

*Report on*  
**Trinity Church and Hall**

*Mansel Road, Wimbledon*

*by*  
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## *Nature of Request*

There are plans to demolish and rebuild the unlisted hall attached to the rear of Trinity Church, Mansel Road, Wimbledon (formerly Presbyterian, United Reformed since 1972). The architect needs to be identified, as does the date of church and hall, and any original drawings or plans showing whether the two buildings were designed separately or as one. How rare is a near-complete Presbyterian church of this date? How do church and hall compare with other works by the same architect? What is the context of the buildings?

Origin of Request:	<i>Patience Trevor (listing)</i>
Date of Request:	<i>9 February 2000</i>
Date of Report:	<i>15 March 2000</i>
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## *Historical Background*

The nineteenth century was a period of enormous change for Protestant groups such as Unitarians, Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists (formerly Independents). Parliamentary enactments of the 1820s made it possible for Nonconformists to vote and hold office, and they achieved a level of status which had hitherto been denied them. The same applied to Roman Catholics - formally included in the title Nonconformists - who were freed from government restrictions around the same time.<sup>1</sup> This is not to say that any of these groups were exempt from criticism by Victorian society. Nonconformists continued to be seen as 'other' or 'inferior' by many people, especially among the upper classes. This did not, however, prevent growth. As population numbers increased, and the working and middle classes became dissatisfied with Anglicanism, Nonconformism became a far more common and acceptable standpoint.

Until the changes of the 1820s, Nonconformists had made every effort to differentiate their places of worship from Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. Architecture was simple and plain, with no external ornamentation, needs differing very little between denominations. Requirements were that the minister be clearly seen and heard (preaching was central to both Nonconformist and Anglican worship), that seating was comfortable (services could often last for some time) and that the building was as economical as possible (Nonconformists — unlike the Church of England — did not benefit from State aid). Orientation was not an issue for Nonconformist groups, and chapels were often fitted neatly into prominent sites on crowded street frontages.<sup>2</sup>

Whilst these needs did not change throughout the nineteenth century, and remain basically the same today, attitudes to style did. At first, Nonconformists were suspicious of the Gothic Revival architecture advocated by Pugin, associating it with Catholicism. Many chapels were built in the Classical style during this time, but they were not seen as completely successful. By 1840 James Martineau (1805-1900), the great Unitarian Minister of the Midlands, had shown increasing support for the Gothic style, which he felt demonstrated the newfound confidence of Nonconformists. The first major Gothic Revival Nonconformist chapels were, in consequence, both Unitarian and in the Midlands. They include Dukinfield Chapel, Lancs (1840 by Richard Tattersall of Manchester) (fig. 1), Gee Cross Chapel, Hyde, Cheshire and Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds (both 1848 and by Bowman & Crowther), and Hope Street Chapel, Liverpool (fig. 2), built for Martineau in 1849 (demolished 1963).<sup>3</sup> These proved an immediate success — despite the fact that the cruciform plan was far from ideal for Nonconformist worship — and the Gothic Revival style was used almost without exception until the early twentieth century.

During the nineteenth century, far more Nonconformist chapels were erected than Anglican churches. In Kent, for example, the established church produced only half as many buildings during the Victorian period as the Baptists, Methodists and Congregationalists.<sup>4</sup> This was due to newfound wealth and popularity, but also because of the increased number of Nonconformist sects and branches, many choosing to break away from their parent body and set up separate chapels. Population levels were also rising. In the parish of Islington alone, the population rose from 15,000 in 1811 to

1 J. Stevens Curl 1995, p.18

2 For further details of architectural needs, see: Stevens Curl 1995, pp.18-19

3 For further details and other examples, see: Hague 1986

4 R. Homan 1984, p.9



320,000 in 1891, growing fastest between the 1840s and 1870s.<sup>5</sup>

Unlike Anglican churches, Nonconformist chapels had to be erected without the help of the State. The usual procedure was for a committee to be formed to oversee any building work, made up of ministers and members of the congregation. Money was raised through collections, donations, seat rents and borrowing.<sup>6</sup> During the mid nineteenth century, some national bodies were set up to establish guidelines and regulations. It gradually became standard for professional architects to design these chapels, and many were favoured and recommended by the regulating bodies. Often, architects would specialise in work for one or two particular denominations. For example, John Wills of Derby has been termed ‘the G.G Scott of 19th-century Baptist chapel building’<sup>7</sup> and the Unitarians had Thomas Worthington and Bowman & Crowther. Other popular names were Poulton and Woodman of Reading, James Cubitt and, as we shall see, John Sulman.<sup>8</sup>

### *Nonconformity in Wimbledon*

The position in nineteenth century Wimbledon was typical of the rest of the country. In 1837, there was only one principal place of worship, the parish church, St Mary’s. Nonconformism was represented by two tiny chapels, one ‘Dissenting’ and one Roman Catholic.<sup>9</sup> The Anglicans tried hard to maintain this predominance, building ten new churches between 1859 and 1911. However, their efforts were not strong enough, and between 1883 and 1914 the Nonconformists opened thirteen churches and chapels, reflecting national trends.<sup>10</sup> Most were in South Wimbledon, but were for varied denominations — Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists were all represented. Among these Wimbledon chapels were the Methodist Church, Worples Road (opened 1887, demolished 1971), the immensely popular Queen’s Road Baptist Church (built 1888, now part of a shopping centre) and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Mansel Road (1885-91).

### *Origins of Trinity Church*

The idea of starting a Presbyterian church in Wimbledon was initiated by a local man, Mr Patrick Kidd. Mr Kidd sent out a letter to local Scots proposing his idea and followed up with a meeting above his shop in October 1883. All present agreed that the time was right for a ‘Scotch church’ in the town. Soon after, a sub-committee of the Presbytery of London visited Wimbledon, and sanctioned the formation of a Preaching Station which was named ‘Trinity Presbyterian Church’. The first services were held at the old Drill Hall in St George’s Road in January 1884 and a Sunday School was opened there in May of the same year.<sup>11</sup> Attendance was satisfactory, although the hall was seen as far from

5 Temple 1992, p.4

6 See Annual Report 1885 for how this applied to Trinity Church. The Report lists amounts raised by collections, seat rents, sales, donations and grants. It also lists subscriptions to the building fund.

7 Homan 1984, caption to illus 65.

8 Cubitt wrote two important works on the subject: *Church Design for Congregations: Its Development and Possibilities* (1870) and *A Popular Handbook of Nonconformist Church Building* (1892).

9 Milward 1998, p.119

10 Ibid.

11 All information from: Young 1984, p.3

ideal.<sup>12</sup>

In July 1885 the Church was given permission to obtain a site for the erection of its own buildings and, after consultation with the Church Extension Committee, a plot of ground was acquired in Mansel Road, 'about 150 yards from the main road which leads from the station to the common. It has a frontage of 70 feet, and a depth of 239 feet, and is about five minutes' walk from the station'.<sup>13</sup> (fig. 3) The lease was handed over on 7th December 1885, after some delay, and the deadline for completion of the new hall was moved from December 1885 to April 1886.

### *Design and Construction*

By this time, plans of both hall and church had — on the advice of the Church Extension Committee — been obtained from Messrs Potts, Sulman and Hennings, Architects, of 1 Furnival's Inn, Holborn, 'who have built churches for the Presbyterian Church of England at Stoke Newington and Reading, and whose plans for the Presbyterian church now being built at Highgate, were adjudged the best in public competition'.<sup>14</sup> The plans of the hall were approved by the Church Extension Committee in December 1885, and a tender was accepted from a Mr Nightingale of Lambeth who had been the builder of the Mission Hall of the Clapham Road Presbyterian church.<sup>15</sup> The designs for church, hall, vestry and offices, drawn by Arthur William Hennings of Potts, Sulman and Hennings, appeared in *The Builder* on 24 July 1886<sup>16</sup> and were exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1886. (fig. 4) The fact that this was the only work the firm ever exhibited at the RA indicates its importance.

Work was begun on 28th December 1885 on the hall (now Old Hall) and finished in May 1886, at a cost of between £1500 and £2000. The hall was able to seat '250 persons comfortably, and when necessary, accommodation can be provided for 50 more'.<sup>17</sup> It was designed to have a main space separated from an aisle by an arcade. At the far, western end there was to be a committee room, lavatory and staircase up to the session room.<sup>18</sup> (fig. 5) Vestry and offices were completed soon after, at a cost of £500.<sup>19</sup> Divine services were immediately transferred to the hall, being held on Sundays and Wednesdays, as was the Sunday School, a Boys' and Girls' Bible Class and a Young

12 In the Annual Report 1885, pp.5-6, the Session states: 'The attendance at the Sunday Services, although fluctuating, has on the whole been satisfactory. It is, however, a subject of surprise that, considering the high character of the pulpit supply, the attendance has not been larger. No doubt this is to be in some measure attributed to our meeting in a Hall, where the surroundings are not always of a congenial nature; this, we trust, will soon be remedied, as our new Hall is to be ready for us in April.'

