

115 GARRY STREET – HUDSON’S BAY COMPANY GARAGE
John Woodman & Raymond Carey, 1911



The Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC), Western Canada’s first major commercial venture, set up its chief trading post, Upper Fort Garry, at the south end of what would become Main Street. In the 1880s, with the post almost completely demolished, the company moved several blocks north on Main, locating its new retail store on the southwest corner of York Avenue.

The complex grew to include several other associated structures and in 1911, in response to the growing use of automobiles, designed and built this modest garage.

The building is built of solid, dark colour brick on a heavy, reinforced concrete frame. Originally, the symmetrical main (west) façade featured a large, centrally-placed entrance below a brick arch and raised roofline with metal accenting. The entrance has been converted into a window and the all window units on this façade have been replaced. A round opening with stylized initials of the original owner “HBCo” is also found on this elevation. The north wall is

hidden, the east (back lane) façade boasts two boarded up raised loading doors in arched openings and the south façade is partially hidden by several additions and an outdoor patio.

On the inside, original elements not covered or replaced by the structure's conversion to a restaurant include the large concrete columns and corrugated concrete ceilings.

Local partnership John Woodman and Raymond Carey were responsible for the design of the structure. The partnership lasted from 1911 to 1916 and several fine designs came out of the office, including: the Lindsay Building, 228 Notre Dame Avenue (built 1911); Winnipeg Free Press Building, 300 Carlton Street (1911-1913); Paris Building, 257 Portage Avenue (1915-1917); and Stovel Printing Company Building, 365 Bannatyne Avenue (1916). Contractor John McQuarrie built the garage.

The HBC remained in the building until the early 1930s, even though its retail operations were moved to their mammoth department store on Portage Avenue in 1926. Other occupants of the building included Longon Motors, Davies Motors and Red Wing Cartage and Storage. In the 1970s, it was converted into a popular restaurant, today known as The Keg.

Elements of the building that would require approval if alterations were planned are:

Exterior-

- The one-storey dark brick structure with its front (west) facade facing Garry Street, its north facade hidden by the neighbouring building, its south facade hidden by an addition and its rear (east) facade facing a back lane;
- The symmetrical front (west) facade with grooved pilasters with ornamental metal heads framing a centrally located arched opening, large rectilinear window openings on either side, a flat roofline with raised central section with round opening with stylized initials of the original owner – “HBCo” and the lower roofline with metal cornices and ornamental detailing; and
- The rear (east) facade with two raised loading doors in arched openings with stone sills.

Interior-

- Examples of the concrete construction (posts and corrugated ceiling).