

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT



Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building

6720 South Stewart Avenue

Preliminary Landmark recommendation approved by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, July 12, 2006



CITY OF CHICAGO
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
Lori T. Healey, Commissioner

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. The Commission is responsible for recommending to the City Council which individual buildings, sites, objects, or districts should be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law.

The landmark designation process begins with a staff study and a preliminary summary of information related to the potential designation criteria. The next step is a preliminary vote by the landmarks commission as to whether the proposed landmark is worthy of consideration. This vote not only initiates the formal designation process, but it places the review of city permits for the property under the jurisdiction of the Commission until a final landmark recommendation is acted on by the City Council.

This Landmark Designation Report is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation process. Only language contained within the designation ordinance adopted by the City Council should be regarded as final.

Cover: The east facade of the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building, 6720 S. Stewart Ave., built in 1892 in the Gothic Revival architectural style. Bottom left: Interior of the building's sanctuary, showing its exposed-truss ceiling and historic lighting. Bottom right: Interior foyer, showing its pointed-arch diamond-paned window and oak wainscoting and staircase leading to the sanctuary's gallery.

TRUEVINE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING

(ORIGINALLY ST. BARTHOLOMEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH)
6720 S. STEWART AVENUE

BUILT: 1892
ARCHITECTS: HOLABIRD & ROCHE

In Chicago's neighborhoods, churches, synagogues, and other religious buildings often are the most outstanding visual and historical landmarks due to their size, architectural design and their connection to their surrounding communities. The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building (originally built for St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church) has been such a landmark for the South Side neighborhood of Englewood for over 100 years.

The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is a Gothic Revival-style church built of ashlar-cut Joliet limestone and is distinguished by its steeply pitched cross-gable roof, buttresses, lancet windows and pointed-arch entrance. The church's sanctuary includes an exposed-truss ceiling, diamond-paned and stained-glass windows, pipe organ, elaborate Gothic-style brass and oak pulpit, and several original light fixtures. In addition, a baptistry and small chapel located off the main sanctuary are outfitted with a white Carrara-marble altar and a dark oak reredos carved in the Gothic style as part of a 1925 renovation.

The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is the work of the acclaimed and prolific Chicago architectural firm of Holabird and Roche. Their work includes the Old Colony, Marquette and the City Hall-County buildings, all Chicago Landmarks. Primarily recognized for their skyscraper and commercial designs, the firm took on a number of church commissions in Chicago and its suburbs, but only a few were ever built. The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building remains as a rare religious structure built in Chicago by the firm.



Top: The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is a Joliet-limestone-clad church building built in 1892 in the Gothic Revival architectural style. Bottom: It is located in the Englewood neighborhood on Chicago's South Side.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

The settlement of the South Side community of Englewood dates to the mid-1840s when the land was a mix of marshland with heavily-wooded forests, and largely inhabited by Native Americans and a few squatters. With the introduction and subsequent growth of the railroads in the 1850s, Englewood and the surrounding communities were soon overrun with farmers, developers and businesses looking to take advantage of the expanding trade in the area. The community was part of the Township of Lake, but was called Junction Grove due to the existence of numerous intersecting railroad lines. When Englewood was first mapped in 1872, its boundaries were 55th and 71st Streets on the north and south, respectively, South Park Avenue (now Martin L. King, Jr. Drive) on the east, and Halsted Street on the west.

The opening of the Chicago Union Stockyards in 1865 and the Cook County Normal School in 1868 brought more development to the area. The Cook County Normal School (now Chicago State University) was Northern Illinois's premier training institution for teachers, and Henry B. Lewis, a realtor and a member on the Cook County Board of Education, was instrumental in the selection of Englewood as the school's permanent home. That same year the Township of Lake changed the name of this portion of the town to Englewood after England's legendary Englewood Forest (as well as the home town of Lewis's wife, Englewood, New Jersey), while the residential area immediately around the Normal School became known more specifically as Normalville.

Englewood and the Township of Lake were part of a larger group of South Side communities annexed by the City of Chicago on June 29, 1889. As the community became more established, newspapers touted Englewood for its "pretty lawns, schools and churches—with few saloons" as its distinguishing characteristics. It was far from the urban grime and congestion of Chicago, and, due to its early years as Junction Grove, it had excellent passenger rail transportation.

The origins of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church (the original occupant of the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building) in Englewood date to 1872 when Rev. John Wilkinson, Rector of the Church of the Holy Communion in Chicago, attempted to establish an Episcopal mission in the area. Organized that year as St. Andrew's Mission, Rev. Wilkinson held intermittent church services and Sunday school at a local schoolhouse at 61st and State Streets. Services were later conducted in a Presbyterian church until Rev. Wilkinson departed the following year. Unable to assign a new rector to the area, the Diocese of Chicago discontinued religious services until 1881. In 1882, religious services resumed, but the existence of another St. Andrew's parish in Chicago prevented the mission from keeping its former name. It was reorganized as St. Bartholomew's Mission and in 1887, the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago formally declared St. Bartholomew's as a parish.

