

1980

THE YEAR PAST

REPORT OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE



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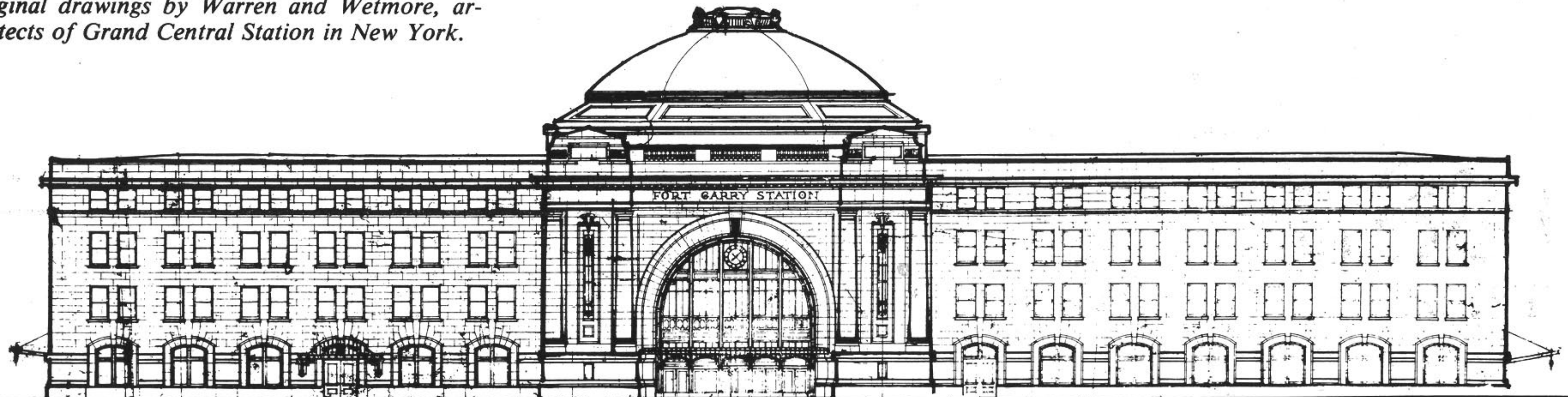
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**Cover:**  
*Main Street elevation of Union Station from  
original drawings by Warren and Wetmore, ar-  
chitects of Grand Central Station in New York.*





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	<i>Edited by Val Werier</i>

*1980: The Year Past is designed and produced by  
the Historic Projects Branch, City of Winnipeg,  
Department of Environmental Planning.*

*September 1981*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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The conservation and preservation of our architectural heritage provides a vital link with the past and a familiar bridge to the future. Appreciation and respect for the past are essential in order to maintain Winnipeg's unique identity and sense of place. The protection and rehabilitation of individual buildings and districts are tangible ways to recognize the past; to explore and understand where we came from and who we are; and to provide a foundation for future change.

The City of Winnipeg's Historical Buildings By-law 1474/77, passed in February, 1977, and amending By-law No. 2032/78, passed in August, 1978, established the Historical Buildings Committee, enabled it to draw up a list of buildings or structures of significant architectural or historic interest, and established the criteria, priorities, and procedures for placing buildings on the Buildings' Conservation List. This designation represents the legal protection placed upon heritage buildings by City Council.

The goal of heritage conservation is to retain, where possible, the original character of a building while encouraging those changes which will make it useful. Heritage conservation is an increasingly important factor in the development of Winnipeg as an interesting, attractive, and cosmopolitan city.

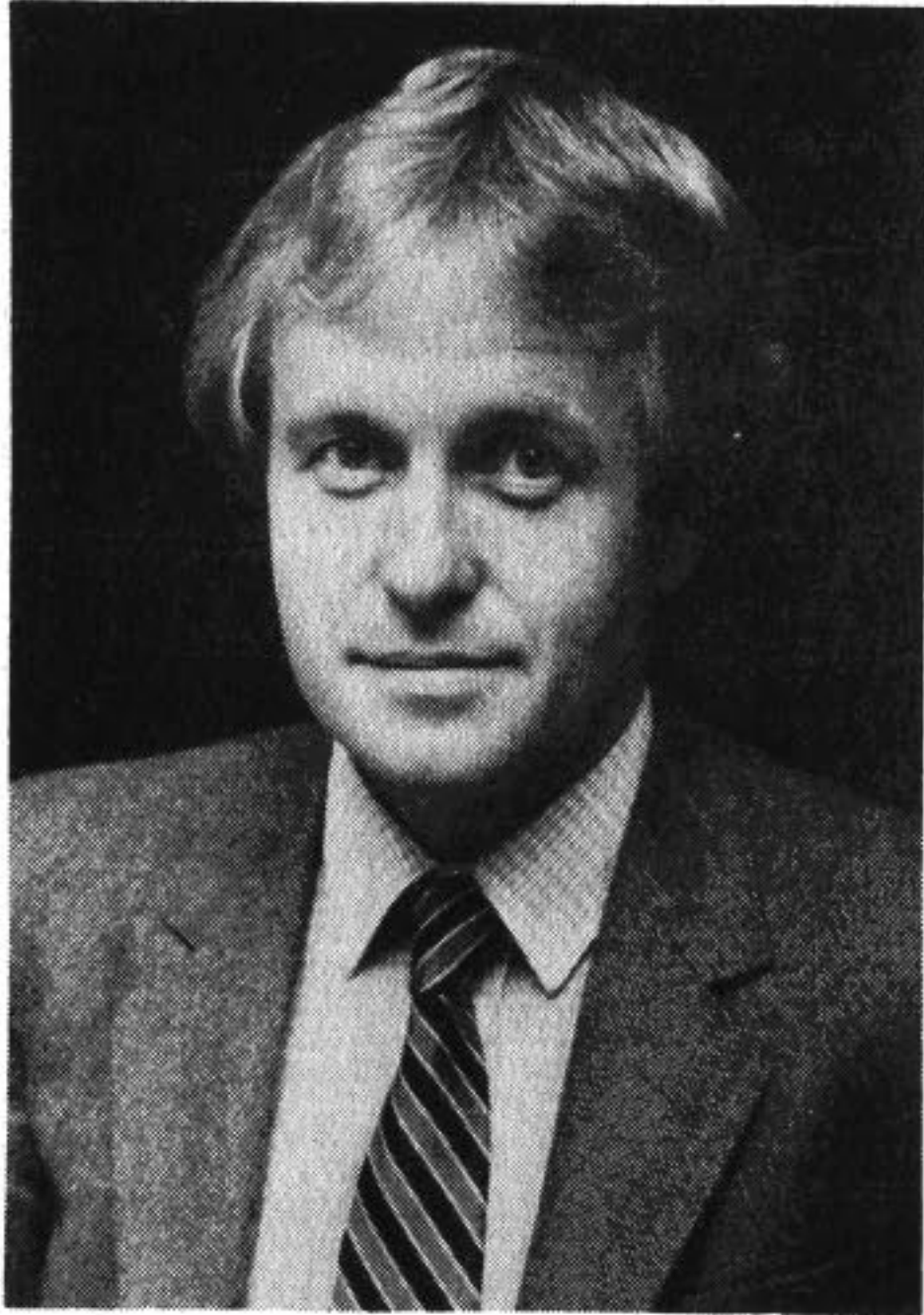
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Norrie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WILLIAM NORRIE, Q.C.  
MAYOR

