

# LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT



## **Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building**

**6657-59 S. Harvard Ave.**

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**Preliminary Landmark recommendation approved by the Commission  
on Chicago Landmarks, December 1, 2005**



**CITY OF CHICAGO  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor**

**Department of Planning and Development  
Lori T. Healey, Commissioner**

*The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. The Commission is responsible for recommending to the City Council which individual buildings, sites, objects, or districts should be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law.*

*The landmark designation process begins with a staff study and a preliminary summary of information related to the potential designation criteria. The next step is a preliminary vote by the landmarks commission as to whether the proposed landmark is worthy of consideration. This vote not only initiates the formal designation process, but it places the review of city permits for the property under the jurisdiction of the Commission until a final landmark recommendation is acted on by the City Council.*

*This Landmark Designation Report is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation process. Only language contained within the designation ordinance adopted by the City Council should be regarded as final.*

# **Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building**

**(originally Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist)  
6657-59 S. Harvard Avenue**

**Built: 1904-05**  
**Architect: Solon S. Beman**

Churches, synagogues, and other religious buildings are often some of the most outstanding visual and historical landmarks in Chicago's neighborhoods due to their scale or visual prominence, the quality of their architectural design and materials lavished on them, and/or their associations with the history of their communities. The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building, located in the South-Side neighborhood of Englewood, is no exception. Originally built as Chicago's Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, it is a fine example of ecclesiastical architecture.

The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building is a handsome, well-preserved example of the Classical Revival style, which greatly influenced American architecture during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Inspired by the buildings of ancient Greece and Rome, Classical Revival architecture achieved great popularity after the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where architects adapted Classical forms and ornament to create a visually stunning ensemble of buildings.

Canaan Baptist also is the work of noteworthy Chicago architect Solon S. Beman, most widely known as the designer of Pullman, the nation's first planned industrial town and a designated Chicago Landmark District. He also designed the Fine Arts Building, an individually designated Chicago Landmark on S. Michigan Ave. Beman was a prolific designer of Christian Science church buildings and served as the denomination's de facto "house architect" prior to his death in 1914—designing Christian Scientist churches throughout the country, including six in Chicago. The building now owned by Canaan Baptist Church of Christ is an excellent example of Beman's nationally-significant work for the Christian Science denomination.

## BUILDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The building now housing the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ was built for Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, which was established on February 19, 1900, when 111 members of the rapidly expanding First Church of Christ, Scientist at 4017 S. Drexel Blvd. petitioned the board of directors for permission to withdraw and form a new congregation. Fourth Church originally worshipped in the Marlowe Theater located at S. Stewart Ave. and W. 65<sup>th</sup> St. in Chicago's Englewood community area. The congregation quickly outgrew its rented quarters, and in 1902 created a committee to identify a suitable site for a permanent home. A building fund was created, and on October 8, 1903, the congregation purchased a 150- by 100-foot lot on the northeast corner of S. Harvard Ave. and W. 67<sup>th</sup> St. (now W. Marquette Rd.) in Englewood for \$14,000.

Architect Solon S. Beman was hired in January 1904 to design Fourth Church's new edifice, and his plans were approved in March of that year. A building permit was obtained on October 12, 1904, and the cornerstone was laid twelve days later with a simple ceremony. Built at a cost of \$80,000, Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, opened for services on November 26, 1905. Photos of the new church were published in the January 1906 issue of *Inland Architect and News Record*, an architectural journal published in Chicago. Fundraising was completed a year later, and the congregation dedicated their new building on February 17, 1907, free from debt.

The contractor for Fourth Church, Fox and Klippel, also constructed two other Christian Science churches in Chicago—Fifth Church at 4840-50 S. Dorchester Avenue in the Kenwood neighborhood and Eighth Church at 4359 S. Michigan Ave. in Grand Boulevard. The firm was established in 1902 by masons George H. Fox and Frederick Klippel and lasted until 1911, when Klippel left to become secretary of the Chicago Masons and Builders Association.