In 1890, Rev. Benjamin Franklin Matrau, Rector of St. Bartholomew's, commissioned the architectural firm of Holabird & Roche to design a church that would accommodate their growing congregation. In June, a 164 x 135-foot parcel was purchased on the northwest corner of Stewart Avenue and West Normal Parkway. On March 12, 1892, ground was broken, and on May 1, the cornerstone was laid for an 80 x 135-foot building tucked along the northeast



Top: The Cook County Normal School was an institutional linchpin for the Englewood community after its founding in 1869. The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building (originally St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church) was built across Normal Parkway to the north in 1892. Bottom: The original design for St. Bartholomew was simplified when finally built. Right: A *Chicago Tribune* article announcing the opening of the church building in February, 1893.



OPEN THEIR NEW CHURCH.

St. Bartholomew's Members Occupy a Fine House of Worship.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, North Normal Parkway and Stewart avenue, was formally opened yesterday afternoon. The services began with a processional hymn and then followed the creeds and collects by the rector, B. F. Mattrau. Addresses were delivered by Arthur Ryerson of St. James, W. R. Stirling of Grace Church, and the Rev. T. N. Morrison of the Epiphany. Pledges were given that nearly wiped out the floating debt of \$10,000.

The church is of stone and brick and has a frontage on Stewart avenue of eighty feet, and 135 feet on the North Normal Parkway side. The lot is 164 by 135 feet, and is valued at \$30,000, and with the church and furnishings is valued at \$70,000. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 800, with accommodations for a choir of 100. The interior is finished with red oak, the lighting is by electricity and heating by steam.

St. Bartholomew's Mission was admitted as a parish with 171 communicants in 1887, the Rev. Herbert J. Cook being its pastor. The Rev. Colin C. Tate succeeded the Rev. Mr. Cook and was followed by the present pastor, the Rev. B. F. Mattrau. Services were then held in the church on Sixty-fifth court, near Stewart avenue. March 12, 1892, ground for the present church was broken. Sunday, May 1, Bishop McLaren laid the corner-stone. The church will be dedicated Sunday next, when Bishop McLaren will officiate.



The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is built in the Gothic Revival architectural style from yellow-hued Joliet limestone, a popular Chicago building material in the 19th century. Its overall form and details, including overall simplicity of architectural form, a minimum of applied ornament, and lancet (pointed-arch) windows and doors, reflect the influence of small-scale medieval English village churches on 19th-century Episcopal church architecture.

corner of the parcel. St. Bartholomew's held its first services in their new church on February 5, 1893.

In 1895, a building permit was issued to build a one-story frame structure on the site. Listed as a church in the city's building permit records, Sanborn maps indicate the building was used as a Sunday school, and it is illustrated in a 1907 photo. By 1926 the building had been demolished, and its former location is a grassy side lawn for the current church. Also in the 1890s, a parish rectory was located near the southwest corner of the parcel, but was replaced in 1961.

The congregation was merged in 1963 with that of Holy Cross-Immanuel, becoming the first integrated religious community in Englewood. The merged congregation remained at this location until 1979, when the Diocese of Chicago decided to close the church. The congregation then merged with that of the Church of the Messiah and moved to that parish's church building at 8255 S. Dante Ave., subsequently changing the parish name to Messiah-St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church. Truevine Missionary Baptist Church purchased the former St. Bartholomew church building on Stewart Avenue in 1980.

The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is a Gothic Revival-style church, distinguished by its steeply pitched cross-gable roof, buttresses and lancet (or pointed arch) windows with diamond-shaped panes. It is built of ashlar-cut Joliet limestone masonry on its north, south and east elevations, and common brick on the west elevation. Press releases in 1892 showed exterior renderings of an elaborate Gothic Revival-style church, with multiple entrances, a formal covered porch, an attached chapel and a square, 70-foot bell tower with castellation and pyramidal roof. It was also reported that the building would cost the congregation \$65,000. At the time of its completion in 1893, the church's plans were much simplified. The massing of the sanctuary remained the same—accommodating a capacity of 800—but gone were the covered porch, attached chapel and bell tower. The March 1893 issue of the *Diocese of Chicago Newsletter* described the interior as having “artistic outlines and showy fittings.” The *Newsletter* gave cost estimates for the building and its furnishings at \$40,000, but the *Chicago Tribune* put it closer to earlier estimates at \$70,000.

The main entrance faces east onto Stewart Avenue and consists of two pairs of doors, framed within a larger Gothic-style pointed arch. Each pair of doors has a pointed-arch transom comprised of stained glass lights with trefoil and quatrefoil tracery. Centered between the transoms is a single quatrefoil inset with a cross. Over the doors reads the text, “THOU DIDST OPEN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN TO ALL BELIEVERS,” a translated line from the Latin *Te Deum Laudamus*, a liturgical hymn prescribed in the *Anglican Book of Common Prayer* to be sung during the Morning Prayer. There are two cornerstones on the east façade made of gray granite with carved lettering embellished with gold leaf. On the northeast corner it reads “+ SAINT + BARTHOLOMEWS + CHURCH + A.D. + 1892.” On the southeast corner it reads “HOLY CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC,” a reference applied to the Episcopal Church to distinguish itself from the mainstream Protestant Church. At the time of completion, access to the church's raised entrance was by an open wooden staircase. In the mid-1920s, the church replaced them with stairs built of reinforced concrete with enclosed limestone railings.



