

Northside United Church

Location: 54 Goderich St. South, Seaforth, Ontario
Year built: 1877

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST congregation began in 1856 as a small group of people meeting for worship at the home of James Sparling, a lay preacher in McKillop. The first sermon was preached by Rev. George H. Cornish here. In 1858-9, a church was built on Concession 2 McKillop, across from the Maitlandbank Cemetery. They were part of the Clinton circuit until becoming an independent charge in 1864.



An early postcard of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shows the two spires removed some time in the 1950s.

A lot was purchased at the corner of Church and Goderich Streets in Seaforth and the first church built there in 1865. It was a frame building 36' x 50' (11 x 15 m) with a seating capacity of 300. Rev. William Hayhurst was the minister at the time.

By 1877 the congregation had grown and a larger church was needed. The frame church was torn down and the present brick church built in its place. An article in the December 25, 1877 *Huron Expositor* called the new church “without exception one of the most elegant structures in Western Ontario.” There were four aisles originally; the pews were later rearranged with three aisles. Galleries go around the church and seat 400. The main audience room seats 600. To the rear of the pulpit is an organ with seats in front for the choir.

Note the patterned slate roof; the main gable outlined by decorative brickwork; the decorative tracery of the many stained glass, Gothic windows, in particular the large centre window flanked by two smaller ones; and, the buttressed walls.