### *The Englewood Community*

The Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist building was erected in the Englewood community area, located seven miles south of downtown Chicago. Englewood first developed in the 1850s when several railroad lines converged in the vicinity of what is now 63<sup>rd</sup> and the Dan Ryan Expressway, where a small suburban community known as Junction Grove took shape. Its earliest residents were German and Irish railroad workers and their families. Junction Grove was annexed to the Town of Lake in 1865, and three years later changed its name to Englewood. Also in 1868, developer L.W. Beck donated ten acres for the establishment of the Cook County Normal School (later Chicago State University), a premier training institution for teachers, which was located one block south of the future location of Fourth Church. After Beck subdivided land near the Normal School, the area attracted middle-class residents who established churches and schools, and Englewood began to develop west towards Halsted Street.

Residential development of Englewood was boosted by its 1889 annexation to Chicago and improved public transportation into the area. Horsecar lines connected Englewood to



downtown in 1887, followed by electric trolleys in 1896, and the elevated line in 1907. Upon the completion of Fourth Church in 1905, Englewood was a mature Chicago neighborhood with single-family frame dwellings and flat buildings, along with a variety of educational and religious institutions. Harvard Street itself was graced with numerous sprawling houses on oversized lots. Englewood's bustling commercial district at W. 63<sup>rd</sup> and S. Halsted Streets, northwest of the church building and connected to downtown Chicago by a branch of the elevated railroad system, developed rapidly in the early 1900s, becoming the second busiest commercial area in Chicago by the 1920s.

### *Description*

Today, the building (now known as the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ) stands virtually unchanged from its original appearance. The design of this impressive Classical Revival-style edifice was strongly influenced by architect Solon S. Beman's earlier Christian Science churches and his belief that the Classical Revival style was most suited for the Christian Science faith and its religious practices. The building is rectangular in plan, measuring 135 by 97 feet. It is two stories in height, clad in buff-colored Roman brick, and has a cross-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. Fine design and craftsmanship is exhibited in both materials and detailing. The brick cladding is laid in a running bond and every tenth course protrudes, adding visual interest to the wall planes. Clustered brick piers capped with stone are situated at the corners of the front façade's projecting central pavilion.

The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building's overall spatial composition is based on the ancient Roman basilica plan. Basilicas developed as Roman administrative buildings, providing large-scale, flexible interior spaces filled with light from large clerestory windows nestled below rooflines. After the Roman Emperor Constantine proclaimed Christianity as the Roman Empire's official religion in A.D. 325, basilicas, with their easily adaptable, generously-scaled interior spaces and their associations with Roman political authority, soon became the preferred architectural model for Christian churches, and remained so for more than a thousand years.

The upper levels of the front (Harvard Ave.) and side elevations of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building are dominated by wide round-arched clerestory windows, which flood the second-floor auditorium with light. Each of these immense windows is filled with colored leaded glass and fronted with a Roman grille motif executed in wood. All three elevations also feature symmetrically arranged, multi-light paired windows with colored leaded glass and wood muntins on both levels. Windows have stone sills and some feature transoms fronted with a Roman grille motif in wood.

The Harvard Ave. façade is graced by a stately limestone portico with four fluted Doric columns and two piers on either end. The portico's entablature has a triglyph-ornamented frieze and modillion-embellished cornice. The deep portico includes two inner fluted Doric columns and is accessed by a short flight of limestone steps that leads to three double doors made of oak. A leaded glass transom is situated above each of the three doors, while flanking limestone walls feature biblical inscriptions. The south inscription reads: "In the way of righteousness is life, and in the pathway thereof there is no death." The north inscription reads: "Christ is the head of the



**The Englewood neighborhood, where the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building is located, originally developed as a railroad suburb south of Chicago before it was annexed in 1889. Top: A view of the community in 1889, looking southwest from approximately W. 63rd St. and S. Yale Ave. Bottom: The Cook County Normal School (seen here between 1888 and 1891) was an important early institution in Englewood. The Canaan Baptist Church Building was built one block north of the Normal School's former campus.**



Above: A drawing of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building at the time of its construction as the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist. Right: A photograph of the building taken in November 2005.





**Left: The building's main windows, which light the church auditorium, are detailed with a criss-cross Roman grille motif. Bottom: The main entrance, facing Harvard, is ornamented by large Doric columns and wooden double doors topped with transoms.**



church and he is the savior of the body.” A stone band beneath the large arched window of the south (Marquette Rd.) façade has an inscription that reads: “He sent his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.” At the eastern end of this façade, an entrance with oak double doors and transom with Roman grille motif in wood is flanked by fluted Doric columns and topped by a Classical-style entablature.

