



**300 HUGO STREET NORTH**

**ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**  
**ANGLICAN CHURCH**

City of Winnipeg  
Historical Buildings Committee

September 1989

**300 HUGO STREET NORTH  
SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Preaching is exaggerated in this day of ours, but worship is neglected. That is not the case here in St. Michael.<sup>1</sup>

The church as an organization had always held a special place in the culture and life of western Canada -- not only as a vessel with which to provide moral lessons, but also as a social entity to bring people from vastly different backgrounds together and cement these new relationships with a sense of likeness.

In 1889 Winnipeg was expanding rapidly in all directions. Business and warehouse districts were replacing the city's original residential area in the 'new' downtown that grew around Main Street and Portage Avenue. One 'suburb' that saw a large amount of residential growth was Fort Rouge (originally called West St. Boniface). However, the population in this new area had some disadvantages due to its removed location.

Until 1889 Anglican families in Fort Rouge had to endure a long trek to Holy Trinity Church at Smith Street and Graham Avenue for worship. In that same year, a Sunday school was started in an empty store on Stradbrook Avenue (then Maria Avenue).<sup>2</sup> Two years later, a building on Lewis Street had become the centre for worship. On November 13, 1904 All Saints Anglican Church (corner Osborne Street and Broadway) erected a modest mission church, St. Michael's, in Fort Rouge,<sup>3</sup> across Mulvey Avenue from the present church (see Plate 1). The present site of the church was purchased in 1912 and in 1920 a fine new structure was raised on the northwest corner of Hugo Street North and Mulvey Avenue.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Archbishop Matheson's dedication of the new church in Winnipeg Tribune, April 27, 1957.

<sup>2</sup> Fort Rouge Through the Years (1974), p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 15; Manitoba Free Press, Nov. 12, 1904, p. 32; and Winnipeg Free Press, April 30, 1960.

<sup>4</sup> Fort Rouge Through the Years, op. cit., p. 15.

## STYLE

St. Michael and All Angels Church is a good example of a Norman church (also called Romanesque).<sup>5</sup> Drawing on a number of influences – including Roman, Byzantine and Viking – this style was introduced to England by the Normans after 1066 and held prominence until the mid-twelfth century.<sup>6</sup> Its buildings displayed bold experimentation, round arches and heavy forms, with special attention to the east end of churches.<sup>7</sup> Church exteriors took on monumental proportions, heightened by the use of one or more towers. The interiors often included vaulted aisles and colonnades both for support and to make the nave appear longer.<sup>8</sup>

The basic floor plan, rectangular with side aisles and an end altar with semicircular apse, was based on the basilican church of the Roman empire.<sup>9</sup> Also common to this type of structure was a central nave flanked by lower-roofed aisles, thus forming a clerestory on the upper nave walls that often was lined with windows. A horizontal chancel sometimes divided the apse from the rest of the church.<sup>10</sup> There are few examples of this style in Winnipeg.

## CONSTRUCTION

The church is found on land legally described as 31/35 St. Boniface, Plan 208, Block 37, Lots 9/10.<sup>11</sup> Built entirely of stone, the walls are 38.1 cm (15") thick (see Plate 2). Interestingly, some of the stone was surplus material from the legislative Building.<sup>12</sup> The main church measures 22.9x10.4

---

<sup>5</sup> J.S. Curl, English Architecture (Toronto-1987), pp. 115-116.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., pp. 115-16.

<sup>7</sup> P. Nuttgens, A Pocket Guide to Architecture (New York-1980), p. 87.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., pp. 68, 87-8.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p. 67.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., pp. 37,68.

<sup>11</sup> City of Winnipeg Assessment Records, #223020, Ward 1, PC 90. Below as AR.