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## 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



1980 was the second full year in which the Historical Buildings Committee was engaged in recommending heritage buildings in Winnipeg for designation by City Council. This period has seen a further refinement of the Committee's procedures, and it may be appropriate to review briefly what these are.

Prior to making its recommendations, the Historical Buildings Committee assigns a research historian to prepare a report on each building. This is followed by an inspection of the property and an evaluation by the full Committee. The Committee employs a grading system in which points are assigned for specific architectural and historical features as a means of arriving at a classification for the buildings, and that classification provides the basis for designation. Details of the designation process are to be found in Chapter 3 of the present report.

Operating within these procedures, during 1980 the Historical Buildings Committee made recommendations to the Committee on Environment involving 22 buildings; of these, eighteen buildings were subsequently placed on the Buildings Conservation List, bringing to 28 the total number of buildings designated as of 31 December, 1980.

Besides making recommendations on specific buildings, the Historical Buildings Committee:

- reviewed and revised the Historical Buildings By-law;
- commissions detailed research reports on building types such as banks, apartments and municipal buildings;
- monitors the inventory of Historical Buildings to ensure that architecturally significant buildings are not inadvertently demolished; and
- approves certification of suitability for renovation work on designated buildings.

Among Western Canadian cities, Winnipeg has a rich - indeed, a unique - architectural heritage. The activities of the Historical Buildings Committee are a measure of the commitment of the Council and the citizens of Winnipeg to the conservation and preservation of that heritage. No one should be misled, however, into believing that heritage conservation is easy or without cost: conservation policies have been known to conflict with other community priorities, both public and private; and the existing federal tax laws have often made it more attractive to demolish rather than renovate buildings of architectural and historical significance. Municipalities and citizens concerned with preserving their heritage must, of necessity, recognize these factors in developing conservation policies and in giving effect to them.

In that context, the recent experience of Winnipeg is heartening. Some battles have been lost, but much has also been achieved: governments, including the municipal government, are making greater efforts to utilize heritage buildings to meet public needs; and there is some evidence of growing public awareness of the long-term value to a community of consciously preserving the best of its own past. This annual report is published in the interests of illustrating our community's commitment and of broadening public knowledge of the Committee and the buildings which it has chosen to protect.

The tasks of the Chairman of the Committee have been rendered infinitely lighter through the ability and dedication which our staff members have brought to the work of the Committee; and by the conscientious and good-humoured efforts of the Committee members themselves. I am grateful to them all, and the City of Winnipeg and the cause of conservation are very much in their debt.

*Bill Neville*

William Neville,  
Councillor,  
Chairman, Historical Buildings Committee.



### 3. THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS BY-LAW

#### A. BACKGROUND

On February 2, 1977, Winnipeg City Council adopted **By-law No. 1474/77** "a By-law for the conservation and preservation of buildings of an architectural and historical interest in the City of Winnipeg." By-law 1474 established the **Buildings' Conservation List** and an advisory committee known as the **Historical Buildings Committee**, consisting of seven members appointed or nominated from the following:

- (a) *One Member of The Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba;*
- (b) *One Member from The Manitoba Association of Architects;*
- (c) *Two Members from The Province of Manitoba,*
- (d) *Two Members from The City of Winnipeg,*
- (e) *One Member from The Government of Canada, from Parks Canada;*

In August, 1978 an amending by-law **By-law 2032/78**, was adopted. This by-law set forth in detail: the **criteria** for determining buildings of heritage significance; **priority ratings** of designated buildings; **listing procedures**; **appeal provisions and certificate requirements**.

#### B. CRITERIA FOR HERITAGE BUILDINGS

A building or structure may be listed on the Buildings' Conservation List where:

- the building may have been associated with the life of an historic person or have played a role in an important historic event;
- the building may embody characteristics of an architectural type valuable for the study of a style or method of construction of its period or area, or be a notable example of the work of an early master builder, an important designer, or a significant architect;
- the building has the potential for illustrating our heritage to a degree such that it will be possible for the visitor to gain from the building an understanding of the architecture or history with which it is associated;
- the building and its site possess integrity;
- the building is significant because of the original materials and workmanship remaining;
- the building is significant due to the factors of feeling, association and aesthetics;
- the building forms an integral part of a section of character in a given community.

