



231 KITSON STREET

**NORWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ELK'S LODGE; CROSSROADS
MENNONITE CHURCH)**



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Date of Construction: 1910

Building Permit: UNKNOWN

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This modest, stuccoed-clad church has seen a number of uses in its 100 years of existence and is located in the heart of Norwood.

The front south façade features a large gable end with a pointed arch window embellished with modest tracery. Flanking this central section are two entrance vestibules projecting from the main building. The main gable end and the gable ends of the vestibules are further accented with half-timbering. The side elevations, east and west, feature large pointed arch window openings, now filled with newer window units. The rear of the building again projects out to the sides with plain windows and a third door at the northeast corner.



Front (south) and east 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.

The building has design elements of the Modern or Late Gothic Revival style which 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.”¹

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 15th century. Because Modern Gothic found widespread expression on the campuses of many North American universities, it has also been referred to as Collegiate Gothic.²



Rear (north) and east façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

This church began as the Norwood Presbyterian Church, a congregation formed in 1904. They built their modest church in 1910 and, like one-third of the other Presbyterian congregations in Canada, voted against amalgamation into the United Church of Canada in 1925. Norwood Presbyterian continued as an active church into the 1970s. In 1976, it amalgamated with St. Vital Presbyterian Church (formed in 1956) to form St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, worshipping at the latter's building at 709 St. Mary's Road.³

The building was sold to the Elks of Canada in 1977, a fraternal organization incorporated in Vancouver, B.C. in 1912 and based on an American group. It operated as Lodge #10 until its sale in 1988 to the St. Boniface Evangelical Christian Church Incorporated, who used the building for only a short time before selling it to the present occupants, the Crossroad Mennonite Brethren Church.⁴

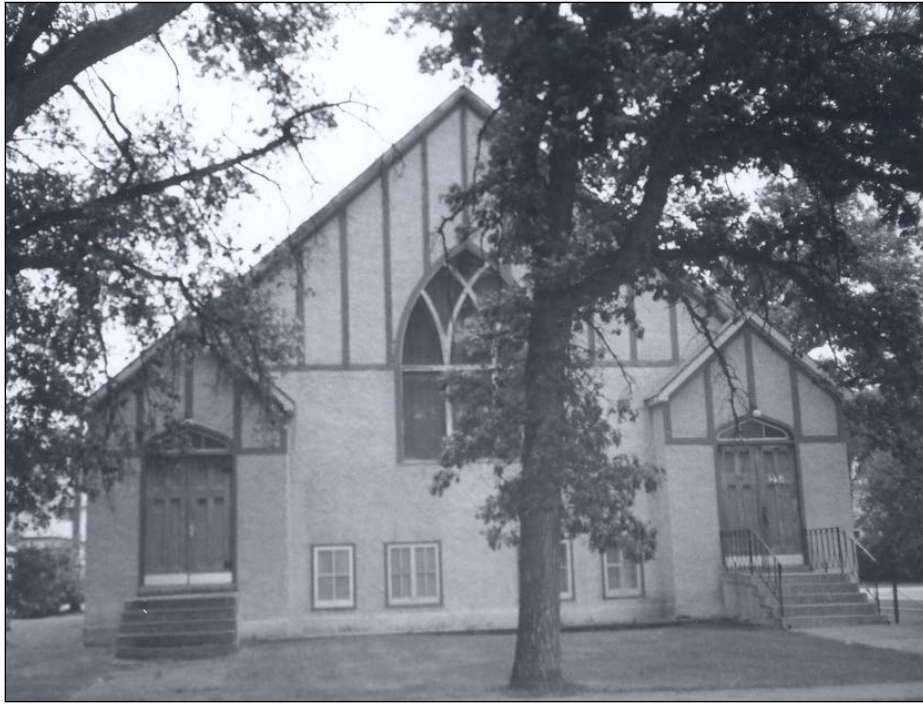


West façade, 2009

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 Presbyterian church buildings in Winnipeg and one of the rare congregations that did not amalgamate into the new United Church of Canada in 1925;
- its associations- its long-term connections to the Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg and St. Boniface;
- its design- an example of the Modern or Late Gothic Revival style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- defines an intersection and contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of two streets in its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (south) façade, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- 1 L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough: Broadview Press Ltd., 1992), p. 166.
- 2 Ibid., p. 166; and Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, Historic Resources Branch, 1991), p. 20.
- 3 Church history from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church website (www.standrewspresbyterian.mb.ca), no date.
- 4 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 06075213000, 1920-1990.