13 Annual Report 1885, p.9

14 Ibid. St Andrew's Church, Reading (demolished) and Milton Church, Stoke Newington (now a Pentecostal church) were actually Congregational, and were both by John Sulman. They were exhibited under his name at the RA in 1880. Potts, Sulman and Hennings won a 1885 competition with their design for Highgate Presbyterian Church (Harper 1983, p.280).

15 Annual Report 1885, pp.9-10

16 *The Builder*, 24 July 1886. The sketch is also reproduced in the Annual Report 1885 and the 1886 leaflet.

17 Annual Report 1885, p.10, 1886 leaflet, Young 1984, p.3

18 This information comes from the plan. I am not sure whether the hall was actually erected like this, having seen no plans as built.

19 1886 leaflet

Men's Society.<sup>20</sup> It is doubtful that more major school rooms were ever discussed, as they often were in similar buildings<sup>21</sup>, given the proximity of the Girl's High School, founded in 1880 and completed in 1886 on the adjoining plot.

The foundation stone of Trinity Church was laid on 21st June 1890 by Samuel Smith MP, and it was dedicated on Friday 30th April 1891.<sup>22</sup> The building — with its gallery — was designed to seat 550 people, 'and by providing hung seats 50 persons more can be accommodated'.<sup>23</sup> In plan, the church was designed to have a nave 27 feet wide, with side aisles separated by stone arcades, and a gallery over the front porch reached by a staircase in the tower.<sup>24</sup> Tower and spire were classed as 'luxuries' and cost £1000.<sup>25</sup> In 1892 an organ was installed in the church (it remained until 1964), the organist and organ blower being positioned in an area behind the pulpit, close to the passage leading to the hall. The total cost of the Mansel Road buildings, including church, hall, vestries and organ, was £8170.<sup>26</sup>

### *Subsequent History*

There have been few recorded additions or alterations to the Trinity Church buildings. In June 1944, during the Blitz, the windows on the High School side were blown in and the roof damaged.<sup>27</sup> In January 1957, five stained glass windows were installed in the church in memory of Reverend McRitchie, Minister from 1930-51.<sup>28</sup> The church, when built, featured no stained glass.<sup>29</sup> In 1980, the old — and presumably unoriginal — kitchen was demolished, having been 'inadequate and in any case structurally unsound'. Another kitchen, twice the size, was erected. At the same time, the ladies' cloakroom was extended and modernised, and the porch of the hall improved. In 1983, new gas-fired boilers were installed, the pipe-work in the church was replaced, and the gentlemen's cloakroom was modernised.<sup>30</sup>

Trinity Church became part of the United Reformed Church in 1972 and merged with the URC congregation of nearby St Mark's in 1978.<sup>31</sup>

20 Young 1984, p.4. During the first World War the building was used as a 'Soldiers' Hall' (see: Young 1984, p.8).

21 Potts, Sulman and Hennings's Croydon church had a 'large school-room beneath the church' (*The Builder*, Oct 22 1887, p.562). The Queen's Road Baptist Chapel in Wimbledon had eight classrooms and a small lecture room (Stockwell 1916, p.224). The ancillary buildings of John Sulman's Highbury Quadrant Congregational Church included a school hall and classrooms (Temple 1992, p.89).

22 Young 1984, p.4

23 Annual Report 1885, p.11

24 *The Builder*, 24 July 1886

25 Annual Report 1885, p.10

26 Young 1984, p.5

27 Young 1984, p.10

28 Wimbledon Boro' News, Jan 18 1957, p.1

29 Young 1984, p.5

30 Ibid. All information from p.21.

31 Wimbledon News, Aug 11 1978, p.1

## *The Building Described*

Trinity Church occupies a prominent site in Mansel Road, next door to the busy Girl's High School and close to Wimbledon Station. (Fig. 7) The building is orientated south-east by north-west and forms an irregular plan, with vestry, hall and modern kitchen to the rear. The style is Gothic Revival of the Decorated period. The principal, south-east front consists of a gabled section with oculus, two three-light pointed-headed windows and a main portal. There is a large tower with spire to the east. (Fig. 8) Each side of the church has lean-to aisles, and gabled transept ends. The hall, entered via a passageway between church and school, is joined to the main building and echoes its design, with a gabled end facing the High School. There is a flèche over the crossing of the church, and a matching flèche-cum-bell-turret over the eastern end of the hall. (see fig. 4) The vestry is entered via a passageway to the left of the church. All of the original buildings are of red brick, Broseley tiles and Bath stone.<sup>32</sup> Display and ornamentation are very much centred on the north-east and south-east fronts, the two façades visible from school, Mansel Road, and Wimbledon Hill Road.

Originally, the interior walls of the church were of natural cream-coloured bricks with red brick dressings, and the choir stalls were closer to the pulpit.<sup>33</sup> (Fig. 6) The interior as it is today has not been viewed, so cannot be compared with this description.

32 *The Builder*, 24 July 1886

33 Young 1984, p.5

## *Context and Interpretation*

### *The Present State*

In a general sense, buildings such as Trinity Church can hardly be termed rare, given the number of Gothic, Nonconformist chapels erected during the latter years of Queen Victoria's reign. However, there is a high attrition rate among such buildings and they remain a much understudied area. The Buildings of England series has only recently begun to include entries for Nonconformist places of worship and Trinity Church, despite its position, is overlooked in the 1983 *London: South*.<sup>34</sup> This can be understood in that the majority of chapels are of repetitive design and are not especially interesting. However, there are many exceptions which have been equally ignored. The rate of demolition or closure of Nonconformist buildings is high. For example, of the five later nineteenth century Presbyterian chapels mentioned in Temple's *Islington Chapels*, two were - at the time of his writing - redundant, and three had been demolished.<sup>35</sup> In Kent, of the 1200 religious buildings listed in the gazetteer of Roger Homan's *Victorian Churches of Kent*, just over 700 survive.<sup>36</sup> This figure includes Anglican, Roman Catholic and Nonconformist buildings, but does something to exemplify the blow dealt by the twentieth century to the churches of the Victorians. Of the Nonconformist churches local to Trinity Church, Mansel Road, the very similarly designed Worple Road Methodist Church (later Wesleyan, built 1886) was demolished in 1971, and the Queen's Road Baptist Church was replaced by a modern building in 1987, and now forms part of a shopping centre.

### *The Architects*

Of the buildings produced by the architects Potts, Sulman and Hennings, Trinity Church is one of the foremost survivors. Other works produced by the firm were the Congregational Church, George Street, Croydon (opened 1878, demolished 1960s, mainly designed by Sulman) (fig. 9), St Chad's Church, Everton, Liverpool (c.1885, demolished)<sup>37</sup> (Fig. 10), Highgate Presbyterian Church, Hornsey Lane (1885-7, converted to flats in the 1980s) (figs. 11, 12 and 13), Wimbledon Library, Wimbledon Hill Road (1885-7, 'one of the more distinguished Victorian buildings in Wimbledon'<sup>38</sup>, currently being considered for listing), West Wickham Congregational Church, Kent (1887, closed 1929 but still extant), Hawkenbury Congregational Church, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (1889, now URC) (fig. 14), the Grove Estate, Snaresbrook (1889), and the United Methodist Free Church, Manor Park, Essex (1890) (Fig. 15). The architects submitted a design for a Congregational church at West Kensington in a limited competition of 1890, but were not successful, losing to Cubitt & Brydon.<sup>39</sup> (Fig. 16) Although Potts, Sulman and Hennings are not well-known names today, the firm clearly had some success in the

34 Thankfully, a great many chapels which still exist have been covered by the invaluable work of the RCHME (see books in bibliography by Stells and Temple).

35 The chapels are: Caledonian Road Chapel (1855, made redundant 1978); Crouch Hill Presbyterian Church (1877, closed 1961); Highbury Station Road Welsh Presbyterian Church (opened 1874, demolished c.1904); Park Presbyterian Church (1861-3, demolished after 1942); Trinity Presbyterian Church (1856-7, closed 1934/5 and then demolished).

36 Homan 1984, p.28

37 According to Liverpool Record Office, this building was Church of England. If this is true, St Chad's is the only example I have found of an Anglican church by any of the three architects, at least during this period.

38 Milward 1998, p.102. Potts, Sulman and Hennings won a competition with their design for this Library (see: Harper 1983, p.280).

