

Assumption Heritage Trust



A Word From The Architect

Allan Avis of Allan Avis Architects Inc. is a historical building expert, specialising in churches, schools, and other historical buildings in Southwestern Ontario. He has serviced many buildings in the Windsor area. **“Assumption Church is one of the most beautiful and magnificent heritage buildings in Ontario.** It is a fine example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture, executed with remarkable sophistication and stylistic integrity. The interior is rich, with a Caen marble altar, hand-carved wood pulpit and statue (which are the only known indigenous French-Canadian carvings in Ontario), elaborate painted murals and stencils on walls and ceilings, Stations of the Cross, fleur-de-lis ceramic tile at the sanctuary, and candelabra pendant light fixtures.”

The architect also notes, however, that the building is in dire need of restoration: **“The exterior building envelope urgently requires attention,”** he explains. “The extent and nature of building conservation work required is beyond that which can be accomplished through annual maintenance.”

Assumption Church is the oldest continuous parish in Upper Canada and was first founded in 1728, on the shores of the Detroit River. In Avis’s eyes, **“Assumption Church is a monument to faith, courage, and the generosity of former generations.** It is the challenge and obligation of the current generation to prove worthy stewards by preserving this most significant heritage site for the generations yet to come.”