

The Growth of the Industrial City and Inner Toronto's Vanished Church Buildings

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Abstract



Based on research about ninety churches located in inner Toronto in 1893, this article considers four explanations for the disappearance or adaption to new uses of many of these buildings and concludes (1) that the city's shift to industrial urbanism, as well as a degree of ecclesiastic overdevelopment, were the main factors leading to church abandonment and (2) that evidence does not strongly support secularization or highest-best-use hypotheses.

Résumé

Le présent article, qui est basé sur la recherche portant sur quatre-vingt-dix églises existantes dans le vieux centre-ville de Toronto en 1893, envisage quatre raisons susceptibles d'expliquer la disparition de bon nombre de ces édifices ou leur reconversion vers de nouveaux usages. Il conclut 1) que les principaux facteurs qui ont mené à leur abandon ont été l'industrialisation de la ville ainsi qu'une certaine surabondance d'églises et 2) qu'il n'existe pas d'évidences vraiment probantes à l'appui

de l'hypothèse de la sécularisation ou de celle d'une utilisation supérieure ou meilleure.

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