The interior of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building closely follows Beman’s ideas concerning the proper layout for Christian Science churches. Entering the church from Harvard Avenue, a visitor passes through an outer foyer into a spacious lobby with a white terrazzo floor edged in a traditional Greek-key pattern executed in dark gray. Large fireplaces with wood mantels are situated on either end of the lobby, which also features hanging pendant lights. Staircases in each corner of the lobby, plus a wide staircase on axis with the main entrance, provide access to the second-floor auditorium.

The 1,000-seat auditorium is shaped like a letter “T” with three shallow arms. The central portion of the room has a groin-vaulted ceiling with three radiating “arms” topped by barrel vaults. The auditorium is furnished with curved rows of oak pews resting on a raked floor, which focuses the attention of the congregation toward the readers’ platform in the center of the east wall. Set within a large round-arched niche, the readers’ platform is backed by painted-wood paneling ornamented with four Doric pilasters surmounted by a decorative Classical-style entablature featuring both dentil and egg-and-dart molding. A large, round-arched metal grille above conceals organ pipes. The central wall panel of the readers’ platform and its flanking walls also feature inscriptions from the Bible. During the day, light streams into the room through the immense arched windows on the north, south and west walls, as well as through lower paired, multi-paned windows filled with colored glass. The bright, spacious auditorium is painted white and has several hanging pendant lights.

In 1928 a two-story, flat-roofed brick addition was built onto the rear of the church at a cost of \$22,000. Visible yet set back from Marquette Road and clad with buff-colored brick, it was designed by architect Howard L. Cheney in a manner sympathetic to the original building and does not detract from the main church building. Other than this addition, over the past 100 years the building has experienced remarkably little change in its physical appearance or use. Beautifully maintained by its current congregation, the building has excellent physical integrity both inside and out, retaining original exterior brickwork and stone trim, oak doors, colored-glass windows, terrazzo lobby floors, and wood pews.

Englewood’s racial makeup changed during the post World War II era, and by the 1960s the community was predominantly comprised of African Americans. In 1960 the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, building was purchased by Canaan Baptist Church of Christ, a congregation established in 1918 under the leadership of Dr. E. Moore. Canaan Baptist, previously located at 14-16 E. 45<sup>th</sup> St. in the Grand Boulevard community area, located east of Englewood, purchased the building for \$145,000. Reverend E.E. Franklin was pastor of Canaan Baptist at the time the building was acquired, and Reverend A.R. Leak, a long-time member of the



The building's second-floor auditorium is T-shaped with an intersecting barrel-vaulted ceiling and ornamented with Classical piers and moldings.

congregation, was instrumental in securing their new home. Today, Canaan Baptist is guided by Rev. Charles Thomas and serves as an important anchor in the Englewood community, providing its residents with important ministry and social services.

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AND ITS CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

The design of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building reflects its origins as the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist. The origins of Christian Science and its subsequent development, both in terms of its formal organization and its religious practices, played a role in the design of Christian Science churches, including the building now owned by the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ.

Christian Science was founded by Mary Baker Eddy, a native of Bow, New Hampshire, who had investigated alternative methods of healing for many years in an effort to alleviate her chronic bouts of ill health. Her search, both physical and spiritual, led her to formulate the tenets of Christian Science contained in her major work, *Science and Health, with a Key to the Scriptures*, written in 1875 and revised several times before her death in 1910. When no other denomination would accept her teachings connecting the mind and physical health, she and her followers established the Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston in 1879, and the faith's Mother Church was built in the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston in 1894. Converts to the faith spread Christian Science beliefs throughout the United States, and the new religious denomination grew rapidly in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. There were about 250 Christian Science congregations throughout the country in 1895, and more than 1,200 by 1910.

Although Christian Science, as guided by Mrs. Eddy, regulated church services and religious practices, it allowed a great deal of autonomy to branch congregations, which were self-governing through their own board of directors and responsible for the construction and maintenance of their own buildings. However, Mrs. Eddy had strong beliefs about the physical requirements of Christian Science church buildings, and Christian Science houses of worship tend to have readily identifiable floor plans based on the direction given the faith by its founder.

