

LOCAL NEWS

Colborne landmark is coming down



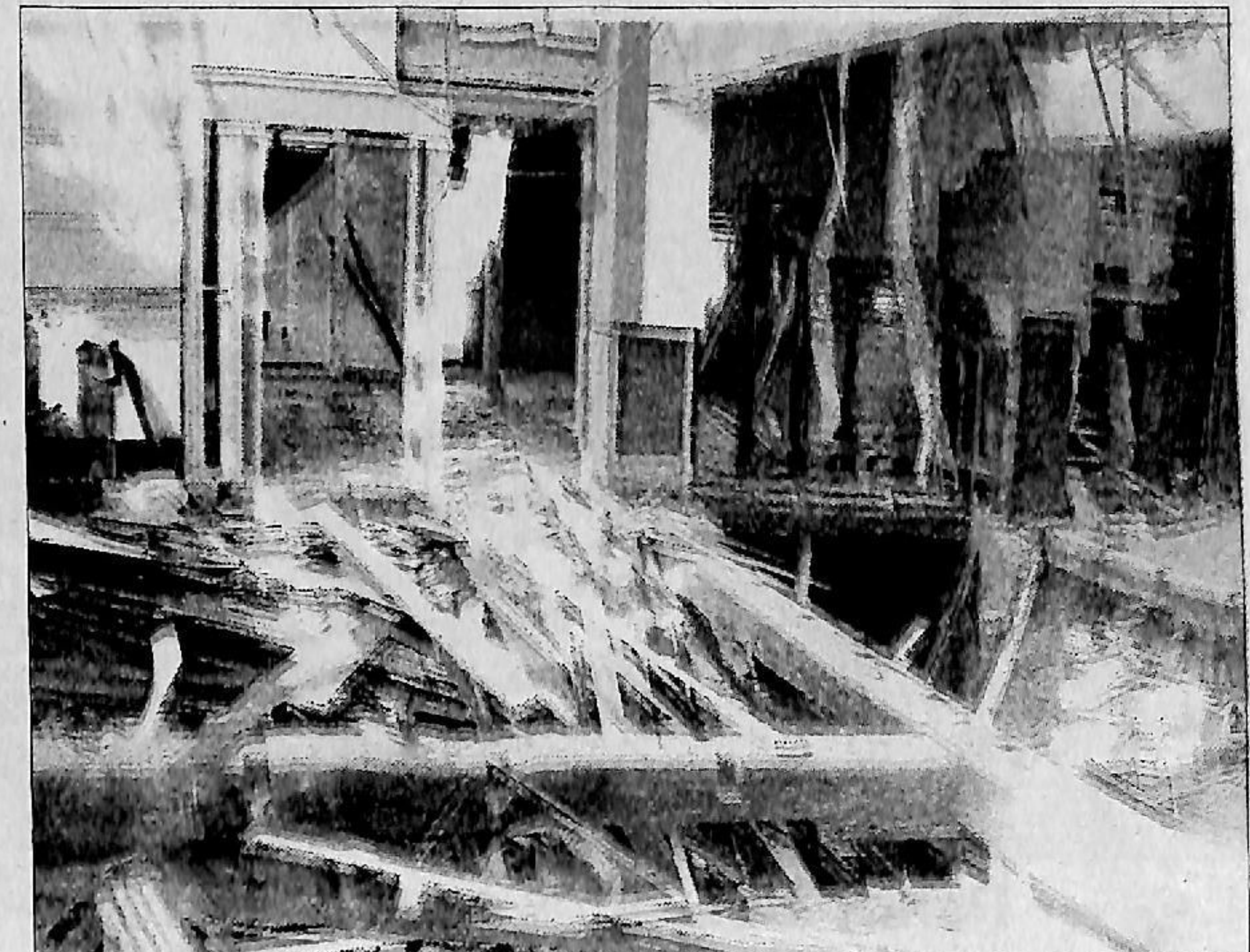
The former Catholic church looking east from Elgin Street North.
PHOTOS BY BOB OWEN

continued from page 1

The basement was falling to pieces and you couldn't move in the upstairs room for the junk. She claims her son may want to build a house on the property eventually. That was confirmed in the building demolition permit which Mr. Bilcox purchased late last week.

The permit states demolition will begin on March 1 by Dekeyser Excavating. All materials suitable for salvage will be recovered.


Heritage Cramahe member Roseanne Quinn is disappointed to see the historic building coming down. Colborne LACAC, the precursor of Heritage Cramahe, had approached seven local churches in 1997 to seek designation as historic sites. The




Once the beautiful sanctuary of the church the interior is now a pile of rubble.