The main sanctuary of the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building has a fine open-truss wooden ceiling.



Top: Stained-glass windows ornamenting the building's east elevation overlooking Stewart Ave. Bottom left: A decorative transom over one of the entrance doorways. Bottom right: A wooden staircase leading to the second floor gallery.



Top left: Stained-glass window in the west (rear) elevation of the main sanctuary. Top right: Metal and art glass light fixture in the main sanctuary. Left: Wood-and-brass main sanctuary pulpit. Bottom: Decorative light fixture in the baptistry, which serves as an entrance vestibule for the building's small side chapel.



The building's windows consist of a combination of rectangular and lancet windows with a variety of sash configurations, including two-over-two, three-over-three, double-hung, and fixed. Windows lighting the sanctuary have decorative glass, including both multi-colored stained glass and diamond-shaped panes of yellow glass.

The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building also retains many of St. Bartholomew's original interior features and fixtures. The grandest feature is the sanctuary's exposed-truss ceiling. The king-post trusses, rafters and ceiling are made entirely from red oak and are stained a deep brown color. The trusses form brackets which are partially anchored to the plaster walls. The ceiling is steeply pitched and has additional exposed-wood recesses over the altar and reredos.

In addition, the sanctuary has other handsome visual features. Each window and arch throughout the sanctuary is outlined with a raised plasterwork scroll applied to the wall surface. There are also three Gothic-style light fixtures of metal and art glass hanging from the rafters, as well as a finely-detailed carved brass-and-oak pulpit.

In addition, the sanctuary's pipe organ, according to early documentation, was built and installed by the Roosevelt Company of New York and is original to the church. The Roosevelt Company was a premier 19th-century builder of pipe organs, and the only other Chicago Landmark known to have a Roosevelt organ is Louis Sullivan's Auditorium Theater. There are approximately 100 pipes in two pointed-arch niches, with ornately-carved oak panels at their base.

In the north transept of the building there is a baptistry that serves as the vestibule for a small chapel built within the original Holabird & Roche-designed building in 1901 after a fire damaged the church interior. Both the baptistry and chapel were renovated in 1925. The baptistry has dark oak wall paneling and a wood ceiling carved with Gothic-style ornament. Overhead are 1925-era light fixtures and a pyramidal skylight of colored glass.

The chapel was designed by architect John Baptiste Fischer (1875-1951), who was the chief designer in the Chicago office of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, a Boston-headquartered architectural firm and the designers of the original (Allerton) wing of The Art Institute of Chicago (1893) and the Chicago Public Library (1897, now the Chicago Cultural Center), both designated Chicago Landmarks. Fischer is credited with designing the Harper Memorial Library and other Gothic-style buildings on the University of Chicago's campus.

The chapel has a carved Carrara marble altar with an Agnus Dei, or God's Lamb, mosaic of colored enamel and gold leaf, provided by Spaulding & Company of Chicago, a branch of the Gorham Co. of New York. Gorham Co.'s Ecclesiastical Department specialized in the design and manufacture of church furniture, metalwork and other religious supplies. The altar was often featured in Spaulding & Company's advertisements. Behind the altar is a carved oak reredos that extends up and out along the ceiling. The carved altar rail also dates from the 1925 renovation.

Windows original to the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building are of two types—multi-colored stained glass or yellow diamond-shaped glass panes. Some of them date from St.

Bartholomew's completion in 1893, while others were added at a later date. Inset in the tracery over the main entrance are stained-glass images of Jesus as an infant and an adult, the alpha and omega symbols and other religious iconography. In the lancet windows above the gallery are images of the Agnus Dei, a pelican (the symbol for Christ's sacrifice); the Virgin Mary on a Crescent Moon, Joseph, and Jesus with the crown, orb and scepter, along with other symbols. On the west wall over the reredos, the large window depicts scenes of the Resurrection and the Last Supper.

Several other windows in the sanctuary are filled with stained glass dating from 1893 to 1952. Most serve as memorials to St. Bartholomew church members and are designed with both Christian figural imagery and geometric designs. Other windows are filled with more simple diamond-shaped panes of yellow glass.

THE GOTHIC REVIVAL AND EPISCOPAL CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

The Gothic Revival architectural style, used for the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building, derives from the medieval Gothic architecture that was dominant in France, England, and other parts of Western Europe from the 12th to 16th centuries. It utilizes many of the architectural forms and ornament that were common to Gothic cathedrals, including pointed arches, vaulted ceilings, flying buttresses, and lancet windows. This revival style, although used for a variety of building types in America, was most commonly used for Christian church buildings due to the popular association of Christian piety with the Middle Ages and Gothic cathedrals.