It has been observed that the simplicity of the religious services of this rapidly growing denomination were influenced by the practices of Protestant churches in New England, especially the Congregationalist faith within which Mrs. Eddy was raised. Christian Science church design also reflects contemporary mainstream Protestant church designs based on auditorium-style sanctuaries, commonly known as "Akron-plan" sanctuaries, which emphasized an intimate scale and clear acoustics for sermons and religious readings.

However, there were also major differences. Church services were not led by ordained ministers nor were there individual sermons or formally observed sacraments. Instead, Christian Science Sunday services were led by the First and Second Readers, who made

announcements, led responsive readings, and read passages from both the Bible and *Science and Health* from a readers' platform that would be the visual focus of the sanctuary. Music played a role in the form of organ music, the singing of hymns, and the use of vocal soloists. In addition, Wednesday evening "testimony" services allowed individual members to share their experiences concerning healing and Christian Science tenets with other members of the congregation.

Philosophical issues also entered the discussion concerning the architectural form of Christian Science churches, especially their architectural style. Christian Scientists disdained the overt use of physical iconography and symbols to represent aspects of their religion. Church auditoriums were not furnished with altars, nor were paintings, sculptures or other representational art included in their decoration. In addition, mainstream Protestant faiths, as well as the medical profession, early on disdained Christian Science teachings as "faith healing." Traditional architectural styles associated with church design, such as the Gothic and Romanesque, had been developed to meet the needs of religions with very different practices and seemed inappropriate for this new religion, which wanted to emphasize the rational aspects of its beliefs.

## **SOLON S. BEMAN AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ARCHITECTURE**

The early development of Christian Science church architecture was strongly influenced by Chicago architect Solon S. Beman and his many designs for Christian Science churches, including the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building. The spread of Christian Science from its New England base to the Midwest occurred soon after Mrs. Eddy's establishment of the Church of Christ, Scientist in 1879. In Chicago the First Church of Christ, Scientist was founded in 1886 at a meeting in the Sherman House, a downtown Chicago hotel.

Worshiping in rented quarters for several years, the congregation built a permanent home at 4017 S. Drexel Boulevard in 1897. Designed by Beman, the building combined practical auditorium seating and a flattering acoustic environment—both appropriate design decisions given the Christian Science focus on readings—all wrapped within a Classical Revival design based in the Erechtheum, a famous Classical-style Greek temple built atop the Acropolis overlooking Athens. The Classically-influenced design was so successful that Beman, a convert to Christian Science, was asked to design other Christian Science churches in Chicago and throughout the United States. He became, in fact, the de facto "house architect" for the denomination in the years before his death in 1914, and advised Mrs. Eddy on architectural matters, including the design of her own house in Brookline, Massachusetts, and the design of the Classical Revival-style Mother Church Extension in Boston in 1906. (The original Mother Church building, built in 1894, had been designed in a variation of the Romanesque Revival style.)



**Top left: Solon S. Beman, the architect of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building, was a nationally-important designer of Christian Science church buildings. Top right: The Classicism of his Merchant Tailors Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago influenced his later church buildings, including (bottom) the First Church of Christ, Scientist, at 4017 S. Drexel Blvd.**

Beman outlined his beliefs concerning Christian Science architecture in a 1907 article written in *The World Today*, a general-interest magazine published in Chicago. In this article, Beman discussed his preference for Classical Revival-style architecture and the distinctive practical concerns that needed to be addressed when designing a Christian Science church. Beman stated that churches for the new denomination had been designed both in the Classical and Gothic styles, but that the former was to be preferred to the latter:

*it follows logically that it [Christian Science] is likely to favor classic architecture for its churches. This style, with its sense of calm power and dignity, and with its true systems of proportions, its sincerity and refinement, and I may add its rationalism, seems to represent the faith of those who employ it in their houses of worship...The Grecian architecture of the Athenian Acropolis...is conceded by all authorities to have reached the highest architectural perfection. It is grounded on exquisite artistic subtleties of line and mass where, in the truest sense, where is nothing wanting in proportion.*

Beman's embrace of the Classical Revival style fit well with general architectural tastes in America during the early 1900s. The Classical Revival was an enormously popular and influential architectural style in the United States during the period. The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, which emphasized Classical architecture of the past, played an influential role in popularizing the style. One of the Fair's most notable Classical Revival-style buildings was Charles Atwood's Fine Arts Building, later reconstructed as the Museum of Science and Industry. Buildings constructed in this style utilize Classical forms and details derived from a variety of sources, including the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the buildings of later, Classically-influenced eras such as the Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo periods. This stately and rather austere style was typically used for public buildings, many of which featured classical porticos. For the fair, Beman himself designed the small-scaled Merchant Tailors Building, with its lovely saucer dome and Ionic-columned portico, as well as the much larger Mines and Mining Building, both designed in variations of the Classical Revival style.