#### C. PRIORITY RATINGS

There are four categories of heritage buildings:

**Grade I** buildings are those of outstanding architectural or historic merit which are to be preserved in perpetuity. This would apply to the entire building, both interior and exterior.

A **Grade II** listing preserves the exterior of a building and may include a significant interior element such as a handsome marble staircase, a particularly significant room, etc.

A **Grade III** listing prevents the demolition of a building where the demolition is deemed by the Community Committee and Committee on Environment to be "unnecessary", based on individual circumstances. Where a demolition is approved, a **Grade III** listing may regulate the manner in which the building is dismantled, and record or preserve, where possible, building components of interest.

A **Grade IV** listing regulates demolition of buildings to allow for the recording and preserving of certain components.



## D. LISTING, NOTICE AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

There are basically two methods in which a building may be placed on the Buildings' Conservation List:

### METHOD 1: LISTING BY CITY COUNCIL

- i) The Historical Buildings Committee recommends to Committee on Environment that a Grade I or Grade II building be placed on the Buildings Conservation List. In the case of Grade III or IV recommendations, the report is sent to both the Committee on Environment and the Community Committee representing the district in which the building is located. (A building is selected for recommendation in one of three ways: by choice of the Committee; by request by the owner or other party; or by application by the owner for a demolition permit for a building tabulated on the Historical Buildings Inventory. *See Section 4*)
- ii) For Grade I and II buildings, Committee on Environment then notifies the owner of the proposed listing, affording him the opportunity to object by delivering a letter to the City Clerk. If no letter of objection is received within fourteen days of the notification, the building is considered to be listed by Council.
- iii) Upon receiving a letter of objection, Committee on Environment holds a hearing as part of its regular business. The Committee on Environment then forwards its recommendation to Council.
- iv) After again notifying the owner, Council hears representations on the matter and then may list the building on the Buildings' Conservation List under the Grade recommended or any other Grade.

For Grade III and IV buildings, Committee on Environment normally awaits the advice of the Community Committee before notifying the owner of the proposed listing.

### METHOD 2: LISTING BY THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner of Environment is empowered under the By-law to list buildings on the Buildings' Conservation List, with or without the recommendation of the Historical Buildings Committee. Upon listing a building, the Commissioner notifies the owner, and in the instance of a Grade III or IV building, the Community Committee is notified as well. If no appeal against the listing is taken within fourteen days, the Commissioner refers the listing to Council through the Committee on Environment for confirmation. If a letter of objection is received, the Committee on Environment holds a hearing as part of its regular business. The same procedures as those in Method 1 then apply.

A listing by the Commissioner of Environment lapses if it is not confirmed by City Council within one year.

Under a 1979 amendment, the Commissioner may also list a building temporarily for a period of up to 60 days, for the purpose of determining whether or not to list the building in accordance with Method 1. At the end of the 60 day period the temporary listing expires. No appeal provisions apply to a temporary listing.



## **E. REMOVAL FROM THE LIST, CHANGING OF GRADING**

An owner or the Commissioner may apply to have a building removed from the Buildings Conservation List, or listed under a different grade, by writing to the City Clerk. Normal listing procedures, as described above, would then apply.

## **F. CERTIFICATE OF SUITABILITY/ ORDINARY MAINTENANCE**

### **i) Certificate of Suitability**

Except for ordinary maintenance, no permit shall be issued for the alteration, repair, demolition, removal or occupancy of any building on the Buildings' Conservation List without prior issuance of a Certificate of Suitability. Applications for certificates are submitted to Committee on Environment on recommendation of the Historical Buildings Committee. Application forms for Certificates of Suitability are available through the Department of Environmental Planning, Historic Projects Branch, 942-5630.

Where the Historical Buildings Committee recommends to Committee on Environment that a Certificate be refused, the reasons are forwarded to the owner, who has the right to appear at a hearing at Committee on Environment as part of its regular business. The decision of Committee on Environment is final.

### **ii) Certificate of Ordinary Maintenance**

A Certificate of Suitability is not required for ordinary maintenance or repair of a building certified by the Commissioner not to involve a change in any element of design which affects the appearance of the building or its architectural or historical interest. Applications for Certificates of Ordinary Maintenance may be made through the Department of Environmental Planning, Historic Projects Branch, 942-5630.

## **G. PENALTIES**

Any demolition, alteration, repair, removal or occupancy of a building on the Buildings' Conservation List or temporarily listed except in accordance with a permit in these specific cases is an offence and the provisions of Section 138 of The City of Winnipeg Act apply.

## **H. GRANTS**

Council may, in its discretion, grant moneys to aid in the conservation of a building listed in the Buildings' Conservation List.

Further information on the Historical Buildings By-law may be obtained from:

Historic Projects Co-ordinator  
Department of Environmental Planning  
City of Winnipeg  
100 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1A5

PH: 942-5630



#### 4. THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE - 1980

ORGANIZATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE MEMBER
City of Winnipeg	Councillor W. Neville (Chairman) Councillor J. Ernst	
Province of Manitoba	Mr. P. Diamant Mr. J. D. McFarland	Mr. F. Pritchard Mr. N. Einarson
Manitoba Historical Society	Mr. E. C. Nix	
Parks Canada	Mr. T. Heggie	Mr. M. Soucy Mr. L. Dick
Manitoba Association of Architects	Mr. M. Haid	

#### THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE - 1981

ORGANIZATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE MEMBER
City of Winnipeg	Councillor W.F.W. Neville Councillor A. Balsillie	
Province of Manitoba	Mr. P. Diamant Mr. J. D. McFarland	Mr. F. Pritchard Mr. N. Einarson
Manitoba Historical Society	E. C. Nix	Mr. W. A. Tolboom
Parks Canada	Mr. T. Heggie	Mr. M. Soucy Mr. L. Dick
Manitoba Association of Architects	Mr. M. Haid	Mr. R. Gregoire
Staff Advisor	Mr. C. Brook	Secretary
		Ms. M. Petrie
		Research Consultants
		Ms. S. Grover Mr. D. Spector



## 5. TABULATION - THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS INVENTORY

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In order to assess the overall scope of the Winnipeg conservation program, the Historical Buildings Committee has compiled an Inventory of approximately 750 buildings including commercial, educational, financial, public, religious, residential and miscellaneous structures. When a demolition permit application is made for a building on the inventory, the application is referred to the Commissioner of Environment, who awaits the advice of the Historical Buildings Committee which then evaluates the subject property.

