Character Area 2
Westmount Mountain

This area consists of the summit of Westmount Mountain and the eastern half of its steep southern slope. These slopes were virtually unbuilt until 1895. When The Boulevard was linked with Montreal, this area welcomed some of Montreal's wealthier families who were moving west from the increasingly developed Square Mile. Magnificent château-like mansions were built between 1900-1930 that offered panoramic views of the countryside. In the same spirit, the Lookout was built about 1930, next to the picturesque wooden house at 22 Summit Circle (c.1890). A bit further down the hill, beside Clarke Avenue just above The Boulevard, was the location of a North American first: the "Westmount Ski Club", site of the first Canadian ski championships, held in 1912. The dense natural landscape of Summit Park bird sanctuary is crossed with intimate paths contrasting with the striking panoramic views from Summit Circle.
Defining characteristics of Character Area 2
Westmount Mountain

The following are some of the key defining characteristics applying to the whole area.

**Use and typology:** The buildings in this area are all single-family houses, almost all of which are detached.

**Siting and orientation:** Due to the steep slopes and the irregular street pattern, the siting of buildings in this area is the most varied in Westmount. The street setbacks, frontages, orientation, as well as the relationship of the buildings to the street vary considerably. (Many houses are oriented to take best advantage of the views.) In about a third of the houses, the rear and side facades are highly visible due to the irregular street pattern and the steep slopes.

**Heights and frontages:** Buildings are generally two-and-a-half storeys high at the street level. The street facades are generally 10.0 - 20.0 m wide.

**Roofs:** This area is characterized by steeply-pitched roofs (about 80% are sloping) made up of complex volumes with overhangs, projections, gables, dormers, turrets and immense chimneys.

**Facade materials:** Brick (red or brown) and rock-faced greystone are almost equally common as facade materials.

Entrance conditions: The positioning of the entrances in relationship to the street is the most irregular in Westmount and most entrances are hardly visible from the street. However, on Clarke and Bellevue Avenues, most entrances either face the street or are at least visible.

Facade treatments: What truly characterizes the houses of this area are not the fine detailing and ornamentation, which do exist, but the shapes and volumes created by the complex plans and by the building's heights, intensified by being sited on top of slopes.

Windows: In the older houses, the window shapes are always vertical. The openings in which they are located are sometimes horizontal with several vertical windows grouped together. The windows in stone facades tend to be smaller than those in brick ones. Also typical for almost all of the older houses is the presence of double hung or casement style windows with lead or wood muntins.

Parking: Parking, accessed from the street, is provided behind the building line, either by garages integrated into the main facade or by attached auxiliary structures in almost all houses.

The following are defining characteristics of a specific streetscape in addition to those of the whole character area unless otherwise noted.

Clarke: Almost all houses are two and a half storeys high with rock-faced greystone facades and sloped multi-gabled roofs. Windows with muntins and exterior wood shutters, dormers on the roofs and entrances marked by arched portals or loggias are the main facade characteristics of this street.

Large properties over the years have been the target of subdivision. The subdivision of 53,65 Belvedere Place (1962) literally sliced the mansion into two.

![Clarke Ave. circle: stone houses with pitched slate roof.](View from the Lookout- roof of 14 Tansyside in the foreground.)