Having stated his philosophical approach to Christian Science church architecture in the 1907 *The World Today* article, Beman then settled into a discussion of practical design considerations. He noted that Christian Science services place great emphasis on the spoken word, interaction between readers and the congregation, and physical comfort. First of all, the acoustical quality of the auditorium needed to be excellent. Not only must the readers speaking from the readers' platform be audible to the congregation, but the voices of members speaking from their seats during Wednesday night services needed to project to all parts of the room regardless of their oratorical skills. Excellent lighting, both natural and artificial, was also necessary since the congregation participated in responsive readings. In addition, it was believed that an uncomfortable person would not be able to concentrate on the meaning of the readings and would derive little benefit from them. Therefore, Beman recommended individual theater seats or pews arranged auditorium-style on a raking floor to improve sightlines.



**Beman chose the Classical Revival style for the Christian Science church buildings that he designed. Through his ongoing friendship with Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy, he encouraged the use of Classicism for the denomination's churches throughout the United States, including (top right) the Mother Church Extension (seen behind the original Romanesque Revival-style Mother Church; (top left) the First Church of Christ, Scientist in New York; and (bottom) the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Los Angeles.**

Beman also placed great emphasis on adequate circulation patterns as an enhancement to a congregation's comfort and enjoyment of their building. He preferred to place lobbies, cloakrooms, and circulation corridors on the first floor of a Christian Science church, while raising the auditorium to the second floor. He especially stressed the importance of a spacious lobby, which allowed for social interactions and distinguished a Christian Science church from most other church buildings. A central stairway from the main lobby, plus staircases placed in the four corners of the building, provided convenient, comfortable access to the auditorium. All of these features can be found in the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building.

The Classical Revival style, in all of its variations, is an important architectural style for Chicago's houses of worship. Beginning in the 1890s and extending into the 1930s and beyond, church and synagogue buildings in Chicago often were designed with Classical forms and/or details. Many, especially those built by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, were built in styles reflecting the Classicism of the Renaissance and Baroque periods of the 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, including buildings for St. Gelasius Church at 6401-09 S. Woodlawn Ave. (designated as Chicago Landmark); St. Mary of the Angels Church at 1844 N. Hermitage Ave.; St. Hycinth Church at 3635 W. George St.; St. Adalbert Church at 1656 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St.; and Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church at 5001 S. Hermitage Ave. Even Jewish synagogues and temples, commonly built in Middle Eastern-influenced styles, often were designed using Classical forms and ornament; important examples include Sinai Temple (now Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church) at 4600 S. King Dr. and K.A.M. Synagogue (now Operation PUSH Headquarters) at 4945 S. Drexel Blvd.

Architectural historian Paul Ivey notes, in his book, *Prayers in Stone*, which details the historic influence of the Classical Revival style on Christian Science church architecture, the seminal influence of S. S. Beman on the denomination's buildings. Throughout the course of his career, Beman designed Christian Scientist churches throughout the country. Outside of Chicago, Beman designed the First Church of Christ, Scientist building in Pittsburgh (1903); the First Church of Christ, Scientist building in Milwaukee (1906); the First Church of Christ, Scientist building in Cincinnati (1909); the Second Church of Christ, Scientist building in Indianapolis (1909); and the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist building in New York (1913).

Beman designed six Christian Science church buildings in Chicago. In addition to the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, Building (now Canaan Baptist Church), these included First Church at 4017-23 S. Drexel Boulevard (1897); Second Church at 430-40 W. Wrightwood Ave. (1899); Fifth Church at 4840-50 South Dorchester Ave. (1904); Sixth Church at 11319 S. Prairie Ave. (1911); and Seventh Church at 5316-28 N. Kenmore Ave. (1907; demolished). The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building, although not fronted with gray limestone as are other Beman-designed Christian Science church buildings in Chicago, is an impressively-scaled Classical Revival-style building with a handsome portico and large-scale clerestory windows.

