

549 GERTRUDE AVENUE

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

City of Winnipeg
Historical Buildings and Resources Committee
Researchers: R.R. Rostecki/M. Peterson
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This building embodies the following heritage values as described in the *Historical Resources By-law*, 55/2014 (consolidated update July 13, 2016):

(a) This church's basement was built in 1907-1908 and opened for worship while funds were procured for the completion of the superstructure, which was dedicated on January 23, 1910, another fine religious structure in Fort Rouge;

(b) It has been associated with the Trinity Baptist Congregation (originally Nassau Street Baptist), since it organized in the early 1900s;

(c) It is one of the City's finer examples of the Romanesque Revival Style and was designed by local architect George G. Teeter;

(d) It is built of solid stone load bearing walls on a stone foundation, typical of the era;

(e) Its scale, cladding and corner location increase its conspicuousness in its mostly residential neighbourhood; and

(f) The building's exterior has suffered little alteration.

549 GERTRUDE AVENUE – TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Representatives of the Ontario Baptist clergy first visited Fort Garry during June 1869, as part of an expedition to spy out new territory for the Baptist faith.[1] Missionary activity in the Northwest was not begun until May 1873, when Reverend Alexander McDonald accepted the task of founding missions in Manitoba. McDonald found but one Baptist in Winnipeg at the time, plus a handful of Disciples at Portage la Prairie. Preaching stations were established in various parts of the province, with Winnipeg as a headquarters. Services in Winnipeg were initially held in the local school house, which was unsuitable because of its swampy location and dirty state.[2] A canvass of Eastern Canadian Baptists during the winter of 1873-1874, provided the financial means whereby the Baptist Chapel could be erected in Winnipeg. This was begun in June 1874, on a 100' x 100' tract of land donated by William R. Dick at the northeast corner of Rupert Street (now Avenue) and Maria (now King) Street. The 48' x 32' wood frame structure was opened on June 20, 1875 (Plate 1).[3] This structure served as Baptist headquarters for Western Canada for several years, being enlarged during 1882.[4] This pioneer church was eventually sold to the Salvation Army in the early 1890s for use as a barracks, and subsequently demolished in 1900.

By the early 1890s, the Baptist faith was on a firmer footing in Winnipeg than it had been two decades earlier. As a result, a new site at the northwest corner of Charlotte (now Hargrave) Street and Cumberland Avenue was acquired. During 1892-1893, a massive red brick and sandstone church was erected on that site from the designs of Toronto architects Langley, Langley and Burke (Plate 2). When opened in September 1893, First Baptist Church cost over $40,000 and was one of Winnipeg's most substantial buildings.[5]

Until 1895, First Baptist Church was the only Baptist tabernacle in Winnipeg. That September, the

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1 Thomas Baldwin, "The Beginnings of Our Work," in Northwest Baptist, June 1, 1901, p. 6. See also C.C. McLaurin, Pioneering in Western Canada, A Story of the Baptists (Calgary, AB: Author, 1939), pp. 39-40.

2 A. McDonald "The Beginnings of Our Work, No. 2, First Efforts," in Northwest Baptist, July 1, 1901, pp. 3-4.

3 A. McDonald, "Beginning and Progress of Our Work," in Northwest Baptist, October 1, 1901, pp.4-5. See also "The Baptist Chapel," Manitoba Free Press, June 21, 1875, p. 3.

4 "The Baptist Church," Winnipeg Daily Sun, November 13, 1882, p. 8.

5 "New Baptist Church," Manitoba Free Press, September 18, 1893, p. 5. See also First Baptist Church, Winnipeg. Fiftieth Anniversary 1875-1925 (Unknown, 1925), p. 11.

first off-shoot congregation was formed, and this was situated at the southwest corner of Logan Avenue and Stanley Street in the former St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, otherwise known as Selkirk Hall.[6] Two years later, Calvary Mission was built at the northwest corner of Ellice Avenue and Toronto Street.[7] In 1899, Nena Street Baptist Church was established in the former Wesley Methodist Church at the southeast corner of Ross Avenue and Nena (now Sherbrook) Street.[8] During late 1901, members of the Logan Avenue Church undertook religious work north of the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks. A small building was constructed during 1902 at the corner of Powers Street and Manitoba Avenue, and this became the Powers Street Baptist Church.[9] This gave the Baptists five English-speaking churches, plus three foreign language (German, Scandinavian, Russian) churches, north of Portage Avenue by 1903.[10]

Around this time, the executive board of the Baptist Union of Western Canada recognized that the Fort Rouge section of South Winnipeg was up and coming as a residential district. An investigation showed that Baptists numbered among the citizens of the new area. During the autumn of 1903, the Northwest Baptist advised readers to "keep your eyes open for two more English Baptist churches in the City of Winnipeg."[11] Fort Rouge Baptists began organizing and worshipping in the residence of realty dealer Alexander Simmers at 217 Spadina (now Stradbrook) Avenue after that announcement.[12] Through the generosity of local paint magnate George F. Stephens, funds were donated toward a church site.[13]

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6 "Historical Sketch of Baptists in Winnipeg," in Northwest Baptist, February 5, 1905, p. 6. Hereafter, cited as "Sketch".

7 Ibid., p. 8.

8 Ibid., p. 7.

9 Loc. cit.

10 Ibid., pp. 9-10.

11 Northwest Baptist, November 5, 1903, p. 1.

12 "Church 'Out of the Woods'," Winnipeg Free Press, March 17, 1956, p. 29.

13 "Baptist Church Given New Name by Congregation," Winnipeg Tribune, December 13, 1930, p. 26.

Accordingly, during the late winter of 1903-1904, two lots at the northwest corner of Nassau Street and Gertrude Avenue were purchased from the Monadnock Realty Company.[14] This location led to the formation of the Nassau Street Baptist Church Trustees to oversee the business affairs of the congregation.

An appeal was made to the Baptist Church Edifice Society for an interest-free loan toward the erection of a church.[15] Local architect Frank Robert Evans was hired to plan a small church building for Lot 13, which was somewhat removed from the corner. When the funds were forthcoming, construction began in late April 1904 on a one-storey, 36' x 60' frame church set upon a stone basement.[16] At the highest part of its peaked roof, this Gothic-windowed edifice was 27' high, while at its eaves the roof came down to 15' above the ground. J.E. Dennis performed the building tasks and the new structure opened for services on September 18, 1904 (Plate 3).[17] With a seating capacity of 250 persons, the 35 members of the congregation looked forward to a long stay in their new church.[18]

Operating initially without a minister, the Trustees soon secured the services of Reverend J.B.