39 *The Builder*, Jan 31 1891, p.89

1880s — especially with Nonconformist churches — and won both major competitions they entered.<sup>40</sup>

The three men joined together probably in the late 1870s or early 1880s. Manchester-based Edward Potts (1839-1909), the senior partner of the firm, was a very experienced architect and was, without doubt, well acquainted with the great Gothic chapels of the Midlands, and the buildings of his contemporary, Alfred Waterhouse. His work, mainly carried out within the firms Woodhouse and Potts of Oldham and Potts, Pickup & Dixon of Oldham and Manchester, included over 100 spinning mills world-wide, the Wesleyan School, Oldham (1866), Oldham Town Hall (1879-80, Grade II), Cavendish Mill, Ashton-under-Lyne (1884-5, Grade II\*), the Congregational church, Tottington, Lancs (1886) and various schools and chapels.<sup>41</sup>

However, it is John Sulman (1849-1934, knighted 1924) who is of major interest in the context of Trinity Church. Sulman made his name in Nonconformist — particularly Congregational and Presbyterian — church building, and was himself a Congregationalist.<sup>42</sup> Sulman won the Pugin Travelling Scholarship in 1872, publishing an account of his travels as a *Description of the Churches and other buildings visited as a Pugin travelling student for 1872*, and was based in London from 1870 to 1885. In the latter year he left for Sydney, Australia, and went on to develop a very successful practice.<sup>43</sup> In London, Sulman was a well-known figure. His obituary in the *Sydney Morning Herald* said he was ‘much among the foremost artists in London and was well acquainted with William Morris, and the leaders of the art revival in England in the seventies’<sup>44</sup>

Sulman is said to have designed around ninety churches in the United Kingdom before his departure, most being around the Home Counties (Sulman lived in north Kent).<sup>45</sup> They include Congregational churches at Sutton Valence, Kent (1872, converted to an arts centre in 1981), Milton-next-Gravesend, Kent (1873-4, now a Sikh temple) (fig. 17), Wycliffe, Gravesend, Kent (1874, demolished in 1982), Beckenham, Bromley (1876-8, mainly the Congregational School, exhibited at RA), West Bromwich, Kent (1878), Caterham, Surrey (1878, now URC), New Barnet, Herts (1879-80, demolished 1967), Stoke Newington, Hackney (1880, now Pentecostal), Newport Pagnell, Bucks (1880-1), Bromley, Kent (1880-2, destroyed 1941), Highbury Quadrant, Islington (1881-2, church demolished 1954, ancillary buildings survive) (fig. 18), Westgate-on-Sea, Kent (1883) (fig. 19) and Petersfield, Hants (1883, now URC). Despite this work, Sulman is not mentioned in any of the Buildings of England’s Home Counties volumes, or the volume for Kent, a fact which says more about architectural historians’ disdain of Nonconformist chapels than it does of the quality of Sulman’s work. The only building Sulman worked on which is now listed is Watts Hall (formerly the Old Meeting Congregational Church), Uxbridge, which he altered from 1883. Nevertheless, many of Sulman’s buildings were highly ambitious. Temple describes Highbury Quadrant church as ‘a spectacular example

40 Harper 1983, p.280

41 Information from: RIBA Biog File, RIBA Nomination Papers fiche ref.103/C3, Stells 1994

42 The Presbyterian and Congregational groups were very similar, and joined in 1972 to form the United Reformed Church. Clive Binfield of Sheffield University says Sulman was brought up a Congregationalist, and became a Presbyterian in Australia.

43 Sulman’s chief work was in town-planning and his various positions included being Chairman of the Federal Capital Advisory Board from 1921-4.

44 RIBA Biog File

45 Ibid.

of High Victorian Gothic' <sup>46</sup> and Homan writes:

'At Milton, Bromley and Westgate-on-Sea Sulman had some formidable projects into which were built lecture rooms, Sunday schools, catering facilities and toilets. Like Cavendish Chapel at Ramsgate these were complexes rather than mere chapels'.<sup>47</sup> Clive Binfield of Sheffield University, an expert on Nonconformist architecture, has stated that Sulman is of major importance, and rates him along side James Cubitt. His best building, according to Binfield, was Highbury Quadrant. All of his chapels are 'interesting and good' and Sulman had 'a flair for the profession'.<sup>48</sup> He certainly developed a characteristic style, taking the basic form of earlier Nonconformist chapels and adding details of his own.(Fig. 20) Sulman's importance is reflected by the fact he was much imitated by later builders, for example those at Wallington, Surrey.(Fig. 20) The role of Sulman adds considerably to the interest of Trinity Church.

The Mansel Road buildings were, in fact, drawn by Hennings, and may have been mainly his own work, overseen by Sulman. Arthur William Hennings (fl.1872-1926) was articled to Sulman in May 1872, and worked closely with him until his move to Australia. Hennings was then left in charge of Sulman's business in the United Kingdom. During the thirteen years Hennings worked with Sulman, he would have observed — and probably contributed to — designs for countless Nonconformist chapels, and must have been comfortable working with the building type. This explains the high quality of the Mansel Road buildings, and the fact that Hennings was confident enough to exhibit his drawing at the RA.

### *The Church Hall*

It was not a new idea for Potts, Sulman and Hennings to attach a hall to the church. This, as all three members of the firm would have known, was standard practice. Nonconformist worship laid a strong emphasis on education and self-improvement and, unlike the Church of England, was not provided with separate schools and parish halls. By the mid nineteenth century, a minister had two jobs to attend to. Firstly, to preach every Sunday, and sometimes mid week. Secondly, to engage himself in philanthropic activities centred around the Sunday School such as bible classes and lectures.<sup>49</sup> The majority of Nonconformist chapels — as a glimpse at any Ordnance Survey map of the period will prove — had adjoining halls of some kind. Moreover, it was usual for the hall to be erected before the church. This was a way of immediately establishing services, and of raising money for the more expensive church. If the congregation did not expand, the minister was free to abandon the church, and use the hall as permanent accommodation.<sup>50</sup> Therefore, ancillary buildings were mainly designed from the outset, although they could be added later on.<sup>51</sup>

Returning to Trinity Church then, it is fair to say that the chapel itself could not be viewed as complete without its hall. The buildings were designed together and functioned together. To lose the hall would be to lose part of the original concept, a concept developed throughout the 1800s and intimately bound up with Nonconformist worship.

46 Temple 1992, p.87

47 Homan 1984, p.10

48 Information from Clive Binfield derives from a personal communication of 10/3/00.

49 Bolam, Goring, Short and Thomas 1968, p.263

50 Information from Clive Binfield.

51 The Baptist church at Wallington, Surrey was opened in March 1888. 15 months later, a large schoolroom and class-room were erected and in 1904, additional class-rooms were provided (Stockwell 1916, p.277). At Potts, Sulman and Hennings's own Hawkenbury church, a schoolroom was not added until 1907, and a church hall until 1926 (Homan 1984, p.100).

## Conclusion

Trinity Church and Hall are eminently suitable for listing. The buildings were designed by a notable firm of architects, who had made a speciality of Presbyterian and Congregationalist chapels. This is one of the best works by Potts, Sulman and Hennings, and one of only two churches by them which survive in London. The hall is intrinsic to the design of the Mansel Road group and appears clearly in the original drawing. It is not part of a separate phase, even though it was built before the church, and is linked to the main building both aesthetically and physically.

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Collections at Merton Local Studies Library, London Road, Morden, SM4 (including: 1886 leaflet, *Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wimbledon*)





Fig. 1 Dukinfield Chapel, Lancs (1840) by Richard Tattersall of Manchester. It is one of the first Nonconformist buildings in the Gothic Revival style.



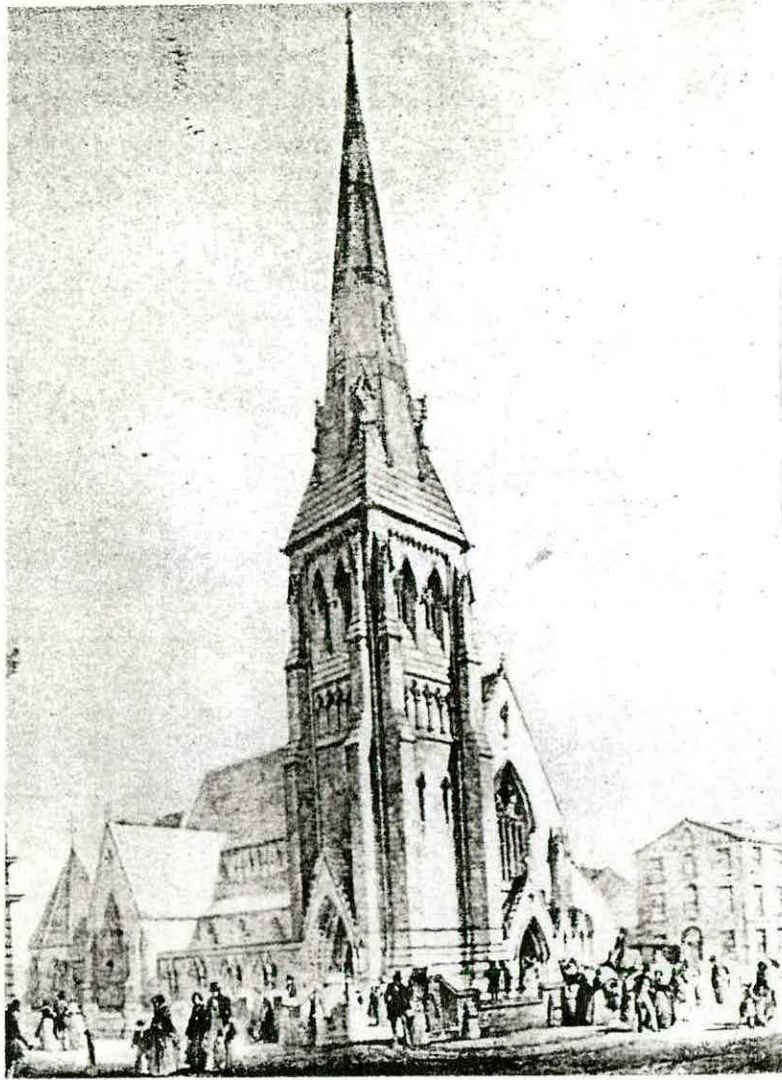


Fig. 2 Drawing of Hope Street Chapel, Liverpool, built for Unitarian Minister James Martineau in 1849 and demolished in 1963.

