

48 ALBERT STREET – ROYAL ALBERT HOTEL
E.D. McGuire, 1913



Constructed in the summer of 1913, the Royal Albert Hotel was one of a series of hotels built in Winnipeg's boom years between 1900 and World War I. The opening of the Royal Albert was overshadowed by the simultaneous opening of the Fort Garry Hotel, an event that naturally preoccupied the press. Following his inauspicious start, the smaller hotel quickly found its niche: its 53 private rooms accommodated salesmen, travellers and visitors on business in the booming warehouse district. A large café and a handsomely-fitted bar provided the patrons with service tailored on the "European plan", a mode which was popular at the time.

In keeping with this European-styled service, the façade of the hotel was designed with a continental flair. A red-tiled roof forms a cornice over a brick front accentuated with ornamental iron fretwork, elaborate iron lights and arched main floor windows and doors which combine to create an Italian effect; the first proprietor's name was Angelo Ferrari. Designed by architect E.D. McGuire, the Royal Albert was built by W.M. Scott, a consulting engineer who later

became chairman of the Winnipeg Water District's Board of Commissioners. Basically rectangular in plan, the hotel is four storeys high. Aside from its façade, the principal features of the hotel are its bar and café which have remained essentially intact. A stained glass skylight graces the present bar area.

Over the years, the Royal Albert changed as the functions and needs of the downtown area changed. Revitalization of the hotel, following the City of Winnipeg's Old Market Square streetscaping program, has recently enhanced the prominence of the Royal Albert.