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14 City of Winnipeg Assessment Roll (below as ARo), 1904. The Monadnock Realty Company was a Minnesota firm that had Charles H. Enderton as its principal agent in Manitoba. See Manitoba Gazette Vol. 32, No. 47, November 14, 1903, p. 790. Enderton was a well-known realty entrepreneur in Winnipeg and was responsible for the creation of the neighbouring Crescentwood area to the west of Fort Rouge. Enderton had represented the Minneapolis owner of the Gertrude and Nassau lots since 1897. That owner, F.W. Forman, had acquired the property during 1890 from the Real Estate Loan Company of Canada, who in turn had acquired a block of land from the original 1882 subdividers, Daniel Hunter McMillan and (the Estate of) William Nassau Kennedy during 1886. The pair had been associated with Arthur Wellington Ross in the speculative subdivision of parish lots 31 to 35 St. Boniface, and the venture probably fell flat, hence the later ownership by the Real Estate Loan Company due to probable foreclosure.

15 "Concert Exercise on Church Edifice Work," Northwest Baptist, July 2, 1900, p. 6; also "New Church Buildings," Northwest Baptist, November 1, 1901, p. 3. The Church Edifice Fund was administered by the Baptist Women's Board. The Fund had been established in 1888, and by the summer of 1900, thirty-five churches had been aided. By 1904, there were three conditions for a loan: (1) That application be made on forms provided by the Society; (2) Prior to a grant being made, all deeds and conveyances on the property be approved by the Executive Board Solicitor; and (3) That plans for new buildings and financial prospects be submitted to the Baptist Executive Board.

16 City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #237/1904. See also, "New Church in Fort Rouge," Winnipeg Telegram, March 23, 1904, p. 8.

17 "From the Field," Northwest Baptist, September 20, 1904, p. 5.

18 "Sketch," op. cit., p. 8.

Warnicker, of the Beverley Street Baptist Church in Toronto.[19] Reverend Warnicker proved to be quite popular, and attracted new congregation members in droves. Indeed, the building boom which was affecting Winnipeg at the time had caused the rapid expansion of the Fort Rouge district. By the late spring of 1905, Warnicker's popularity and the boom had caused the Nassau Street Baptists to outgrow their building.[20] The crowding continued for another year and a half while the congregation wrestled with the dilemma of what to do with a two-year-old, $4,000 building which was now too small.

In the late winter of 1906-1907, the Trustees hired a newly-arrived North Bay, Ontario architect, George G. Teeter, to design a new $30,000 edifice (Plate 4).[21] The Teeter building was to have had imported red brick walls atop a stone foundation. A column-free auditorium space inside meant a seating capacity of 700.[22] The 1904 church was sold in 1908 to the newly-formed Roman Catholic congregation of St. Ignatius, who moved it to 232 Nassau Street, a block and a half further south (demolished).[23]

Not wishing to repeat the mistake of 1904 by erecting a soon-outgrown edifice, and beset by the world financial depression of 1907, the Trustees decided to proceed only with the basement of the new church. This could be used for worship purposes until the population situation in Fort Rouge stabilized and finances improved, allowing for a permanent facility. On May 10, 1907, architect Teeter issued a contract to Gillis, Fraser and McDonald for a 19.5 x 35.2-metre stone basement with 45.7-centimetre thick walls.[24] Two days later, a building permit was issued with the expected

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19 W.T. Stackhouse, "Superintendent's Column," Northwest Baptist, January 20, 1905, p. 8.

20 "From the Field," Northwest Baptist, June 5, 1905, p. 5.

21 "Fort Rouge Baptists to Erect New Church," Winnipeg Telegram, March 30, 1907, p. 21.

22 Loc. cit.

23 "From 8 Worshippers to 750," Winnipeg Free Press, May 2, 1959, p. 27. By 1914, the building was vacant, for St. Ignatius had already acquired its present location at Corydon Avenue and Stafford Street. Subsequent to that, the structure was occupied as a Jewish Synagogue, and stands today as a Gospel Mennonite chapel with various additions. See Alice Hamilton, Manitoba Stained Glass (Winnipeg, MB: University of Winnipeg Press, 1970), pp. 252-255. Hereafter, cited as Hamilton. For the St. Ignatius connection, please see St. Ignatius-A Growing Community (Winnipeg: Unknown, 1983), p. 4.

24 "New Baptist Church," Winnipeg Telegram, May 11, 1907, p. 21.

cost of the structure being about $5,500.[25] The basement church opened on Sunday, January 26, 1908 under the guidance of Reverend E.E. Shields,[26] Reverend Warnicker having gone to England in June 1907.[27] Later in 1908, the Trustees sold the north 11.6 metres of Lot 13 to A.E. Ford, a member of the congregation, who promptly erected the brick veneer residence (177 Nassau Street).[28]

In mid-May 1909, the congregation went ahead with the superstructure of the church. Once again, Fraser and McDonald executed Teeter's plans, with James Henry Neil as the carpentry contractor.[29] A major change in the plans substituted stone for the red brick in the walls of the 1907 church plans. This gave the building a starker appearance than it might have had with the original richer-looking red brick. The corner stone of the stone edifice was laid on the evening of June 17, 1909 by G.F. Stephens.[30] Construction of the $26,000 church continued throughout the summer and autumn of 1909 (Plate 5). The new Nassau Street Baptist Church was dedicated on January 23, 1910, with sermons by Doctor A.F. Frost of Minneapolis, and Reverend A.M. McDonald, the new pastor at Nassau Street Church.[31] So well attended was this service that a total collection of over $2,700 was made that day. Fully furnished, the total cost of the building was about $40,000.[32]

STYLE

The Nassau Street Baptist Church was one of four churches designed by George Teeter in the

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25 BP #1010/1907.

26 "Opening Basement of Baptist Church," Winnipeg Telegram, January 23, 1908, p. 8.

27 "Nassau Street Baptist Church," Winnipeg Tribune, January 22, 1910, p. 8.

28 ARo, 1909. The sale would have coincided with the removal of the old church to the St. Ignatius site.

29 BP #730/1909.

30 M.G. Barbour, "Laying of the Corner Stone of Nassau Street Church, Winnipeg," The Western Outlook, July 1, 1909, p. 9.

31 "New Baptist Church Dedicated Sunday," Winnipeg Telegram, January 22, 1910, p. 11; also "Nassau Street Baptist Church," Winnipeg Tribune, January 22, 1910, p. 8; as well see "Nassau Street Baptist Church," Manitoba Free Press, January 22, 1910, p. 30; and "Church Dedication at Fort Rouge," Manitoba Free Press, January 24, 1910, p. 16.

32 "Dedication of Beautiful New Building at Nassau St. Winnipeg," The Western Outlook, February 1, 1910, p. 7.

