

521 BROADWAY – ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Northwood and Chivers (1926)



The congregation of All Saints was an offshoot of Winnipeg's first Anglican congregation, Holy Trinity, which had been founded in 1867 and opened its present facilities at the corner of Donald Street and Graham Avenue in the summer of 1884. All Saints and St. George's congregations were created from the original boundaries of Holy Trinity and All Saints wasted little time in organizing and a fine wooden church near the present-day edifice hosted its first service on February 15, 1884.

The congregation flourish, often referred to as the Garrison Church because of its close geographical and personal ties with the Royal Canadian Dragoons (later Lord Strathcona's Horse) whose barracks were located on Broadway west of the Legislative Building. Additions were made to the original structure to include a school and a parish hall.

In 1925, the City approached the congregation to purchase its property, including its buildings, as part of the redevelopment of the Broadway/Osborne area to the north of the Legislative Building

grounds. This scheme included extending Osborne Street north past Broadway, with the existing church on the northeast corner and on what became Memorial Park property. Negotiations dragged on through the winter of 1925 until an agreement was reached in April 1926.

With money to build a new edifice on the northwest corner, the congregation laid the cornerstone of the new church in September and the first service was held on December 23, 1926, with the fine Casavant Frères organ from the original building.

The magnificent new stone and brick church was built in the Modern or Late Gothic Revival Style, popular after 1900 and representing a “toning down” of the highly ornamental Gothic Revival Style of the 19th century. Flat surfaces, pointed arches, crenellated towers and low symmetrical massing were all elements of the style and evident on All Saints.

Built at a cost of \$120,000, the church had a crucifix form with north-south crossing wings at its east end and a parish hall attached to the west end. An entrance tower planned for the southwest corner in 1926 was never built. The building’s north and south façades feature triplet pointed arch window openings in wide smooth stone surrounds on the one-storey portion, divided by modest buttresses and triplet clerestory windows above. The south façade includes the main entrance with its stepped roofline and the gable ends of the south and north cross wings hold large, pointed arch windows with ornate wooden tracery. The east facing gable end holds another pointed arched window and a stone Celtic cross at the roof. The church’s exterior has suffered little alteration over the years.

In 1964-1965, the original parish hall was replaced by the present modern reinforced concrete and stone building.

Much of the interior finishes, layouts and arrangements are original and have been well cared for. One of the most important elements is the stained glass, many designed by the company founded by renowned British craftsman William Morris.

The church was designed by local architectural partnership Major George W. Northwood (1876-

1959) and Brigadier Major Cyril W.U. Chivers (1879-1969), both World War I veterans who joined together in 1924 and lasted into the 1950s. Together or as a partnership, these were two of Winnipeg's most influential post-1920 architects. Among their more significant works are: Canadian Wheat Board Building, 423 Main St. (1929) – List of Historical Resources; Assiniboine Park Pavilion (1929) – Grade II; Riverbend School for Girls Junior School (Balmoral Hall School), 630 Westminster Ave. (1930); Canadian General Electric Building, 265 Notre Dame Ave. (1930) – Grade III; Women's Tribute Memorial Lodge, 200 Woodlawn St. (1931) – Grade II;

The church houses an active congregation as well as two other parishes and a soup kitchen five mornings a week.

Elements of the building that would require approval if alterations were planned are:

Exterior-

- the rough-cut limestone clad, crucifix form building with steeply pitched, complex roof located on the northwest corner of Broadway and Osborne Street, its main façades facing east onto Osborne Street and south onto Broadway, its west façade facing an open lawn and its north façade looking into a surface parking lot and a one-storey modern stone and concrete clad addition with flat roof (church hall) on its northwest corner;
- the north and south façades of the main building with triplet pointed arch window openings in smooth stone surrounds separated by modest buttresses in the lower section, triplet clerestory windows of similar design on the upper walls and a projecting entrance at the southwest corner with stepped roofline;
- the west façade of the main building with pointed arch window opening, buttresses and pointed arch door;
- the east façade with large pointed arch window opening in gable end with stone Celtic cross, pointed arch window openings in the cross wings, corner buttresses and smooth stone accenting; and
- the gable ends of the south and north cross wings with large, pointed arch windows with ornate wooden tracery and small wooden door at the west end of the north wing.

Interior-

- finishes, structural system, millwork, arrangements and volume of the original church space;
- stained glass; and
- organ and pipes.