

93 LOMBARD AVENUE – CRANE & ORDWAY BUILDING
John H.G. Russell, 1906 & 1911



In 1900, St. Paul Minnesota-founded Crane and Ordway Company was one of the largest manufacturers of pipes, valves and steam supplies in the world. They looked to open a branch in Canada and chose Winnipeg. In 1906, the Lombard Avenue building was opened and five years later was doubled by an addition. The company would remain in the building into the 1970s and in 1977, became one of the earliest warehouse to office space conversions in the Exchange District.

The front (north) façade begins at grade with a raised, rusticated stone-clad foundation wall leading to the brick superstructure of common clay brick. Windows on the upper level are plain with arched openings and radiating brick heads. The flat roof now features a renovated entablature. Its lack of ornamental treatment makes it a reduced example of the Romanesque Revival Style so prevalent in the warehouse district.

The rear of the building includes a newer one-storey building and the west façade includes raised loading doors.

The original interior has been altered, the original office and showroom space on the ground floor and the open storage space on the upper floors has been converted into modern office space.

John H.G. Russell was responsible for the design of the building and its large addition. Russell was one of the City's most prolific late 19th and early 20th century architects, designed office towers, homes, churches, schools and warehouse during his successful career. Contractors for the building was local builders Saul and Irish (1906) and S. Brynjolffsson and Company (1911).

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

Exterior-

- five-storey brick and stone warehouse on raised rusticated stone base with its primary façade facing south on Lombard Avenue;
- asymmetrical front (south) façade with ground floor featuring large windows in arched openings with keystones and a main entrance in the third bay from the west;
- upper floors divided into seven bays with windows in arched openings in the six western bays and thin windows in arched openings in the eastern most bay;
- west façade with windows in square openings on all floors and raised loading doors; and
- rear (north) façade featuring a one-storey addition and windows in arched openings on the upper floors.

Interior

- heavy timber mill structural system;
- exposed masonry walls; and
- east masonry load-bearing demising wall.