



The American Guild of Organists fosters the appreciation and enjoyment of organ and choral music through recitals and workshops.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was organized in 1854, and built its first building in 1858 on Sixth Street. In 1867, they built a large Gothic revival building on the northeast corner of Seventh and Jules Street. In 1876, several members traveled to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, where they purchased a bell for the tower and placed an order with the E. & G. G. Hook Co. for a two manual, 25 rank tracker pipe organ, which was installed about 1878 as Opus 889.

In 1909, structural problems forced the demolition of this building, and on the same site, they built the present landmark Georgian Colonial revival building, designed by local architects, Edmund J. Eckel and Walter Boschen. The Colonial style was gaining popularity in residential design at the time, and Eckel employed rich detail, including Harvard brick and outstanding interior ornamentation in this design. The sanctuary features a Tiffany window in the chancel and was originally decorated by that firm.

Prior to demolition, the old organ was removed to the Hook factory, where it was converted to tubular pneumatic action for re-installation in the new building in 1911. The organ underwent a less than successful rebuild in the 1950's and in 1988, the congregation elected to replace the instrument and redesign the chancel area.

The new organ, built by the Visser Rowland Co., Houston, was installed as their Opus 84 and contains 46 ranks, on slider windchests with electric key action. It features flamed copper facade pipes. The console contains a mechanism that allows it to float on a cushion of air while being moved.



See below for additional picture

SPECIFICATION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VISSER ROWLAND ASSOCIATES, Houston

Opus 84, 1989

III/46 Slider chests with electro-mechanical action

For full information on what these stops mean, click [HERE](#)

HAUPTWERK	SCHWELLWERK	POSITIV	PEDAL
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16' Principal	8' Gedeckt	8' Gedeckt	32' Resultant
8' Oktav	8' Salicional	4' Kleinflöte	16' Principal
8' Rohrflöte	8' Celeste	2' Principal	16' Subbass
4' Oktav	4' Principal	1 1/3' Larigot	8' Oktav
4' Nachthorn	4' Blockflöte	2 2/3' Sesquialtera II	8' Gedeckt
2' Oktav	2 2/3' Nasat	1' Mixture III	4' Choralbass
1 1/3' Mixture IV	2' Waldflöte	8' Krummhorn	2 2/3' Mixture IV
8' Trompette	1 3/5' Tierce	Tremulant	32' Kontrafagott
Zimbelstern	1' Scharff IV		16' Posaune
Chimes	16' Fagott		16' Fagott
	8' Trompete		8' Trompete
	4' Klarine		4' Schalmey
	Tremulant		



Sanctuary, First Presbyterian Church, shortly after its completion in 1910, showing the original Tiffany decoration and Hook & Hastings organ, Opus 2230, which was a reconstruction of their 1877 Opus 889

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