

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

**5226 51 AVENUE
(HAMILTON AVENUE)**

Original Name: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Contractor: G. P. Vickers
Date of Construction: 1908-09
HS 32881



STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

St. Andrew's United Church is a key historic resource in Lacombe with many original elements including its brick cladding, steeple and windows. The church has had several additions through the years that have caused stress fractures to the brick cladding on the west side of the original building. An enclosed entryway was added on the front corner of the building at the steeple and a large extension was added in the 1980s at the rear of the church. Louvred vents were added to the church steeple to enclose the belfry. A 1950s addition was added on the east side including offices and a hall. The interior has been renovated extensively.

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

St. Andrew's United Church is a large red brick church with Gothic Revival-style inspired architecture situated at the corner of 53 Street and 51 Avenue in Lacombe. The building is identifiable by its steeply pitched front-gabled roof, pointed Gothic-pointed-arch windows, and large corner belfry.

HERITAGE VALUE OF HISTORIC PLACE

St. Andrew's United Church, built 1908-09, is significant as a community institution that has served the spiritual needs of the Lacombe community for over a century. Lacombe's Presbyterian congregation was founded in November 1892, with the first church constructed in 1895 by Robert McNaughton. As Lacombe's population grew with the emigration of Presbyterians from Scotland and Ireland, so too did this congregation, necessitating a larger place of worship. With funds raised by the church's women's group, construction of a new church began in 1908 and it was dedicated on January 31, 1909, opening as St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. In 1922 the town's Methodist and Presbyterian congregations voted to join forces, thereafter becoming St. Andrew's United Church. The church continues to serve the religious needs of the community today.

St. Andrew's United Church has additional significance as a key example of the high quality of Lacombe's architecture, which displays Gothic Revival-style references. Built at a cost of \$12,315.93, it was constructed by local builder G.P. Vickers. The Gothic Revival style was one of the most favoured architectural expressions for religious structures in Alberta. Clad in red brick, this historic landmark features elegant Gothic pointed-arch windows, a steeply pitched front gabled roof and a corner belfry. Later additions provide evidence of the church's evolution over time, including modifications to the corner entry and additions at the rear and side elevations. Although changes have occurred, the building remains an important historic landmark in Lacombe.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that define the heritage character of St. Andrew's United Church include its:

- prominent corner location at 51 Avenue and 53 Street in Lacombe;
- ecclesiastical form, scale, and massing as expressed by its two-storey height, plus basement; rectangular plan with basement; steeply-pitched front gabled roof; corner belfry topped with quadrilateral shaped steeple with pyramidal roof;

STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

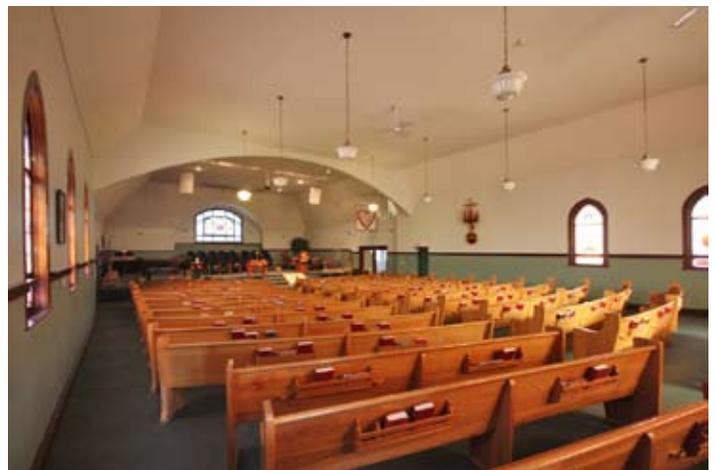
- masonry construction with red-pressed brick with red mortar and concrete foundation;
- lighting rod with decorative bulb, located on the steeple;
- Gothic Revival details such as: steeply-pitched roof; Gothic pointed-arch windows; and open belfry in the steeple;
- additional decorative features such as shingle patterning and half-timbering in the gable ends; brick stringcourses; and horizontal brick patterning above windows;
- original windows including: Gothic pointed-arch wooden frame windows with diamond-lead panes in single and triple assembly; 2-over-2 single-hung windows; later additions of stained and patterned glass windows; and
- interior features such as wooden trim.



INTERIOR OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, 1940S (MICHENER HOUSE MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES)



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH AS IT APPEARED IN THE 1910S (LDHS 90.1.294C)



INTERIOR OF SANCTUARY (2012)