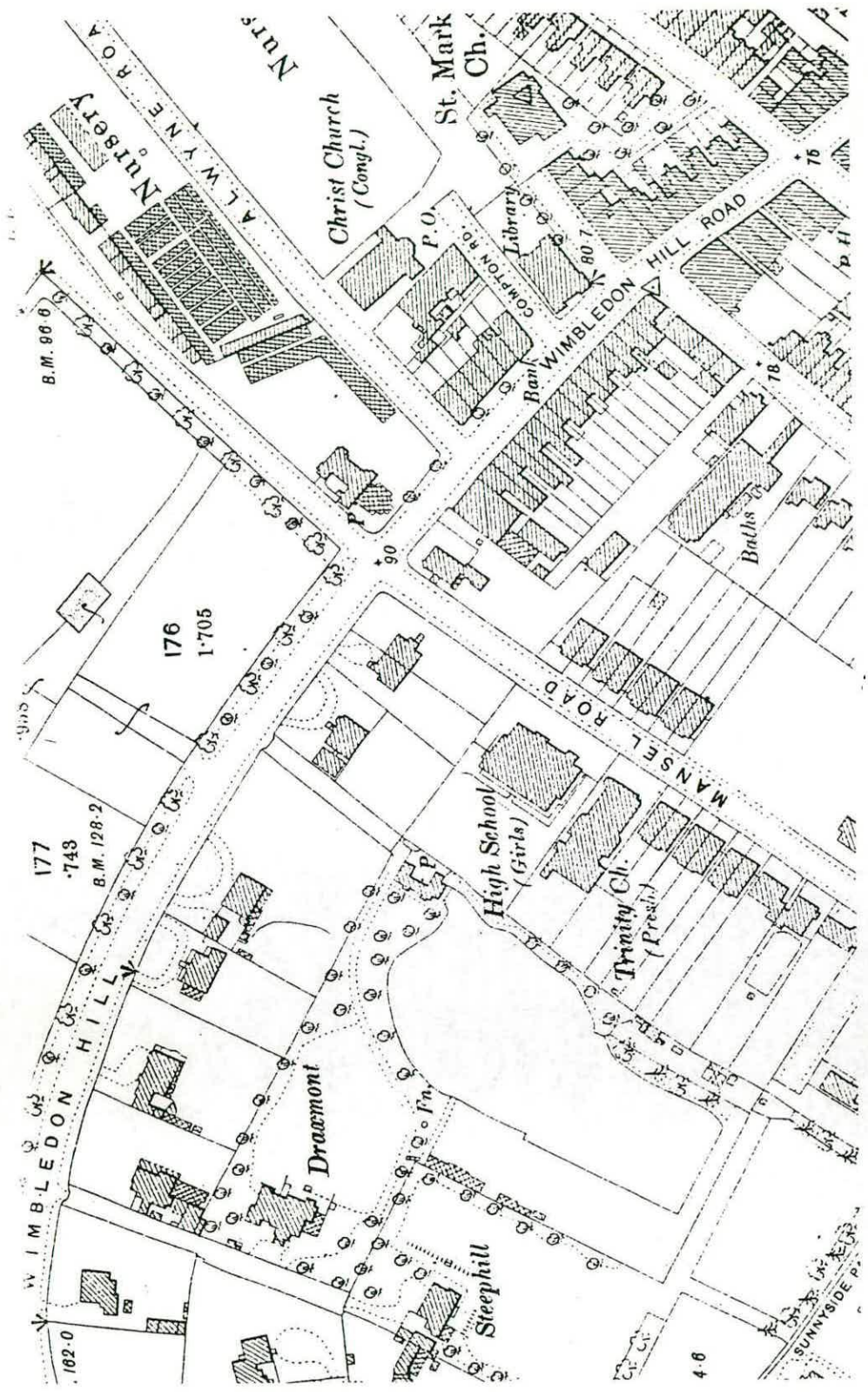


Fig. 3 Ordnance Survey map 1894-8 (Second Edition) showing the recently built Trinity Church and High School. The Library, also by Potts, Sulman and Hennings, appears on nearby Wimbledon Hill Road.



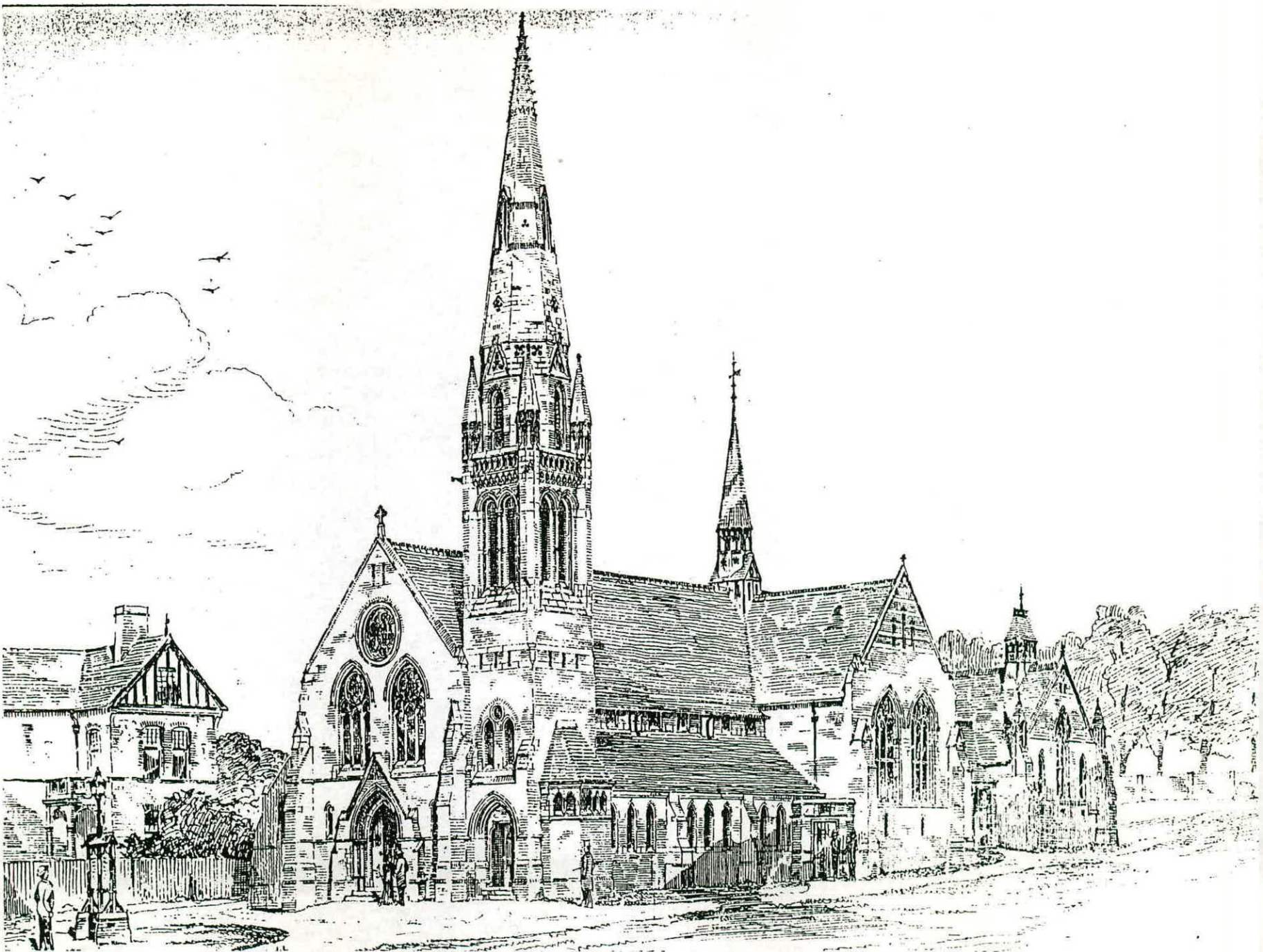


Fig. 4 Design for Trinity Presbyterian Church and attached buildings, drawn in pen-and-ink by A. W Hennings. The design appeared in *The Builder* of 24 July 1886 and was exhibited at the Royal Academy.

TRINITY PRESBYT<sup>Y</sup> CHURCH  
WIMBLEDON · S.W

Potts, Sulman & Hennings  
Architects  
1 Furnivals Inn E.C.

