in the British taste of the era. The architects made use of a series of elements, including turrets, chimneys and balconies, to enliven the somewhat sombre decoration of the building, its red brick embellished with occasional stone sculptural elements.

3   38 Belvedere Road
Important
P.E. Nobbs, architect
1909

Architect Percy Nobbs designed his own home with exterior volumes reflecting to the interior layout, taking full advantage of the panoramic view and wonderful light of the mountaintop site.

4   51 Belvedere Road
Important
Ross & MacFarlane, architects
1912

A surprising composition, this Queen Anne-inspired residence has adapted the basic principles of that style to the irregular shape of the lot, located in a curve of Belvedere Road.

5   3603 and 3605 The Boulevard
Important
1894

A profusion of architectural elements (oriels, turrets and chimneys) and materials (stone, brick, worked shingle and slate) serve to conceal the fact that this is in fact a pair of semi-detached houses in the Queen Anne style.

6   14 Sunnyside Avenue
Important
Ross & MacFarlane, architects
1910

One of the most beautiful homes in Westmount, built for member of the provincial parliament Charles A. Smart. Note the buttresses and small-paned windows typical of English manors, as well as the wrought-iron fence designed by architect Percy Nobbs.

7   22 Summit Circle
Important
1898

Built in what was then the midst of the countryside, this vacation house makes use of various Queen Anne elements such as the corner tower and reverse L-shaped gallery. Note the cedar shingle facing, an exceptional feature in Westmount.

A unique neighbourhood in which a number of architectural trends are represented

Zone F & G

The slopes of the summit

This zone contains a broad range of architectural styles, with influences from France, England and the United States. Westmount-style semi-detached homes cover entire blocks, notably on Victoria, Roslyn and Lansdowne Avenues.

The urbanization of the northern part of the zone came relatively late, largely due to the steep slopes of the land. Here we find more semi-detached cottages, but further to the east, luxurious mansions were constructed in a variety of styles.

A cluster of heritage buildings can be found north of King George Park along Renfrew, Grenville and Douglas Avenues and on Murray Hill. These streets were developed in accordance with the principles of the English Garden City movement. The architecture of the homes, however, takes its inspiration from the Arts & Crafts movement then so popular in the United States.

