



96 CARMEN AVENUE

GLENELM SCHOOL

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



96 CARMEN AVENUE GLENELM SCHOOL

Date of Construction: 1929

Building Permit: 2903/1929 (Plans at City Storage)

Architect: Northwood and Chivers

Contractor: Hazelton and Walin

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This school was built in Elmwood to alleviate overcrowding at another area school and when opened had an enrolment nearing 300 students from grades 1 to 6.

This school is a reduced example of the Collegiate Gothic style, so named because of its use in the design of educational and religious structures. The style was popular from 1900-1940 and included elements such as the pointed arch, the use of flat surfaces, symmetrical massing, crenellated towers and bays and the use of stone.¹

The building is clad in dark brick with smooth-cut stone used as accenting at grade and around windows and doors. The building is rather plain, the School Division opting for sturdiness over ornamentation in an effort to keep construction costs down, which in the end totalled \$104,243. When it opened, the school had seven classrooms. New aluminum



East façade, 2009

windows replaced the original wood and glass pane windows and in 1998, a gymnasium was added.²

The school was designed by Northwood and Chivers, two of Winnipeg's fine 20th century architects. Major George W. Northwood (1876-1959) and Brigadier Major Cyril W.U. Chivers (1879-1969) were both distinguished Winnipeg veterans of the First World War who formed a professional partnership after the War and designed a number of fine buildings including the Manitoba Cartage Building, 345 Higgins Avenue (1926), St. Ignatius Church, 255 Stafford Street (1928), the second pavilion at the Assiniboine Park and Zoo, 55 Pavilion Crescent (1929-30, Grade II), the Riverbend School for Girls Junior School, now Balmoral Hall School, 630 Westminster Avenue (ca.1930), Greater Winnipeg Gas Building, 265 Notre Dame Avenue (1930, Grade III) the Women's Tribute Memorial Lodge, 200 Woodlawn Street (1931, Grade II), the Civic Auditorium, 444 St. Mary Avenue (1932), the Bank of Toronto Branch on Academy Road (1934) and the Federal Building, 269 Main Street (1935).³ They have been given 20 points by the Historical Buildings Committee.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Has been part of Winnipeg School Division No. 1 for 80 years. The building was opened as Glenwood School although the original building plans show the proposed school as Elmwood School. In 1949 the name was changed to Glenelm.⁴



Front (north) and east façades, 1997

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

Under the Historical Buildings By-law, this building meets a number of important criteria:

- its historical importance- one of few 1920s era Winnipeg School Division No. 1 facilities still standing;
- its associations- its long-term connections to Winnipeg and Elmwood education;
- its design- a good example of the Collegiate Gothic style;
- its architect- Northwood and Chivers were respected and important practitioners;
- its location- contributes to its streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 37.
- ² Glenelm School website (<http://www.wsd1.org/glenelm/history/history.htm>), December 2008.
- ³ City of Winnipeg, Historical Buildings Committee, files.
- ⁴ Glenelm School website (<http://www.wsd1.org/glenelm/history/history.htm>), December 2008.