It is *very* important to distinguish between the **BUILDINGS CONSERVATION LIST** and the **HISTORICAL BUILDINGS INVENTORY**. The **INVENTORY** is simply a tabulation of buildings which *may* have architectural or historical significance. Buildings on the Inventory have *not* been designated (i.e. - placed on the Buildings Conservation List) and carry no restrictions other than the delay in the issuance of the demolition permit so as to allow the Historical Buildings Committee to closely examine the structure's architecture and history. The Committee may recommend that the building be placed on the Buildings Conservation List, or they may simply recommend that the building be thoroughly photographed prior to demolition.

Further information on the Historical Buildings Inventory may be obtained from:

Historic Projects Co-ordinator  
Department of Environmental Planning  
City of Winnipeg  
100 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1A5

PH: 942-5630

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## 6. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. BUILDINGS CONSERVATION LIST - 1980

ADDRESS	NAME	GRADE	PAGE
63 Albert Street	Hammond Building	III*	15
70 Albert Street	Telegram Building	II*	17
91 Albert Street	Imperial Dry Goods Block (Trend Interiors)	III*	19
184 Alexander Avenue	The Bible House (Ukrainian Cultural Center)	III	21
115 Bannatyne Avenue	Donald H. Bain Warehouse (The Brokerage)	II*	23
222 Broadway Avenue	Hotel Fort Garry	II	<i>See 1979 Annual Report</i>
61 Carlton Street	Macdonald House (Dalnavert)	II	25
176 Higgins Avenue	Ross House	I	29
335 Main Street	Bank of Montreal	II*	<i>See 1979 Annual Report</i>
457 Main Street	Confederation Life Building	II*	41
1637 Main Street	Inkster House	II	45
169 Pioneer Avenue	Commercial Building	III	47
141 Regent Avenue	Toronto Dominion Bank (Transcona Municipal Offices)	III	49
430 River Avenue	House	IV	<i>See 1979 Annual Report</i>
432 River Avenue	House	IV	<i>See 1979 Annual Report</i>
310 St. Charles Street	St. Charles Novitiate	III	<i>See 1979 Annual Report</i>



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**A. BUILDINGS CONSERVATION LIST - 1980 (Cont'd)**

ADDRESS	NAME	GRADE	PAGE
729 Rue St. Joseph	Leveque House	II	51
St. Norbert	Trappist Monastery		
	i) Church	II	53
	ii) Monastic Wing	II	
	iii) Guest House	III	

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**B. BUILDINGS CONSERVATION LIST -1979**

In addition to the above buildings, the following were designated in 1979:

283 Bannatyne Avenue	Traveller's Building (Townsite)	II*	
291 Bannatyne Avenue	a) Sanford Building (Old Spaghetti Factory)	II*	
	b) Maw's Garage (Old Spaghetti Factory)	III*	
171 Main Street	Empire Hotel	III*	
389 Main Street	Bank of Commerce	I	
395 Main Street	Bank of Hamilton	I	<i>For buildings listed in 1979, see 1979 Annual Report.</i>
146 Princess Street	Benson Block(Drake Hotel)	III*	
148 Princess Street	Bawlf Block(House of Comoy)	III*	
154 Princess Street	Harris Building(Hochman Building)	III*	
160 Princess Street	Exchange Building	II*	
164/166 Princess Street	Utility Building	II*	

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**C. RECOMMENDATIONS - 1980**

In addition to the designated buildings listed in 1980, Committee on Environment considered the following recommendations:

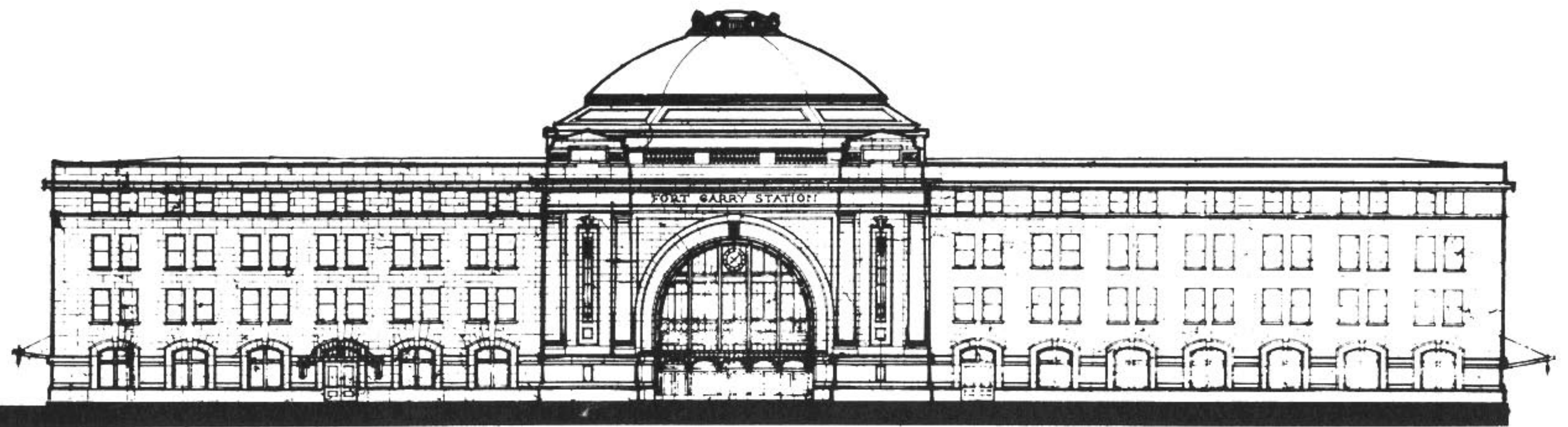
<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
73 Hargrave Street	House	No recommendation	33
65 Kennedy Street	House	No recommendation	35
123 Main Street	Union Station	Evaluated as Grade II <i>(see Note 1)</i>	37
305-319 Vaughan Street	Row Housing	No recommendation <i>Demolished-1980</i>	57