Winnipeg area during 1906-1910. The other buildings included Tabernacle Baptist Church (northwest corner Burrows Avenue and Charles Street, 1906, demolished – Plate 6); the First German Baptist Church (northwest corner McDermot Avenue and Tecumseh Street, 1907 – Plate 7); and Salem Reformed Church (northeast corner Burrows Avenue and Andrews Street, 1907-1908 – Plate 8). All four were substantial buildings with corner towers. Two of these structures, First German and Salem, were heavily influenced by Gothic features. The other two, Tabernacle and Nassau Street were eclectic designs which bore certain features of the Romanesque Revival which caused their identification with that style. Of this pair, the Nassau Street Church had more Romanesque features – that is, the heavy stonework, round-topped windows and the three rose windows) than its north end counterpart. The Nassau Street edifice also bore traces of other styles: Gothic Revival in the gables which housed the rose windows, and the Baroque Revival as seen in the uniquely-designed tiled tower roof. Teeter had used a similar gable on the nave at Salem Reformed Church in 1907, while the Baptists had a local precedent in the nave of the massive First Baptist Church of 1892-1893. Two other new Baptist churches were built in Winnipeg prior to World War I. The first, Emanuel Baptist Church (northwest corner Emily Street and Bannatyne Avenue, 1907 – Plate 9) was a handsome, neo-classical structure for its Icelandic congregation. The second, Broadway Baptist Church (southwest corner Broadway (now Honeyman Avenue) and Walnut Street, 1907 & 1914 – Plate 10) was a large red-brick tabernacle for an English Baptist congregation. In appearance, both were quite different than Teeter's designs. In all, the Nassau Street Baptist Church was a pleasant-looking creation which fitted in with the "street of churches" which Nassau had become by 1910 (Plate 11).[33]

CONSTRUCTION

Trinity Baptist Church is a stone loading-bearing wall structure. This means that it has stone foundations and walls with its wooden interior structure tied into the walls which support that interior structure. Load-bearing construction is a common type in Winnipeg, though the examples

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[33] Between River Avenue and Corydon Avenue, there were no less than five churches. These included First Church, Christ Scientist (northeast corner Nassau Street and River Avenue, 1910-1911); St. Luke's Anglican Church (northeast corner Nassau Street and Stradbrook Avenue, 1904-1905); Fort Rouge Methodist (now Crescent-Fort Rouge) Church (northeast corner Nassau Street and Wardlaw Avenue, 1910); Nassau Street Baptist Church; and the first St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church at 222 Nassau Street.

found are usually executed in wood frame or brick construction. The use of rusticated stone walls is unusual and is only found in a handful of local buildings such as St. Luke's Anglican Church; Westminster United Church; the Land Titles Building or the Carnegie Library on William Avenue.

DESIGN

The main body of the church features a 15.3-metre-high peaked roof. At the front of the building (Nassau Street elevation) are its two main features, a pair of towers (Plate 12). The higher tower rises 18.3 metres above the street and is topped by a red tile roof accented by corner bartizans (Plate 13). Romanesque details figure on the tower, with stone corbelling and round-topped tripartite windows under a wide stone arch. The low tower at the north end of the Nassau Street façade features more corbelling, a round-topped doorway and a flat roof. The entrance in this lower tower has been altered and partially filled in. Between the towers is the front porch with its elevated, pedimented main entranceway. Above the porch is a large, rose window.

The south (or Gertrude Avenue) façade features the other side of the high tower, along with a Gothic-styled dormer and Romanesque-style windows (Plate 14). The dormer serves to frame another rose window. As well, the south façade features two more entrances - the tower entrance leading into a corridor into the auditorium and a rear entrance which leads to a staircase opening into the auditorium, the pulpit area, or the five-sided parlour at the rear of the church. The west elevation (on the lane) is quite pronounced, for this was the location of the five-sided parlour wing, as well as a 15.3-metre-high chimney (Plate 15). The north elevation is similar to the south elevation including a second Gothic dormer with large rose window (Plate 16).[34]

Alterations to the exterior of the building have not significantly altered its originality.

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[34] Description based upon Architect's plans, #730/1909, City of Winnipeg.

INTERIOR

With the exception of the basement, which has been changed beyond recognition from its original state, the auditorium and other spaces on the main floor are in remarkably original condition.

The auditorium of this church is unchanged from the simple, Teeter design of 1907-1909 (Plate 17). The central portion of the auditorium features a long, deeply-coved ceiling running east to west (Plate 18). Flanking this are the two naves with their own version of the rounded ceiling. The auditorium is arranged in the Central or Akron Plan – the pew arranged in a fan-shape radiating outward from the pulpit and the floor slopes downward toward the pulpit. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 540 and slash-grained oak is used extensively for the pews, the pulpit and as finishes. A massive pipe organ dominates the back of the auditorium, with its console located in the elevated pulpit (Plate 19). Perhaps the most noteworthy features of the auditorium are the three nave rose windows. The north elevation featured an open Bible representing the Word of God; the east window featured the cross and crown of spiritual triumph over death; and the south window, the lamp of human and divine knowledge.[35]

The rear of the main floor, behind the pulpit has a long corridor which services the rear parlour (converted into classroom space in the 1920s), two dressing rooms, the baptismal pool (baptistry), and the pastor's study. The stairs at the south end of this corridor lead into the basement, which had been the original church in 1907.

The basement assembly room and classrooms have been updated from time to time (Plate 20) as this is the "wing area" of the church as opposed to its "formal" area in the auditorium. Also in the basement is a kitchen, washrooms and the boiler room. This are underwent minor changes in the autumn of 1946. These consisted of changing partitions in the basement to a value of $100.[36] Further alterations were completed in 1955 and then extensive renovations were done in 1963. Designed by architect Roy Sellors and executed by Louis Ducharme and Associates, the basement was modified into a large central assembly room flanked by a committee room and kitchen on the

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35 Hamilton, loc. cit.

36 BP #4876/1946.

north side, three activity rooms below the pulpit and washrooms below the baptistry. A nursery and storage rooms complemented the new arrangement. The three activity rooms were fronted by an ornamental concrete block wall which gave the assembly room the appearance of a residential recreation room of the period.[37]

INTEGRITY

Trinity Baptist Church stands upon its original site and appears to be in good structural condition for its age although some settlement has been noted where the front porch of the church joins the main body of the structure. Alterations to the exterior have been minimal. An elevator/lift was added ca.2015 in the northeast corner.

STREETSCAPE

Trinity Baptist Church stands in a former middle-to-upper-middle class neighbourhood. While larger houses make up most of the building population of the area, there are several nearby apartments including the Wardlaw (544 Wardlaw Avenue) and the Winona Court and Wauneta apartment buildings (174 Nassau Street and 534 Wardlaw Avenue, respectively) – Plate 21. Most of the buildings surrounding Trinity Baptist Church are contemporary to it (ca.1905-1910) and the church fits in quite well with what is now an older, established neighbourhood.

ARCHITECT

Ontario-born and trained architect George Gaspar Teeter (1880-1949) was the designer of Trinity Baptist Church. Teeter arrived in Winnipeg in 1906 and began a long career that included a stint as the Chief Draughtsman for the Good Roads Board of the Provincial Government of Manitoba (see Appendix I for biographical information). He has been given 5 points by the Historical Buildings and Resources Committee.

