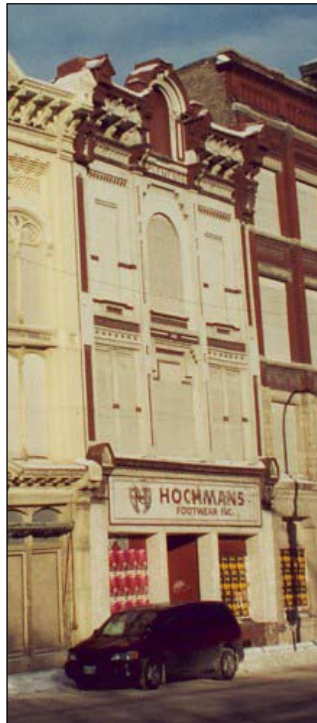


154 PRINCESS STREET – HARRIS BLOCK (HOCHMAN BUILDING)
James Chisholm, 1882



This is the third structure erected in sequence, with the Benson and Bawlf blocks immediately to the south. All three were built in 1882, but this third building was not designed by Barber and Barber but by James Chisholm. It is certain by the materials, scale and design that all three structures were visually related, and built in conjunction with the other two buildings.

It was constructed for the Harris Implement Company, an eastern firm that had expanded to the west in 1872. By 1882, they were well established throughout rural Manitoba and required a building of their own. In 1891, the famous merger with Massey Manufacturing Company took place, and Massey-Harris located in larger premises along Princess Street.

The building was subsequently leased to the Cockshutt Plow Company until 1903, and then converted to a wholesale boot and shoe warehouse until 1927. After a vacancy of several years in the depression, two companies used the building for offices until a fire in 1945 forced them out. In 1951, Hochman's Limited purchased the building and it again became a footwear

wholesale. It was some years after this that alterations were made to the lower section of the exterior façade.

Other alterations to this three-storey brick structure include the removal of the iron cresting from the cornice and the disappearance of a large statue of Ceres holding a sheaf of wheat which suitably adorned the niche at the center top of the structure.

Massey-Harris and Cockshutt Plow Companies were both major influences in Canadian farming technology. Together with the early Grain Exchange Building at 160 Princess Street, they created a pattern in the years when wheat was king and the grain interests centered on Princess Street.