

287 GARRY STREET – GARRICK (WELLINGTON) HOTEL
Smith & Bruce, 1906-1907



This hotel, originally known as the Mount Royal, was opened in 1907, built at a cost of \$50,000. This five-storey brick and stone structure rests on a heavy stone foundation and measures 36.6 metres deep with a frontage of 7.6 metres. It features a heavily ornamented front (west) façade designed in the Classical Revival style, popular in the early 20th century for homes, warehouses and office buildings. Columns, pediments and entablatures were utilized – all the classically based architecture of the Greek and Roman eras. The structures were usually symmetrical and featured smooth surfaces, flat and unadorned rooflines and rectilinear window and door openings. Downtown Winnipeg boasts several examples of the style, both larger and smaller.

The facility was opened as a temperance hotel by Italian immigrant Olivo John Biollo, who had come to Canada in 1902 as a labourer, sponsored by the Canadian Pacific Railway. He settled in

Winnipeg shortly after and soon became part owner of a Main Street hotel, organizing the Western Co-operative Construction Company in 1905 and then building this hotel.

The front (west) façade is one of downtown Winnipeg's most intricately detailed elevations: rust-coloured brick accented with cream-coloured stone and terra cotta embellishments around corners and window and door openings. The ground floor is clad in deeply grooved terra cotta (now painted) and the flat roof is embellished with a heavy overhanging cornice and parapet. The rear (east) façade is clad in dark brick and includes an open metal fire escape and windows and doors in arched openings. The top two floors of the north elevation are visible, finished in common clay brick and featuring two shallow window wells and the common clay brick of the south façade is interrupted by plain windows and two window wells from the second to the top floor. The original protruding balconies with wrought iron railing gracing the middle windows on the second and third floors were removed sometime after 1978.

As originally described in a local newspaper, the Mount Royal boast an electric elevator, rare in the city, common bathrooms on each floor, 12 suites with their own bathrooms and sitting rooms and 35 single apartments, all off the central hallways. Also in the hotel were a main floor rotunda and dining room, a second floor parlour, a large banqueting hall and a grotto. Alterations have occurred over time; today the facility includes 45 suites, 11 with their own bathrooms and a ground floor with a small eating area, kitchen and bar.

Well-known local architects Daniel Smith and William Bruce were responsible for the design of the Wellington Hotel. This partnership lasted from 1907 to 1910 and produced a number of fine buildings including: an addition to St. Stephen's Anglican Church (now Elim Chapel), 546 Portage Avenue (1908); St. Edwards Public School, Arlington Street (1909); Public Press Ltd. Office Building, Sherbrook Street (1909) and the Melbourne Apartments, 133 Sherbrook Street (1910).

The early years of operation of the hotel were mired in controversy when the original owner O.J. Biollo was refused a liquor license and lost the hotel. The license was then granted to the new owner, John O. Eggo, because of a typographical error in the 1906 Liquor License Act amendment. The business, now known as the Wellington Hotel, went through several sales in

the early 1910s and then in the early 1920s its contents were put up for auction by its new owners and reorganized as the Garrick Hotel. Shea's Brewery, established in Winnipeg in 1887, purchased the hotel in 1935, following the lead of other local breweries to buy and operate small downtown hotels. It owned the hotel until the mid-1940s.

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

Exterior-

- Five-storey brick and stone building with flat roof located on the east side of Garry Street, its main façade facing west onto Garry Street, its north and south façades partially hidden by neighbouring buildings, and its east façades facing the back lane;
- The front (west) façade with ground floor clad in terra cotta with arched openings, rust-coloured brick upper floors with cream-coloured stone and terra cotta quoins, window sills, arched and pedimented heads, keystones, oversized brackets and enriched window frames and the flat roof with heavy overhanging cornice and parapet;
- The common clay brick walls of the north and south façades interrupted by shallow window wells; and
- The rear (east) façade with its dark brick walls, open metal fire escape and windows and doors in arched openings.

Interior-

- None.