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[37] BP #232/1955 and 5819/1963. Description based upon plans found at Trinity Baptist Church offices.

Roy Sellors (1913-2005) redesigned the church's basement in the early 1960s. Sellors was born in Winnipeg, graduated from the University of Manitoba's School of Architecture in 1936 and received his Master's Degree from M.I.T. After practicing in several large U.S. cities, he returned to Winnipeg in 1948 as a professor in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Manitoba. He served as its Dean from 1967 to 1974 and retired in 1978. During his time in the city, he also maintained a private practice. Notable commissions include: Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church and School, 249 Arnold Avenue (1948-1954); St. Vital Roman Catholic Church and School, 1629 Pembina Highway (1956); St. Bernadette Church, 820 Cottonwood Road (1960); Transcona Public Library, 111 Victoria Avenue West (1961); and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church, 4588 Roblin Boulevard (1962).[38]

For both the 1907 and 1909 phases of construction, stonemasons Finlay Fraser and Alexander Macdonald were associated with different partners. In 1907, the two stonemasons were possibly acting in concert with August Gillis, another stonemason. During 1909, Fraser and Macdonald were teamed with James Henry Neil (1862-1927), a local carpentry contractor. Around 1914, Fraser and McDonald formed a company which remained in business until mid-1957. Much of Fraser and McDonald's work consisted of alterations to existing buildings, such as those at Manitoba Hall, 291 Portage Avenue in 1931. The firm also built at least three new buildings: the Nassau Street Baptist church, 549Gertrude Avenue; the Kodak Building, 285-287 Portage Avenue (1930 -demolished); and the Singer Sewing Machine Building, 424 Portage Avenue (1929-1930).

James Henry Neil was born in Newtonbutler, County Fermaugh, Ireland in 1862. At the age of 20, Neil came to Winnipeg and embarked upon a building career. Among his most important works were the McDougall Memorial Methodist Church, 939 Main Street (1891); Nassau Street Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue (1909); Scott Memorial Hall, 216 Princess Street (1902-1903); some of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition buildings, west side Sinclair Street, west of Dufferin Avenue (c.1904); and the Machray Apartments, 242 Machray Avenue (date unknown).

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[38] Winnipeg Free Press, April 30, 2005; and "Sellors, Roy," Winnipeg Architecture Foundation website, http://www.winnipegarchitecture.ca/roy-sellors/, 2016.

He was also engaged in the boat-building business, and had a private wharf behind his residence at 123 Burrows Avenue. Neil died on December 20, 1927 after a prolonged illness.[39]

PERSON/INSTITUTION

The Baptist Church has been one of the smaller elements of mainstream religious groups in Manitoba. A number of well-known Baptist clergymen have ministered or preached at Nassau Street/Trinity Baptist Church. These have included Reverend J.B. Warnicker, Reverend A.M. MacDonald, Dr. J.J. Ross, and Reverend E.E. Shields. Important lay members of the congregations have included Dr. W.A. McIntyre, the noted educator; Alexander Simmers, the real estate developer; A.H. Woodworth, of the Winnipeg Paint and Glass Company; and George G. Teeter, the architect of this structure.

Nassau Street Baptist Church served a large congregation. An important part of Baptist life is that of Bible study and instruction and consequently, by the late 1920s much of the basement and the parlour above had been converted into classrooms.[40]

On December 11, 1930, the congregation voted to change the name of the organization to that of Trinity Baptist Church.[41] The name was suggested by Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Sharpe, charter members of the congregation. The change had probably been instigated by the incumbent pastor, Reverend J.J. Ross, D.D., who felt that a church should not be named after a street, and that the church name should suggest worship and service. According to Dr. Ross, the Winnipeg version was only the second Trinity Baptist in Canada at the time.[42]

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39 Biography of James H. Neil based upon "James H. Neil, Noted Builder Here, is Dead," Winnipeg Tribune, December 21, 1927, p. 15; "Pioneer Contractor of Winnipeg is Dead," Manitoba Free Press, December 21, 1927, p. 1; "Pioneer Builder Dies," Western Canada Contractor and Building, January 1928, p. 5.

40 The building plans, #730/1909 feature annotations dated January 21, 1929 depicting the usages at the time.

41 "Nassau Baptist Takes New Name," Manitoba Free Press, December 13, 1930, p. 30. See also Winnipeg Tribune, December 13, 1930, p. 26.

42 "Nassau Street Baptist Church Name Changed," Manitoba Free Press, December 15, 1930, p. 6. The other Trinity Baptist Church was in Hamilton, Ontario and had previously been known as Victoria Street Baptist Church. Dr. Ross had also been its pastor when the Hamilton church changed its name.

The church building continues to serve the Trinity Baptist congregation, numbering approximately 100. Two other congregations also utilize the space and a food bank runs out of the basement.

EVENT

There is no known significant historical event connected with this structure.

CONTEXT

Nassau Street Baptist Church was one of a number of religious edifices constructed in the Fort Rouge district of Winnipeg during the major build-up of the area during the 1903-1912 period. Many of the new residents in Fort Rouge had come from older parts of the city. In doing so, they founded new congregations that were convenient to their homes. At one time, Nassau Street was known as the “street of churches” because of the number of religious edifices upon it.

LANDMARK

Trinity Baptist Church is a well-known visual landmark in Fort Rouge because of its large size, unusual materials, and interesting corner tower.

APPENDIX I

George Gaspar Teeter (1880-1949) was born in St. Ann's, Ontario on November 11, 1880. He received his architectural education in Toronto and then became a junior partner in a firm of architects in North Bay, Ontario. He came to Winnipeg early in 1906, receiving commissions for the design of several large homes.[1] In 1907, he designed four churches: Tabernacle Baptist, Nassau Street Baptist, First German Baptist and Salem Reformed. Over the next decade, Teeter's office remained busy, designing apartment blocks, warehouses, dwellings and commercial blocks.

In 1920, George Teeter gave up his private practice and became the Chief Draughtsman for the Good Roads Board of the Provincial Government of Manitoba. He occupied that position until 1930, when he re-opened his architectural office. During his career, he was active in the provincial association, having been influential in the formation of the Manitoba Association of Architects, helping have the Architects Act passed by the provincial legislature and assuming the presidency of the Association in 1945.[2] Teeter kept his office open to the time of his death from stomach cancer on February 15, 1949. He was survived by his wife, Marion Ellen and a son, John A. Teeter.[3]

An incomplete list of his work includes:[4]

Tabernacle Baptist Church, Burrows Avenue at Charles Street (1907 – demolished)
Nassau Street Baptist Church (now Trinity Baptist Church), 549 Gertrude Avenue (1907)

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1 City of Winnipeg, Building Permit Ledger Books, 1906. Teeter is listed as the architect for four homes in 1906, the largest, on Oakwood Avenue in Riverview for W. Bell, cost $11,000.