The design of these buildings, including the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building, reflected Beman's championship of the Classical Revival style for Christian Science church buildings, first utilized by him for Chicago's First Church of Christ, Scientist, built in 1897, and summarized in his 1907 *The World Today* article. By strongly advocating the use of Classical Revival architecture for Christian Science churches, combined with his friendship with Mrs. Eddy, Beman set an example that later Chicago architects working for the denomination also followed, as well as those throughout the United States. Significant examples of Classical Revival-style Christian Science church buildings in Chicago not designed by Beman include the Eighth Church of Christ, Scientist at 4359 S. Michigan (1911, designated a Chicago Landmark) and Eleventh Church of Christ, Scientist at 2836 W. Logan Blvd. (1916), both designed by Leon Stanhope.

Elsewhere in the United States, important examples of Christian Science church architecture in variations of the Classical Revival style include the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Los Angeles (1902, M. Paul Martin); First Church of Christ, Scientist in New York (1903, Carriere & Hastings); First Church of Christ, Scientist in Providence, Rhode Island (1906-13, Howard Hoppin and Frederick E. Field); and First Church of Christ, Scientist in Pasadena (1910, Franklin P. Burnham).

## **ARCHITECT SOLON S. BEMAN**

**Solon S. Beman (1854-1914)**, the architect of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building, was one of Chicago's most prominent architects in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Beman received his architectural training in the office of renowned New York architect Richard Upjohn, where he helped design the Connecticut State Capital. Beman came to Chicago in 1879 at the request of railroad magnate George Pullman to design Pullman, the nation's first planned company town.

Now located on Chicago's Far South Side, the town of Pullman was built between 1880 and 1894 as a suburban community and included a factory complex for Pullman's railroad car company as well as more than 1,300 houses, a town market building, and several public buildings such as a hotel, church, school, and theater. Beman designed Pullman's buildings to be both visually appealing and well-constructed of brick, with exceptional lighting and ventilation. Long blocks of rowhouses feature a variety of elevations and detailing that create an overall picturesque appearance. Several architectural styles are evident on the town's commercial and institutional buildings, such as the Queen Anne-style Hotel Florence, the Gothic Revival-style Greenstone Church building, and the Classical Revival-style Market Hall. At a time when most industrial buildings were nondescript, Pullman's Administration Building was capped with an impressive 40-foot-high clocktower and featured graceful Romanesque arches.

Beman went on to design many luxurious homes in Chicago during the 1880s and 1890s, only a few of which are extant. These include the Chateausque-style W.W. Kimball Mansion at 1801 Prairie Avenue (1887) and the Queen Anne-style Marshall Field, Jr. Mansion at 1919 S.



**S.S. Beman designed several important buildings in Chicago, including (top left) the Pullman Building on S. Michigan Ave. (demolished) and the Fine Arts Building, also on S. Michigan Ave. (designated a Chicago Landmark). Bottom: He is internationally known for his design of Pullman, the factory town built for railroad car magnate George Pullman (designated a Chicago Landmark District).**



**Beman designed many Christian Science church buildings, including six in Chicago, including (top) Second Church of Christ, Scientist at Wrightwood and Hampden in the Lincoln Park neighborhood; and (bottom) Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist on S. Dorchester Ave. in the Kenwood neighborhood.**

Prairie (1884), both located within the Prairie Avenue Chicago Landmark District. Beman's surviving residential work also includes the eccentric Thomlinson House at 5317 S. University Ave. (1904), which features a rock-faced stone façade and large gambrel roof, and the Queen Anne-style Turner House at 4935 S. Greenwood Avenue (1888; within the Kenwood Chicago Landmark District).

Although noted for his residential designs, the versatile Beman also received commissions for factories, commercial blocks, railroad stations, exposition buildings and churches, including a number of Christian Science church buildings. Originally designed by Beman in 1885 as a factory-showroom building for the Studebaker Carriage Company, the Fine Arts Building at 410 S. Michigan Avenue was remodeled and expanded by Beman in 1898 as an artist's studio building. (The Fine Arts Building is individually designated as a Chicago Landmark and is located in the Historic Michigan Boulevard Chicago Landmark District.)