Add to all this the Beaux-Arts facade of the former Institut pédagogique and the Elizabethan style of Roslyn School and the result is a neighbourhood of unparalleled elegance.
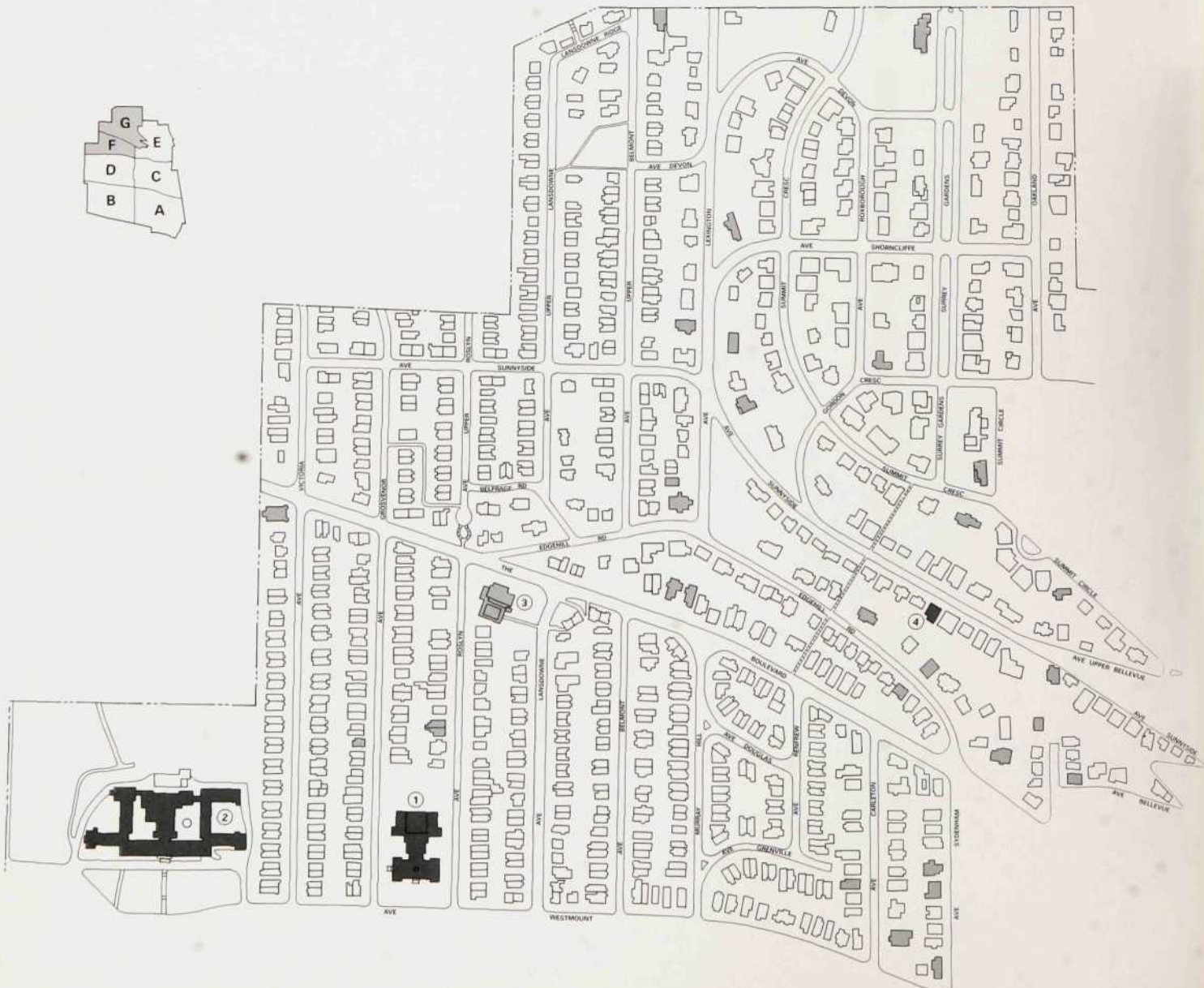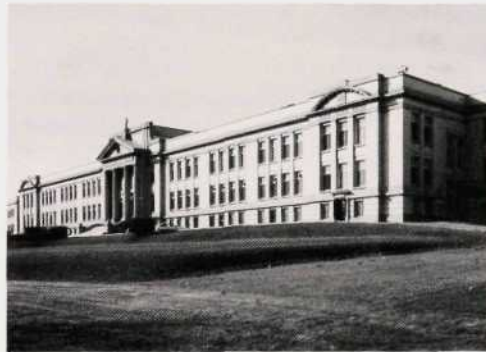
1. The Look-out.
2. Public stairs to summit.

1

2

1   Roslyn School
Important
4699 Westmount Avenue
Ross & MacFarlane, architects
1908

One of Westmount's most attractive schools,
with its brick facing, typical of pre-World War I
public buildings, small-paned windows set in
chain-bond frames, gables and Flemish
pediments.

2   Institut pédagogique
Important
4873 Westmount Avenue
J. Omer Marchand, architect
1925

France presented Marchand with a medal for this
building in the Beaux-Arts style. The first
institution of female instruction to grant the
Bachelor of Arts degree, the Institut is currently
the Mother House of the Congrégation
Notre-Dame.
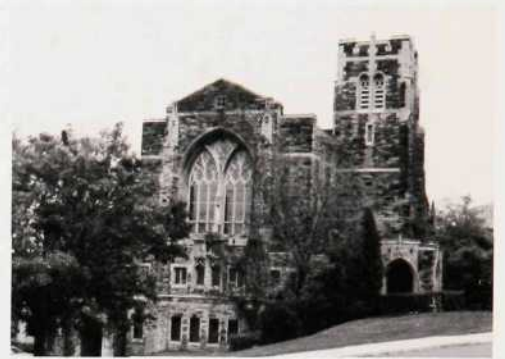
3   Dominion Douglas United Church
Important
687 Roslyn Avenue
Badgley & Nicklas, architects
1913

The architects gave full rein to the possibilities of
this sloping mountain site, taking their inspiration
from the English neo-Gothic style, all volume and
mass.