2 Information from Manitoba Association of Architects, member files.

3 Biography of George G. Teeter based upon the following sources: Winnipeg. City of. Building Permit Ledger Books, 1905-1924; Henderson's Winnipeg Directories, 1905-1950; Manitoba. Government of. Public Accounts 1920-30 (Winnipeg. MB: King's Printer, various years); "Constructional Activities" (monthly column), Western Canada Contractor and Builder, 1920-1937; Advertisement, Riverview Realty Company, Winnipeg Telegram, May 19, 1906, p. 4; "Million Dollar Biscuit Factory Completed in Winnipeg," Western Canada Contractor and Builder, February 1932, pp. 12-15; "Tabernacle Baptist Church, Winnipeg," Northwest Baptist, April 16, 1906, p. 10; City of Winnipeg Building Permit #1622/1907, First German Baptist Church; "Two Church Dedications," Manitoba Free Press, August 22, 1908, p. 6; "George A. Teeter, City Architect, Dies At Home," Winnipeg Tribune, February 16, 1949, p. 27; "George G. Teeter Active Mason, Architect, Dies," Winnipeg Free Press, February 16, 1949, p. 24; "Marion E. Teeter," (obituary) Winnipeg Free Press, May 29, 1971, p. 37.

4 Compiled from City of Winnipeg, Building Permits; and D. Spector, Apartment House Architecture in Winnipeg to 1915 (Winnipeg, MB: City of Winnipeg, 1980).

G.G. Teeter designs (continued):

Salem Reformed Church, 235 Andrews Street (1907)
First German Baptist Church, 821 McDermot Avenue (1907)
Knechtel Furniture Company Warehouse, 715 Henry Avenue (1909)
Windermere Apartment Block, 224 Kennedy Street (1909)
R.S. Williams Company Warehouse, 421 McDermot Avenue (1909)
St. Elmo Apartments, 177 Colony Street (1910)
Apartment block, Notre Dame Avenue at Kate Street (1910)
King Edward Memorial Hospital, 1 Morley Avenue (1911 – demolished)
Ellesmere Apartments, 74 Carlton Street (1911)
Clare and Brockest Warehouse, 27 May Street (1911)
J.H. Carleton Warehouse, 50 Macdonald Avenue (1912)
Daylight Prism and Art Glass Factory, Corydon Avenue, (1912)
Pease Foundry Warehouse, Midland Street (1913)
Picture Palace (later the Little) Theatre, 627-29 Alexander Avenue (1912)
Westhome Apartments, 729 Wellington Avenue (1912)
Rozel Apartments, 105 Clarke Street (1912)
Elmwood Presbyterian Church, Cobourg Avenue (1912)
Quelch Block, 210 Quelch Street (1912)
Warehouse, MacDonald Avenue (1912)
Copping (W.L.) House, McMillan Avenue (1912)
New Westminster Apartments, Westminster Avenue (1912)
Conway Court, 165 Kennedy Street (1912)
Oribo Manufacturing Company Factory, 233 Stradbrook Avenue (1914)
McBean Commercial Block, 838-40 Corydon Avenue (1915)
Christie-Brown Biscuit Works Factory, 1147-1155 Notre Dame Avenue (superintending architect, 1931)
Stables for Bryce's Bakery, 320 Burnell Street (1934)
Polo Park Race Track Grandstands, Portage Avenue (1935)[5]
Deer Lodge Hospital Heating and Power Plant, 2109 Portage Avenue (1945)[6]

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5 Winnipeg Free Press, March 5, 1935, p. 7.

6 Information from Deer Lodge Hospital website (www.deerlodge.mb.ca/about_dlc/reflections.asp), no date.

549 GERTRUDE AVENUE – TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

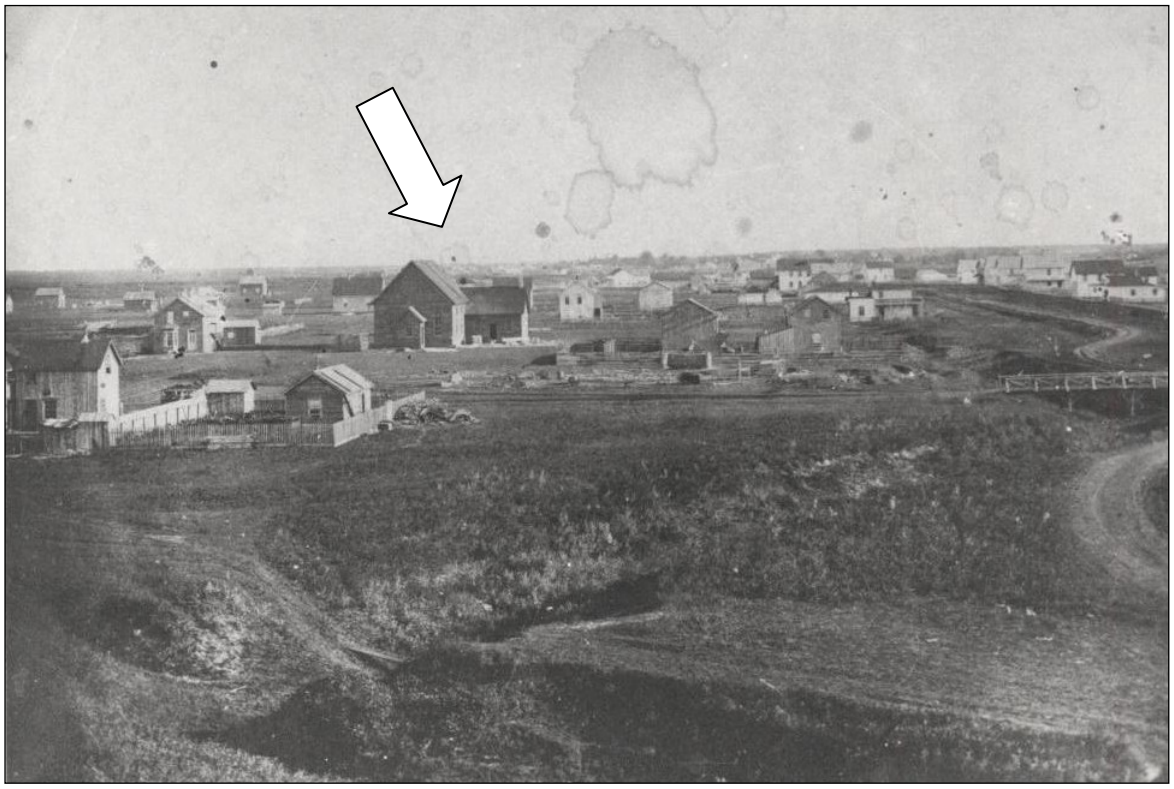

Plate 1 – Looking north from the Court House roof. Probably taken Spring 1875. The large structure visible near the centre of this picture (arrow) is the Baptist Chapel which was just being completed. The site is now occupied by the former Salvation Army Citadel, northeast corner of Rupert Avenue and King Street. (Archives of Manitoba.)

