



ARCHITECTURAL NOTES

The dedication of the basement church occurred on May 14, 1894. The extreme length is 143 feet and its width 61 feet. The basement walls are constructed of Falling Springs white limestone. The floor lies only about three feet below the street level, which adds considerably to the height of the main structure. The basement window and door openings, of various dimensions, are splayed, and the arches vary from the more pointed lancet to flatter indoor Gothic arches, adding variety and interest to this substructure. Lateral midway spacious doorways afford entrance on both sides to all basement rooms.

The superstructure in its exterior and interior treatment is also Gothic. The walls are constructed of brick, the facing being of red stock brick. The window sills, the copings and all wall and tower ornaments are executed in gray terra cotta. The roof of the Church is a steel framework, and is carried by steel piers, now the plastered ornamental columns of the main church. Almost all the weight of the roof is carried by these internal columns. The roof is covered with slate; the gutter spouts and flashings are copper.

The tower, which rises to a height of 160 feet from the center of the front facade, passes gracefully in its various transitions to the spire, which is surmounted by a copper finial, and a copper cross 21 feet high. Above the four large louvres, at each corner, terra cotta pinnacles seven feet high lend additional interest to a well proportioned tower and spire. The tower also provides the main front entrance. Additional entrances are provided by vestibule extensions, one at 25th Street, the other at the southwest corner of the building. The battlemented flat wall coping of these vestibules certainly attracts attention.

The sacristies flank each side of the sanctuary, and extend beyond the lateral main church walls. The windows are narrow and high, biparted with a center mullion terminating in double Gothic arch, above which is inserted quarterfoil fenestration. Large four-part windows grace the interior transept bay.

The interior architectural treatment is largely determined by the steel columns which support the roof. They divide the interior into three naves, giving the center nave a 36-foot width and the side nave 12 feet. The spacing of the four columns corresponds with the width of the lateral wall extensions of one foot. Externally this slight extension is a mere transept extension, but internally the spacing of these columns, and the larger treatment of the Gothic vaulting, is plainly that of a transept. While this interior transept pillar and vault treatment adds variety and interest, it carries with its break of the colonade the deception of an apparently shorter church than an equally distant spacing of all the pillars would have done. Hence, a stranger would probably underestimate the seating capacity of the church. The groined and web ribbed vaulting is interestingly executed.

The sanctuary extends into the main church and across its entire width; side altars terminate the side naves, as the main altar does the center nave.

The gallery extends across the entire width of the church, and is reached by two stairways which flank the main center vestibuled entrance, and which in their flight circle to a common landing at the roseate tower window.

The seating capacity of the church, including the gallery, is about 700.