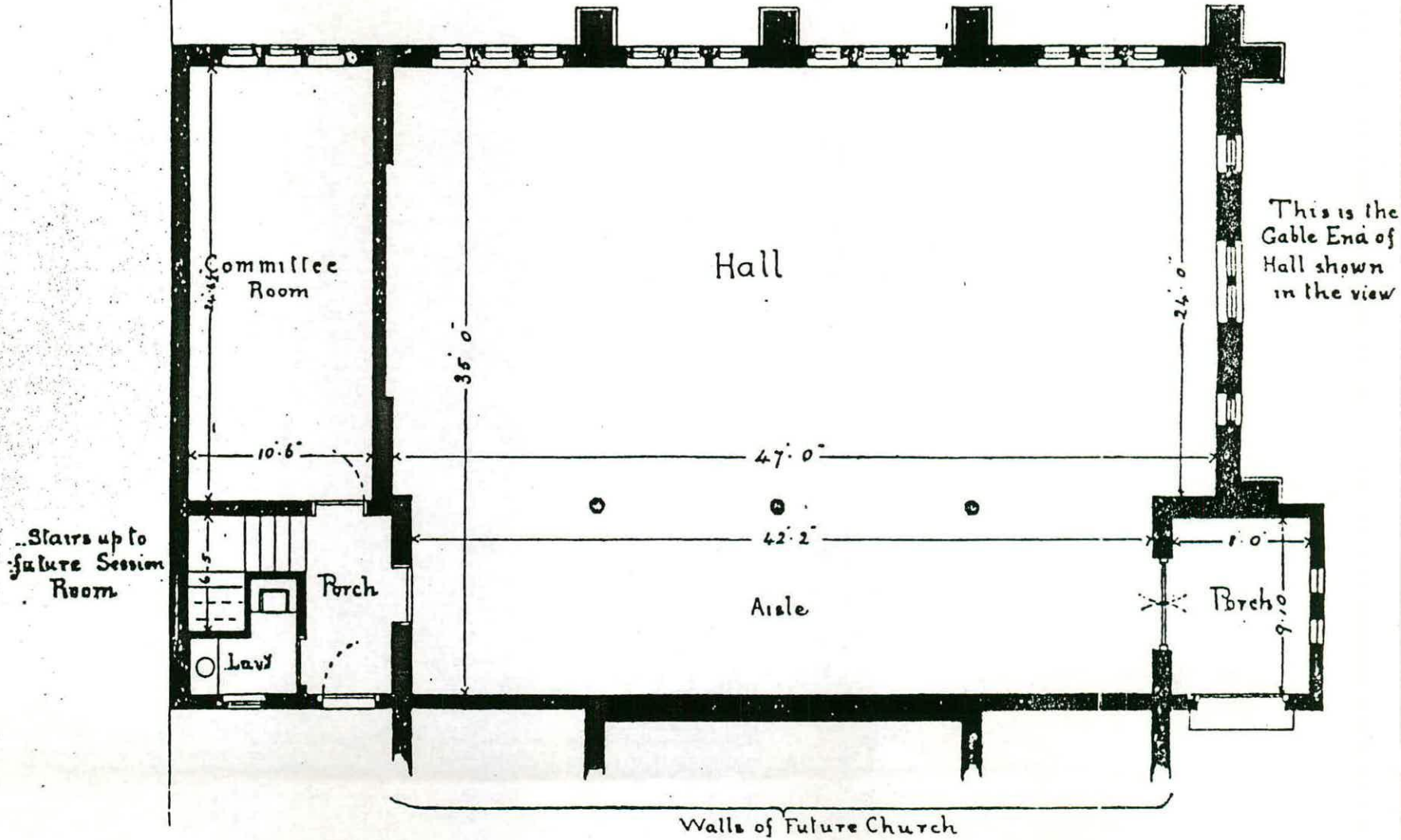


Fig. 5 Plan of the hall built in 1885-6, before Trinity Church was started. The plan appeared in the 1886 leaflet *Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wimbledon.*



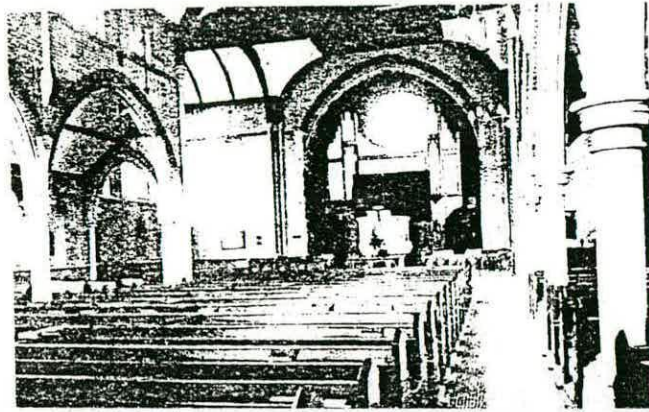


Fig. 6 1934 photograph showing the interior of Trinity Church.



Fig. 7 Mid 20th-century map showing Trinity Church and Wimbeldon High School. Both are within a Conservation Area.



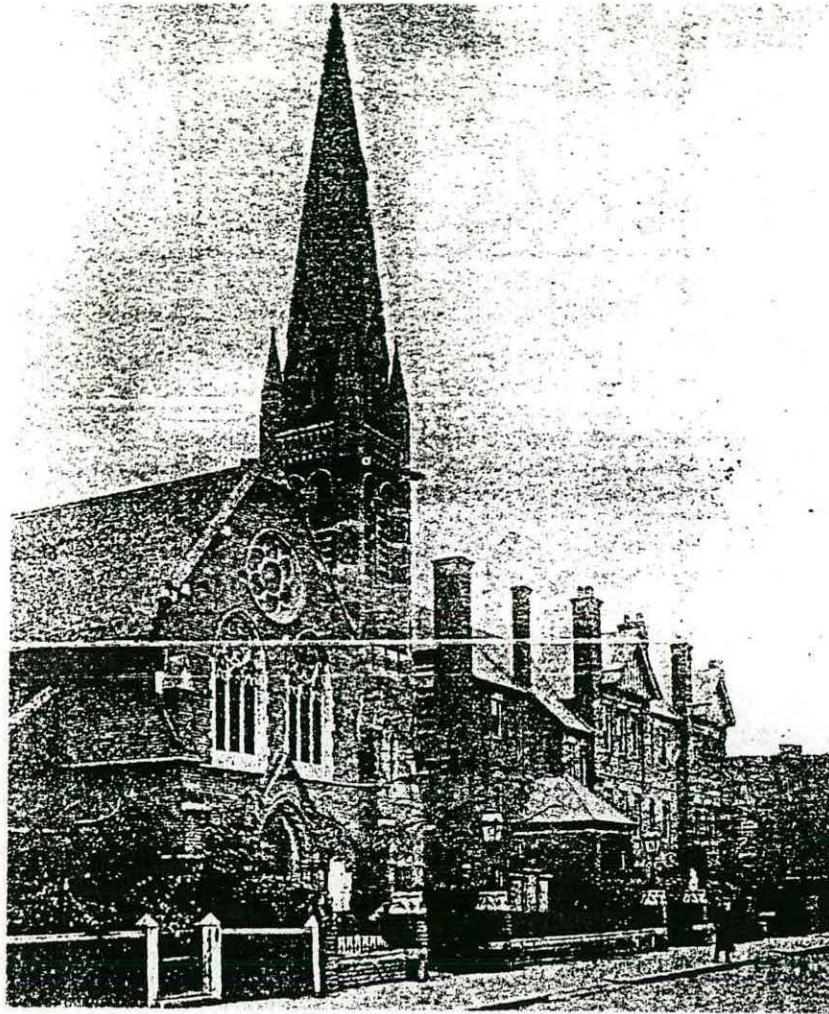


Fig. 8 Photograph of the Mansel Road frontage of Trinity Church, taken in 1912.



