

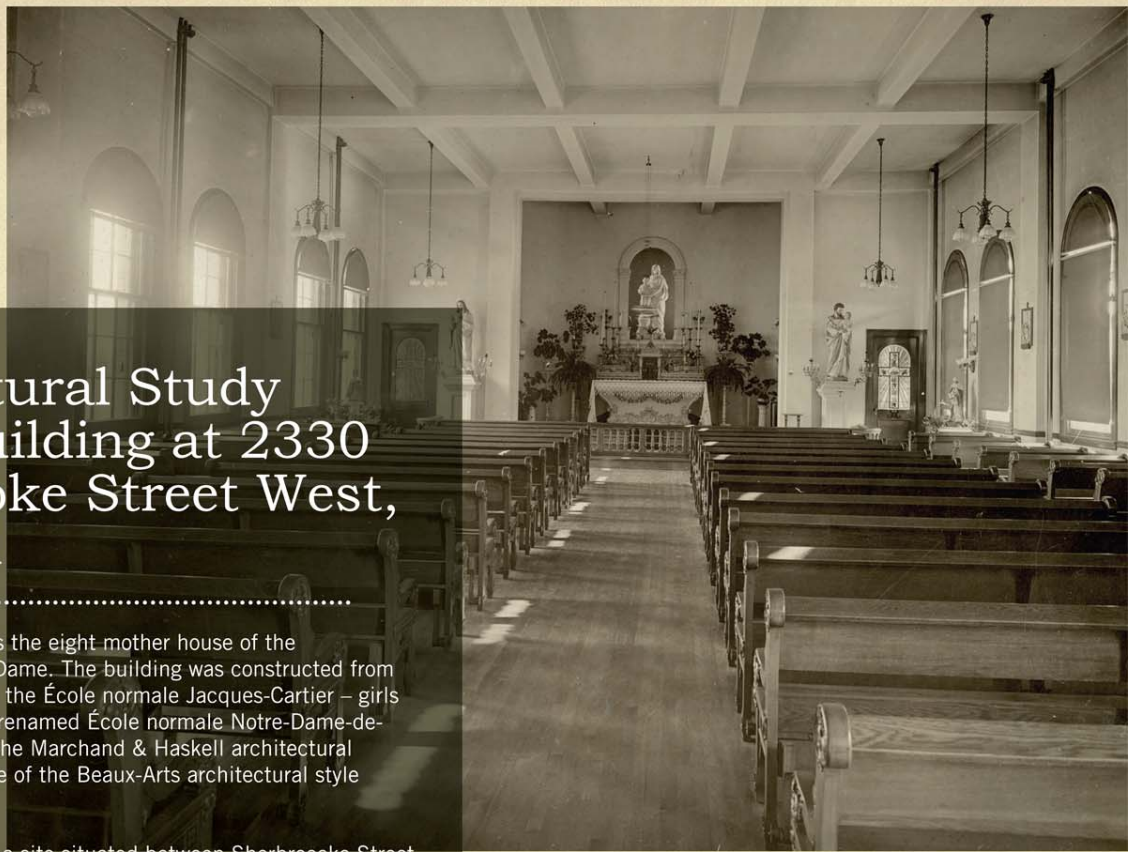
Architectural Study of the Building at 2330 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal

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This centennial house is the eight mother house of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame. The building was constructed from 1911 to 1913 to house the École normale Jacques-Cartier – girls sector. In 1957, it was renamed École normale Notre-Dame-de-Montréal. Designed by the Marchand & Haskell architectural firm, it is a fine example of the Beaux-Arts architectural style in Montreal.

This building stands on a site situated between Sherbrooke Street to the north and Lincoln Avenue (formerly Comte Street) to the south, between Atwater Avenue to the west and Lambert Closse Avenue to the east. The edifice measures 81,978 square feet, it is 196 feet long by 131 feet deep and consists of a basement, a ground floor and three upper floors.

The façade on Sherbrooke Street is characterized by a central porch where we find a bas-relief sculpture of Marguerite Bourgeoys with children that represents this congregation of teaching sisters. A prominent cornice with a pediment decorated with the Virgin Mary's monogram, the intertwined letters A and M (acronym for the Latin expression *Auspice Maria*, which means "under the protection of Mary"), and surmounted by an eagle encircled by scrolls harmoniously completes the façade.



The thin sash above the arched windows extends to the base of the next window to rest on a shield shaped cul-de-lampe.



The building is crowned by a prominent cornice. Once, the words *École normale* were engraved above.



On the building's upper corners there are relief sculptures representing the cross.

The building has a wide band of stone separating the foundation from the buff brick part of the structure which creates a polychrome effect often associated with the Beaux-Arts style. While overall the building is quite simple and only slightly ornate, its precise U-shaped symmetry and its light-coloured façade demonstrate an interesting uniqueness. On the building's upper corners, relief sculptures representing the cross recall the religious nature of the building.

Over the years, the building's vocation changed as it successively received the École normale Notre-Dame-de-Montréal, Notre Dame Secretarial College, the Generalate (the general administration with several of its services) and, since 2005, the eighth mother house of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame. The original chapel and former classrooms were transformed into offices and various other types of spaces and rooms to meet the needs of the building's new vocation.

The mother house also welcomes sisters from everywhere in the Congregation who are passing through Montreal or are participating in international meetings. One hundred years later, this building is still a very active place of sharing and dialogue.

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