

Morgan Lewis

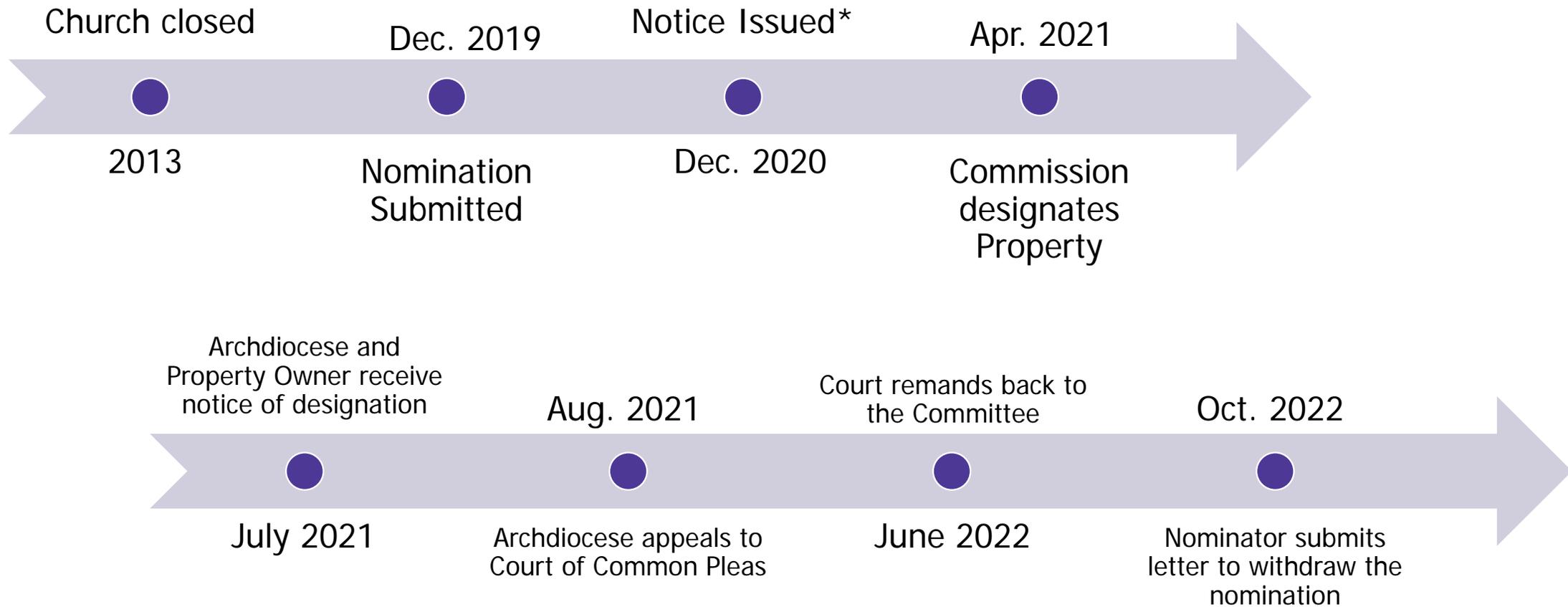
ST. DONATO'S CHURCH 401-09 N. 65TH STREET

Property Owner's Request for Reconsideration of
Historic Designation

Summary

- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, as property owner of St. Donato's Church, requests that the Committee reconsider and rescind its prior recommendation in favor of the historical designation for the Church.
- The property owner believes that, based on additional information gathered subsequent to the initial nomination, the Church does not satisfy the criteria for historical designation considered in connection with the initial nomination.

Nomination Timeline



Criteria for Designation A is Not Met

- The initial nomination misconstrued St. Frances Xavier Cabrini's relationship with St. Donato's Roman Catholic Church.
- Mother Cabrini's work in this section of Philadelphia focused on the neighboring St. Donato *school*, not St. Donato's Church.
- The Church was dedicated in 1922; Mother Cabrini passed away in Chicago in 1917.



Criteria for Designation E is Not Met

- The Church is a minor work of the Durang Office
- The Architect was not Edwin Durang, but rather his son, Ferdinand
- The significance of the Durang office was because of the early designs of Edwin—not his later work
- Ferdinand minimally changed and reproduced designs of his father and was not a significant architect in his own right
- There are better, more significant examples of Durang designs throughout the City of Philadelphia

Designation is Not Supported by the Community

- The nominator, Celeste Morello, has withdrawn the Nomination, citing the indifference of the former parishioners to the Church and the fact they have all relocated from the area
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, the current owner of the Church, does not support the Designation
- The Italian-American community that the Church served throughout its life has left the neighborhood, in most cases decades ago, which is partly what led to the Church's closure in 2013
- It is in the best interests of the community for the Church to not be designated, so that repairs and repurposing can be completed with economic flexibility
 - Engineering consultants have deemed the roof, certain mortar joints, and other exterior elements to be in need of repair—along with other interior elements of the Property
 - Consultants: Keast & Hood; and T&M Associates

Conclusion

- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, as property owner of St. Donato's Church, believes that, based on additional information gathered subsequent to the initial nomination, the Church does not satisfy the criteria for historical designation considered in connection with the initial nomination.
- Property owner requests that the Committee rescind its prior recommendation in favor of the historical designation for the Church.