

\$27,800	\$33,900	\$5,000	\$37,800	\$51,200	\$44,200
\$34,500	\$32,200	\$30,300	\$30,300	\$30,900	\$36,400
\$32,400	\$29,300	\$27,200	\$53,300	\$36,400	\$42,800
\$35,000	\$36,800	\$28,900	\$30,300	\$33,800	\$73,700
\$26,000	\$32,300	\$25,400	\$30,800	\$37,500	\$55,500
\$45,100	\$22,500	\$39,900	\$34,200	\$55,900	\$6,900
\$33,000	\$20,900	\$53,000	\$33,800	\$42,000	\$36,300
\$99,000	\$31,000	\$3,100	\$28,900	\$32,700	\$130,000
\$99,000	\$22,750	\$3,900	\$34,500	\$30,800	\$237,000
	\$22,700	\$81,000	\$45,800	\$37,500	\$33,300
		\$26,000	\$9,700	\$30,800	\$204,000
		\$44,700	\$4,700	\$98,300	
		\$44,700	\$4,700	\$98,300	
\$100,100	\$180,400	\$136,100	\$182,200	\$216,100	\$122,000
\$7,000	\$97,800	\$173,800	\$173,800	\$199,800	\$31,000
\$39,600	\$13,900	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$47,700	\$25,700
\$34,900	\$32,500	\$32,500	\$32,500	\$35,400	\$21,900
\$32,800	\$28,900	\$34,500	\$34,500	\$17,200	\$18,500
\$36,800	\$35,300	\$20,400	\$27,700	\$18,500	\$103,300
\$43,800	\$85,700	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$33,400	\$48,400
\$57,300	\$36,800	\$39,700	\$39,700	\$44,500	\$59,000
\$31,700	\$34,100	\$15,800	\$15,800	\$50,400	\$45,900
\$77,800	\$29,400	\$27,800	\$27,800	\$43,300	\$37,700
\$33,700	\$32,300	\$28,300	\$31,100	\$32,100	\$37,700
\$39,900	\$35,400	\$33,000	\$36,400	\$36,500	\$37,200
\$33,800	\$28,400	\$35,800	\$35,800	\$34,900	\$36,200
\$30,500	\$29,300	\$30,200	\$27,800	\$37,700	\$46,600
\$35,800	\$34,800	\$28,700	\$33,700	\$30,100	\$33,100
\$37,100	\$14,800	\$27,900	\$37,100	\$82,900	\$38,800
\$18,600	\$20,700	\$30,100	\$34,400	\$39,000	\$36,400
\$28,100	\$21,400	\$3,000	\$85,200	\$37,500	\$36,400
\$52,200	\$24,100	\$27,700	\$27,700	\$35,100	\$34,600
\$37,300	\$25,800	\$21,500	\$24,000	\$43,500	\$59,200
\$44,800	\$21,400	\$21,400	\$34,000	\$3,000	\$32,700
\$9,500	\$19,800	\$35,800	\$31,500	\$41,100	\$89,400
	\$29,700	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$3,000	\$3,000
	\$34,700	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$2,400	\$32,700



**580 VICTOR STREET**  
**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**



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## 580 VICTOR STREET FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Date of Construction:** 1912

**Building Permit:** 1872/1912 (Plans at City Storage)

**Architect:** Smith, R.L.

**Contractor:** Day labour

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This fine red brick and smooth-cut stone church has graced its West End neighbourhood for nearly 100 years.

The front (east) façade is symmetrically designed with a central portion flanked by two squat crenellated towers with stone accenting and each holding a pointed arch entrance framed in stone. Brick and stone buttresses are placed at the corners of the two towers. Window openings on this elevation are both rounded and pointed arch and a large stained glass window graces the centre of the façade.

The north and south elevations are similarly designed, with brick pilasters dividing the elevations in bays holding small, square headed windows. Side-facing gable ends are also



Front (east) and south façades, 2009

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found on these elevations. The rear (west) façade is simple and unadorned and faces the back lane.