4   52 Sunnyside Avenue
Important
J. Omer Marchand, architect
1930

A curious mixture of vertical lines and rounded
corners, voluminous pilasters and an arched
doorway. Another unusual feature is the flat roof,
which the architect made no attempt to conceal.

Very significant buildings

Abbot, 126-128
(2 buildings)
Aberdeen, 12
Academy Road, 44-46
Academy Road, 20
"Westmount Park School"
"Westmount Junior High School"
Argyle, 413-415
(2 buildings)
Argyle, 540
Argyle, 565
Arlington, 41-45
(2 buildings)
Arlington, 49
Arlington, 53
Arlington, 57 and 59
(2 buildings)
Atwater, 1200
"Mechanic Institute Library"
Bellevue, 27
Belmont Crescent, 72
Belvedere Place, 74-76
Belvedere Road, 32
Cedar, 3228
Cedar, 3246
Cedar, 3262
Cedar, 3274
Cedar, 3282
Cedar, 3284
Chesterfield, 57-65
(5 buildings)
Church Hill, 3
Côte St. Antoine, 115
(2 buildings)
Clandeboye, 141
Claremont, 501
Clarke, 237-239-241
(3 buildings)
Clarke, 343
Clarke, 512
Côte St. Antoine, 95
"Argyle School"
Côte St. Antoine, 131
"St. Matthias's Church"
Côte St. Antoine, 184-188
(2 buildings)
Côte St. Antoine, 202
Côte St. Antoine, 354
Côte St. Antoine, 466
Côte St. Antoine, 594 to 604
(6 buildings)
Côte St. Antoine, 605
Daulac, 3122
De Maisonneuve West, 4151
De Maisonneuve West, 4217
"The Flobert"
De Maisonneuve West, 4219
De Maisonneuve West, 4262 to
4290
(7 buildings)

De Maisonneuve West, 4281
De Maisonneuve West, 4281 to
4299
(6 buildings)
De Maisonneuve West, 4290
De Maisonneuve West, 4450 and
4454
(2 buildings)
De Maisonneuve West, 4119
"Church of the Advent"
De Maisonneuve West, 4311
St. Leon's Presbytery
De Maisonneuve West, 4695
"Westmount Park Church"
Dorchester, 4156-4158
Dorchester, 4166-4172
(4 buildings)
Dorchester, 4220
Dorchester, 4224
Dorchester, 4264-4266
(2 buildings)
Dorchester, 4274
Dorchester, 4280
Elm, 305 to 317
(5 buildings)
Elm, 356 to 372
(6 buildings)
Elm, 433
Elm, 434-436
(2 buildings)
Elm, 455 and 457
(2 buildings)
Elm, 499
Forden, 8
Forden, 9-11
(2 buildings)
Forden, 30
Forden, 41
Greene, 1109-1119
(6 buildings)
Grosvenor, 447-449
(2 buildings)
Grosvenor, 530
Grosvenor, 632
Holton, 41 to 47
(4 houses)
Kensington, 311
Kensington, 401
"Bowling Club House"
Kensington, 450
"Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue"
Lansdowne, 370
Lewis, 107 to 121
Lewis, 116 to 122
(12 buildings)
Melbourne, 12-14
(2 buildings)

Metcalfe, 250 to 258
(5 buildings)
Metcalfe, 338-340
(2 buildings)
Mountain, 476
Mount Pleasant, 498
Olivier, 349-355
(4 buildings)
Olivier, 356
Parkman Place, 4 to 14
(7 buildings)
Prospect, 21 to 29
(5 buildings)
Redfern, 319 to 323
(2 buildings)
Redfern, 327
Rosemount, 37-39
(2 buildings)
Rosemount, 61
Rosemount Crescent, 64-66
(2 buildings)
Rosemount Crescent, 70
Roslyn, 517
Roslyn, 545
St. Antoine West, 3033-3035
"Aviron Technical Institute"
St. Antoine West, 3201-3225
(4 buildings)
Ste. Catherine West, 4100-4104
Ste. Catherine West, 4192
(Old Royal Bank)
Ste. Catherine West, 4616-4630
(5 buildings)
Ste. Catherine West, 4700
"Pom Bakery"
Ste. Catherine West, 4864 to 4872
(4 buildings)
Ste. Catherine West, 4625
"Royal Montreal Regiment
Armoury"
Ste. Catherine West, 4848
(Old C.P. station)
Sherbrooke West, 3055
"The Checkers Court"
Sherbrooke West, 4101
Sherbrooke West, 4103
Sherbrooke West, 4119
Sherbrooke West, 4168
Sherbrooke West, 4324 to 4328
Sherbrooke West, 4462 to 4464
(2 buildings)
Sherbrooke West, 4470 to 4474
(2 buildings)
Sherbrooke West, 4585
Y.M.C.A.
Sherbrooke West, 4755
"Westmount Baptist Church"
Sherbrooke West, 5010
"The Pickwick Arms"
Somerville, 10 to 20
(2 buildings)

