

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### **St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

33059 Dewdney Trunk Road  
Mission, British Columbia

#### Description

This historic place includes St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Greek-Orthodox Church, built in 1966 in a unique Ukrainian-Canadian architectural style, and the adjacent community hall, built in 1955. Together they stand on a half-acre lot in the historic neighbourhood of Cedar Valley in Mission, B.C.

#### Heritage Values

The heritage value of St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Greek-Orthodox church lies in its unique aesthetic, spiritual importance, and its cultural and social impact.

The aesthetic value of St. Mary's comes from its blend of architectural styles that is characteristic of Ukrainian-Canadian Orthodox churches. It incorporates a traditional Ternopil nave style blended with a western, non-Orthodox influence, seen in components such as the two-tower cupolas. Named after a region in Ukraine, the Ternopil nave style makes use of a simple rectangular structure with a gabled roof and a single cupola. This Ukrainian style has been altered with the use of a two-tower façade and the addition of another cupola, as is more common in western European Catholic or Protestant churches.

Its spiritual importance is found in every aspect of its layout and design, reflecting the integral religious beliefs and values of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. This is represented by the external use of three crosses and stained glass windows as well as its cross-in-square floor plan and the division of the building into a narthex (public entrance), nave (place of worship), and sanctuary (location of altar).

The Church has cultural and historical value for its continuous use as a gathering place for the Ukrainian community. The site on which the hall and Church stand has served the community since 1954, and the two buildings, built by the congregation and volunteers, have become a symbol of the Ukrainian Orthodox community and its impact on the area. The site has actively preserved elements unique to the Ukrainian Orthodox identity by being a hub for events and traditions, including Ukrainian foods and customs, serving both the ethnic community and Mission as a whole. The Church and hall serve as a reminder of the historic and contemporary significance of this religious and cultural group in Mission.

#### Character-defining Elements

The heritage value of St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church is expressed in the following character-defining elements:

- Rectangular Ternopil nave-style structure with a white stucco exterior
- Two tower front façade with onion-shaped cupolas (banyas)
- Three crosses, two on the top of each cupola and one on the peak of the roof
- Arched stained glass windows with a cross pattern and one octagonal stained glass window above main entrance
- Cross-in-square floor plan divided into a narthex, nave, and sanctuary
- Wooden iconostasis, a wall containing icons and religious paintings that separates the nave from the sanctuary
- Icons and the altar in the sanctuary
- Viewing area above the narthex
- Four rows of wooden pews in the nave
- Adjacent community hall and its continued use for community events

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