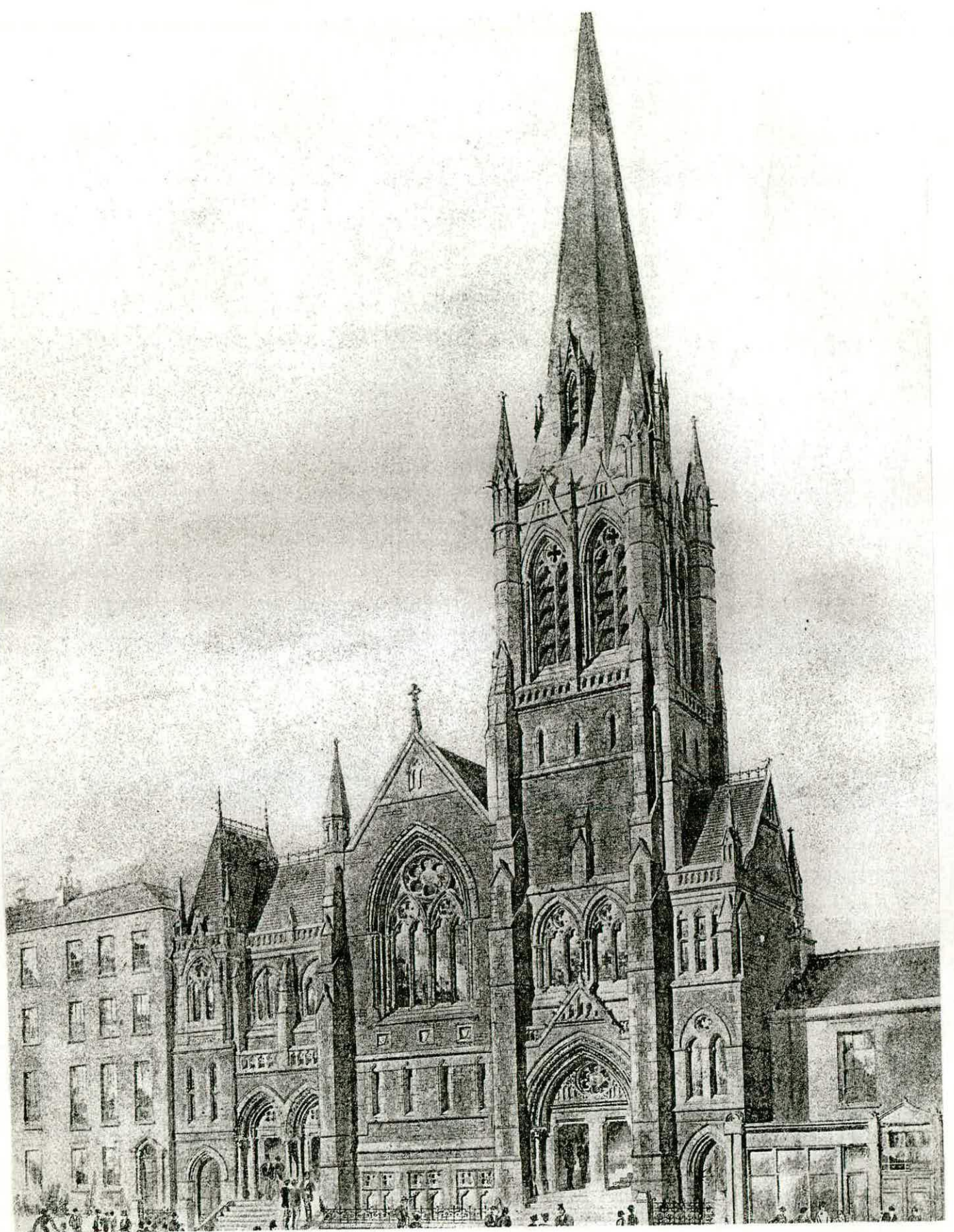


Fig. 9 Design for the Congregational Church, George Street, Croydon by John Sulman of Potts, Sulman and Hennings. It appeared in *The Builder* on Oct 22 1887. The church was opened in 1878 and demolished in the 1960s.



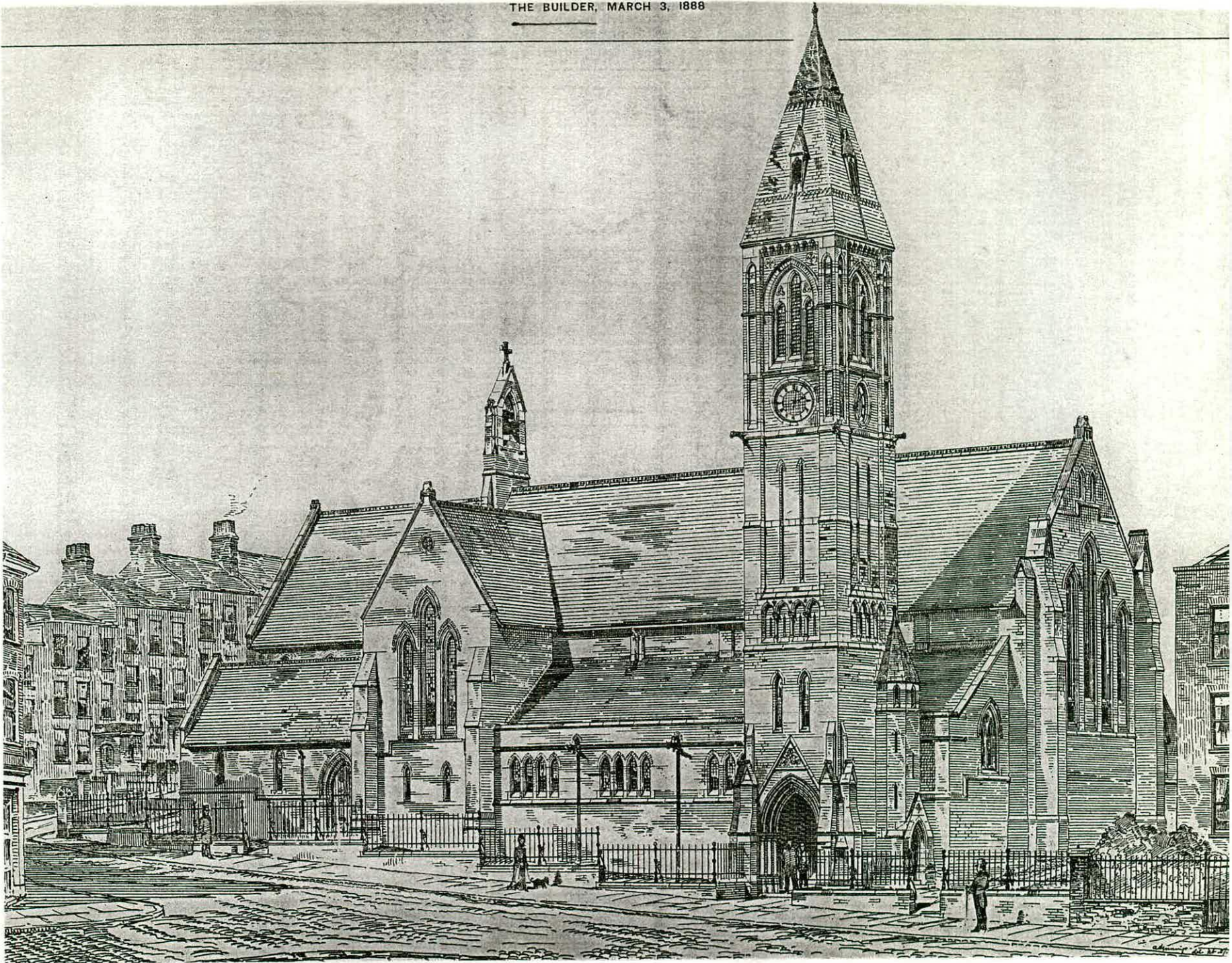


Fig. 10 Design for St Chad's Church, Everton, Liverpool by Potts, Sulman and Hennings, which appeared in *The Builder* on March 3 1888. The church was built c. 1885 and has since been demolished.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HIGHGATE HILL.

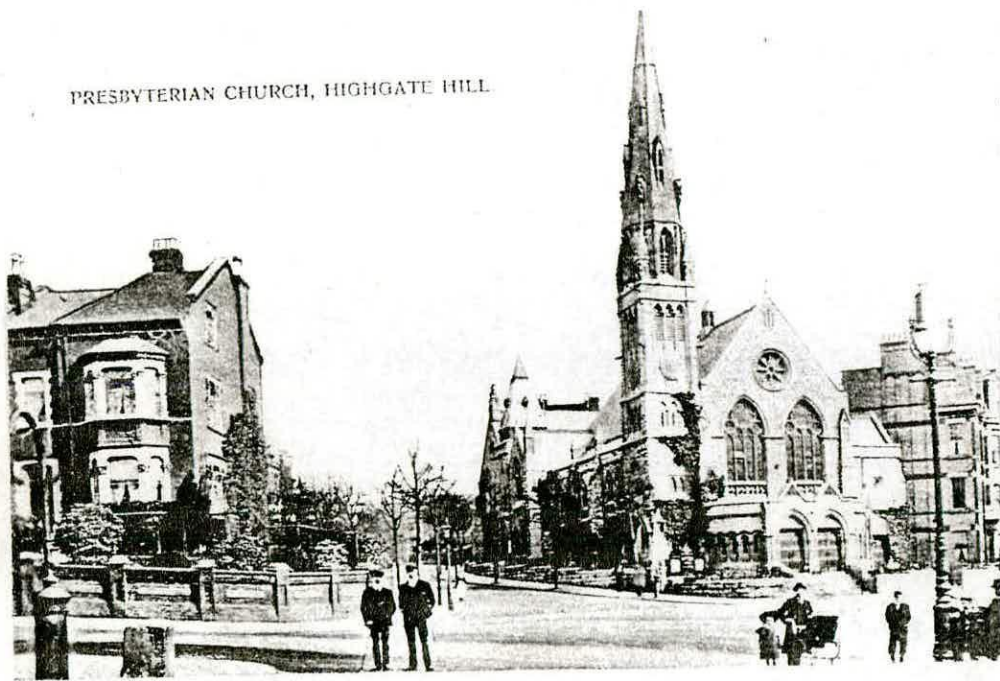


Fig. 11 Potts, Sulman and Hennings's Presbyterian Church, Highgate, as it appeared in c.1906. The church was built in 1885-7.

