THE PROMENADE

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS TEMPLE
FAÇADE

City of Winnipeg
Historical Buildings & Resources Committee
Researchers: S.C. Grover (March 1984)
M. Peterson (April 2020)
The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) is a fraternal organization formed in 18th century England.\(^1\) Despite its relatively late date, the precepts of the I.O.O.F. go back to medieval times when the guild system offered fellowship and protection for various craftsmen. Bringing with them these ideals, working men of pre-industrial England formed a fraternity of mutual benefit and good fellowship. The name “Odd Fellows” refers to its original members who, as common labourers and the young artisans, were exclude from the established craft guilds.

The stated mission of the Order is “to enable brethren to assist each other, by mutual counsels, and united financial efforts, in the multiplied struggles and trials common to human existence.”\(^2\) Each member takes a vow to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan. In practice, the Order is a mutual benefit society, a critical protection from want in ages before any advantages of the welfare state. Each member paid weekly dues that were pooled and dispersed to other members in need: family men suddenly out of work, heads of families disabled by ill health or accident, widows, the orphaned families of deceased members – an actual form of mutual aid based on fundamental need. For this reason, the balancing of finances, and the collection of dues, has always been a matter of primary importance to the I.O.O.F., with the more comfortable accoutrements of a fraternal club following much later.

Joined by their female counterparts, the Rebekahs, the Oddfellows embarked on their course of mutual assistance, attracting to their ranks not the rich and famous but sensible family men, often of modest means.

Fellowship, a sense of understanding and concern, is the philosophical foundation of the Order. Their golden rule is embodied by the symbol of the order, a triple link: friendship, love and truth.

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\(^2\) Ibid., p. 602.
In 1909, the local Oddfellows decided to build a modern temple for the fraternity, moving from their headquarters in the warehouse district to a more downtown locale on Kennedy Street just north of Portage Avenue (Plate 1).

STYLE
The I.O.O.F. Temple is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical or Classical Revival style, which as the name suggests, was a redefinition and revisiting of classical architectural form and ornamentation. Popular from 1900 into the 1930s in North America, its designs included columns, capitals, pediments and Greek or Roman embellishments. Main façades were normally symmetrical with smooth cladding and rooflines flat. Windows and doors were placed in both lintelled and arched openings; the latter was especially prevalent in the most ornamentally complex variant of the style, Beaux-Arts Classicism.

Examples in Winnipeg are numerous and include the Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Lodge, 216 Princess Street (1903), Imperial Bank of Commerce, 441 Main Street (completed in 1906), the Bank of Nova Scotia, 254 Portage Avenue (1910) and the Bank of Montreal, 335 Main Street (1913). Government buildings also used the style extensively: Provincial Land Titles Building, 433 Broadway (1903-1904), Law Courts Building, 411 Broadway (1912-1916), the Legislative Building, 450 Broadway (1913-1920) and Powerhouse, 219 Memorial Boulevard (1914).

CONSTRUCTION
This two-storey structure sits on a raised foundation and featured a dark brick and stone main façade and a common brick south façade (likely used for the other two elevations as well). The structure measured 20.4 x 37.2 metres and cost $43,000 to complete. It was built on the east

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4 City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #1517/1909.
side of Kennedy Street on the north side of the back lane that ran behind the commercial buildings along Portage Avenue (Plate 2).

**DESIGN**

The building originally boasted an ornate main façade facing west onto Kennedy Street continued on a small angled section connecting to the south façade that faced the lane.

The front façade was symmetrically designed, divided into three bays by attached brick pilasters with modest stone bases and more ornate stone Tuscan capitals (Plate 3). The base of the pilaster at the angled corner includes the raised stone lettering- “AD 1909”. The ground floor is clad in smooth-cut limestone, deeply grooved and interrupted by large rectilinear window openings. The centrally-located entrance is set in an ornately carved stone frame (Plate 4) with egg and dart stone moulding and topped by a consoled entablature with raised stone lettering “I.O.O.F.” in the lintel (Plate 5). The rectilinear window openings of the second floor are topped by wide stone architraves and the smaller recessed rectilinear openings of the third floor with radiating brick heads and stone keystones (Plate 6).

Between the second and third floors are three brick and stone spandrel panels with raised brick crosses and the initials “F”, “L” and “T” centred in stone diamonds, representing the organization’s motto of “Friendship, Love and Truth”. A stone panel on the third storey includes the words “ODD FELLOWS TEMPLE” (Plate 7). The building is finished with a full entablature with a dentilled and modillioned cornice, moulding and small medallions (Plate 8). The original stone-capped brick parapet with its stone balustrades (Plate 9) was not rebuilt with the rest of the façade.

