

Church of Our Lord

Thomas Appleton organ (ca. 1845)

Demonstrated by Paul Tegels



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Title: Reformed Episcopal Church, Victoria; later Church ...

Construction of the Building

"The structure, situate on Humboldt street, under construction by Messrs. Haywood & Jenkinson, is now rapidly approaching completion, and is expected to be ready for consecration on or about the 20th inst. ... The interior is spacious, and of the following dimensions: length 104 feet, width - in the body of the church - 42 feet; in the transept, 56 feet; height of walls 20 feet, to ceiling 38 feet and from floor to peak of bell turret 78 feet. ... The ground on which the church stands, is, as is well known, the generous gift of Sir James Douglas K.C.B., a prominent member of the congregation. ... The building is of the style known in architecture as 'Early English' and is decidedly another adornment to the city."

-- *Daily Colonist*, 1875-12-08

Installation of the Organ

"The organ, which will stand on the south side of the transept, is a very superior instrument, and was originally constructed at a cost of \$5,000, and its wonderful composition comprises no less than 4,004 pipes. It is said to be without doubt the richest and most powerful organ north of San Francisco, and, *en passant*, it may be remarked that

a skill[ed] artisan is on board the steamer Los Angeles, bound here to superintend the placing of the instrument in position."

-- *Daily Colonist, 1875-12-08*

Note that the pipe count is more like 944.

Inauguration of the Organ

"The organ of the Reformed Episcopal Church was played at the practice last evening. Mrs. Leech presided, and the instrument proved in every respect satisfactory. By long odds it is the finest organ in the Province."

-- *Daily Colonist, 1875-12-31*

"The programme, which was rather too long, comprised several beautiful pieces of sacred music from the most celebrated composers... The acoustic properties of the building were pronounced excellent and the rich tone of the powerful organ were the theme of general admiration... It is estimated that at least 550 persons were present."

-- *Daily Colonist, 1876-01-12*

"OPENING of the REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH: Of the musical portion of the services we may say that Mrs. Leech presided at the Organ, and that the voluntary at the commencement attracted universal attention as its harmonious strains reverberated through the building. A full choir of thirty two voices under the able guidance of Mr. Chambers rendered the Canticles (from the Bridgewater Services) and the glorious anthem "There were Shepherds Abiding in the Field" in a manner beyond all praise."

-- *Daily Colonist, 1876-01-16*

Organ Maintenance

"We are informed that the bellows manufactured by Mr. Seeley, organ builder, for the Reformed Episcopal Church of this city, and worked by an engine supplied by Mr. Harris, was tried last night by Mr. Durny, the organist, who gave it as his opinion that the organ has never produced such music before."

-- *Victoria Daily Standard, 1879-04-19*

Candle drippings, presumably from early tuning visits, are to be found in the Swell box.

The organ now stands in the north transept, moved from the south transept to allow construction of a passage to Cridge Hall which was erected in 1930.

At some point, someone fashioned tuning slides for the treble of the Great Diapson rank out of biscuit tin stock, specifically from a spent container of Ideal Cream Soda Biscuits from Ormonds, Limited. For the sake of pipe integrity and tuning stability, these were replaced with aluminum sleeves during general repair of the Great pipework in 1997 by Grant Smalley Pipe Organs.

Stoplist

Thomas Appleton, Boston MA USA (~1845)

S.S. Hamill, East Cambridge MA USA (1867)

John Bergstrom, San Francisco CA USA (1875)

W.C.S. Seeley, Victoria BC (1879)

Subsequent local builders...