<sup>12</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, Jan. 27, 1968.

m (75x34') with two halls added at the rear and a 4.6x9.1 m (15x30') manse added in 1932 to the front of the halls. The hall closest to the church itself is the original frame mission church that was built in 1904 (see Plate 3). Two towers, measuring 3.7x3.7 m (12x12') and 1.8x1.8 m (6x6'), also grace the building.<sup>13</sup> The original one-storey structure cost \$22,500 (see Appendix II & III).<sup>14</sup>

## DESIGN

The entire exterior surface of this building consists of rock-faced limestone laid in broken courses. All windows are semi-circular in shape; most possess smooth-cut limestone lug sills and radiating stone heads. Windows generally are single, save for a row along the south facade, the building's most public wall. Here double windows are embellished with small Tuscan order columns which are also present in the interior of the structure. The more ornamental nature of these openings also reflects the original use of the south aisle as a hallway from the front entrance to the front of the church, thereby avoiding the unfinished rear section.

The central roof ends in a gable on the western wall and is hipped on the east. A cross is placed at the point where the hipped roof panels meet. A decorative cupola sits on the roof ridge, set slightly back from the cross mentioned above. A flat roof is used to cover the side aisles.

## INTERIOR

While other churches of the time, especially Anglican, were utilizing elements of the Gothic style in the planning of religious buildings, St. Michael and All Angels Church is unique in its use of Norman or Romanesque elements. The need for brightness and a wide central aisle for processions made this choice a perfect one. High vaulted ceilings, the use of numerous clerestory windows and the lack of darkly coloured tinted glass create a spacious and airy interior.

---

<sup>13</sup> AR.

<sup>14</sup> City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #1029/1920.

Because the small congregation lacked sufficient funds, the original interior was left almost completely unfinished after the superstructure was built. While the church boasted beautiful Romanesque concrete pillars, a marble altar and a high curved ceiling,<sup>15</sup> partitioning closed off the space at the second bay, leaving the three rear bays hidden from view.<sup>16</sup> In 1930 Reverend William C. Turney was given charge of the church and immediately set out to complete the interior.

Two major fires occurred in the church. The first in 1959 required \$5,000 worth of repairs (see Plate 4). The second blaze on August 1, 1970 caused severe damage to the interior (see Plate 5).<sup>17</sup> Repairs totalling \$5,000 included new acoustic plaster walls, replacement of some pillars, new curved ceiling arches, new fixtures and altar repairs.<sup>18</sup> Most notable was the stuccoing added to much of the interior.

Original elements still found in the building include the wooden altar built for the 1904 church. It is now found in a small chapel to the north of the main church. Several of the original gold candle holders sit on this altar, as they have done for almost 90 years (see Plate 6). The west end gable contains a circular window of tinted glass.

## **INTEGRITY**

The church stands on its original site and is in good structural condition. Alterations have been made over the years as a result of fires, additions and structural repairs.

---

<sup>15</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, Feb. 16, 1957.

<sup>16</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, Jan. 27, 1968.

<sup>17</sup> AR.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

## **STREETSCAPE**

St. Michael and All Angels Church is nestled in a quiet residential neighbourhood in Fort Rouge. Because of a lack of overpowering exterior ornamentation, the building does not appear out of place in this setting.

## **ARCHITECT/CONTRACTOR**

The designer was Henry William Greene who came to the city in 1912 as a draftsman and left some ten years later as an architect.<sup>19</sup> He designed numerous buildings throughout the province, mostly churches and schools (see Appendix I for biographical information). He has not had a building graded by the Historical Buildings Committee.

The contractor was the Winnipeg firm, Claydon Company.<sup>20</sup>

## **INSTITUTION**

St. Michael and All Angels Church is the only High Anglican Church in the city. The term High Anglican refers to the following of the Oxford Revival principles which started in England around 1850.<sup>21</sup> This Anglo-Catholic movement stressed a return to the principles of the Tractarian movement that had its beginnings at Oxford University (hence the name Oxford Revival).<sup>22</sup> Services therefore include Holy Communion, Mass, Eucharist, Holy Liturgy, Holy Water, Stations of the Cross, and Confessions. The priest in charge is called Father.<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup> BP #1029/1920.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, Jan. 27, 1968 and Apr. 27, 1957.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

Not only is this church unique to the city, but it is one of the original three Anglo-Catholic parishes west of Toronto. St. James, Vancouver was the first organized, St. Michael was next, and St. Stephens, Edmonton, was the third. Other parishes have since been formed but St. Michael and All Angels is the second oldest of all the High Anglican parishes in the west.<sup>24</sup>

This church has never boasted a large congregation due to the relatively small number of Anglo-Catholics living in the area. At present, there are approximately 40 families attending services.

