



Goode House, 1880  
Archives, City of Westmount

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## AN EXTRAORDINARY STEP FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY HOUSE

Westmount, July 7, 2020 - **On July 6, 2020, Westmount City Council undertook steps to gain heritage recognition for the Goode property at 178 Côte-Saint-Antoine Road. The City of Westmount, having received recognition from Parks Canada in 2011 as the *Westmount District National Historic Site of Canada* and been awarded the prestigious *Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership* in 2018, continues to protect remarkable sites for future generations.**



Front facade  
Photo credit: Rochelle Cantor,  
Engel & Völkers

Built in 1840, the Goode House is one of the oldest in the City, and a rare example of Greek Revival architecture in Quebec. It was originally one of a group of four identical houses, of which two remain. Since 1884, three generations of the Goode family have preserved the architectural integrity of this exceptional house.

### Why a heritage citation?

This private residence was already classified as a *Category 1\** building, Westmount's highest designation for architectural value. The exterior envelope of each of the 49 buildings in this category is protected by municipal regulation from being altered. So why seek additional heritage recognition?

Christina Cameron, Canada Research Chair on Built Heritage, took part in a study to assess the heritage value of the property. "The interior of the Goode house retains a remarkably complete collection of woodwork, plasterwork and other fittings that have survived since its original construction in the early-1840s. Though modest and subdued in execution, the interior woodwork and plasterwork reflect the influence of up-to-date British models and a taste for Picturesque architecture being used for suburban villas in the period. Having avoided modern upgrades for almost

Interior details  
Credit: City of Westmount



Credit : Rochelle Cantor,  
Engel & Völkers



John B. Goode in the garden at  
178 Côte-Saint-Antoine Road, date  
unknown. Photo courtesy of the  
Westmount Historical Association.

two centuries, this interior has a rare coherence that results from a high degree of authenticity and integrity”, she explains.

In addition, the Goode house garden, with its combination of native and exotic plants, mini-orchard, greenhouses, terraces and decorative garden borders, offers a fascinating remnant of the development of 19th-century suburb garden design. “Each generation of Goodes has successfully built upon the previous one, yet without erasing the work of their predecessors. This fact, backed by the wealth of available historical information and also by the evidence on the ground, represents a rare continuity, making the garden and landscape of the residence truly unique in today’s world,” according to a preliminary study by WAA on the characterization of the landscape design.

The current municipal classification for the Goode house protects neither the interior nor the landscaping, hence the importance of this proposal. “The City is looking to protect the home for future generations without preventing it from evolving,” said Youki Cropas, Architectural Officer for Westmount’s Urban Planning Department.

### **Distinct municipal leadership**

Since 2012, Quebec municipalities have had the power to adopt laws to protect building interiors. According to Jean-François Drapeau, head of the Registry for cultural heritage, however, no municipality has made use of this capacity with regard to a private residence.

Studies carried out by Luce Lafontaine Architects, Christina Cameron, and also by landscape architecture firm WAA in collaboration with Ron Williams, make it possible to pinpoint the physical elements that need to be protected and to document the full history of the house. Following the notice of motion, Westmount City Council may adopt the new designation by-law early fall 2020.

*Credit : Rochelle Cantor,  
Engel & Völkers*



The City is already conscious of the current repair and maintenance needs for 178 Côte-Saint-Antoine Road. The new heritage designation may provide a basis for planning the rehabilitation of the house.

This extraordinary new regulatory measure will allow the Goode house to continue to exist in the community's shared memory — without freezing it in time— all while allowing the building to fulfill its foremost role as a space for living.

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