*\*An asterisk following a classification signifies that the building is of particular importance as a component of a streetscape.*

**NOTE 1:** The City of Winnipeg has no jurisdiction over Union Station. However, the Committee's evaluation was forwarded to CN and VIA Rail as an informal recommendation.

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# RESEARCH SUMMARIES

*Editor*

*Val Werier*

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## GLOSSARY

### CLASSICISM -

a revival of or return to the principles of Greek or (more often) Roman art and architecture. Neo-classical buildings are solid and rather severe. Decoration, including classical enrichments, is restrained.

### CORNICE -

the top projecting section of an **entablature** (see below). Also any projecting ornamental moulding along the top of a building, wall, arch, etc. finishing or crowning it.

### CUPOLA -

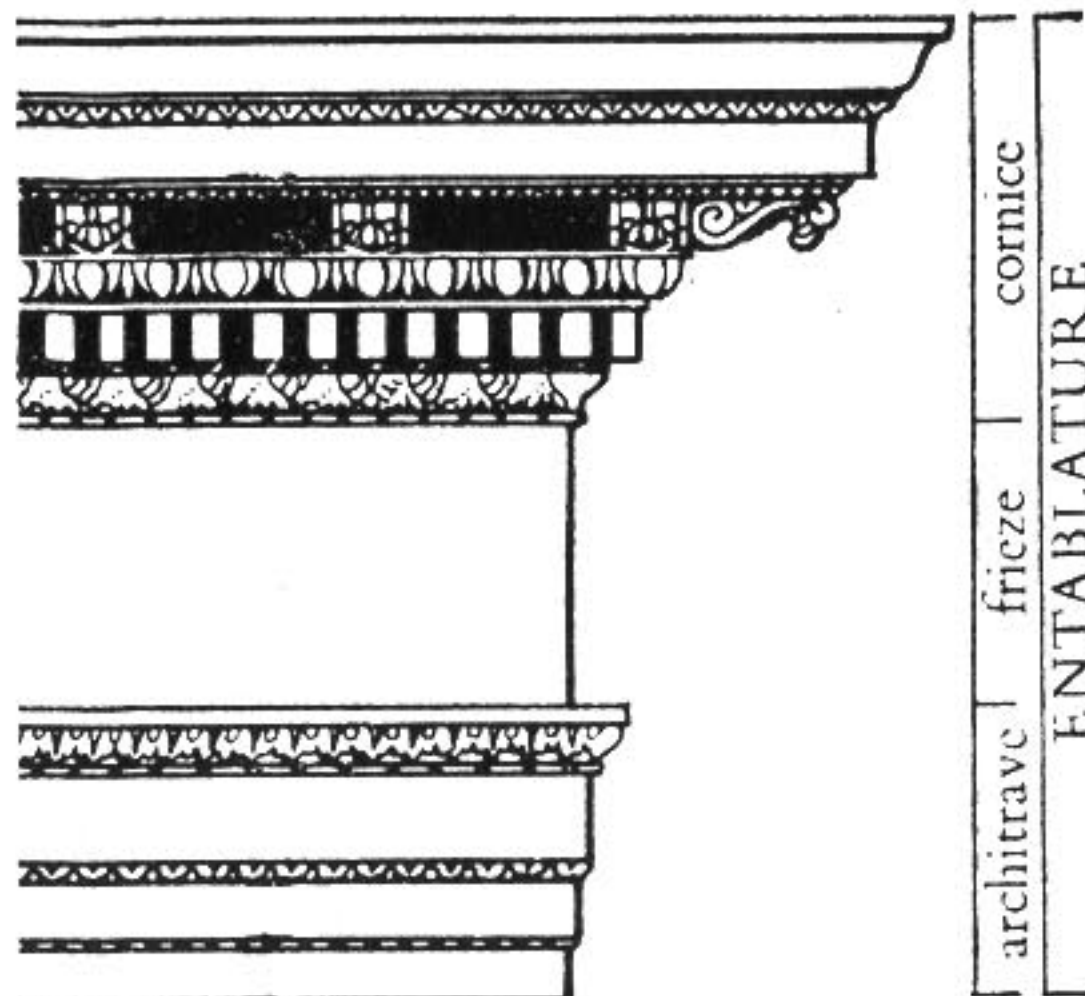
a small dome on a circular or polygonal base crowning a roof or turret.

### DENTIL -

a small square block used in series in cornices.

### ENTABLATURE -

the upper part of an "order" (in classical architecture, a column with base, shaft, and capital)



### FINIAL -

a formal ornament at the top of a canopy, gable, pinnacle, etc.

### FRIEZE -

the middle division of an **ENTABLATURE** (see illustration above).

### GAMBREL ROOF -

a roof terminating in a small gable at the ridge.

### LINTEL -

a horizontal beam or stone bridging an opening.

### MANSARD ROOF -

roof having a double slope, the lower being longer and steeper than the upper.

### PALLADIAN -

an archway or window with three openings, the central one arched and wider than the others.

### PEDIMENT -

a low-pitched gable above a roofed space forming the entrance and centrepiece of the facade.

### PORTICO -

a roofed space forming the entrance and centre-piece of the facade, often with detached or attached columns and a pediment.

