

James built in the year 1853 has the distinctive privilege of claiming to be the oldest church in the city, though not the oldest parish. It was erected on the northern bank of the River Assiniboine about three miles west of Old Fort Garry.

A grant of land measuring eighteen chains on the river front and extending some four miles north was given by the Hudson's Bay Company to provide an endowment for the Incumbent of the Parish, and on a portion of this land the Church was built and the surrounding cemetery formed. Built of oak logs which were floated down the Red River from St. Paul, it has stood the ravages of time and climate remarkably well. The name of the architect, if there was one, is unknown, and the nature of architecture is distinctively Colonial. The tower, which appears on the west end of the Church in the first picture (taken from a print in an old English illustrated magazine), was taken down during Rev. Mr. Pinkham's incumbency, probably somewhere between the years 1871 and 1873, when the Church was being repaired, the foundations thereof not being strong enough to bear its weight. No effort appears to have been made in later years to restore it. The removal of the tower considerably detracts from the appearance of the Church, as can be plainly seen in the photograph reproduced of St. James at the present day.

Parochial Records

The first Rector of the Parish was the Rev. W. H. Taylor who came to St. James from the Town of Clint, Worcestershire, England, the inhabitants of which presented to St. James the set of communion vessels still being used