The angled southwest corner façade of the original building continued the cladding and ornamental elements of the main façade (Plate 10). In the late 1950s, it appears that an entrance was added to this façade to give access to the newly created retail space in the basement (compare Plate 9 with Plate 11).
The common clay brick of the south façade featured plain openings and an open metal fire escape (Plate 12).

The third storey window openings were filled in with glass block prior to the reconstruction.

**INTERIOR**
The newly built Temple included numerous meeting halls, which the Order offered to other lodges as well as to the general public (Plate 13). In January of 1946, a fire broke out in the Temple, completely gutting the structure and causing $100,000 in damage. The interior was completely rebuilt. In the late 1950s, it appears that the basement was altered into commercial/retail space.

Today there is no interior of the Temple remaining.

**INTEGRITY**
The main façade of the original Temple was dismantled in 1985 and the approximately 20,000 pieces were then re-applied to the rear of the new Portage Place Shopping Centre in 1987. Much of the original brick was significantly deteriorated and because exact replacement bricks could not be found, new, slightly larger bricks were used, creating a façade approximately 0.5 metres taller than the original.

**STREETSCEAPE**
This façade is now part of a much larger structure built in the late-1980s (Plates 14 and 15).

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5 BP, #3406/1946; and Winnipeg Tribune/Winnipeg Free Press, January 14, 1946, p. 1. Note that the two local newspapers joined together during a printers’ strike that year.
ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS

The architects for the Temple were James Chisholm (1840-1920)- Plate 16, an Ontario-born designer who was responsible for many fine buildings before and after 1900 and his son Colin C. Chisholm (1883-1936) - Plate 17, who worked with his father beginning ca.1906 (see Appendix I for biographical information). James Chisholm was active in the Masonic Fraternity and son Colin was an Oddfellow.8

Contractor for the Temple was Sinclair Balsor Ritchie (1855-1933). Ritchie was born in Nova Scotia in 1855, although he learned the trade of carpentry in New Brunswick. He came to Winnipeg in 1879, working as a foreman with lumber dealers Brown and Rutherford. Soon after, he established a construction company, Ritchie and McCloy (D.E.), prior to operating his own firm. A long-time Winnipeg Beach resident, Ritchie developed Boundary Park in the area, was its mayor from 1915-1920 and built over 200 cottages. Ritchie’s list of Winnipeg work is extensive, some of his more major contracts would include:9

- Machray School, 350 Charles Street (1886) - demolished
- L.A. Hamilton House, 434 Assiniboine Avenue (1894)
- Sir Hugh John Macdonald House, “Dalnavert”, 61 Carlton Street (1895) – Grade I
- Central Fire Hall, 110 Albert Street (1898) – demolished
- Hurtig Building, 268 Portage Avenue (1902)
- Bole Drug Company Warehouse, 70 Princess Street (1903) – List of Historical Resources
- Kemp Building, 111 Lombard Avenue (1903), with P. Burnett – List of Historical Resources
- Mackenzie Block, 141 Bannatyne Avenue (1903), with P. Burnett – Grade III
- Adelman Building, 100 Princess Street (1903) – Grade II
- Scott Block, 272 Main Street (1904) – with P. Burnett – Grade III
- Fire Hall No. 7, 349 Burrows Avenue (1904)
- Fire Hall No. 4, 470 Gertrude Avenue (1904)
- Fire Hall No. 5, 354 Sherbrook Street (1904) – demolished
- Broadway Methodist Church (St. Stephens-Broadway), 396 Broadway (1908) – demolished
- I.O.O.F. Temple, 293 Kennedy Street (1909-1910) – dismantled and rebuilt at 0 The Promenade – Grade III
- Britannia School No. 1517, 361 Hampton Street (1910)
- Grace Motors Building, 242 Main Street (1912) – demolished

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PERSON/INSTITUTION

The I.O.O.F. organized its first North American lodge in 1819; its first Winnipeg lodge was established in the summer of 1873 and by 1886, 13 subordinate lodges had also been organized.