### QUOINS -

the dressed stones at the corners of buildings, usually laid so that their faces are alternately large and small.

### RUSTICATION -

masonry cut in massive blocks separated from each other by deep joints, employed to give a rich and bold texture to an exterior wall and normally reserved for the lower part of it.

### TERRA COTTA -

fired but unglazed clay, used mainly for wall covering and ornamentation, as it can be fired into moulds.

### VOUSOIR -

a brick or wedge-shaped forming one of the units of an arch.

### TRIGLYPHS -

blocks separating the spaces in a frieze.

### Note:

*Detailed research reports on each building are available on request by contacting:*

*Historic Projects Co-ordinator  
Department of Environmental Planning  
City of Winnipeg  
100 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1A5*



61 - 65 ALBERT STREET  
HAMMOND BUILDING  
1902



*Albert Street frontage of the Hammond Building, 1980.*

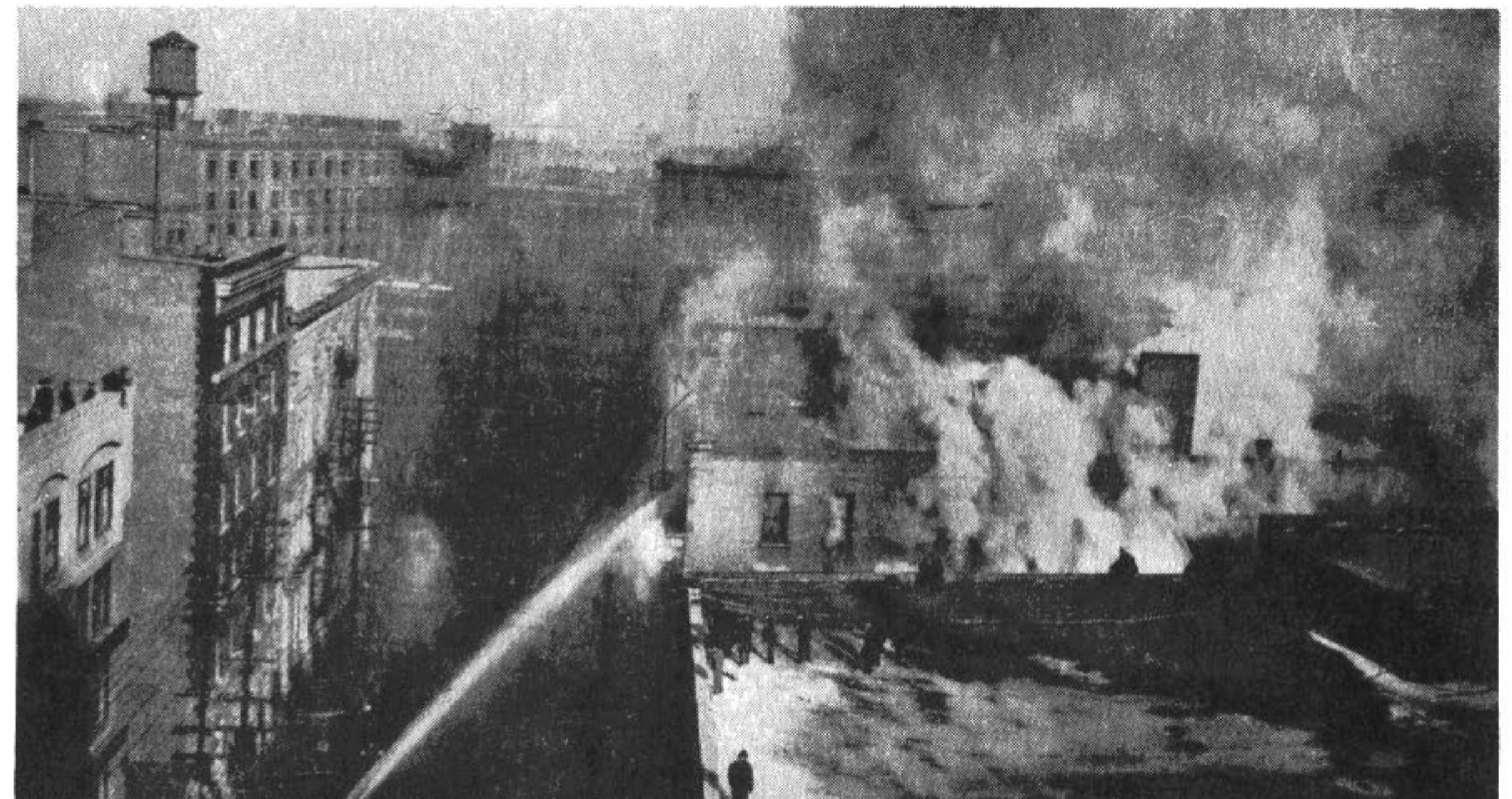
William J. Hammond became well known in Winnipeg at the turn of the century for giving away free hats. Hammond, a hat merchant who had come from Toronto in 1896, moved his millinery store from Main Street into his new building on Albert Street in 1902. At the time, the east side of the street was underdeveloped because its owner, Alexander McIntyre, kept a skating rink there until he built the McIntyre Block in 1898.

The early Hammond Building was only two storeys, 44 X 122 feet of brick with wood beam and post construction. The architect was J.H.G. Russell, and the cost was \$14,000. In 1905, a further two storeys were added which were leased out as sample rooms to manufacturer's agents. Again in 1907, more space was added to the north side at a cost of \$35,000, and the final addition was made in 1909. It is obvious that Hammond added to his building in this piecemeal fashion as he acquired the capital. With a variety of architects used in the process, not all the additions were sympathetic to the original design. There were 52 suites in 1909, but a fire in 1923 gutted most of the interior. When the internal structure was rebuilt under the direction of J.H.G. Russell, only 25 suites were renovated.