Other prominent Chicago buildings by Beman included Grand Central Station at Harrison and Wells (1891; demolished); the nine-story Pullman office building at the southwest corner of Adams and Michigan (1881; demolished); the Pullman Building on the southwest corner of S. Michigan Ave. and E. Adams St. (1883, demolished for the Borg-Warner Building); and the Beaux Arts-style T.B. Blackstone Memorial Library at 4904 S. Lake Park Avenue (1902). Throughout his multi-faceted career, Beman also designed many buildings outside of Chicago, such as the Procter and Gamble factories in Cincinnati, Ohio; the Studebaker plant in South Bend, Indiana; the Pabst Building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and the Berger Building in Pittsburgh.

During his lifetime, Beman enjoyed the wide respect of his peers, and his work was championed by several architectural critics, including Thomas Tallmadge and Montgomery Schuyler. When in 1914 the *Western Architect* proposed a "hall of fame" to honor the great architects of the Midwest, Beman was included with John Wellborn Root, Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler on the publication's original list of deserving inductees. As Beman scholar Thomas Schlereth aptly observed, "Perhaps only in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America could an architectural career begin and end with such disparate clients as George Pullman and Mary Baker Eddy. Yet Beman served them both well."

## **CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION**

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sect. 2-120-690), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a recommendation of landmark designation to City Council for a building, structure, object, or district if the Commission determines it meets two or more of the stated "criteria for landmark designation," as well as possesses a significant degree of its historic design integrity.

The following should be considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining whether to recommend that the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building be designated a Chicago Landmark.

***Criterion 1: Critical Part of the City's Heritage***

*Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspects of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.*

- The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building (originally built as the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist) is a significant example of ecclesiastical architecture, and additionally important for its associations with the architectural development of churches of the Christian Science Church, a religious denomination founded in the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building exemplifies the important role that churches and other religious institutions played in the history and development of Chicago's neighborhoods in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

***Criterion 4: Important Architecture***

*Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship.*

- The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building is a handsome, well-preserved example of a church building designed in the Classical Revival style, which greatly influenced American architecture during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Inspired by the buildings of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as those of Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo Europe, Classical Revival-style architecture achieved great popularity after the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, which was conceived as a visually stunning ensemble of Classical Revival-style buildings and other structures.
- The building exhibits high-quality detailing and craftsmanship in materials, including brick, stone, and wood. These features include the building's visually prominent portico with Doric columns and large-scale, round-arched clerestory windows detailed with Roman grillework.

***Criterion 5: Important Architect***

*Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, or the United States.*

- Solon S. Beman, the designer of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building, was one of Chicago's most important architects in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-centuries, designing the internationally-renowned planned industrial town of Pullman, the W.W. Kimball House on S. Prairie Ave., and the Fine Arts Building, all Chicago Landmarks.



The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building has handsome Classical-style detailing, including (left) cast-iron light standards flanking the building's Harvard Ave. entrance; (top right) Roman grillework covering windows; and Doric columns decorating the building's entrances facing (bottom left) Harvard Ave. and (bottom right) Marquette Rd.



- Beman was a prolific and nationally-important architect of Christian Science churches in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, serving as the de facto “house architect” for the denomination prior to his death in 1914—setting the standard for overall design and layout followed by later architects working for the denomination.
- Beman designed Christian Scientist churches throughout the country, including six in Chicago. In addition to Fourth Church, his other Christian Science church buildings in Chicago include the First Church at 4017-23 S. Drexel Boulevard (1897); Second Church at 430-40 W. Wrightwood Ave. (1899); Fifth Church at 4840-50 South Dorchester Ave. (1904); Sixth Church at 11319 S. Prairie Ave. (1911); and Seventh Church at 5316-28 N. Kenmore Ave. (1907; demolished). Elsewhere in the United States, Beman designed Christian Science church buildings in New York, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Milwaukee, as well as advising on the design for the denomination’s Mother Church Extension in Boston.

