

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

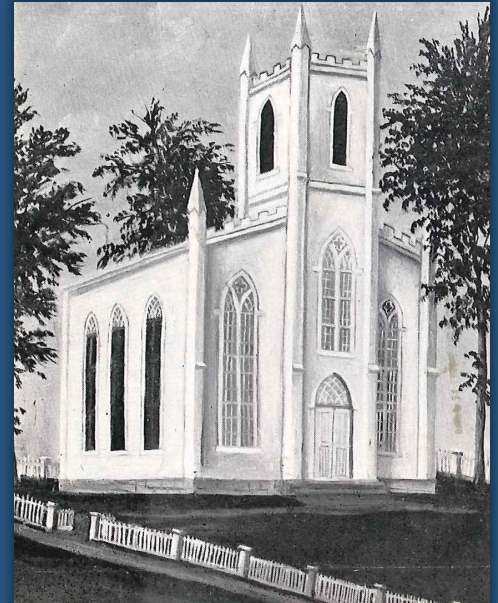
St. Paul's parish was the third congregation to erect an edifice in Syracuse. The Baptist Church came first, completed in 1824; the Presbyterian Church in 1826; and the first St. Paul's, dedicated in September 1827. The parish's first building stood in the block bounded by Warren, East Genesee and Washington Streets. This early wooden structure, measured just 41 by 52 feet, was painted white and featured green shutters, rented box pews and a double-decker pulpit.

By 1841, the congregation had outgrown the tiny church, and so a stone church in the perpendicular Gothic style was constructed on a site bounded by Warren and East Fayette Streets where Merchants Commons-The Post Standard Offices now stand. The second St. Paul's was built with native Onondaga limestone and measured 116 by 51 feet; a 110-foot tower featured battlements with finials, each with a lightning rod.

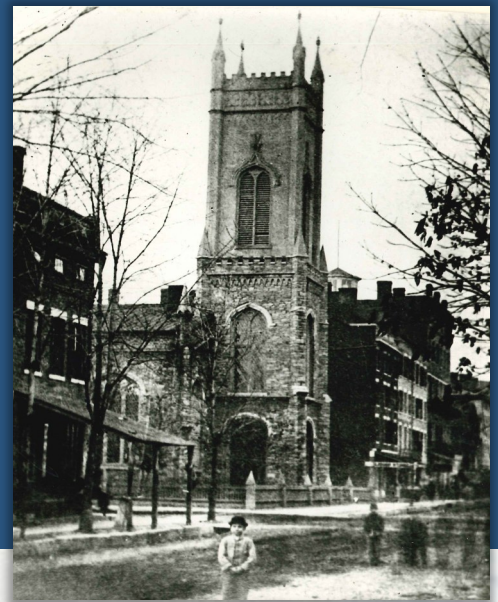
St. Paul's parish founded St. James's Church (forerunner of the Church of the Saviour) in 1848. By this time, the population of Syracuse was well beyond 10,000, with a need for a second Episcopal parish north of the Erie Canal. St. Paul's was enlarged in 1858 following plans by Horatio N. White, a prominent local architect.

In 1868, Dr. Frederick Dan Huntington of Emmanuel Church, Boston, accepted the call as the newly formed Diocese of Central New York's first bishop. Both Syracuse and the new diocese experienced phenomenal growth during the 1870's and 1880's. By 1880, Syracuse's population surpassed 65,000 and its commercial and industrial growth was the envy of the country. In 1884, the cornerstone was laid for the present St. Paul's; it was designed by Hendry Dudley of Brooklyn, N.Y. and was ready for use on December 13, 1885.

Henry Dudley (1813-1894), was English born and, until 1854, a partner with Frank Wills, the architect for the New York Ecclesiological Society. Through his association with Wills and the Society, Dudley played a prominent role in the importation of English Gothic Revival styles. Although the New York Ecclesiological Society took the Cambridge Camden Society in England as its inspiration, they did not adhere strictly to its precepts which sought a return to



The First St. Paul's 1826-1842



The Second St. Paul's 1842-1884

continued

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pre-Reformation building styles. The Society concerned itself primarily with the practical problems of implementing good design in American churches, rather than with the complexities of ecclesiology.

The third St. Paul's has changed relatively little over the years. It was constructed of Onondaga limestone in Gothic Revival style. Its most remarkable feature is its spire which soars more than 200 feet and is surmounted by a seven foot cross. The interior is 96 by 64 feet and 59 feet at its highest point. The nave is separated from the side aisles by arches supported by pillars of polished Nova Scotia granite. The walls of yellow and pink bricks divided by string courses of decorated tiles represent a unique feature among American Victorian churches.

Many of the stained glass windows were made by Cox, Buckley and Co., London-New York, and were installed in 1885. Of note is the sanctuary window which features St. Paul preaching to the Athenians. Other windows of note include the third window from the chancel (south aisle) which was made by the Tiffany Studios (1895) and the fourth window (south aisle) from the Henry Keck Studio (1925). The altar window in the Hadley Chapel, its designer unknown, is a reconstructed remnant of the sanctuary window (1858) from the second St. Paul's church.

Major alterations in the interior, which once sported green carpeting and elaborate sanctuary wall stenciling, have included: complete remodeling of the chancel in 1919; remodeling of the chapel in 1938 (Morton E. Granger, architect); installation of the marble Peace Altar in the north aisle in 1950, by Irving and Casson of Boston, the walls being covered with 22-carot gold leaf. The installation of the Moeller organ in 1967, was later rebuilt over the summer months of 2001 by Quimby Pipe Organs of Warrensburg, Missouri. The artistic enhancements created a vibrant Cathedral organ with a more timeless sound modeled upon the neo-American classic instruments of E.M. Skinner with the influence of renowned British organ builders, T.C. Lewis and Father Willis. The Lockwood Memorial Parish House was erected in 1909 (Alfred T. Taylor, architect) and remodeled in 1929 and 1958. It houses the church offices, The Brewster Room, The Hansen Community Room, The Chase Choir Room, kitchen and Sunday school rooms. Hadley Chapel which faces Montgomery Street was built at the same time as the Church. The South Sudanese congregation holds regular drum services in the Chapel. It's most recent remodel was 1938.

St. Paul's Syracuse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1976).



The Third St. Paul's 1884-Present

*Compiled by J. Brad Benson, in
1990, from these sources:*

*From Generation to Generation: A
Story of One Hundred Years of St.
Paul's Church.*

*Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews,
1924.*

History of St. Paul's Church,

1826-1961,

W. Freeman Galpin, 1961

*This is St. Paul's Stained Glass
Windows.*

Lester G. Wells, 1965.