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Plate 2 – First Baptist Church, northwest corner Charlotte (now Hargrave) Street and Cumberland Avenue (now 400 Hargrave Street), Winnipeg, 1900. Building was demolished in 1985 but the tower was designated by the City of Winnipeg and retained as part of Calvary Temple. (Archives of Manitoba, Winnipeg- Churches- First Baptist 1, N7136.)

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Plate 3 – Nassau Street Baptist Church, 177 Nassau Street, Winnipeg, ca.1911, photographed in its new location as the first St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, 232 Nassau Street – demolished. (Archives of Manitoba, Winnipeg- Churches- St. Ignatius 1, N8544.)

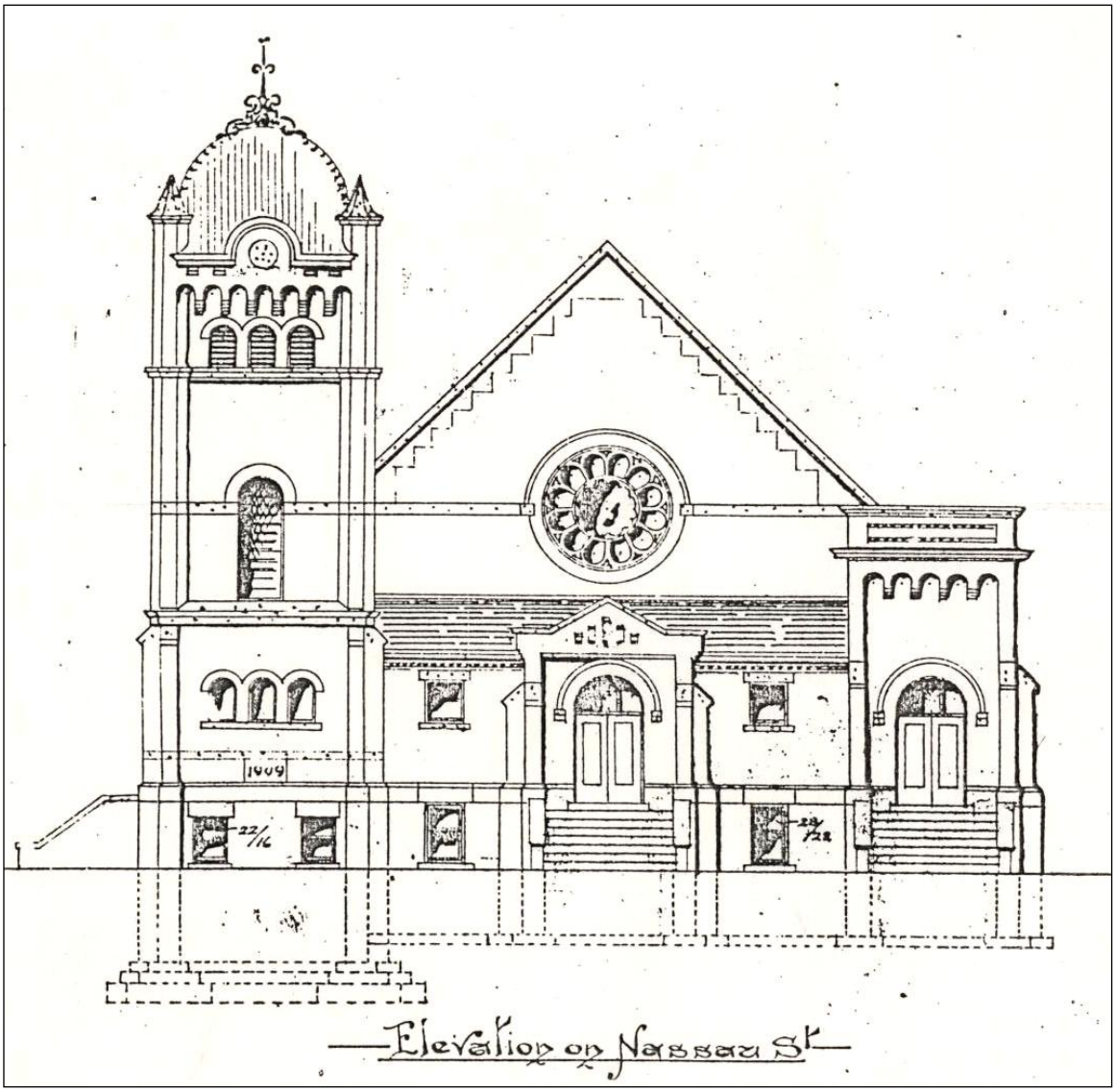

Plate 4 – Architect's drawing, "Elevation on Nassau Street," Nassau Street Baptist Church, 1909. (Trinity Baptist Church Archives.)

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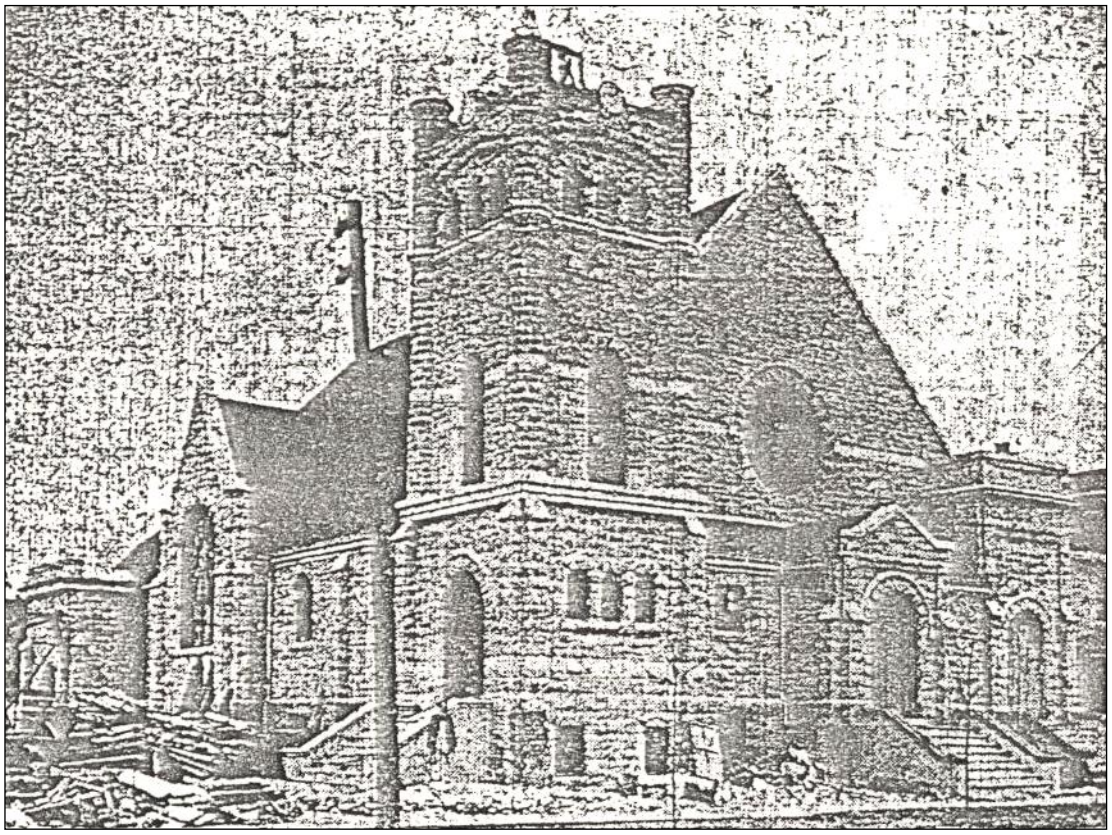