A variety of small businesses kept offices in the Hammond Building, including the Danzker Dress and Tailor Company which located there in 1933. The ground floor was generally given to retail shop space and the upper floors were leased by manufacturer's agents.

In 1978, the Hammond Building was purchased by the Heritage Canada Foundation as part of its commitment to the establishment of a heritage conservation area in Winnipeg. The foundation plans to rehabilitate the building in order to complement the City of Winnipeg's Old Market Square Streetscaping Program.

*Below: On October 31, 1923 the Hammond Building was virtually gutted by fire.*



Manitoba Archives Photo







**70 ALBERT STREET  
TELEGRAM BUILDING  
1882**

Built for R. J. Whitla, this four-storey building was a warehouse and office for his dry goods wholesale business. When constructed in 1882, it was one of the first large buildings in this formerly residential district; however, by 1900 the area was known to Winnipeggers as the “warehouse district”. The area was ideal -- close to markets, main streets and the railway but with enough economical space for the necessary loading docks and large-scale operations.



Manitoba Archives Photo

*This advertisement for R. J. Whitla & Co. appeared in the Winnipeg Sun in the midsummer issue of 1888.*

As Winnipeg serviced a hinterland that extended from Thunder Bay to the Rockies, the wholesale businesses thrived and grew. By 1899, Whitla moved the business to a bigger warehouse. The Telegram Printing Company purchased the former Whitla building and used it to print both a daily and a weekly **Telegram**. The paper was staunchly Conservative at a time when partisan politics, even for the press, was fair play. In 1901, Sanford Evans, then a Toronto journalist, purchased the paper and became its editor for several years. Following his election as mayor of Winnipeg in 1909, he continued to use the paper to



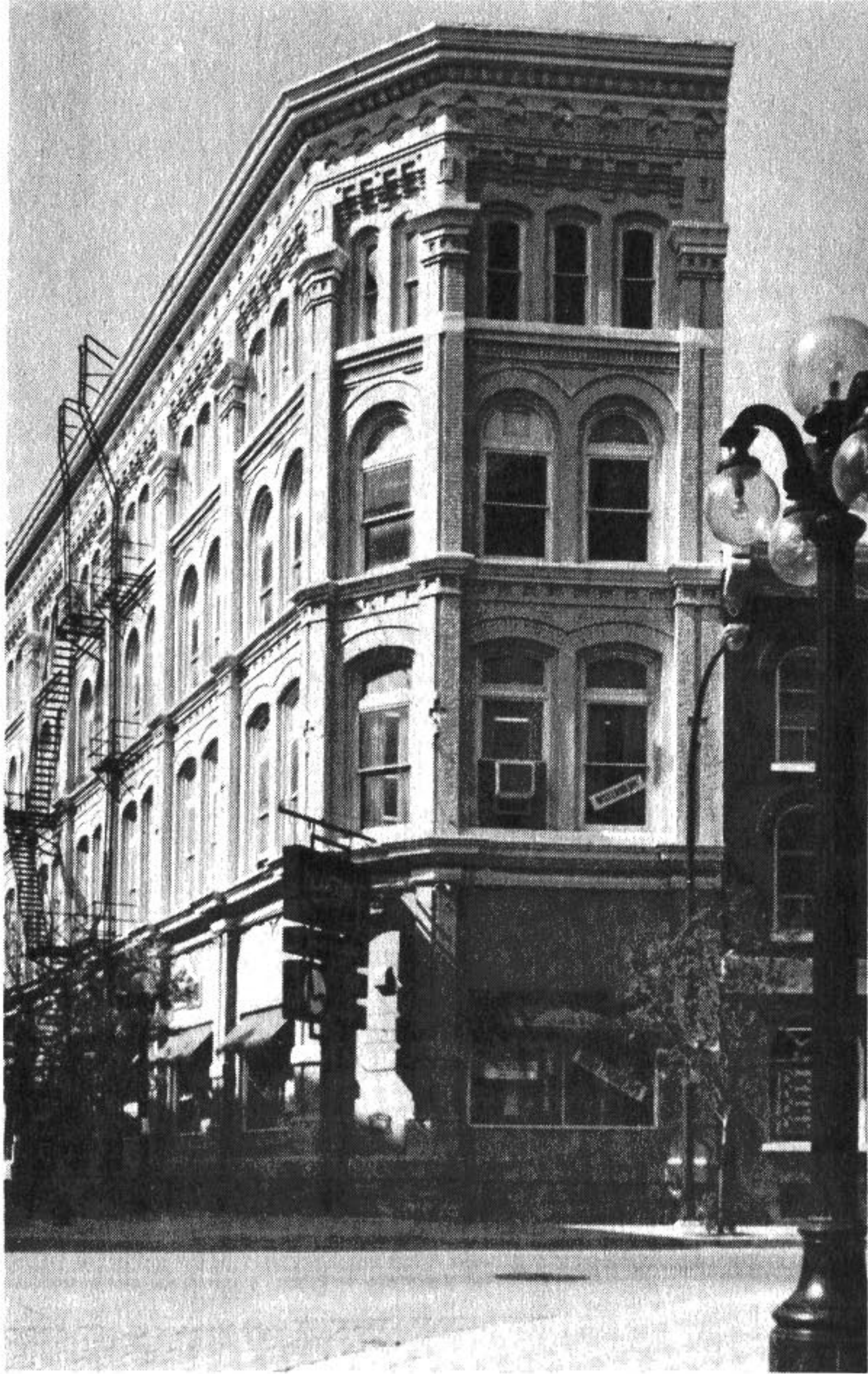
Manitoba Archives Photo

*The Telegram Printing Company Building as it appeared in 1910. Note that the main entrance has been relocated to the east side of the structure.*

support his cause. When the **Telegram** merged with the **Tribune** in 1920, Evans went on to become a member in the Manitoba Legislature and eventually the Conservative leader of the opposition. The W. Sanford Evans Company continues business in financial, statistical and printing concerns to this day.

