



American Martyrs —Gothic Revival Architecture

In 1954 plans for the American Martyrs Parish evolved. A group was formed from the parish to work with architect George K Adams and general contractor, Ben L Tanner & Sons, to build a church on land which had been purchased 10years earlier.

Perched high on a hill with no streets or sidewalks as yet built, the equipment and heavy materials were brought over the sand to the church site on mats. Brick walls rose slowly within the scaffolding.

The structure featured characteristics of Gothic Revival Architecture. A clean efficient mid-Twentieth Century structured walls constructed of brick, a high-pitched roof covering the sanctuary, and large heavy timbers spanned the main chapel. Pointed lead glass side windows, lancet arched entrance as bell towers are also features of the style.

The structure has a relatively simple exterior except for the Bell Tower. This strong Tower was designed to be visible from many points in the city, with its beautiful artistic elements. "A bell tower that thrusts far above the seascape" was certainly achieved.

The Parish attended the first Mass on Easter Sunday 1957. The main sanctuary provides seating for 1,000 people.

Located on Church and 15th Street the fine detail and majestic architecture can be seen throughout the structure.