



240 TACHE AVENUE
ST. PHILIPS ANGLICAN CHURCH

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



240 TACHE AVENUE ST. PHILIPS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Date of Construction: 1904

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This large, red brick church has been serving its congregation and the community of Norwood for over 100 years.

The rectangular plan of this structure runs east and west on its lot, the front (west) façade facing Tache Avenue projects out from the main building and features a raised rusticated stone base, corner buttresses, a pointed arch stain glass window and a hipped gable roof. The main building's south side faces a back lane and includes unique projecting brick elements finished in a gable, a modest entrance and several plain windows. To the rear, a section projects southward. The rear (east) façade includes a pointed arch stain glass window and a stone cross at the apex of the gable end. The north side holds the main entrance at its west end as well as a large one-storey addition.



Front (west) and south façades, 2009

The building stands on its original site, appears to be in good structural condition and does not appear to have suffered major exterior alteration beyond the rear addition. A line drawing in a 1905 edition of the Manitoba Free Press shows a tall tower rising up from the front projecting section.¹ It is unknown at this time if the tower was actually built and if so, when it was removed.

This church is a good example of the Late Gothic Revival style, popular in the country for the first half of the 20th century.² The style grew as a reaction to the highly decorative styles of the late 19th century and favoured subdued ornamentation and simple plans. Educational and religious structures most often used the style in western Canada but other public structures and residences displayed it as well.³ It was the architecture of the pointed arch, flying buttress, and rib vault coupled with the conscious attempt to reduce or at least interrupt flat wall space. Used in concert, these elements represented “a system of skeletal structure with active, slender, resilient members and membrane-thin infilling or no infilling at all.”⁴

In Winnipeg, the Anglican, Baptist and Lutheran churches all raised buildings that exhibited similar Gothic elements, borrowing from their common Protestant background. By the 20th century, technological advances in building materials and engineering and the rise of an affluent population in urban centres pointed towards more monumental structures, heavily ornamented with Gothic elements. Following the lead of eastern Canada and the United States, Winnipeg saw numerous monumental Gothic-inspired churches built after the late 1890s.



Rear (east) and north façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The St. Philips Anglican congregation was formed in 1900, a mission of Holy Trinity Church. Services were held at a house of a parishioner but by the fall, a small church had been completed. It wasn't long, however, before more modern facilities were needed. A call went out to other congregations, funds were collected and the new church building was completed.⁵

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- one of the older church buildings in Norwood, the Anglophone suburb of St. Boniface and an excellent example of the type of solid structure built by congregations throughout Winnipeg after 1900;
- its associations- its long-term connections to the Anglican church;
- its design- an example of the Late Gothic Revival style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- defines an important intersection and contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (west) and north façades, 1994

ENDNOTES:

- 1 Manitoba Free Press, February 18, 1905, p. 7.
- 2 Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), pp. 20-21.
- 3 Mathilde Brosseau, Gothic Revival in Canadian Architecture, Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History, No. 25 (Ottawa, ON: Parks Canada, 1980), pp. 28-29.
- 4 John Fleming, et al., The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture, Third Edition (London, ON: Penguin Books, 1908), p. 142.
- 5 Manitoba Free Press, February 18, 1905, p. 7 and June 10, 1905, p. 6.