

Unitarian Church

1470 Hampshire

Harvey Chatten, architect

1914

Tudor/Queen Anne Style with Prairie Style Influences

The present building at 16th and Hampshire is the fourth Meeting House of the Unitarian congregation in Quincy. The original congregation was founded in 1840 and is one of the three oldest in Illinois. The founder of the religion, William G. Elliot, is also the founder of Washington University in University City, near St. Louis.

The current building was dedicated February 5, 1914. The plan of the structure contains the entrance through the tower which gives access to the auditorium which runs along the entire west side of the building, with the chancel at the north end. To the east of this area is a large parlor with a stone fireplace and separated by folding leaded glass doors. All of the woodwork on the main floor is oak except the organ case which is butternut. The general design of the paneling and furniture in the chancel is a modified gothic.

The stained glass windows on the main floor include the chancel window or Founders window which is a representation of Indian Mounds Park. It was given to honor the founding members of the society. The memorial windows in the parlor recall events of our national heritage. Mrs. Henry Walton gave the window with the Pilgrim Fathers shown signing the covenant aboard the Mayflower. Mrs. Benjamin Berrian gave the William Penn window showing Penn's treaty with the Delawares at Shachmaxon.

The organ is the oldest remaining organ in Quincy in its original form. It was built about 1875 when the congregation was still worshipping in the Third meeting house and moved upon completion of this building. The instrument was built by the prestigious firm of Steere Organ Company in Springfield, Mass. Originally the wind was supplied to the organ by a hand-pumped blower and the knob on the console to ring the bell for the blower boy is still in place. An electric motor is now used. In 1975-76, the organ was cleaned and repaired by interested church members under the supervision of a local organ technician.

The lower level contains another auditorium equal in size to the sanctuary with a stage at the north end. Also on this floor are Sunday School rooms and a kitchen.