The Gothic Revival architectural style in its earliest form can be traced back to Strawberry Hill, a country house built outside London in the 1750s and 60s by Horace Walpole. Walpole was interested in the picturesque and romantic qualities of Gothic architecture and built Strawberry Hill to resemble an English house that had been built over a period of centuries with a variety of Gothic forms and details. Strawberry Hill was the first of many rural and suburban Gothic Revival-style houses built throughout England and America into the late 19th century.

In the early 19th century, English architectural theorists began to actively promote the Gothic Revival for its moral and spiritual associations with Christian medieval architecture. Both architect Augustus W. N. Pugin and a group of theologians and architects known as the Ecclesiologists urged the use of forms from medieval English churches as a way of returning spiritual emotion and formal grandeur to Church of England (Anglican) worship. English Gothic parish churches of the 13th and 14th centuries typically had been rectilinear in plan, having straight side walls, broad windows in pointed arches, restrained sculptural ornament, and elaborate wood truss roofs spanning broad interiors. During the latter half of the 19th century, these visually austere medieval church buildings were seen as appropriate physical models for both modern Anglican churches in England and Episcopal churches in America, including the Truevine building.

With its use of Joliet (also known as Lemont or "Athens marble") limestone, simplicity of overall exterior form, and handsome interior detail, the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is



Many of Chicago's early Episcopal churches, including the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building, were built in the Gothic Revival style and used Joliet limestone as their primary building material. Above left: The Cathedral Church of SS. Peter and Paul, built in 1854, was Chicago's longtime Episcopal cathedral until its destruction by fire in 1921. Above right: Grace Episcopal Church (1867; destroyed by fire in 1915) was located on Wabash. Right: Although the Chicago fire of 1871 destroyed many churches in the heart of the city, St. James Episcopal Church was one of a few rebuilt on its former site.



characteristic of 19th-century Chicago church architecture. Several of the City's oldest surviving church buildings, including Holy Name Roman Catholic Cathedral (1875), St. James Episcopal Cathedral (1857, rebuilt 1875), and First Baptist Congregational Church (1869-71), are similar in their building materials and general overall simplicity of building form. Built as an Episcopal church for what was then an outlying Chicago neighborhood, Truevine epitomizes the English Gothic roots of Episcopal church architecture.

ARCHITECTS HOLABIRD & ROCHE

The architectural firm of Holabird and Roche, along with its successor firm Holabird and Root, is one of the most significant in Chicago history. Whether in their early work, designing some of the most significant Chicago School buildings, or later work such as the Palmer House, Palmolive Building, or the Chicago Board of Trade Building, Holabird and Roche and Holabird and Root designed many of the City's most historically significant buildings.

This longstanding Chicago firm was founded in 1881 by **William Holabird (1854-1923)** and **Martin Roche (1855-1927)**, who met while working in the architectural office of William Le Baron Jenney, the so-called "father of the skyscraper." A native of New York, Holabird came to Chicago in 1875. Roche was raised in Chicago and was educated at the Armour Institute of Technology (now Illinois Institute of Technology). Holabird previously entered into a partnership with Ossian C. Simonds (1855-1931), who by 1883 left to open his own landscape architecture office. The practice then became known as Holabird and Roche.

Holabird and Roche first became known during the 1890s and early 1900s for their structurally expressive buildings such as the Marquette Building, the southern half of the Monadnock Building, the Chicago Building, and the Champlain Building, all Chicago Landmarks. These buildings are important examples of the Chicago style of architecture, which was a way of building that clearly expressed, through overall design, the modernity of the underlying steel-frame construction of buildings. The Chicago style, also known as the Chicago School, is significant in the history of world architecture and the development of modern architecture, and Holabird and Roche, along with Chicago architects William Le Baron Jenney and Louis Sullivan, are among the most important architectural firms associated with it.

Holabird and Roche, however, was one of Chicago's most prolific firms and designed many types and styles of buildings during the years between its founding in the 1880s and 1927, when its change of name to Holabird and Root signified a recognition of the firm's second-generation partners, John Holabird and John Wellborn Root, Jr. The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building, originally built in 1892 for St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, is a rare surviving example of a Chicago house of worship designed by the firm.