The need for High Anglican service grew from the dissatisfaction of some Red River Settlement Anglicans with their religious practices. Some felt services were becoming 'watered down' by the settlement's priests in order to reach more settlers. All Saints Church became increasingly connected with the city's High Anglican followers. Within three years of the 1904 establishment of the mission church, the sung mass and daily masses had begun in Fort Rouge. By 1910 a parish under the Anglican bureaucracy was formed and the church built in 1920 was consecrated in 1947.

One man who must be mentioned in any historical treatment of St. Michael and All Angels parish is Father William C. Turney who attended to the congregation from 1930 to 1961. Upon his arrival in Winnipeg, Father Turney immediately set out to complete the interior of the building. With assistance from parishioners, Turney wired and finished the interior that same year (see Plates 7 & 8) and two years later built the 'Priest's Place' (Turney's title for his rectory).<sup>25</sup> The rectory was built from many pieces of stone collected by Father Turney himself, including a brick used as evidence which he took from Juvenile Court that had 'participated' in a neighbourhood fight.<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup> Interview with Father Klassen, Reverend of St. Michael and All Angels Church.

<sup>25</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, March 21, 1959; and Winnipeg Tribune, June 27, 1968.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

Father Turney was also famous throughout the city as a champion of pedestrian rights. As one reporter saw it:

It may have been Father Turney who singlehandedly broke the back of a police crackdown on jaywalking in the mid-50's. The streets, he maintained, were for people and not solely for the benefit and convenience of motor vehicles. He paid several court fines to back up his contention.<sup>27</sup>

Upon leaving the parish, Father Turney went on to assist at the Dynevor Boys' School and passed away in 1963.<sup>28</sup>

### **EVENT**

There is no known significant event connected with this structure.

### **CONTEXT**

Organized during a period of significant population growth in Winnipeg, St. Michael and All Angels Church is an example of a loyal, if small, group of parishioners that moved from mission church to a modest parish then to one that was well organized and able to construct a large church. All this took less than two decades, a credit to this group of citizens.

### **LANDMARK**

This building is familiar to most people in the neighbourhood because of its corner location and stone construction.

---

<sup>27</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), March 04, 1972.

<sup>28</sup> [Winnipeg Tribune](#), June 27, 1968.



## APPENDIX I

### Henry William Greene -

H. W. Greene was one of many men who came to Winnipeg to seek their fortune in the pre-World War One period. Like many others he met with relatively little fame and fortune and subsequently moved on to other areas of conceived prosperity.

Greene came to the city in 1912 and obtained work as a draftsman in the well-established Winnipeg architectural firm of Jordan and Over.<sup>1</sup> After only one year, he moved to a similar position with another well-known firm, J.D. Atchison and Company.<sup>2</sup> In 1914 he obtained his architect's license from the Manitoba Association of Architects and began his ten-year professional career in the province.<sup>3</sup> In August of 1924, Greene moved to Hollywood, California where he continued his career, designing at least one house in Los Angeles.<sup>4</sup>

An incomplete list of his Manitoba work includes:<sup>5</sup>

- St. Jude's Church - Wellington Ave. corner Home St. (1914)
- King George V School - 261 Youville (1915)
- Clandeboye School
- East Selkirk School
- Foxwarren School
- Plum Coolee School
- Brunkild School
- St. Michael and All Angels Church - 300 Hugo St. N. (1920)

While it appears that Greene's accomplishments are minor for ten years of work, it must be

---

<sup>1</sup> Henderson's Directory, 1900-13.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 1913-14.

<sup>3</sup> Manitoba Association of Architects, File - "Greene, HW"

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Compiled from Ibid.; City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledgers, 1913-25.

remembered that it was an extremely poor decade for work in his chosen field. Searching through the City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledgers for this period, one finds even the most notable of Winnipeg's architects struggling for contracts.