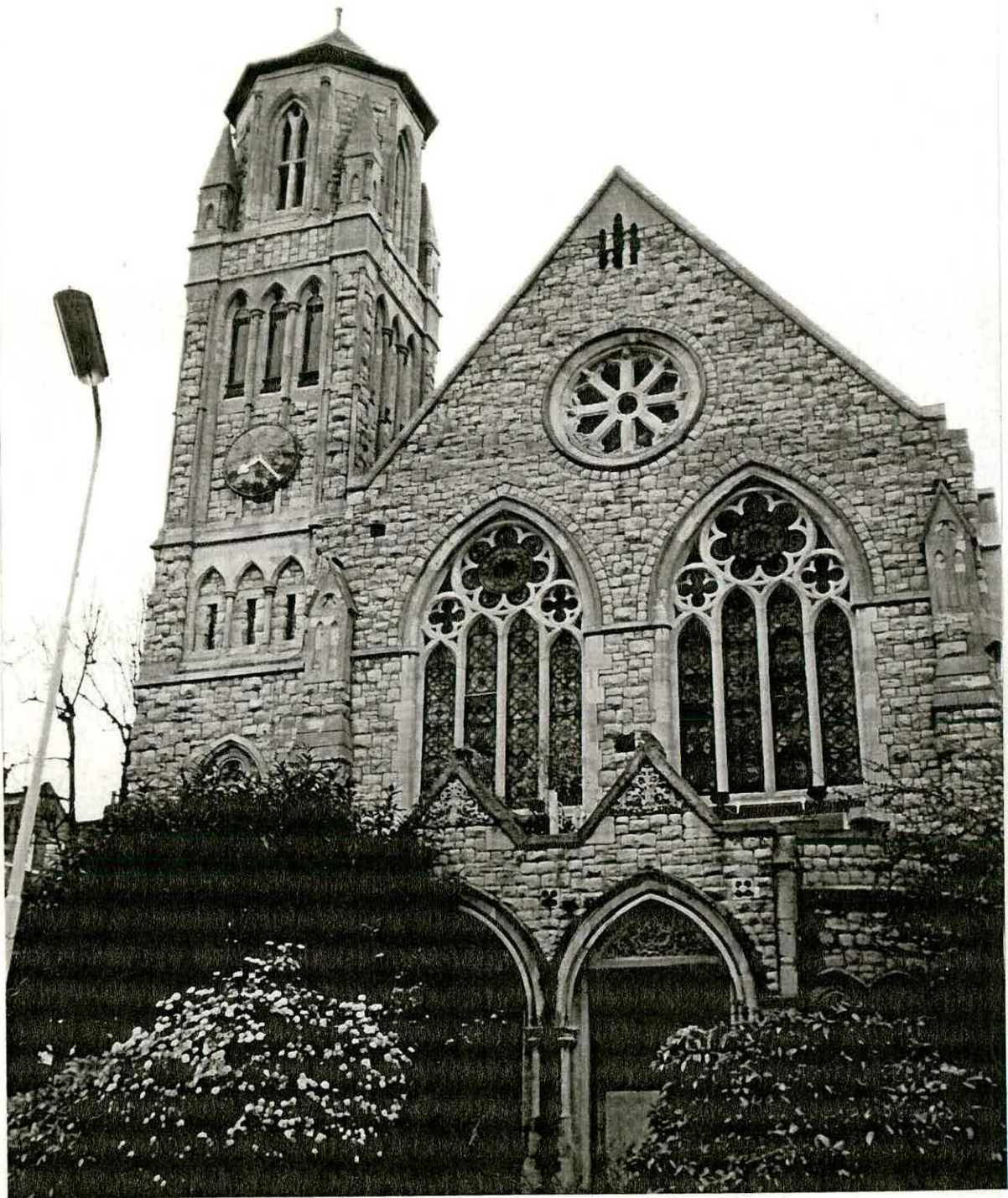


Fig. 12 Highgate Presbyterian Church, Hornsey Lane, built 1885-7 and converted into flats in the 1980s.





Fig. 13 Highgate Presbyterian Church, Hornsey Lane, built 1885-7 and converted into flats in the 1980s.



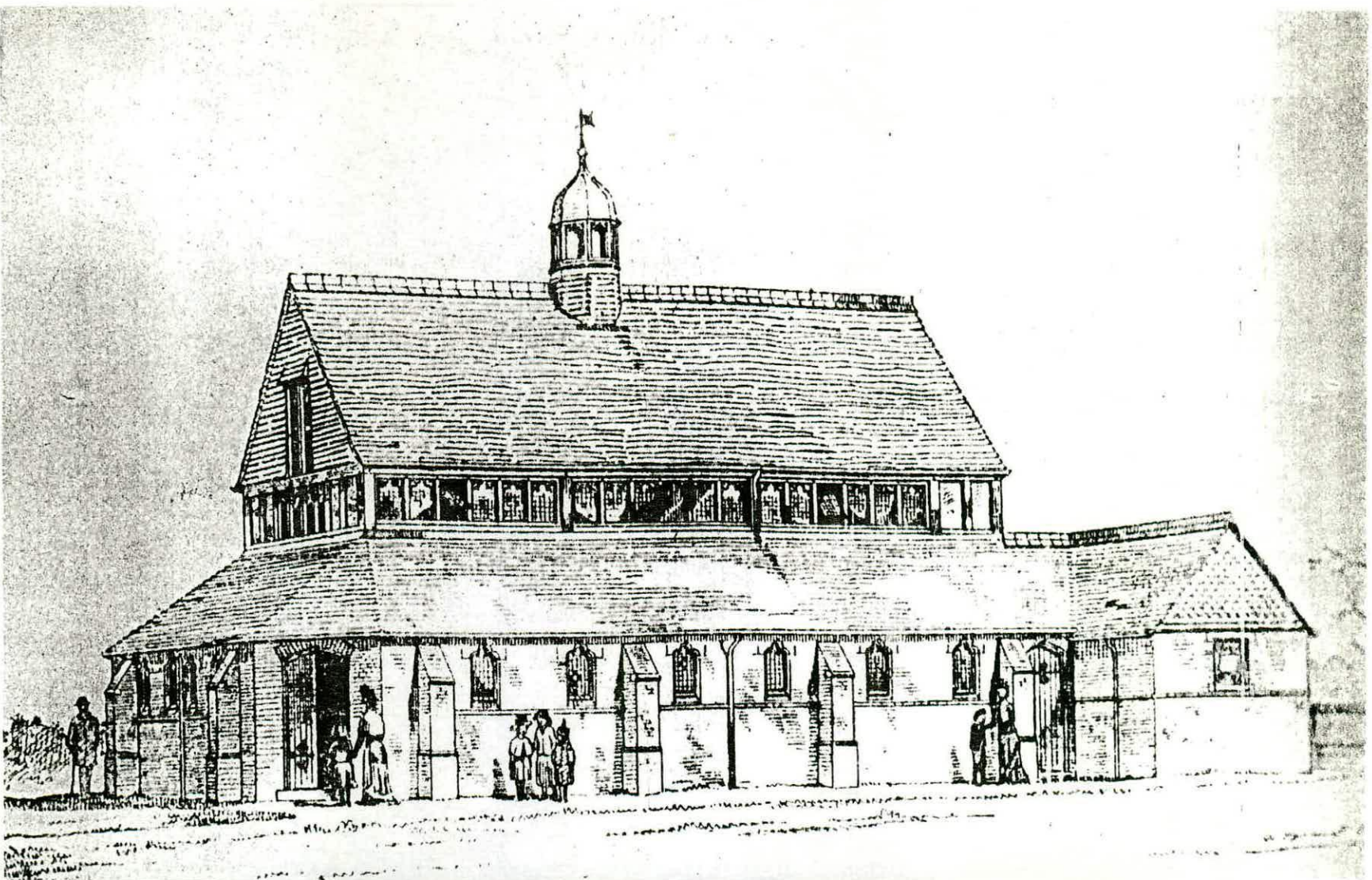


Fig. 14 Design for the Congregational Church, Hawkenbury (Turnbridge Wells), Kent, built in 1889 and now URC. The architects were Potts, Sulman and Hennings. The style is more eclectic than Trinity Church.





Fig. 15 The United Methodist Free Church, Manor Park, Essex built in 1890 by Potts, Sulman and Hennings. The design appeared in *The Builder* on Nov 29 1890.





COMPETITION DESIGN FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WEST KENSINGTON — MESSRS. POTTS, SULMAN & HENNING'S, ARCHITECTS.

Fig. 16 Competition design for the Congregational Church, West Kensington, by Potts, Sulman and Hennings. The competition was won by Cubitt & Brydon. This design appeared in *The Builder* on Jan 31 1891.