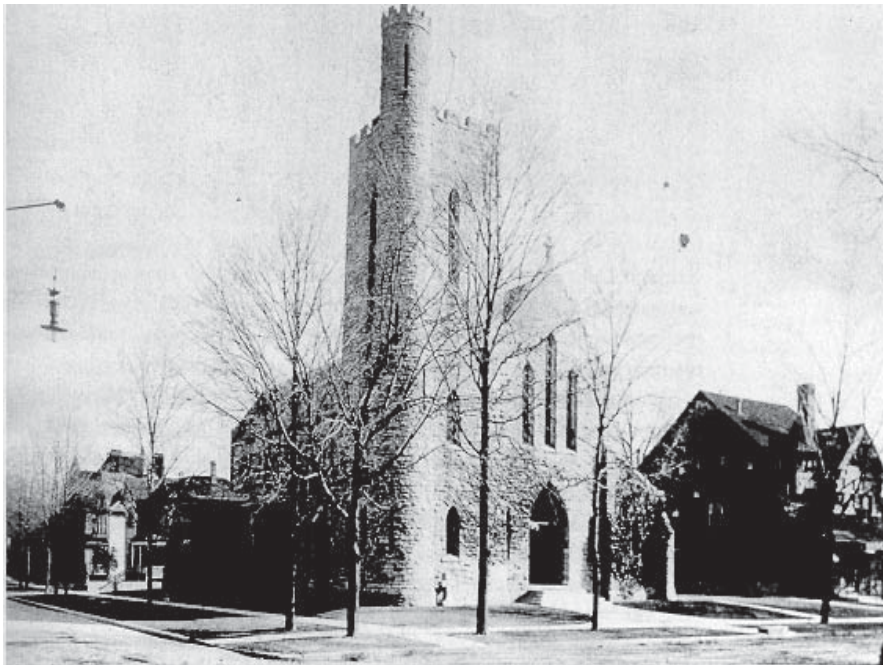
Holabird and Roche had a number of commissions for religious structures, the majority located in Illinois. Of those designed for Chicago congregations, few were ever built. Besides Truevine, the Chicago commissions include the Williams Memorial Chapel (1893, demolished), Graceland Cemetery Chapel and Mortuary Crypt (1895), work in 1907 for the existing South Congrega-



William Holabird (top middle) and Martin Roche (top right), the founders and principal architects of the firm of Holabird & Roche, designed a number of individual Chicago Landmarks, including (top left) the south half of the Monadnock Block (1891-93); (bottom left) the City Hall-County Building (1905-1911); and (bottom right) the Marquette Building (1895). They also designed (middle right) the Mandel Brothers department store building (1900, addition 1905) at Wabash and Madison within the Jewelers Row Chicago Landmark District.



Although best known for their commercial designs, Holabird & Roche designed a handful of religious buildings. Left: The Chicago Temple, combining a United Methodist church with commercial offices, is Holabird & Roche's best-known religious building. Others include (top right) the Graceland Cemetery Chapel Mortuary Crypt (1895) on Chicago's North Side; and (bottom) St. Mark Episcopal Church (1889-91) in Evanston.



tional Church (demolished) and the Chicago Temple (1923). Other religious commissions outside Chicago include St. Mark's Episcopal Church (1889-91) and Garrett Biblical Institute (1916-23) in Evanston, the Wesley Foundation Church and Social Center (1919-21) in Urbana, and the First Congregational Church (1886-87) in Lake Linden, Michigan.

TRUEVINE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Truevine Missionary Baptist Church, originally True Vine Baptist Church, was founded in 1918 by the Rev. John Sharpe who preached to a small group of congregants at a building located on 27th and Federal Streets. In 1922, the church moved to a one-story frame structure at 3409 S. Dearborn Ave. In October 1929, Rev. Sharpe was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Stewart. The church paid off their mortgage in 1944, but their occupancy was short-lived. The redesign and expansion of the Illinois Institute of Technology campus surrounded their church and the congregation was forced to sell the property in 1948 for \$15,000.

Truevine Baptist Church moved further south and purchased a three-story red brick storefront at 5920-22 S. State Street in December 1948 for \$24,000. The congregation operated under Rev. Stewart's guidance until his death in 1966. Rev. Joseph O. Bonds took over the leadership duties a year later only to find that the church was experiencing major financial difficulties, primarily due to the social changes of the 1960s and declining membership. Rev. Bonds knew that if he was unable to resolve Truevine's hardships, the congregation would have to disband. By 1970, past financial problems were solved under Bonds' leadership, and Truevine's membership rolls began to grow. The congregation then focused its attention on saving for a new church structure, rather than operating out of a storefront.

In January of 1979, Truevine Baptist Church saved enough money to purchase the former St. Bartholomew's Church Building located at 6720 S. Stewart Ave. for \$225,000. A year later on January 27, 1980, Rev. Bonds and his congregation marched from their State Street location to their permanent home on South Stewart. Rev. Bonds stayed on as pastor until the mortgage was paid in 1995. He retired in 1997, handing over the leadership of the church to its current pastor, Rev. Edwin Lee Jones, Sr., with its congregation of over 1,000 members.

Since its completion in 1893, the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is remarkably intact with only minor exterior alterations. Interior alterations harken back to 1901 and 1925, and to the differing liturgical needs of a Baptist congregation. Efforts are being made to restore many of the primary elements of the church to its original grandeur. The building is color-coded "orange" in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

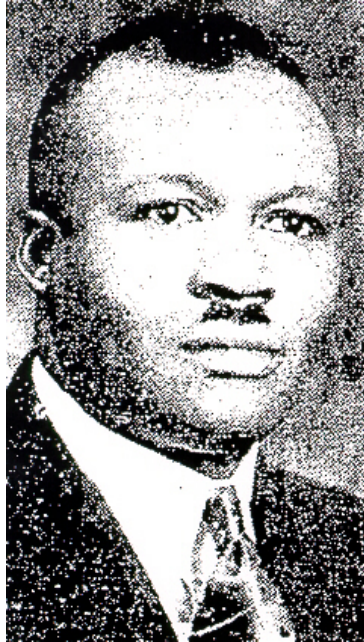
According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sect. 2-120-690), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a final recommendation of landmark designation for a building, structure, object, or district if the Commission determines it meets two or more of the

LIGHTNING HAVOC FOLLOWS HEAT.