Stayner, 25 to 43
(10 buildings)
Sunnyside, 12
Surrey Gardens, 46
Sydenham, 626
The Boulevard, 3617
The Boulevard, 3781 and 3785
(2 buildings)
Thornhill, 39 to 49 and Argyle,
490
(6 buildings)
Upper Belmont, 815
Victoria, 680
"Firestation No. 2"
Weredale Park, 9
Westmount, 4334
Westmount
"King George Park Pavilion"
Westmount, 4363 and Carleton,
609
Winchester, 1 to 11
(6 buildings)
Wood, 340-344
(2 buildings)
Wood, 348-370
(8 buildings)
Wood, 466-482
(3 buildings)
Wood, 484
York, 30
York, 72
York, 76

Significant buildings

Abbot, 138-142
(2 buildings)
Aberdeen, 18
Aberdeen, 50
Aberdeen, 700
Argyle, 442 to 460
(8 buildings)
Argyle, 467 to 481
(7 buildings)
Argyle, 486 to 488
(2 buildings)
Argyle, 559
Argyle, 598 to 600
(2 buildings)
Arlington, 20 to 42
(8 buildings)
Arlington, 33 & 37 to 39
(2 buildings)
Arlington, 47
Bellevue, 1
Belvedere Circle, 51
Belvedere Place, 55 & 65
(2 buildings)
Belvedere Road, 57
Belvedere Road, 58
Belvedere Road, 61
Braeside, 5
Braeside, 6
Braeside Place, 10
Carleton, 614
Cedar 3219
Cedar, 3250
Cedar, 3261
Cedar, 3283
Cedar, 3303
Church Hill, 88
Clandeboye, 51
Clandeboye, 55 to 69
Prospect, 1-2-3
(11 buildings)
Clandeboye, 130
Claremont, 550
Clarke, 519 &
Mountain, 504
Clarke, 529
Clarke, 609
Clarke, 619
Clarke, 621
Clarke, 636
Columbia, 100
Columbia, 102
Columbia, 104-106
Côte St. Antoine, 11
"Académie St-Paul"
Côte St. Antoine, 105 & 107, 11
(2 buildings)

Côte St. Antoine, 147-149
(2 buildings)
Côte St. Antoine, 316-318
(2 buildings)
Côte St. Antoine, 397
De Maisonneuve West, 4250
"Grace Baptist Church"
"Bethel Gospel Church"
De Maisonneuve West, 4325
De Maisonneuve West, 4459 & 4465
(2 buildings)
De Maisonneuve West, 4458 to
4462
(2 buildings)
De Maisonneuve West, 4471 to
4481
(6 buildings)
Dorchester, 4020-22-24
(3 buildings)
Dorchester, 4026-30 &
Weredale, 18
(3 buildings)
Dorchester, 4034 to 4046
(4 buildings)
Dorchester, 4160
"Belgard"
Dorchester, 4278
Dorchester, 4292 to 4298
(4 buildings)
Edgehill, 21
Edgehill, 24
Edgehill, 157
Edgehill, 205
Elm, 318 to 324
(4 buildings)
Elm, 352-354
Elm, 365-367
(2 buildings)
Elm, 423-425
Elm, 426-428
(2 buildings)
Elm, 435
Elm, 492-494
(2 buildings)
Elm, 493-95
(2 buildings)
Forden, 33
Forden, 49
Forden, 53
Forden, 65
Forden Crescent, 52
Forden Crescent, 58
Forden Crescent, 62
Gladstone, 11-15
(2 buildings)
Glen, 995
"Hydro Westmount"