### ***Criterion 7: Unique Visual Feature***

*Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Chicago.*

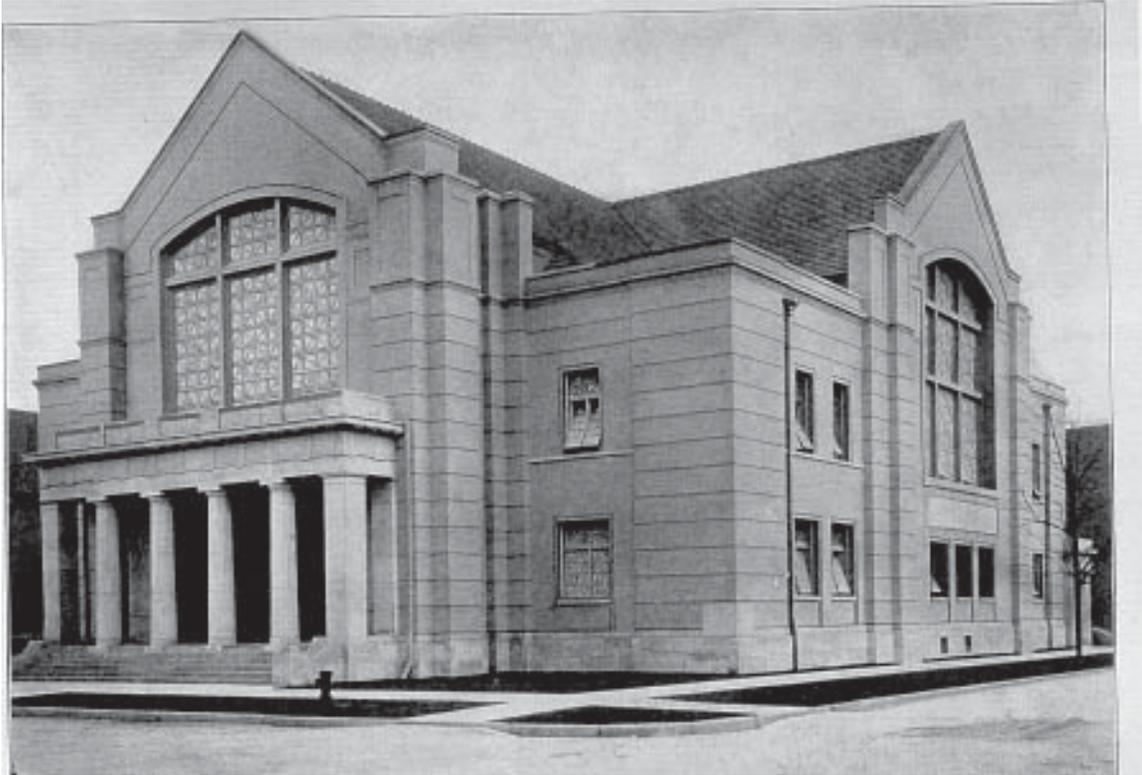
- The Canaan Baptist Church of God in Christ Building, with its handsome Classical Revival-style design and visually impressive entrance portico, is a visual “landmark” for the Englewood neighborhood.

### ***Integrity Criteria***

*The integrity of the proposed landmark must be preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and ability to express its historic community, architecture or aesthetic value.*

The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building displays excellent physical integrity and today stands virtually unchanged from its original 1905 appearance. It retains its historic site and relationship to the surrounding Englewood community area, as well as its historic overall exterior design, building materials, and detailing. The interior also retains historic integrity, including the building’s main foyer and sanctuary.

In 1928, a two-story flat-roofed addition designed by architect Howard L. Cheney was built onto the rear of the church at a cost of \$22,000. Clad with buff colored brick, it was designed in a sympathetic manner and does not detract from the appearance of the main church building. Other exterior changes include the replacement of the church’s original roof covering with asphalt shingles and the installation of two large air-conditioning units atop the building’s front portico.



**The Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building has excellent physical integrity. Top: A photograph of the building at the time of construction in 1905. Bottom: The building today.**

## SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Whenever a building, structure, object, or district is under consideration for landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is required to identify the “significant historical and architectural features” of the property. This is done to enable the owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

Based upon its evaluation of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Building, the Commission recommends that the significant features be identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the original 1904-05 building; and
- the second-floor sanctuary interior.

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Jean Guarino for the Department of Planning and Development, Landmarks Division: cover, pp. 3, 6 (bottom), 7, 9, 21, and 23 (bottom).

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From Zukowsky (ed.), *Chicago Architecture, 1872-1922*: p. 17 (top left).

Barbara Crane for the Commission on Chicago Landmarks: p. 17 (top right).

From *Inland Architect and News Record*, January 1906: p. 23 (top).

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