

Extract from the Oban Times, 25th September, 1880

“Oban Congregational church

Tomorrow, this fine building at the top of Argyll Street, is to be open for public worship, by the pastor and congregation of Oban Congregational Church.”

The building we see now occupies the site of the old Congregational church, which was built at the beginning of the 19th century, but the fellowship was in existence for many years before that

. Meetings were first held at Stronafine farm, 7 miles east of Oban. The fellowship relocated into Oban and became known as the “Oban Independent Church” where it met with great opposition from the established church, land owners and some local inhabitants.

An example being, when preaching from a rock on the shore and being chased by the local militia.

The architect for this building was Alexander Shairp, and is modelled on Greek Thomson design. The building is now B- Listed with Historic Scotland

The yellow sandstone and windows with zinc and lead is quite unusual for this area and has brought its own problems, the stone being so porous (lots of rain here) and the zinc and lead being too soft. Also the pitch of the roof doesn't encourage the water to run off as quickly as it should.

This all came to light when the congregation embarked on a restoration project in 2004. It seemed to be, that faith had not just been holding up the pulpit, but also the roof. This restoration took 2 years to complete and was a great opportunity, to make the church more equipped to be of use, not just to the congregation but also the local community.