In 1883, the Order built a new headquarters, at 72-74 Princess Street on the southwest corner of McDermot Avenue (Plates 18-20). The three-storey brick and stone structure featured a third floor with meeting rooms and a large ballroom for joint fraternal and social functions. The lower levels were leased to commercial tenants, including clothing firm of Carscaden and Peck.\(^\text{10}\)

The building was designed by Hugh McCowan and built by contractor Horace J. Raymer. The building cost $25,000 to construct and included crescent moons and stars in its metal cornice. The building continued to serve the Order until the new Temple on Kennedy Street was built.\(^\text{11}\)

The Order was obviously proud of its new modern headquarters (Plate 21) and part of the celebration was an Oddfellows Convention in 1912, the biggest of its kind ever held in the Western Canada, the highlight being the 15,000-participant parade through the City’s downtown that was witnessed by an estimated 150,000 Winnipeggers (Plate 22). The new Temple served as meeting places for many lodges, such as the Eureka Encampment, Hiawatha Lodge, Florence Nightingale Rebekah Lodge and Olive Branch Rebekah Lodge, all of whom shared the space on a regular basis.

The Order continued to grow in the community, building a club house at 521 McMillan Avenue in 1912 (Plate 23) and a Home for aged and impoverished members and widows and orphans at 4025 Roblin Boulevard in 1922 (Plate 24).

The basement retail space, which included a suite for the caretaker, rented to a variety of business: book shops, music stores, an accordion college, The Castle Nightclub and Hovmand Galleries. On the upper floors, numerous other organizations rented meeting space including the Airline Lodge


\(^{11}\) Winnipeg Daily Sun, October 20, 1883, p. 3.
Mechanics’ Union, the Ladies Brotherhood of Engineers and the Manitoba Telephone Workers’ Union.

The redevelopment of the north side of Portage Avenue in downtown Winnipeg in the mid-1980s meant the demolition of dozens of buildings, including the I.O.O.F. Temple. The decision was made, however, to dismantle the main façade and to rebuild it as a rear entrance, locating it just across the back lane of the original structure. Originally giving entrance to a Birks Jewellery store which later became a McNally Robinson store (Plate 25).

EVENT
There is no known significant historic event connected with this building.

CONTEXT
The construction of the I.O.O.F. Temple is representative of the growth of the support organization in Western Canada and especially in Winnipeg. This growth necessitated a move to a larger, more modern headquarters and the group chose to locate closer to the new commercial/professional centre of the city, Portage Avenue.

Its dismantling and rebuilding is an example of the urban renewal process large centres across the continent where old-style commercial property was replaced with modern retail space in order to attract people to the downtown. That the Temple’s façade was ultimately saved underlines the importance of the organization within Winnipeg’s history.

LANDMARK
In its reconstructed state, the Temple façade is a recognizable downtown feature.
APPENDIX I

James Chisholm and Son

James Chisholm was born in Paris, Upper Canada (Ontario) in 1840, where he attended public school. He married Elizabeth Goodfellow at Brantford on February 22, 1864 and together they had six children. The pair lived for a time on a farm in Glengarry County before moving to London where James worked for a plough manufacturer but also took up the study of architecture. After moving back to Paris, Chisholm met a family acquaintance, the Hon. John Sifton, who talked him into moving to Winnipeg for both his health and his future, which he did in the spring of 1877, leaving his wife and three children at home.¹

His first job was as a timekeeper on the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Winnipeg and Whitemouth. He also spent one summer in Norway House, attempting to improve his poor health. Shortly thereafter, he began his architectural career in earnest, and became involved in the City Hall construction scandal when he was hired to replace C.A. Barber as the architect for the project.

The family moved to Superior, Wisconsin in 1892 and James became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1896. He worked during this period as a preacher for the Methodist Episcopal Church, travelling great distances every week.² In 1900, the family returned to Winnipeg, James taking his place among the growing number of talented architects practising their trade in the city and throughout western Canada. James Chisholm was a member of the Winnipeg School Board and an avid curler, being an honorary member of the Manitoba Curling Association and long-time member of the Granite Curling Club.

