

First United, then First Methodist, burning, 1895
Elgin County Museum



St. Thomas First United, 1925-30

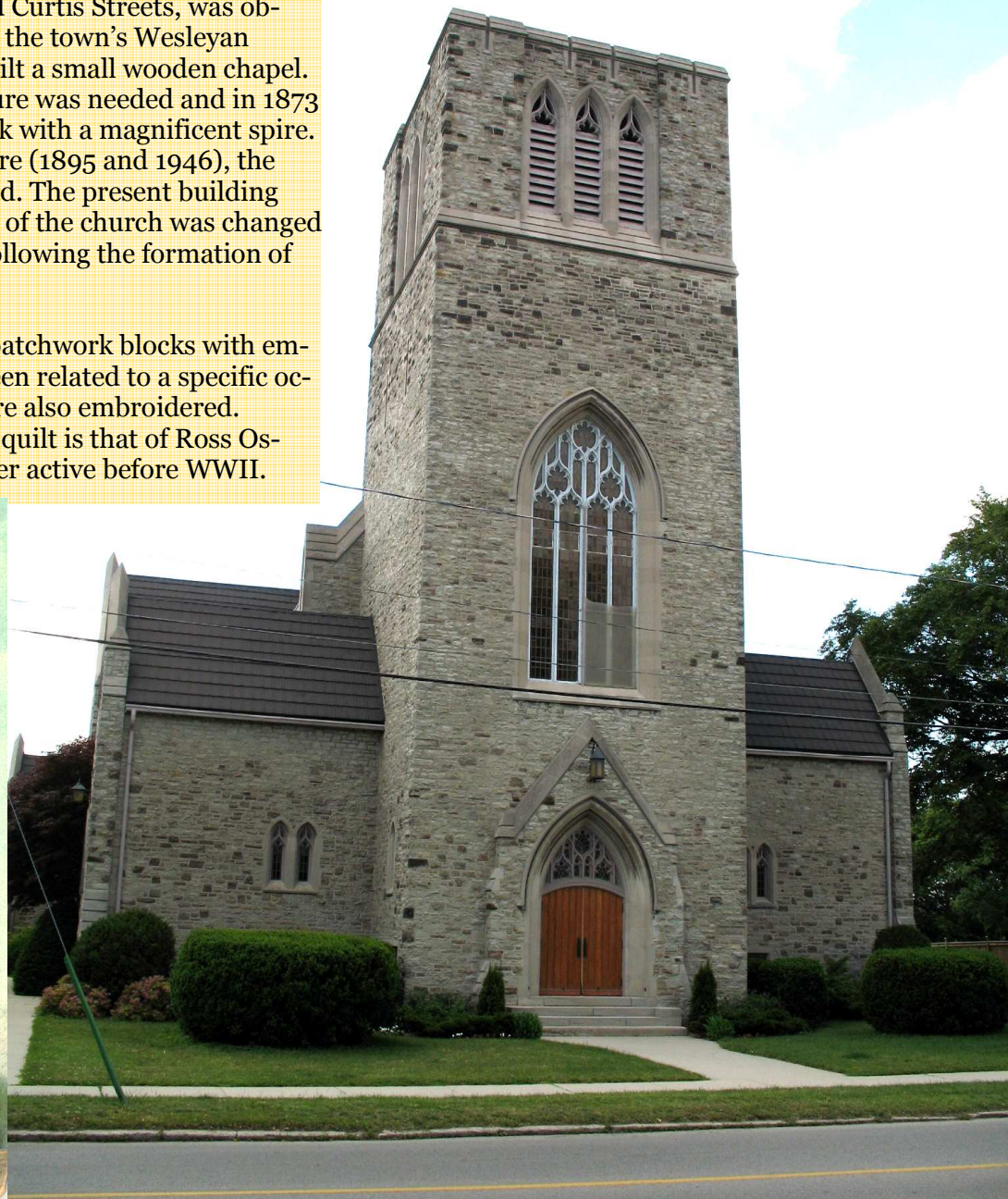
Elgin County Museum
Gift of Mrs. M. C. Moore, 1976

The site of First United, St. George and Curtis Streets, was obtained from the Curtis farm in 1839 by the town's Wesleyan Methodist congregation where they built a small wooden chapel. As the population grew a larger structure was needed and in 1873 a new building was constructed in brick with a magnificent spire. The church would twice be struck by fire (1895 and 1946), the second time causing it to be demolished. The present building was opened in March, 1950. The name of the church was changed to First United from First Methodist following the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925.

The quilt, which combines a series of patchwork blocks with embroidered blocks, seems not to have been related to a specific occasion or event. Some of the patches are also embroidered. Among the recognizable names on the quilt is that of Ross Os-goode, a well-known St. Thomas painter active before WWII.

First United Church, 7 Curtis Street, 2009

Photo by R. LeBlance
Courtesy, Ontario Heritage Trust



First United, (First Methodist), c. 1910
Looking north on St. George from Curtis