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. Alterations to the original church do not appear to have occurred on the exterior.

The church has elements of the Modern or Late Gothic Revival style that rose in popularity after 1900 as a reaction to the highly ornamented buildings of the earlier Gothic Revival style. The newer version opted for much simpler silhouettes and subdued ornamentation, in the words of one author, “a calm, disciplined monumentality.”<sup>1</sup>

Flat surfaces were preferred; buildings were often long, low symmetrical masses embellished with crenellated towers and the distinctive pointed arch of the Gothic style. Construction material was monochromatic, usually brick or stone, again a departure from the multi-hued façades of the Gothic Revival style. Inspiration for the detailing of the new style was found in the English Perpendicular Gothic design of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Because Modern Gothic found widespread expression on the campuses of many North American universities, it has also been referred to as Collegiate Gothic.<sup>2</sup>

Little is known about R.L. Smith, the architect of this church. His name appears only briefly just before World War I in the City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Books. Besides this church on Victor Street, he also designed First English Lutheran Church, 484 Maryland Street (1911).



Front (east) and north façades, 2009

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#### HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Unitarianism in Winnipeg, and in North America in general, was diverse with various groups arising from many different liberal religious backgrounds. Both the Icelandic- and British/American-based sects practiced separately in the city.

The earliest work was done by Icelandic groups, which established a presence in Winnipeg in 1891, erecting a church the next year. A second group of Icelanders built a new church, known as First Icelandic Unitarian Church of Winnipeg, in 1904 at the corner of Sherbrook Street and Sargent Avenue. This would become the centre of Icelandic Unitarianism in Winnipeg until the congregation's move to their new church on Banning Street in 1921.<sup>3</sup>

An Icelandic Lutheran Church had also organized, known as "The Tabernacle". This group built a church at the corner of Furby Street and Sargent Avenue in 1894. Within this congregation there were two sides: one favouring independence and the other wanting to join the Lutheran Synod. When the two factions could not agree, the independent faction split and in 1912 built First Lutheran Church on Victor Street. When Lutheran vs. Unitarian factions again developed, the Lutherans were awarded the Victor Street building, the Unitarians combined with the First Icelandic Unitarian Church congregation to build at 790 Banning Street in 1921 (the official name of the congregation became "The First Federated Church of Unitarians and Other Liberal Christians"). This church is now the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Winnipeg.<sup>4</sup>

A third separate stream of Unitarianism came from British roots; this group's first meeting was held in 1904 and was connected to the American Unitarian Association of Boston. All Souls' Unitarian was incorporated in 1909 and completed their fine church at 103 Furby



Rear (west) and north façades, 2009

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Street in 1913. In 1929, this congregation decided to vacate its Furby Street building and worship at the First Federated Church's facility, holding separate English and Icelandic services.<sup>5</sup>

Today, First Lutheran Church continues as an active congregation.

#### RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

Under the Historical Buildings By-law, this building meets a number of important criteria:

- its historical importance- illustrative of the type of large church building constructed in Winnipeg in the pre-World War I era by an established, well-financed congregation;
- its associations- its long-term connections to Lutheran church in Winnipeg;
- its design- an excellent example of the Modern or Late Gothic Revival style;
- its architect- R.L. Smith was a known practitioner;
- its location- contributes greatly to its historic streetscape as one of the neighbourhood's most conspicuous structures; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (east) and south façades, 1978

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ENDNOTES:

- 1 L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press Ltd., 1992), p. 166.
- 2 Ibid., p. 166; and Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, Historic Resources Branch, 1991), p. 20.
- 3 Petursson, Rev. Philip M., “The Unitarian Church of Winnipeg, 1891-1966,” in The Icelandic Canadian (Spring 1967).
- 4 Loc. cit.
- 5 Ransom, Edgar J., “The Unitarian Church of Winnipeg, 1904-1943,” in The Canadian Unitarian, Vol. 2, No. 8 (December 1943).