Violent Electric Storm Sweeps
Over Chicago and Many
Buildings and Trees
Are Struck.

CHURCH SUFFERS MOST.

St. Bartholomew's Flooded with
Water to Quench Fire Chan-
cel Cloth Fails to
Smother.



Top left: The Chicago Tribune noted a church fire in 1901. The small chapel was added to the building with insurance money from the fire. Bottom: Religious services in St. Bartholomew's Church, 1963. St. Bartholomew's was the first congregation in the Englewood neighborhood to integrate. Top right: Reverend J. W. Stewart, long-time pastor of Truevine Missionary Baptist Church from 1929 to 1966. Truevine bought the building in 1980.

stated “criteria for landmark designation,” as well as possesses a significant degree of its historic design integrity.

The following should be considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining whether to recommend that the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building be designated as a Chicago Landmark.

Criterion 1: Critical Part of the City’s History

Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois or the United States.

- The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building exemplifies the important role that churches and other religious institutions played in the history and development of Chicago’s neighborhoods in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Criterion 4: Important Architecture

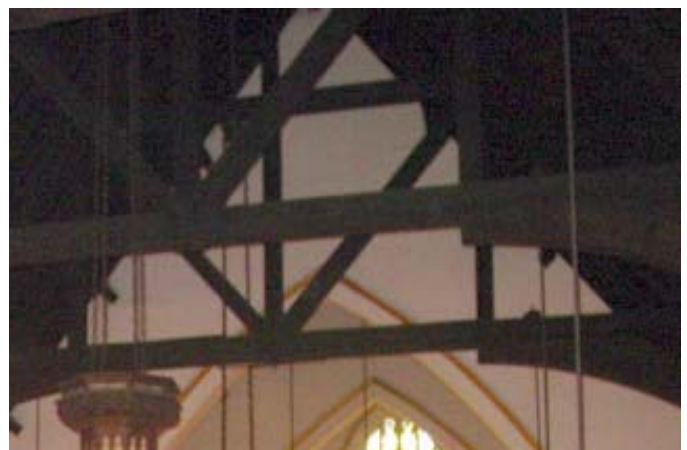
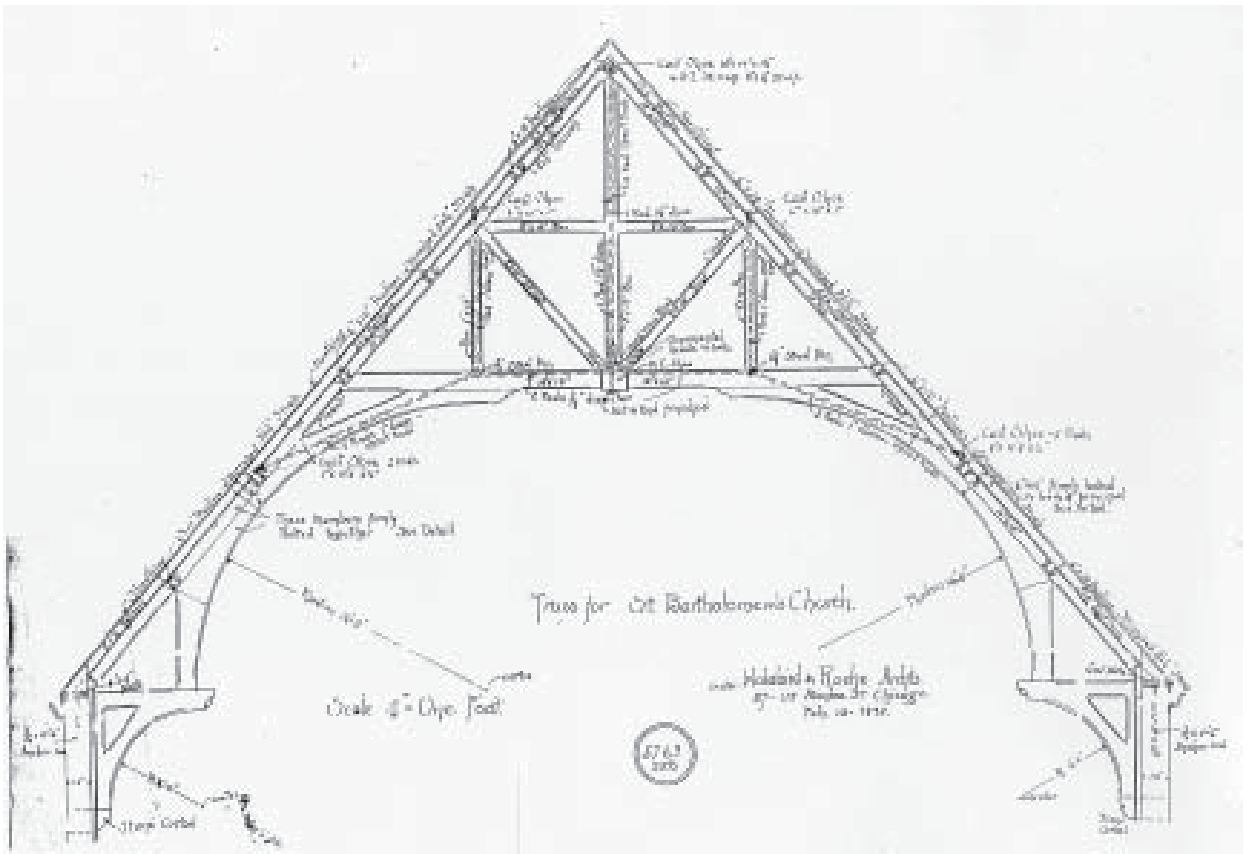
Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship.