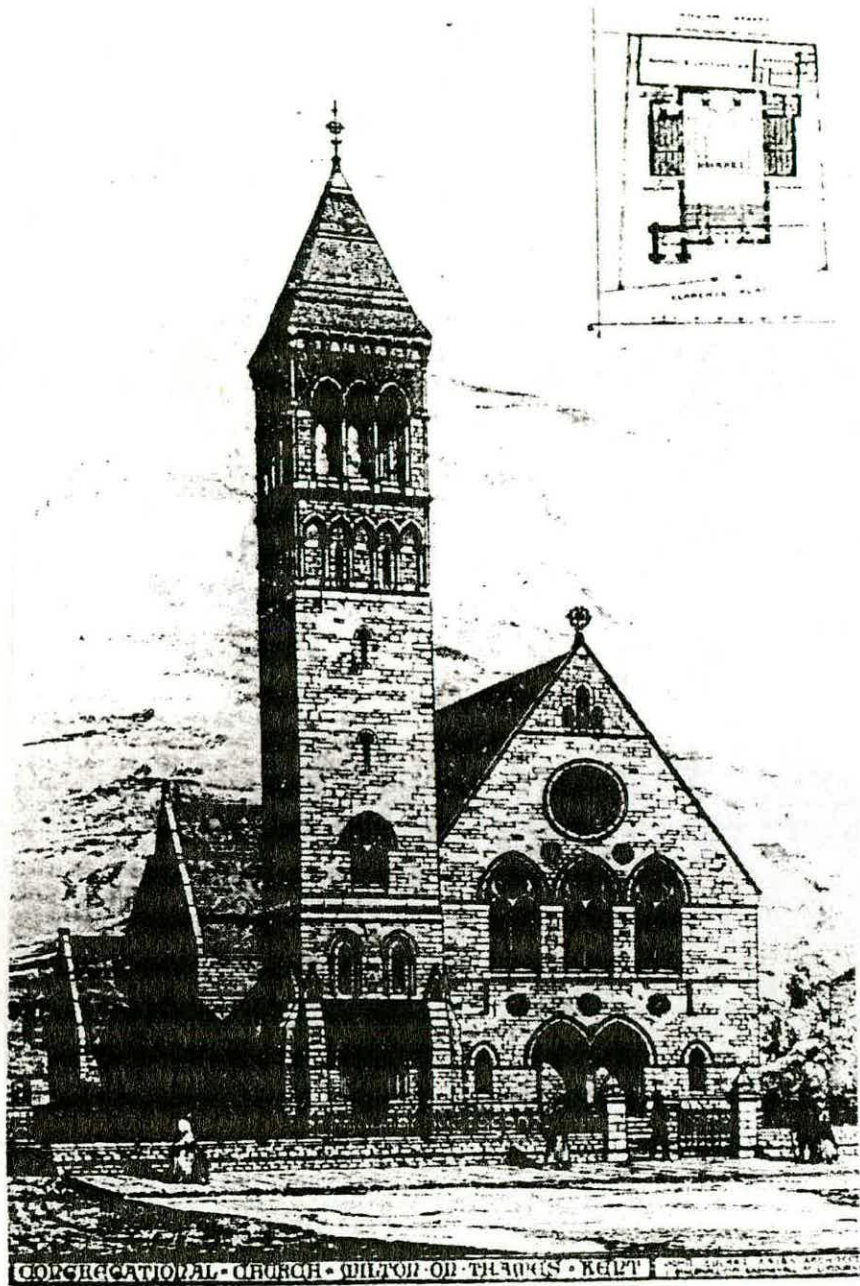
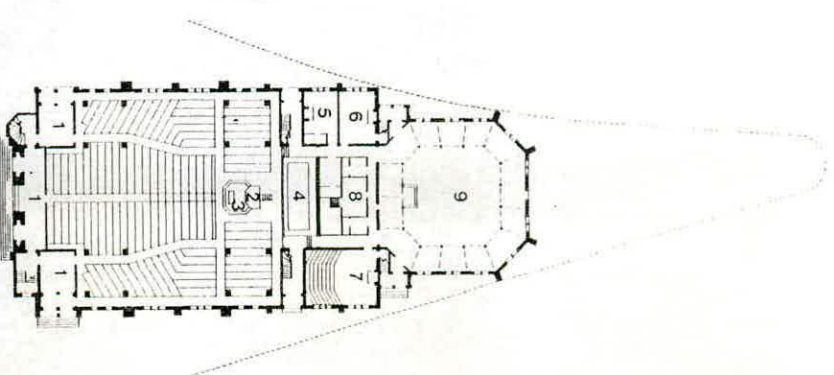


Fig. 17 John Sulman's design for the Congregational Church at Milton-next-Gravesend, Kent, built from 1873-4. It bears certain similarities to Trinity Church.





- 1 Vestibule
- 2 Pulpit
- 3 Platform and communion table
- 4 Organ
- 5 Minister's vestry
- 6 Deacons' vestry
- 7 Infants' room
- 8 Scullery, etc
- 9 School



Fig. 18 Sulman's Highbury Quadrant Congregational Church (1881-2), here shown in a photograph of c. 1900. The church was demolished in 1954, but ancillary buildings survive (see original plan).



Fig. 19 Sulman's design and plan for the Congregational Church at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, built in 1883.

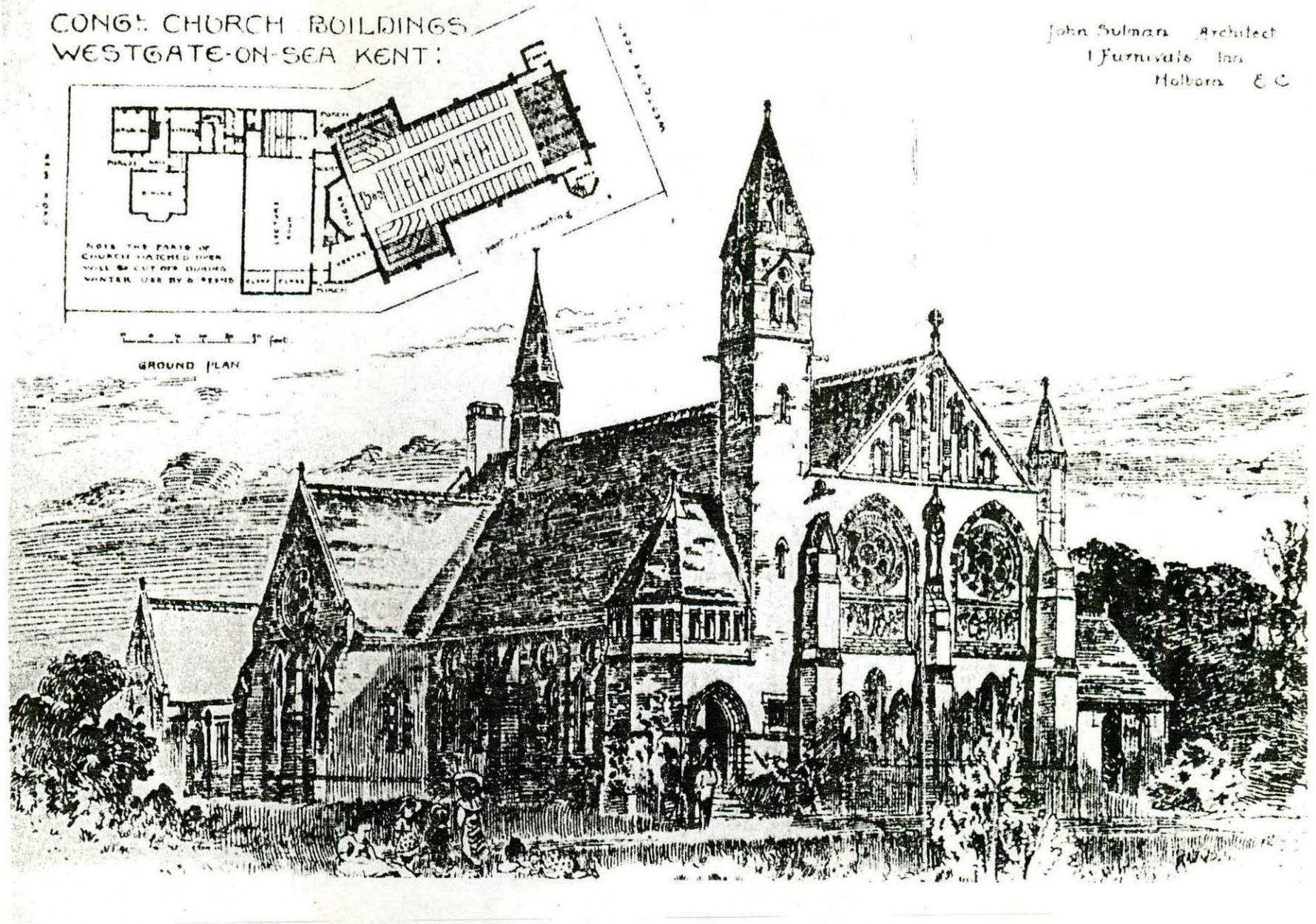






Fig. 20 Thomas Worthington's Brookfield Unitarian Church, Gorton, Manchester (**above**) built in 1871 is a good example of the style Sulman went on to develop in a more modest form. A Sunday School and hall preceded the church here, being built in 1863. Photograph of Wallington Baptist Church, Surrey) (**below**). Built in 1888, the church is extremely similar to Trinity Presbyterian Church (compare Fig. 4).