



## First Church of Christ Scientist 1644 Vermont

Classical Revival Style • 1910

Architect: Solon Beman principal with George Behrensmeyer associate

The Church of Christ Scientist at 1644 Vermont envelops visitors in a feeling of serenity the moment you walk into the tripartite auditorium. The Doric colonnade, or row of columns, is reminiscent of the temples of Rome and Greece. This effect generates a feeling of calm and comfort for the worship service. The opal colored stained glass throughout the building also adds to the ethereal surroundings.

Solon Beman, a Chicago architect who designed many Christian Science churches around the country, designed the Classical Revival building. Beman retained Quincy architect, George Behrensmeyer as his associate during the construction of the building in 1910.

The pews are made of birch, which is a very hard wood and only used in the best of homes and buildings at the time of construction. The church's organ is a Hall electro-pneumatic organ. The transverse barrel vault ceiling of the room helps to make the excellent acoustics in the room.

Behind the auditorium are the reader rooms or boardroom. This room or rooms can be divided by the two tambor walls (walls that roll down). These rooms were also used as Sunday school rooms early on. Of special interest on the walls of the room are the frames containing the bill for the building of the church and an old photo of the church with large trees surrounding it.

In 1960, the congregation had the lower level remodeled to use as a Sunday school. The podium and piano are both from the former Church of Christ Scientist in Hannibal, MO.

The Quincy Society of Christian Scientists began in 1889, when two of Mary Baker Eddy's students helped found the group. The name was changed to First Church of Christ Scientist in 1896. In the early years, services were held in member's homes. As the group grew, they moved to the Sons of Veterans Hall, then the Newcomb Building, and then the Jewish Temple on Ninth Street. From this location, the congregation made the decision to build their beautiful new home that is enjoyed to this day.