- The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is a handsome example of Gothic Revival-style architecture, an architectural style of great significance in the history of Chicago and the United States.
- Built as St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building, with its ashlar-cut Joliet limestone façade, steeply pitched cross-gable roof and pointed-arch windows and doors, epitomizes the importance of English medieval church architecture to the development of 19th-century church architecture.
- The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building possesses fine Gothic interior detailing and fittings, including the main sanctuary’s exposed-truss roof, oak staircase and gallery, and stained glass windows, and a side chapel with its marble altar and carved oak reredos.

Criterion 5: Important Architect

Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, or the United States.

- The architectural firm of Holabird and Roche is one of Chicago’s most prolific and innovative, strongly associated with Chicago School skyscraper and commercial design in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Holabird and Roche built very few religious structures, and the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building is one of the firm’s three known remaining religious commissions in the City of Chicago.



Top: Proposed trusswork drawing by architects Holabird & Roche for St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1892. To cut down on the building's expense, wood corbels were substituted for originally-intended stone corbels.

Bottom left and right: Trusswork details.



**Top: The church building's pipe organ.
Bottom left: A detail of the pulpit.
Bottom right: One of the church building's stained-glass windows.**

Integrity Criteria

The integrity of the proposed landmark must be preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and ability to express its historic community, architectural or aesthetic interest or value.

The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building possesses excellent exterior physical integrity, displayed through its siting, scale and overall design, its historic relationship to the surrounding area. It retains its historic overall exterior form and almost all exterior materials and detailing, including its historic doors and window surrounds and stained glass windows.

Changes to the building's exterior include the replacement of the original slate roof with asphalt shingles, a bricked-in entrance to the building on the west (rear) brick elevation (date unknown), and the replacement of the original wooden steps with concrete steps and enclosed limestone railings in the 1920s.

The church's interior experienced major restoration work after lightning caused a fire in 1901. At that time, a chapel was added to the north transept. Both the chapel and baptistry were renovated in 1925. The Diocese of Chicago removed some religious iconography and fittings when the building was sold in 1979. The interior, however, largely retains its significant historic features and character, including its visually distinctive open-truss roof.

SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

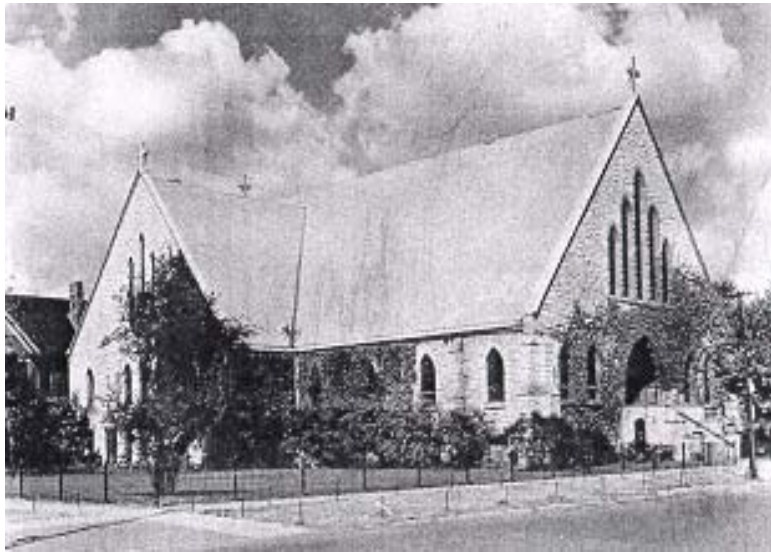
Whenever a building, structure, object, or district is under consideration for landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is required to identify the "significant historical and architectural features" of the property. This is done to enable the owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

Based on its preliminary evaluation of the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building, the Commission recommends that the significant features be identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building; and
- the sanctuary, chapel, and connecting baptistry interiors, of the Building.

