

# ADD HISTORIC *Charm* to your WEDDING DAY

BY ASHLEIGH MATTERN  
FOR SP CREATIVE FEATURES

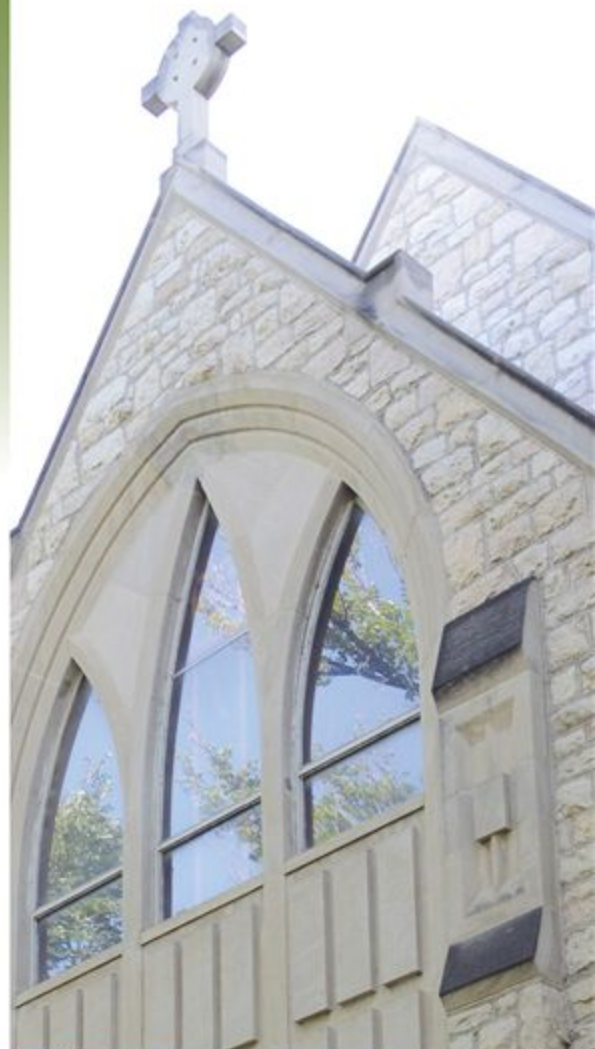
The University of Saskatchewan has been a popular choice for wedding photos for decades, with good reason. The abundant green spaces and greystone buildings in their Collegiate Gothic style offer a gorgeous backdrop for your special day.

One of the most popular spots for photos is by the Memorial Gates on College Drive. It's difficult not to appreciate the old-world charm of these stone gates, built in the late '20s.

But fewer people realize the university can also be a great place to host the wedding itself.

Just steps away from the Memorial Gates, St. Andrew's College offers a chapel that seats 100 people, and a reception area that can hold up to 125 people. Any denomination is welcome to use the chapel, plus it's right on College Drive, making it easy to find, an extra bonus for out of town guests.

Both the chapel and the main lounge have unique features that make them stand out: The beautiful stained glass window gives the chapel a classic look and



The historic charm of St. Andrews College, along with its picturesque surroundings, makes it a popular wedding venue in Saskatoon.

The college offers chapel seating for 100 and a reception area that accommodates up to 125 people.

*Photos: Jeff Lyons/StarPhoenix*

feel, and with the pews arranged in a diamond shape, the setting is intimate and welcoming. The light and airy main lounge includes a stone fireplace and a grand piano.

"It's the perfect location," said Carolina Castro with St. Andrew's College. "We have a really nice, beautiful chapel, and it's right on grounds so it's close to the Memorial Gates, and a lot of weddings choose that location for pictures."

St. Andrew's offer a sense of history that's hard to beat. The college is over 100 years old, while the chapel was built in 1961. Originally founded by Canada's Presbyterian church, today St. Andrew's College is the United Church's primary centre for theological education and ordination in the prairie region.

Paul Dimmock and Amanda Shirley celebrated their wedding at St. Andrew's College on Aug. 3. They've lived in the U.K. for the past six years, but came home to Saskatoon to celebrate their marriage with friends and family.

"We knew that we wanted to get married on campus, as this is where we first met," said Shirley. "In addition, both of us spent a lot of time on campus growing up as both of our fathers work at the U of S."

They used the main lounge for their wedding ceremony instead of the chapel because they didn't want a religious ceremony, but also because they were attracted to the good

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Paul Dimmock and Amanda Shirley married at St. Andrews College this summer. The couple resides in the U.K., but came home to Saskatoon to celebrate their marriage with friends and family. They chose to marry on the U of S campus where they first met.

Photos: Naidu Photography



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acoustics and abundant natural light found there. The choice also allowed them to incorporate the staircase in the lounge as a grand entrance for the bride.

"My favourite memory of the day is walking down the staircase as my brother played the bagpipes, looking to the front of the room, and seeing my future husband smiling at me," said Shirley. "At the base of the stairs I was joined by my father and mother who walked me down the aisle."

They also made use of the meeting room overlooking the lounge for guests with babies or children who might not appreciate sitting through the ceremony, and they used the kitchen to serve some of

their favourite U.K. treats like scones with devonshire cream and jam.

The couple also had their wedding photos taken on campus. Though they skipped the nearby Memorial Gates, their photographer found many beautiful spots: against the stonework of St. Andrew's College, on the steps of the Thorvaldson Building, under the arch of the new Health Science Building, in the Museum of Antiquities, and in front of the Administration Building.

Shirley said she would definitely recommend the space to other couples because the staff was wonderful, and the space was beautiful.

*Mattern is a Saskatoon freelance writer.*

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