¹ Family information courtesy of Jim Chisholm, grandson of James and son of Colin C. Chisholm.
About 1911, Chisholm and his wife began wintering in Santa Monica, California because of continued poor health and they moved there permanently in 1914. He died on October 14, 1920 in Ocean Park, California.³

Colin Campbell Chisholm was James Chisholm’s youngest child, born in Winnipeg on September 17, 1883. He moved south with the family and received his early education in Madison, Wisconsin before returning to Winnipeg. He officially joined his father’s architectural firm ca.1906, became its active manager in 1910 and eventually took over the practice.⁴ He shared his father’s love of curling and was a president of the Granite Curling Club. He died in Winnipeg on September 5, 1936.⁵

The firm was responsible for designing buildings throughout Winnipeg and Manitoba as well as in Regina, Saskatoon (Bowerman Building, 1912), and Moose Jaw (Wesley Church, n.d.), Saskatchewan, and Edmonton, Alberta.⁶ An incomplete list of their Winnipeg structures includes:⁷

James Chisholm:
- Hochman (formerly Harris) Building, 154 Princess Street (1882) – Grade III
- Grace Methodist Church, 351 Smith Street (1883) – demolished
- Maycock Block, 586 Main Street (1885) – List of Historical Resources
- Arthur Wilson House, 92 Charlotte Street (1900)
- Addition to J. Ryan Building, 678-680 Main Street (1900)
- James H. Turnbull House, 28 Edmonton Street (1900)
- Charles N. Bell House, 121 Carlton Street (1900)
- David Horn House, 17 Edmonton Street (1901)
- John Watson House, 332 River Avenue (1901)
- Nix Block (for Charles H. Nix), 401 Ross Avenue (1901)
- Rev. James A. McClung House, 213 Balmoral Street (1902)
- W.G. Moyse House, Langside Street (1902)
- George N. Jackson House, 331 Langside Street (1902)

³ Manitoba Free Press, October 18, 1920, p. 15.
⁵ Winnipeg Tribune, September 5, 1936; and Winnipeg Free Press, September 7, 1936, p. 6.
⁷ Compiled from Ibid., pp. 723-24; Winnipeg Tribune, September 5, 1936; Winnipeg Saturday Post, June 8, 1912, p. 39; and City of Winnipeg Building Permits, 1900-26.
James Chisholm (continued):
- Waterous Engine Works Company Warehouse, 157 Higgins Avenue (1902)
- Coleclough Company Building, 654 Logan Avenue (1902)
- W.J. Guest Building, 598 Main Street (1902)
- E.N. Page House, 198 Spence Street (1902)
- J.W. Harris House, 26 Edmonton Street (1902) – Grade III
- Alexander McCormack House, 160 Edmonton Street (1902)
- Wright and Stewart Building, Alexander Avenue (1902)
- A.J. Adamson House, 161 Mayfair Avenue (1903)
- G. Forsyth House, Carlton Street (1903)
- Mill Ross Block (Gallie Hotel), 336 Ross Avenue (1903)
- C. Lilt House, Hargrave Avenue (1903)
- Dr. M.C. Clarke House, 70 Furby Street (1903)
- D.A. Stewart House, Wardlaw Avenue (1903)
- C.E. Young House, Mayfair Place (1903)
- Zion Methodist (then Zion Apostolic) Church, 335 Pacific Ave. (1904), destroyed by fire 1970
- M. Woodlinger House, Pacific Avenue (1904)
- Young Men’s Liberal Club, 310 Notre Dame Avenue (1904)
- Manitoba Cartage Company stable, Henry Avenue (1905)
- W.J. Guest Fish Warehouse, 98 Alexander Avenue (1905 & 1910)
- Exeter Apartments, 76 Lily Street (1905)
- Shipley Court Apartments, 327 Furby Street (1906) – demolished
- Arbuckle Jardine House, 115 Middle Gate (1906)

James Chisholm and Son:
- Walter Woods Company Warehouse, 10 Robinson Street (1907)
- W.J. Guest House, 75 Academy Road (1907)
- Jobin-Marrin Warehouse, 158-162 Market Avenue (1907)
- Young Methodist (United) Church, 222 Furby Street (1907, 1910) – Grade II (only tower left after fire)
- Strathcona Curling Rink, Furby Place (1908) – demolished
- Kipling Apartments, 465 Langside Street (1908-1909)
- James T. Gordon House, 514 Wellington Crescent (1909)
- House for St. John’s Methodist Church, Polson Avenue (1909)
- George F. Galt House, Wellington Crescent (1910)
- J. Ryan Sr. House, Central Avenue (1910)
- Semmons Warehouse, 468 Ross Avenue (1910)
- I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows') Temple, 293 Kennedy Street (1910) – Grade III (façade only remains)
- Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue (1910-1911) – List of Historical Resources
- Frank S. Parlee House, 131 Canora Street (1911)
James Chisholm and Son (continued):