Great 54 notes

8 Op. Diapason
8 St. Dia. Treble
8 St. Dia. Bass
8 Dulciana (from tenor f)
4 Principal
4 Flute (from tenor f)
2-2/3 Twelfth
2 Octave 2'
II Mixture
8 Trumpet (replacement rank supplied by G. Smalley)

Swell 54 notes

8 Op. Diapason
8 St. Dia. Bass
8 St. Dia. Treble (from tenor f)
8 Viol di Gamba
8 Celeste (bass)
8 Celeste (from tenor f)
4 Principal
III Mixture
8 Bassoon (bass)
8 Hautboy (from tenor f)

Pedal 30 notes

16 Pedal Diapason

Couplers

Pedal to Swell

Ped & Keys

Gr & Sw

Accessories

Tremulant

Church of St. Barnabas, Victoria BC

John Brombaugh & Associates, Opus 31-f (1990)

Demonstrated by Dana Robinson

Case: fumed white oak & red cedar

Pipe shades: oak carved as acanthus leaves, vinca & plum blossoms

Keyboard: harpsichord-style keys, bone naturals, ebony sharps

Pedalboard: flat, maple with rosewood sharps

Compass: Keys, 50 notes: C - d''' (no C#); Pedals, 26 notes: C - d' (no C#)

Action: suspended -- yellow cedar trackers, steel rollers

Wind: 60 mm, wedge bellows fed by 0.2 hp electric blower

Temperament: Kellner (1/5 comma)

This organ is the sixth of a run of six:

Opus	Year	Venue	City
31a	1987	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	Salem OR
31b	1987	New Hope Presbyterian Church	Chapel Hill NC
31c	1987	Elmhurst College	Elmhurst IL
31d	1988	Agnes Scott College	Decatur GA
31e	1988	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Tempe AZ
31f	1990	St. Barnabas Anglican Church	Victoria BC Canada

Stoplist

John Brombaugh & Associates, Opus 31-f (1990)

Quint/Mixture III ()
Octave 2 (double-draw: treble/full)
Praestant 4 ()
Flute 4
Gedackt 8

Subbass 16 (extension of Gedackt)

Pedal coupler

Tremulant

6 stops, 7 ranks, 362 pipes

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Esquimalt BC

Peter Conacher organ (1891)

St. Paul's was built on the shore below Signal Hill next to HMC Dockyard and was consecrated on December 12, 1866. The building took heavy gale damage in 1876, to the tune of \$5000. The Admiralty chipped in £50. The restoration included a new suit of stained glass windows from London. The building was re-opened on December 13, 1879.

The parish boundaries took in pretty much everything west of Victoria: Gorge Rd., Craigflower Rd., Highlands, Goldstream, Colwood, Metchosin, Rocky Pt., East & West Sooke.

In 1904, the site was sold to the federal government. The building was moved up the road and its nave was extended westward.

In 1891, Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria, had acquired a new three-manual organ from Peter Conacher & Co. of Huddersfield, England for their pre-fab "Iron Church" of 1860. In 1913, they replaced that building and sold the organ to St. Paul's for \$1000. Installation and an electric motor were a further \$756.10. St. Paul's sold their one-manual, seven-stop A. Hunter organ.

The instrument retains its manual feeder bellows, which is handy for supplementing the slightly underpowered electric blower when the Double Open is drawn.

Stoplist

Peter Conacher & Co., Huddersfield, England (1891)

Great Organ

- 16 Double Open Diapason (12 stopped)
- 8 Large Open Diapason
- 8 Small Open Diapason
- 8 Stopped Diapason
- 4 Harmonic Flute
- 4 Octave
- 2-2/3 Octave Quint
- 2 Super Octave
- Scharff II (originally Trumpet 8)

Swell Organ

- 8 Hohl Flöte
- 8 Vox Angelica (7 stopped wood)
- 8 Voix Celeste (TC)
- 4 Octave
- 2 Harmonic Piccolo
- Sesquialtera II (originally Violin Diapason 8)
- 8 Cornopean
- 8 Oboe

Choir Organ

8 Lieblich Gedact
4 Clear Flute
2-2/3 Nasat (originally Dulciana 8)
2 Principal (originally Flageolet 2)
8 Clarionet

Pedal Organ

16 Open Diapason (wood)
16 Bourdon

Couplers

Swell to Pedals
Great to Pedals
Choir to Pedals
Swell to Great
Swell to Choir

Accessories

6 - composition pedals
Tremulant