

Trinity United Church and Manse
30 Algoma Street South



photo courtesy of: Thunder Bay Museum

Year Built: church, 1904-1905
manse, 1914

Architect: church design, Langley and Langley
manse design, T. Carson

Style: Early English

Notable Features: 15th Century-style windows
Square tower with corner buttresses
Crocketed spire and pointed windows

Date of Designation: November 14th, 1979

By-Law Number: 362 – 1979

Legal Description: S Waverly Lot 14

Current Owner: United Church of Canada

Description:

The history of Trinity United Church begins decades before the actual building was erected. In the year 1871, the founding population of Prince Arthur's Landing, about 200 people, decided to pool finances to create a non-denominational church. A wooden structure was erected and named Church of All Faiths. The church underwent a name change shortly after, due to a large amount of funding received from Rev. Dr. Pushon and Rev. Dr. Sutherland, which was contingent on the sanctuary being named Providence Methodist Church. By the early 1900's, the population of Prince Arthur's Landing had

grown significantly and so had the congregation at the small Methodist Church. It was decided that a new structure was needed.

Deciding to build in the same location, the new church would stand on the corner of Waverly and Algoma. The congregation supported much of the cost of the new structure, which was to be built from white, pitch-faced sandstone. Some money was also borrowed from the Imperial Life Assurance Company and it is estimated that total cost of construction ranged between \$42,000 and \$60,000.

The cornerstone was laid on October 12th, 1904, which is coincidentally the day upon which Rev. F.A. August, minister of the church since 1900, passed away. The church took over one year to erect, but the magnificent structure that resulted was apparently worth the wait. The year-long construction was not without its' surprises; six months after the cornerstone was laid it was discovered that the weight of the masonry was causing the building to shift. The only solution was expensive, and there didn't appear to be any money available until one member of the congregation sold his fruit farm in California, which he had purchased for his retirement, and donated most of the proceedings to the church fund. It was through this act of enormous generosity that the church construction was able to be completed in early 1906. Reverend Sparling who was principal of Wesley College dedicated the Trinity United Church.

Since 1906, the church building has undergone much renovation and restoration. A manse was built in 1914 in the half-timbered English Tudor style and is sympathetic to the façade of the main church building. A choir loft and balcony were added and several other improvements were made to the interior of the church. In 1956 the corner stone of Trinity Hall was laid and was dedicated within the year. A chapel and new kitchen were also built at this time. More recently, the foundation was replaced with concrete blocks due to the fact that the church was sinking at an alarming rate. The 100-year old stained-glass windows, depicting scenes from the bible, were restored at great financial cost in 2005.



Architecture:

This white, pitch-faced, sandstone church consists of a nave (gables facing north and south), with transepts, a smaller stone gabled projection at the south with an apsidal

end, and a squat, square tower at the northeast corner. The smaller openings of the church have triangular arches, and the larger ones have either pointed segmental or Tudor arches.

On the first storey of the tower there is a double door with a hood-mould on the north wall; on the second storey of the north and west walls are horizontal groupings of three loophole windows. On the third storey of each of the facing walls of the tower, there is a vertical grouping of three loophole windows. Between these windows and the battlements is a string course. The tower corners have diagonal buttresses topped by ashlar pyramidal pinnacles and there is a copper pinnacle-spire with crockets projecting from the tower roof.

The north wall of the nave has a large Perpendicular window with small louvered loopholes above. On the ground level, there is a shed roofed connecting hall abutted to the tower on the east and a vestibule on the west; it has small brackets under the eaves and a group of five loopholes on its' wall.

At the north end of either of the nave's flank wall is a pair of large windows; each one is divided by a stone lintel. Each transept has a large Perpendicular window with flanking buttresses and a hood-mould. Both of the gable ends of the transepts and the north gable end of the nave have parapets; there is a fleche at their crossing, consisting of an octagonal louvered cupola with a copper pinnacle. Some of the windows at the rear of the church have been altered.

The Manse:

This two and a half storey three bay house has a brick first storey and a stucco and half-timbered second. There is a one storey veranda across the façade supported by pairs of square frame columns. The centre bay on the first storey has a door, and on the second an oriel window.

The north wall is irregularly fenestrated; there are pairs of windows in the central bay of the upper storeys. The south wall is regularly fenestrated; there are small windows on the first. At the west end of the wall there is a bay window with angular walls and a shed roof. The roof is centrally hipped, with central gables on the façade and north walls, and off centre gable on the south.

Henry Langley; Architect:

(from a plaque outside St. George's Anglican Church, in Toronto)

One of the most prolific architects in 19th century Ontario, Henry Langley was born in Toronto. In 1862, following his apprenticeship as an architect, he formed a partnership with Thomas Cundry. He undertook commissions for residential, commercial and public buildings but soon began to specialize in ecclesiastical buildings. Working initially with the firm Langley, Langley and Burke from 1872 until his retirement, he developed an extensive practice, fashioning some 70 churches throughout the province and altering or enlarging many more. Well regarded by his peers, Langley figured

Heritage Registry; Designated Property No. 3

prominently in the development of the architectural profession in Ontario, training many architects who later gained renown.

Henry Langley designed Trinity United Church near the end of his forty-four year career.