

Chicago, Illinois

HABS
ILL,
16-CHIG,
2-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No.26

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, Jr., District Officer
Room 404, No. 520 No. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

(AIKEN INSTITUTE)
Formerly
~~FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH~~
and Later
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
CHICAGO

HABS
ILL,
16-CHIG,
2-

DISTRICT NO. 26
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED, JR.
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. 26-2

By Earl H. Reed, Jr.

SOURCE

Andreas
History
of
Chicago
Volume I.

This brick church was originally erected on the south east corner of LaSalle and Washington Streets, Chicago, and replaced an Ionic wood porticoed structure on the same site, which was destroyed by fire in 1852. The new building was dedicated Nov. 12, 1853, and was designed by W.W. Boyington, an early architect.

In 1863 the property was sold by the Chamber of Commerce, there having occurred a division in the church on account of the slavery question. The church edifice was completely torn down and re-erected in 1864 on the south west corner of Monroe and Morgan Streets, its present site, and dedicated as the Second Baptist Church.

Andreas
History
of
Chicago
Volume II

"The outer walls were raised above the window cornices, the ceiling was divided into six panels, instead of twenty-four, the columns supporting the gallery were in green and bronze, and the entire wood work was grained in oak."

It is evident that the circular topped brick pilaster panels were omitted at this time. The date of adding the second floor wood spandrels and removing the panelled wood entrance shown on old photographs is uncertain, as is also that of the substitution of leaded painted glass for the former double hung windows.

In 1867 an increasing congregation necessitated the extension west-ward of the structure to include the twenty-seven foot lot previously purchased. This work was performed by J.M. VanOsdel, at a total expense of about \$14,000.

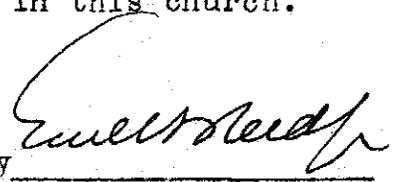
IN 1912 CHURCH GIVEN OVER TO AIKEN INSTITUTE
CHURCH WERE REMOVED C. 1915 AND BELFRY TOWER REMOVED 1924
FOR SAFETY. OLD RECTORY TORN DOWN C. 1928.
DWIGHT L. MOODY MARRIED IN THIS CHURCH.

Mrs. E.K. In 1912 the church was given over to
Kempler, Aiken Institute, a charitable organization
Director, sponsored by the Baptist Church of Chicago
Aiken and named for Mrs. Eliza Aiken, a Civil War
Institute. Nurse and Sunday School Visitor.

The church spire was removed about
1915, because of its unsafe condition and the
belfry tower was also removed in 1926 for the
same reason.

An old rectory to the south of the
building was torn down about 1928. Dwight
L. Moody was married in this church.

March 9, 1934


By _____
District Officer

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3551 W. Douglas Blvd.,
Chicago 23, Illinois
October 20, 1949

Mr. Hollander, Chief,
Division of Fine Arts,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D.C.

Photograph
...

Dear Mr. Hollander:

In the Historic American Buildings Survey Catalog of 1941, there is a listing of the Old Second Baptist Church (Aiken Institute) at Chicago, Illinois, to which I here refer.

1. First I would like to point out two errors so that the next catalog will be more accurate:

a. On page 98, "Montoe Street" should be "Monroe Street".

b. On page 98, "W.W. Boyington, Architect" should be "John M. Van Osdel (1911-1991), Architect". I have discovered the correct name of the architect during the course of a study of this building made while taking a course on Chicago architecture under Professor J. Carson Webster (on leave from Northwestern University at the time) at the University of Chicago in the summer term of 1948. The reason I include the dates of the architect is because this will avoid confusing him with his architect nephew of the same name (b. 1937). W.W. Boyington, incidentally, designed not this building but the First Baptist Church of Chicago of 1864-1866, which was destroyed in the "Little Fire of 1874".

2. It might interest you to know that this building is now being razed, so you can see that the recording of the building by means of measured drawings and photographs in 1934 was not any too soon.

3. My interest in the building from an architectural standpoint has not ceased, and I have searched libraries in the Chicago area for material on it. The Catalog mentions (p.98) that 7 photographs of the building are available, but I have found in libraries here only two. Are you able to tell me whether any Chicago library has the complete 7 photographs? If not, is it possible to borrow a set for say two weeks upon payment of rental fee (assuming the cost of a set of prints would be prohibitive)? I suggest a \$1 fee.

Sincerely yours,
Herman Kafka
Herman Kafka

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PHOTOGRAPHS DIV.
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