E.C. Marrin House, Dorchester Avenue (1911)
Gowans, Kent, Western Building, 166-168 Market Avenue (1911-1912)
Granite Curling Club, 22 Mostyn Place (now 22 Granite Way) (1912) – Grade III
Sparling Methodist Church, 1609 Elgin Avenue (1912)
George N. Jackson House, 15 West Gate (1912)
Thistle Curling Club, 160 Alexander Avenue (1912)
Grandstand for Stampede Amusement Company, Sinclair Street (1913)
Shragge Iron & Metal Company Warehouse, Sutherland Avenue (1913)
Marlborough Hotel, 331 Smith Street (1913) – Grade II
La Salle Hotel, 346 Nairn Avenue (1914)
City Light and Power, additional storey to power house, 54 King Street (1915)
Carruthers Building, 124 King Street (1916)
City Light and Power, additions to terminal station, McFarlane Street (1918)
Winnipeg Hydro Showroom, 55 Princess Street (1919)
City of Winnipeg garage, Elgin Avenue (1919)
Walter Woods Warehouse, Sutherland Avenue (1920)
Clarendon Hotel, 311 Portage Avenue (1920) and fire repairs (1923) – demolished

C.C. Chisholm:

Clarendon Hotel, 311 Portage Avenue, fire repairs (1923) – demolished
Filling station for M. Bergstrom, Maryland Street (1924)
Calvary Evangelical Church, Alverstone Street (1925)
Royal Oak Court, 277 River Avenue (1928)
Addition, Winnipeg Police Court, Rupert Avenue (1930) – demolished
Plate 1 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple, 293 Kennedy Street, shortly after its dedication, 1910. (Reproduced from Winnipeg Tribune, April 22, 1910, p. 3.)
Plate 2 – City of Winnipeg Fire Atlas, Vol. I, Sheet 101, February 1918, showing the north side of Portage Avenue between Kennedy and Edmonton streets, I.O.O.F. Temple at arrow. (City of Winnipeg.)
Plate 3 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple façade, 0 The Promenade, front (north) façade, 2020. (M. Peterson, 2020.)
Plate 4 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple façade, 0 The Promenade, main entrance, 2020. (M. Peterson, 2020.)
Plate 5 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple façade, 0 The Promenade, main entrance detail, 2020. (M. Peterson, 2020.)
Plate 6 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple façade, 0 The Promenade, detail of front façade, 2020. (M. Peterson, 2020.)
Plate 7 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple façade, 0 The Promenade, detail of front façade, 2020. (M. Peterson, 2020.)
Plate 8 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple façade, 0 The Promenade, detail of front façade, 2020. (M. Peterson, 2020.)
Plate 9 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple, 293 Kennedy Street, ca.1920. (Winnipeg Free Press Collection, Western Canada Pictorial Index, A1295-3878.)
Plate 10 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple façade, 0 The Promenade, detail of front façade, 2020. (M. Peterson, 2020.)
Plate 11 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple, 293 Kennedy Street, date unknown, with door in angled section. (City of Winnipeg.)
Plate 12 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple, 293 Kennedy Street, front (west) and south façades, date unknown. (City of Winnipeg.)

Plate 13 – Advertisement for rental space at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple, 293 Kennedy Street, 1910. (Reproduced from the Manitoba Free Press, December 27, 1910, p. 14.)
Plate 14 – The Promenade, looking west, 2020. (M. Peterson, 2020.)

Plate 16 – James Chisholm, no date. (M. Peterson Collection.)

Plate 17 – Colin Campbell Chisholm, no date. (M. Peterson Collection.)
Plate 18 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building, 72-74 Princess Street, 1912.
(Reproduced from Official Souvenir Program, Sovereign Grand Lodge I.O.O.F., Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1912.)
Plate 19 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building, 72-74 Princess Street, 1989. (City of Winnipeg.)
Plate 20 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building, 72-74 Princess Street, exterior detailing, date unknown. (City of Winnipeg.)
Plate 21 – Postcard showing the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple, ca.1912. (Winnipeg Public Library, Rob McInnes Collection.)
Plate 21 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Convention parade on Main Street, 1912. (Winnipeg Public Library, Martin Berman Collection, Binder 4A.)
Plate 23 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Clubhouse, 521 McMillan Avenue, 2020; designed and built by Fraser and McDonald, 1912. (M. Peterson, 2020.)
Plate 24 – Independent Order of Odd Fellows Home, 4025 Roblin Boulevard, front (south) façade, 1978; designed by J.H.G. Russell, built by S. Brynjolfsson, 1922. (City of Winnipeg.)