

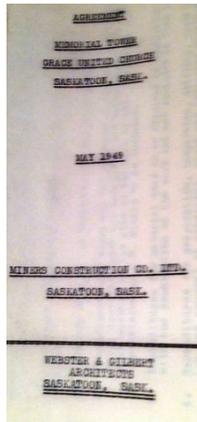
The Memorial Tower is the subject of this month's Minute for Grace.



When our current Church building was erected, the tower that had been planned for the south west corner was not built due to financial constraints.

Rev. B. D. McDonald had a dream of seeing the tower added. It was suggested that this tower could be a very fitting memorial to those who had given their lives in the two World Wars. A committee was struck to investigate the design, cost, and feasibility of such an addition.

A special congregational meeting, on Sunday, May 12, 1949 gave authority to the building committee to call tenders and undertake the construction of the Tower.”



Webster and Gilbert were the architects and Miners Construction Company, the contractors. The final cost was \$15,000., considerably above the projected \$10,000. Obviously cost over-runs are not new! The tower blue prints and construction contract can still be found in our archives.

The Memorial Tower nearly doubled the height of the entrance structure on the south-west corner of the building. The tower is constructed of red brick. There are louvered panels near the top of the tower and art

stone accents throughout. A large block high above the main entrance reading “In Memoriam” completes the design.



Memorial windows were installed in the vestibule of the tower and in the “Memory Chamber” which was constructed in the undeveloped space just off the west side of the balcony. The chamber walls are finished in decorative oak panelling. An oak Altar presented by Mr. and Mrs. Aden Bowman “in gratitude to all who served” holds the names of those who had fallen in the World Wars.



Grace’s Young Married Couples’ Club presented the Book of Remembrance. It was planned that the names of the fallen would be read from this room using the tower music system at Remembrance Day Services.

A Tower music system was part of the Tower plan. It was a system whereby the best carillons on the continent would be reproduced phonetically perfect. Glad triumphant hymns of the Church could be played

and heard within a one mile area.

The Tower, with its Memory Chamber and music system, was intended to be a suitable and worthy memorial to those of our congregation who had laid down their lives.

Only three months after the congregation had given its approval to proceed with the project, the Dedication Service was held. On Sunday, August 21, 1949 at 3 in the afternoon a more than capacity congregation assembled for the special service conducted by Rev. B.D McDonald, the current minister. Representatives of the RCAF, Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy, St. Andrews College, Saskatchewan Conference, and Grace Congregation participated in the service. Names of the members of Grace Congregation who had lost their lives in the two wars were read from the Memory Chamber.



Sixty-five years later, the Memory Chamber is known as the Bill and Mary Chapman Archives Room, people who knew those who gave their lives are gone, and the Tower Sound System is largely silent. However, we honour their sacrifice every Remembrance Day. Our Tower still proudly stands as an area landmark. Those who gaze upon on its lettering - stop, and - think.