Plate 5 – Nassau Street Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, Winnipeg, 1909. (Reproduced from the Winnipeg Telegram, November 6, 1909, p. 28.)

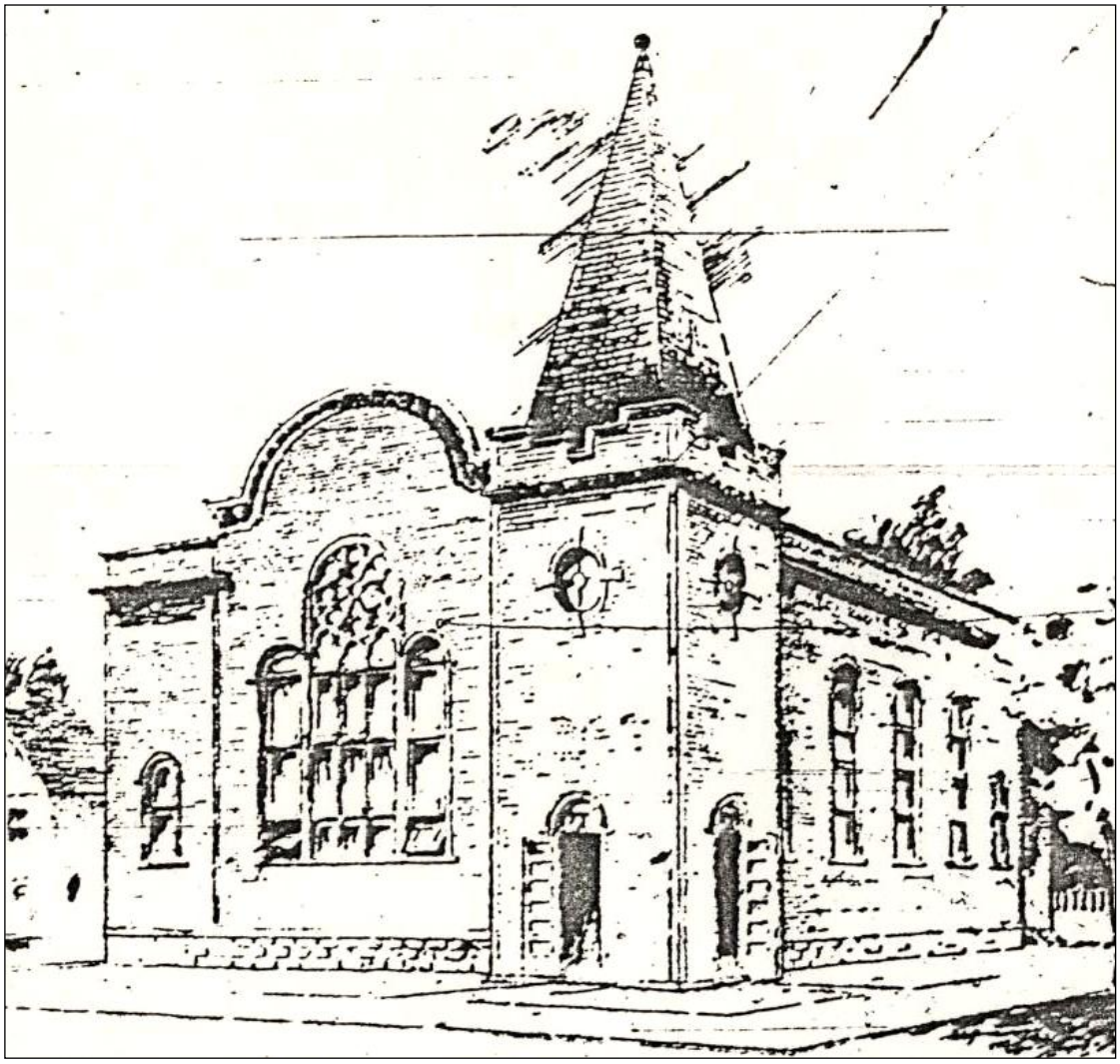

Plate 6 – Drawing of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, northwest corner Burrows Avenue and Charles Street, 1906 (demolished). (Reproduced from Winnipeg Telegram, May 5, 1906, p. 21.)

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Plate 7 – First German Baptist Church, 821 McDermot Avenue, 2009. (M. Peterson, 2009.)

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Plate 8 – Salem Reformed Church, 235 Andrews Street, front (west) and south façades, 1993. (M. Peterson, 1993.)

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Plate 9 – Manitoba Medical College (left) and Emanuel Baptist Church (right), ca.1910. The church was destroyed by fire on December 1, 1912. (Manitoba Historical Society, G. Goldsborough, 2015-0020.)

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Plate 10 – Broadway Baptist Church, 790 Honeyman Avenue, front (north) and west façades, 2009. (M. Peterson, 2009.)