**300 HUGO STREET NORTH  
ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN CHURCH**



Plate 1 – St. Michael and All Angels Mission Church, southwest corner of Hugo Street North and Mulvey Avenue, 1913. (Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Manitoba.)



Plate 2 – Construction of new church, 1920. (Courtesy of St. Michael and All Angels Archives.)

**300 HUGO STREET NORTH  
ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN CHURCH**



Plate 3 – Rear of present church. Note the mission church that was added to new structure as a church hall. (Courtesy of St. Michael and All Angels Archives.)



Plate 4 – Fire at church, 1959. The roof of the hall (first mission church) was destroyed. (Courtesy of Western Canada Pictorial Index, A1264-37863.)

**300 HUGO STREET NORTH  
ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN CHURCH**

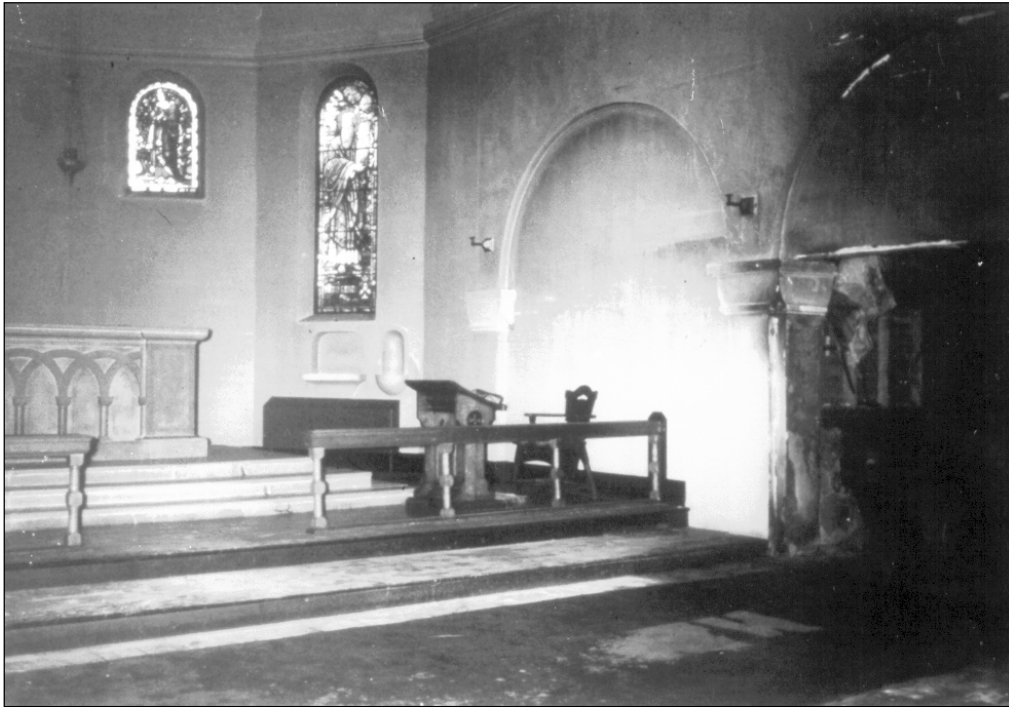


Plate 5 – Fire at church, 1970. Smoke and fire damage to the interior was severe. A new organ was completely destroyed. (Courtesy of St. Michael and All Angels Archives.)



Plate 6 – Interior of Mission Church, no date. The Altar and four of the candlesticks are still used in the chapel of the present building. (Courtesy of St. Michael and All Angels Archives.)

**300 HUGO STREET NORTH  
ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN CHURCH**



Plate 7 – Interior of present church including marble altar and completed interior, ca.1930. (Courtesy of St. Michael and All Angels Archives.)



Plate 8 – Rear of interior of present church, ca.1930. Note the different building materials used due to the separate completion dates of the interior. (Courtesy of St. Michael and All Angels Archives.)