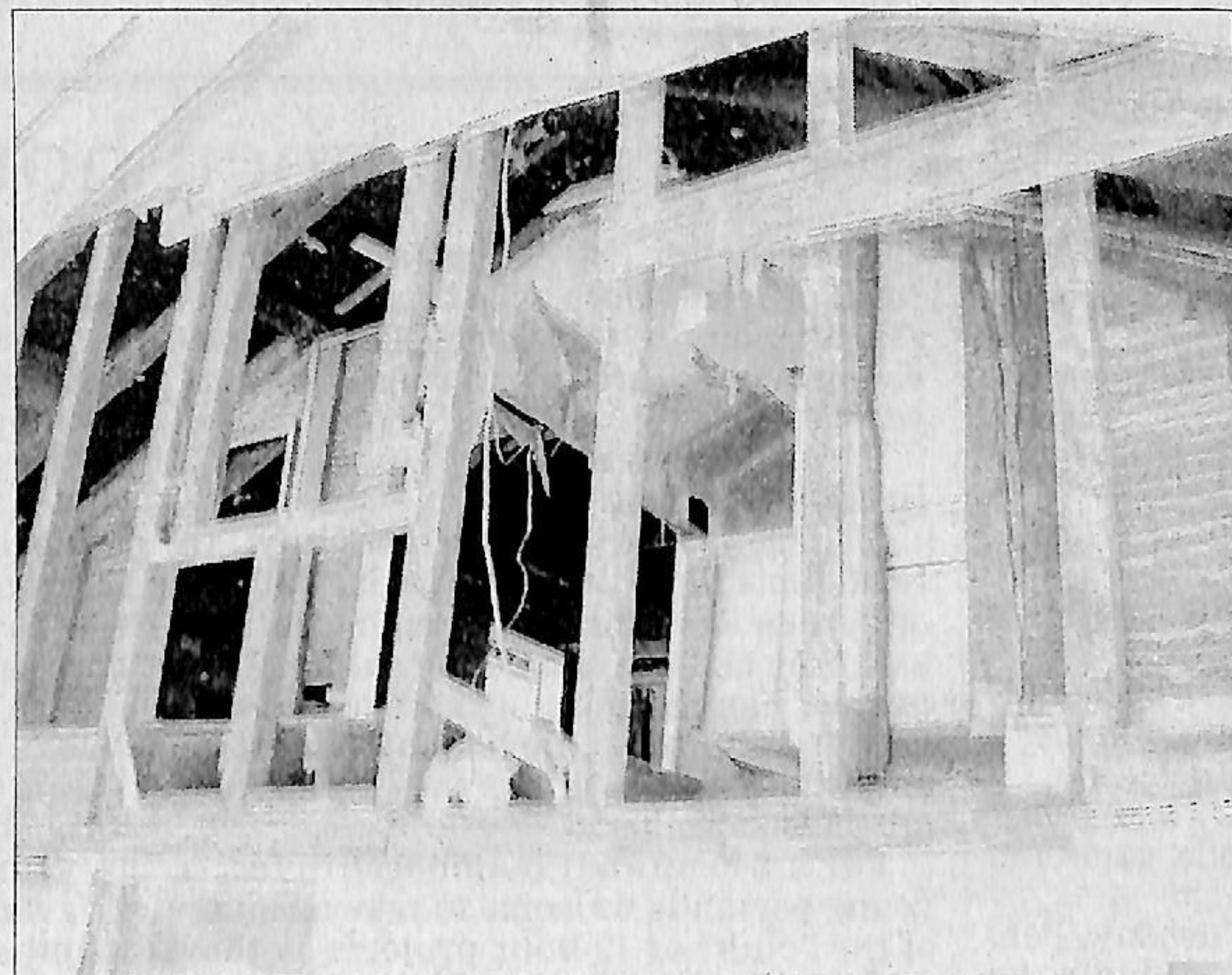
Protect Yourself
... and Your Loved Ones With the Right Insurance Plan.

 **For Your Car**
Great rates for all types of autos.

 **For Your Home**
House, condo or apartment plans.

 **For Your Business**
For a variety of commercial operations.

Newman, Oliver & McCarten
INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.
19 King St. E., Colborne (905) 355-2211



group had no response.

If the Catholic Church had been designated, the demolition could possibly have been halted. Alterations to designated buildings are restricted and Cramahe Township council could have required that Mr. Bilcox restore the building if it had been designated.

By the time the demolition was noted last week, and the township informed, the Catholic Church was beyond reconstruction.

Catholic masses were celebrated in Colborne homes as there is not much left of the back of the former St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, at the northeast corner of Elgin Street North and King Street East in Colborne.

far back as the 1850s.

In 1942, a search was begun for a site for a Roman Catholic church in Colborne. The St. Francis de Sales Church was founded when the building and lot were purchased from the estate of G. E. R. Wilson, a local insurance broker, for \$2,000.

The first mass was celebrated on Tuesday, December 8, 1942. Through extensive fundraising by the parishioners the building was improved.

But the Catholic population did not increase after World War II and, 50 years later, its congregation was no bigger than it had been in its first few years. That led to its closing and sale in 1999.