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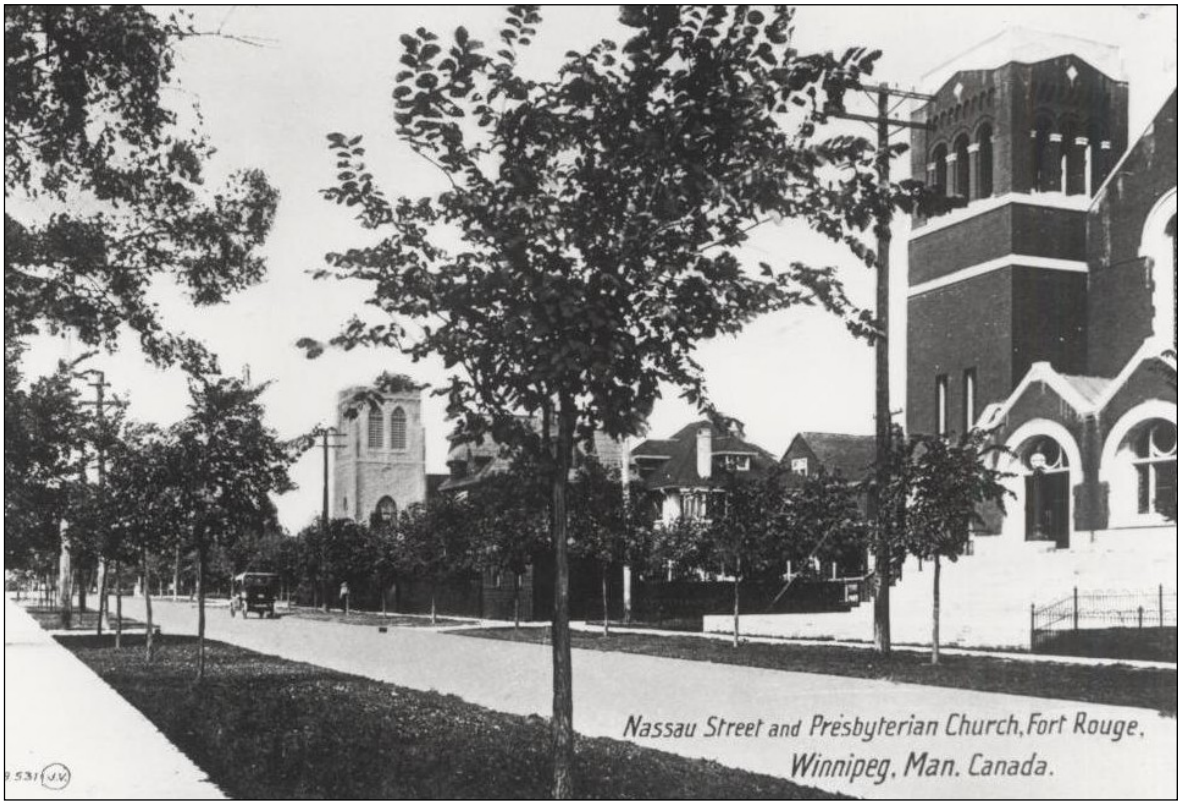

Plate 11 – Nassau Street looking north from Wardlaw Avenue, ca.1905. This view showing Fort Rouge Methodist Church in the foreground and St. Luke's Anglican Church in the background is evidence of Nassau being "the street of churches". (Archives of Manitoba, Winnipeg- Streets- Nassau 1.)

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Plate 12 – Trinity Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, Nassau Street (east) façade, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

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Plate 13 – Trinity Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, southeast corner tower, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

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Plate 14 – Trinity Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, south façade, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

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Plate 15 – Trinity Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, rear (west) and south façades, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



Plate 16 – Trinity Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, rear (west) and north façades, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

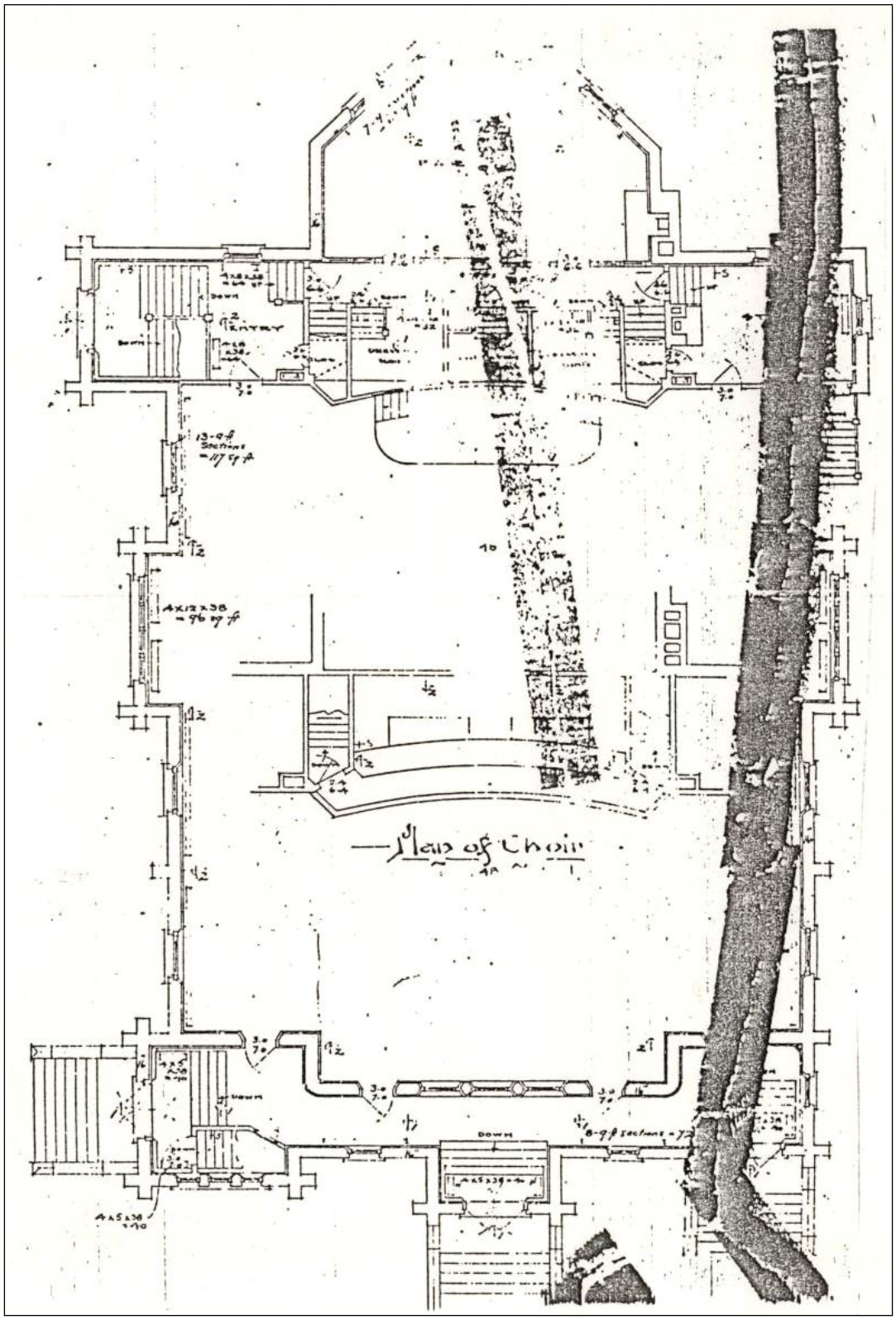

Plate 17 – Floor plan, Nassau Street Baptist Church, Winnipeg. 1909. (Trinity Baptist Church Archives.)

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Plate 18 – Trinity Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, nave looking from the altar, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 19 – Trinity Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, nave looking towards altar and pipe organ, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

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Plate 20 – Trinity Baptist Church, 549 Gertrude Avenue, basement, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 21 – Trinity Baptist Church, Nassau Street looking north from Wardlaw Avenue, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)