

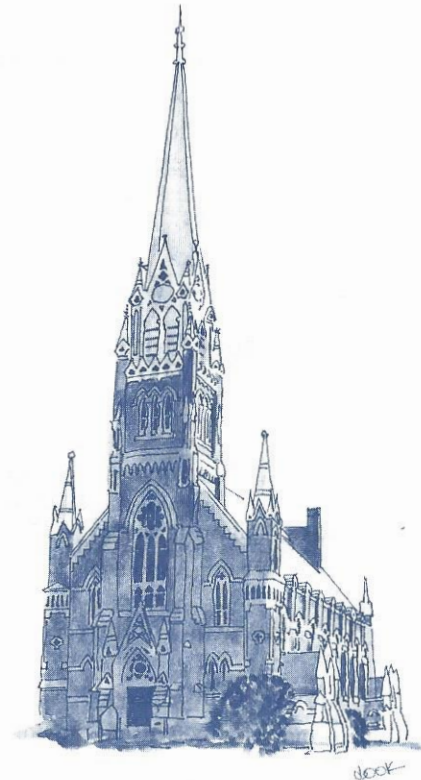
The Salem Church, constructed in 1867 and designed by architect John S. McKean, is a prime example of the Late Gothic Revival Style. The Revival Styles popular throughout American architectural history evolved for the associations they summon. The Gothic Style was considered to be appropriate to ecclesiastical building because it came from an era of religious fervor (Medieval times). It was also chosen because it appeared physically to be reaching toward God and the heavens, aspiring beyond men's scale. Evoking those aspirations was the goal of the church. The style is characterized by its verticality as well as its delicacy as it moves upward to meet the sky. Characteristic of the style is the polychromatic effect created by the red brick with stone and metal trim, the steeply pitched gable with parapet, the dominating square tower with spire at the entrance end with two smaller towers with spires at the corners, pointed arch, lancet windows, rosettes, and stained glass windows with tracery.

The interior contains the sanctuary with a lower level and full balcony supported by thin columns with Corinthian capitals. In the front is the ornately carved walnut apse, a high pulpit, and cathedral chairs. The vaulted ceiling meets sides that are lined with a row of stained glass, lancet windows. In 1910, the organ, which had been in the rear was moved to the front and a stained glass window was put in its place.

In the tower is a set of three bells, named James, Bertha, and Peter. The smallest bell, James, is the original bell taken from the previous building and was cast by C.W. Coffin in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1850 at the Buckeye Bell Foundry. The second bell, Bertha, and the largest bell, Peter were cast by J.G. Stuckstede and Brother in St. Louis, Missouri in 1877. The bells are rung by hand.

SOURCES:

History prepared for the Gardner Museum of Architecture & Design
Quincy Church Tour, May 15, 1994



Salem Evangelical United Church of Christ
State & 9th
Late Gothic Revival, 1867
John S. McKean, architect

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OCTOBER 14, 1995