Greene, 1100 to 1120
(6 buildings)
Greene 1363 to 76
"Westmount Realties Co."
Grosvenor, 438 to 468
(8 buildings)
Grosvenor, 492-94
(2 buildings)
Hillside, 168
Kensington, 245
Kensington, 333
Lansdowne, 508-10
Lansdowne, 522 to 30
(5 buildings)
Lexington, 750
Lexington, 757
Lexington, 775
Melbourne, 16-18
(2 buildings)
Metcalfe, 156-160-164
(3 buildings)
Metcalfe, 255-259
(3 buildings)
Metcalfe, 332
Metcalfe, 333
Metcalfe, 364
Metcalfe, 418 to 424
(5 buildings)
Metcalfe, 426 to 434
(5 buildings)
Montrose, 4299
Mount Pleasant, 419 to 425
(4 buildings)
Mount Pleasant, 447 to 453
(4 buildings)
Mount Pleasant, 457 to 465
(5 buildings)
Mount Pleasant, 466
Mount Pleasant, 476
Mount Pleasant, 487
Mount Stephen, 440
Murray, 4
Murray, 9
Olivier, 250 to 266
Prince Albert, 445-447
(2 buildings)
Prospect, 1-2-3
(3 buildings)
Ramezay, 21
Ramezay, 24
Ramezay, 29
Ramezay, 31
Redfern, 363 to 367
Rosemount, 28
Roslyn, 432
Roslyn, 475

Roslyn, 515
Roslyn, 516
Roslyn, 558
Roslyn, 564
Roslyn, 636
Roxborough, 3
St. Antoine West, 3129 to 3141
(2 buildings)
Ste. Catherine West, 4636 to 4646
(2 buildings)
Ste. Catherine West, 4823 to 4837
(4 buildings)
St. Sulpice, 65
St. Sulpice, 66
Sherbrooke West, 4555
"The Ambassador"
Sherbrooke West, 4769
Sherbrooke West, 4849
"Banque Royale"
Sherbrooke West, 4927 to 4933
(3 buildings)
Somerville, 84 to 106
(4 buildings)
Stayner, 71
Summit Circle, 72
Summit Circle, 90
Summit Crescent, 24
Sunnyside, 6
Sunnyside, 36
Sunnyside, 77
Sydenham, 622
The Boulevard, 3233
The Boulevard, 3637
The Boulevard, 3705
Victoria, 320 to 330
(6 buildings)
Victoria, 321 to 329
(5 buildings)
Victoria, 350
"The Biltcliffe"
"Visual Art Center"
Victoria, 452 to 468
(3 buildings)
Victoria, 489-491
Victoria, 506 to 512
(4 buildings)
Victoria, 565
Westmount, 4332
Westmount 4353
Westmount, 4364
Winchester, 15-19
(2 buildings)
Windsor, 4 to 10
(4 buildings)
Wood, 426 to 436
(5 buildings)
Wood, 494-496-498
(3 buildings)

Wolvin House, Roslyn Avenue,
1925-6, Notman Archives.

Conclusion

We have sampled only a handful of the 390 buildings listed by Beaupré and Michaud, architects, in their Heritage Study of Westmount.

In the full version, which may be consulted at the Westmount Library, the architects placed particular emphasis on the necessity of preserving this heritage, and the dangers to which these historic properties are subject: outright demolition and inappropriate recycling spring immediately to mind.

But there are also the many small changes made by successive occupants which can forever destroy the harmony of a building, and even the integrity of an entire street. Think for example of the results of a cycle of neglect leading to slow deterioration followed by hasty and poorly-planned renovations; renovations based on passing fads (such as treated-wood balconies, railroad ties, metal siding or modern solariums that mask the fine details of the Victorian age); not to mention getting rid of details, a gable here and a cornice there to simplify maintenance, or paving over the front lawn to provide parking space.

We can only hope that an increased awareness of and a growing appreciation for the city's rich heritage will stimulate the residents of Westmount to do all in their power to preserve this unique inheritance for the benefit of future generations.