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- Bruegmann, Robert. *Holabird & Roche/Holabird & Root: An Illustrated Catalog of Works*. New York: Garland, 1991.
- "Chicago Real Estate: Fine Buildings." *Sunday Inter Ocean*, 22 May 1892.



The Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building retains excellent physical integrity. Top: A view of the building circa 1907. (The Sunday School building, adjacent but not attached to the church building, was built in 1895.) Middle: A view of the church building circa 1926. (By then, the Sunday School building had been demolished.) Bottom: The building today.

Chicago History Museum. Architectural drawings of St. Bartholomew's Church, Englewood. City of Chicago, Dept. of Buildings. *Building Permits for Permanent Structures*, 21 May 1895.

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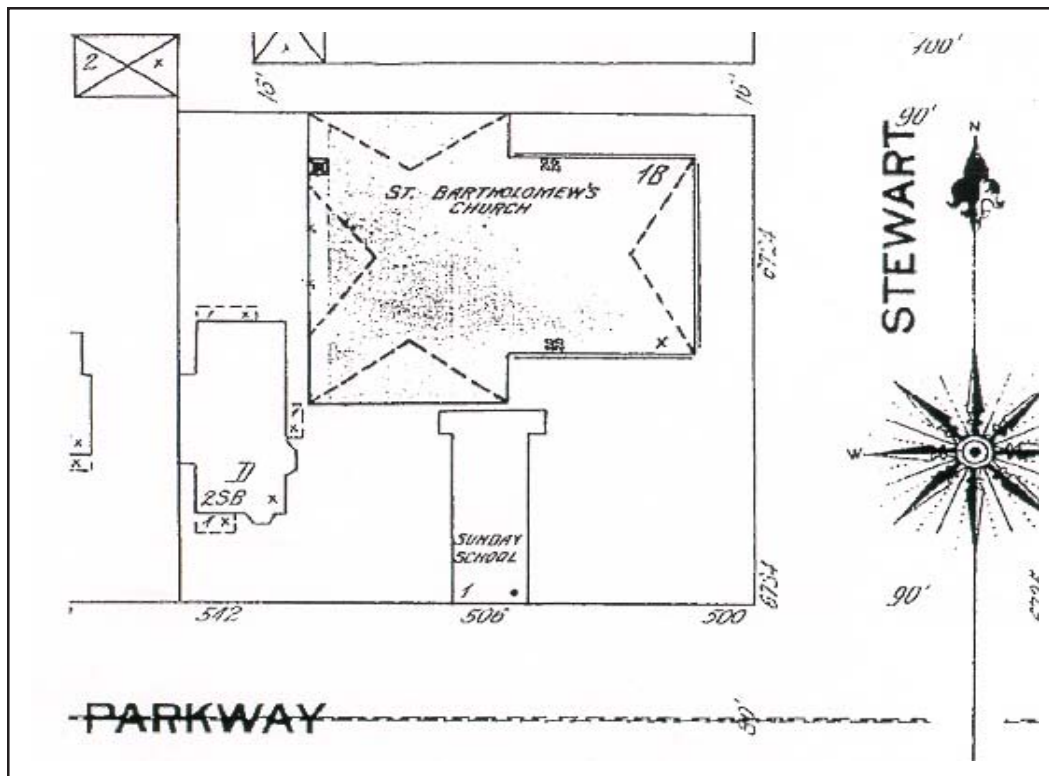
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The Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas from 1894-97 shows the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church Building (then occupied by St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church), along with the small frame Sunday school building and rectory to the south and southwest, respectively. (Both the Sunday School building and rectory have been demolished.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development

Lori T. Healey, Commissioner

Brian Goeken, Deputy Commissioner for Landmarks

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Susan Perry, research, writing, photography, and layout

Terry Tatum, research, photography, layout and editing

Brian Goeken, editing

Special thanks to Rev. Edwin L. Jones, Sr. and Jesse Beckom of the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church, and to Mr. Richard Seidel, Archivist at the Diocese of Chicago, for their help in the preparation of this report.

Illustrations

Chicago Department of Planning and Development, Landmarks Division: pp. Cover, 4, 7, 9-11, 16 top mid., top rt., mid., 21 bot. left, bot. rt., 22, 24 bot.

From Bluestone, *Constructing Chicago*: p. 14 top left, top rt.

From Bruegmann, *The Architects and The City: Holabird & Roche of Chicago, 1880-1918*: pp. 16 top left, bot. left, bot. rt., 17 bot.

From Bruegmann, *Holabird & Roche/Holabird & Root: An Illustrated Catalog of Works*: p. 17 top rt.

Chicago History Museum: p. 21 top

Chicago Tribune: pp. 6 bot. rt., 19 top left, top rt.

Diocese of Chicago, Archives: pp. 6 bot. left, 19 bot., 24 top, mid.

From Mayer and Wade, *Chicago: Growth of a Metropolis*: p. 6 top

From Lane, *Chicago Churches and Synagogues*: p. 14 bot.

From Saliga, *The Sky's the Limit*: p. 17 top left

The Sanborn Company: p. 25

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Printed July 2006; Revised and Reprinted December 2006