The style of the massive structure is emphatically Victorian, with architectural details drawn from numerous classical orders. Excellent and creative craftsmanship is demonstrated in the brickwork, and the heavy cornice and rounded windows add to the beauty and interest of this structure.





City of Winnipeg Photo

*Modernage Furniture Ltd. gave the Telegram Building a major facelift in 1978.*

In 1921, the building again became the warehouse for a dry goods business, and later for a household appliance firm until it was purchased by Modernage Furniture Ltd. in 1976. The facade has been imaginatively painted, and cast iron columns are visible now that the interior has been renovated.



Manitoba Archives Photo

*News room of the Winnipeg Telegram, July, 1914.*



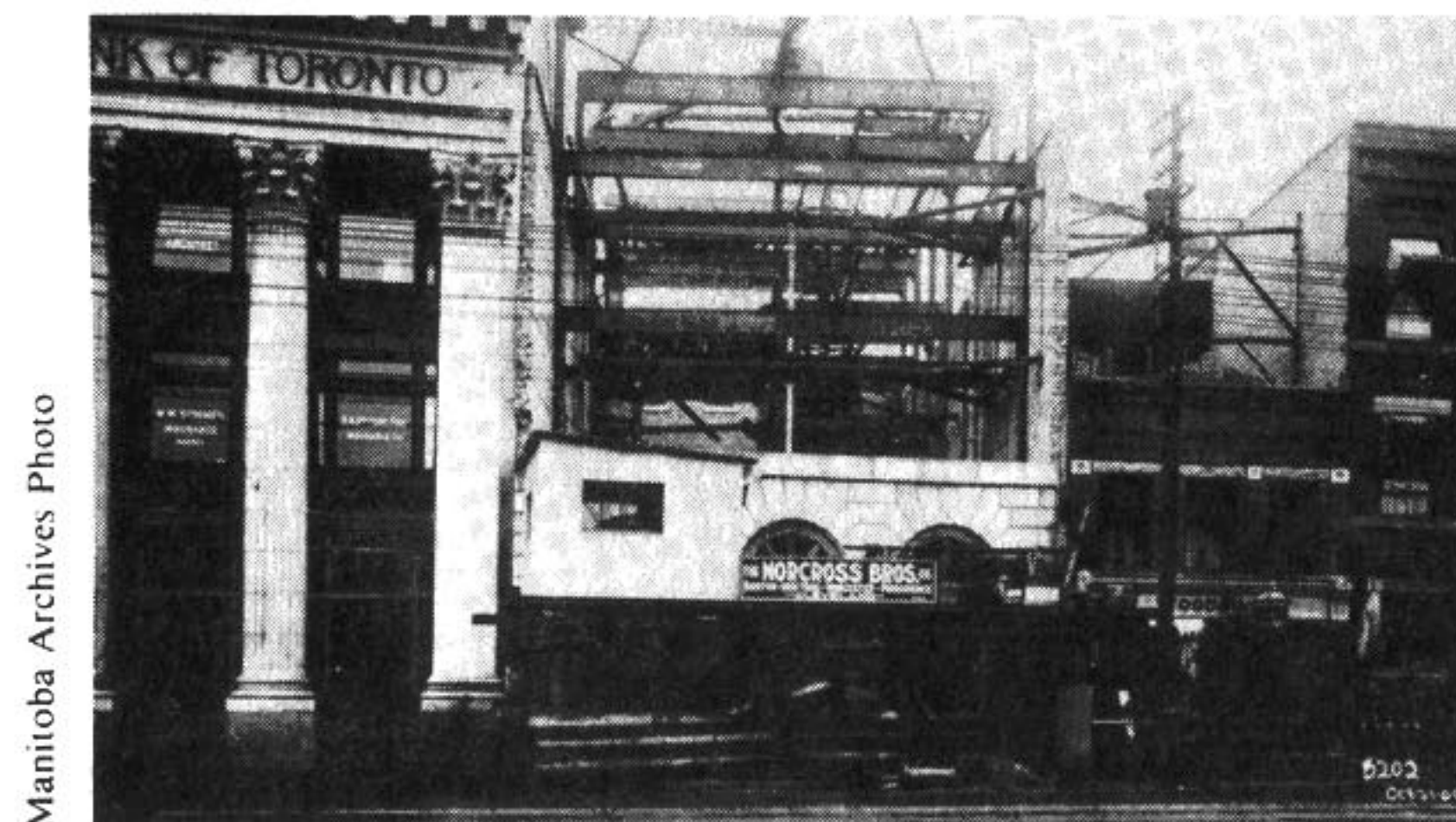
## 91 ALBERT STREET IMPERIAL DRY GOODS BLOCK 1899

This three-storey structure originally extended from its front door on Main Street back to Albert Street and was constructed as a retail outlet for R. J. Whitla and Company, dry goods wholesalers. This was a large and prominent Winnipeg firm that supplied clothing, fabrics and furs to the entire prairie region which was developing at an astounding rate at the turn of the century. Whitla's was one of many wholesale interests based in Winnipeg's warehouse district, and Whitla himself had built three large warehouses when he opened the Imperial Dry Goods Block in 1899.

It had the best of both worlds, the front in a bustling retail strip, the rear loading docks in the heart of the warehouse district. Inside was a feast of dry goods stock: linens, clothing, notions and toys. However, the Main Street block between McDermot Avenue and Bannatyne Avenue soon took on a different complexion as the financial district sprawled northward. The Bank of Toronto built beside the Imperial Dry Goods Block. In 1908, Whitla sold his store and land to the Royal Bank. Building within the side walls of the former store, the bank erected a new structure on Main Street the following year. Only the Albert Street section

remained, approximately one-third of the original store. New windows and a door were added to this, and a heavy brick party wall was erected to separate the old store from the bank.

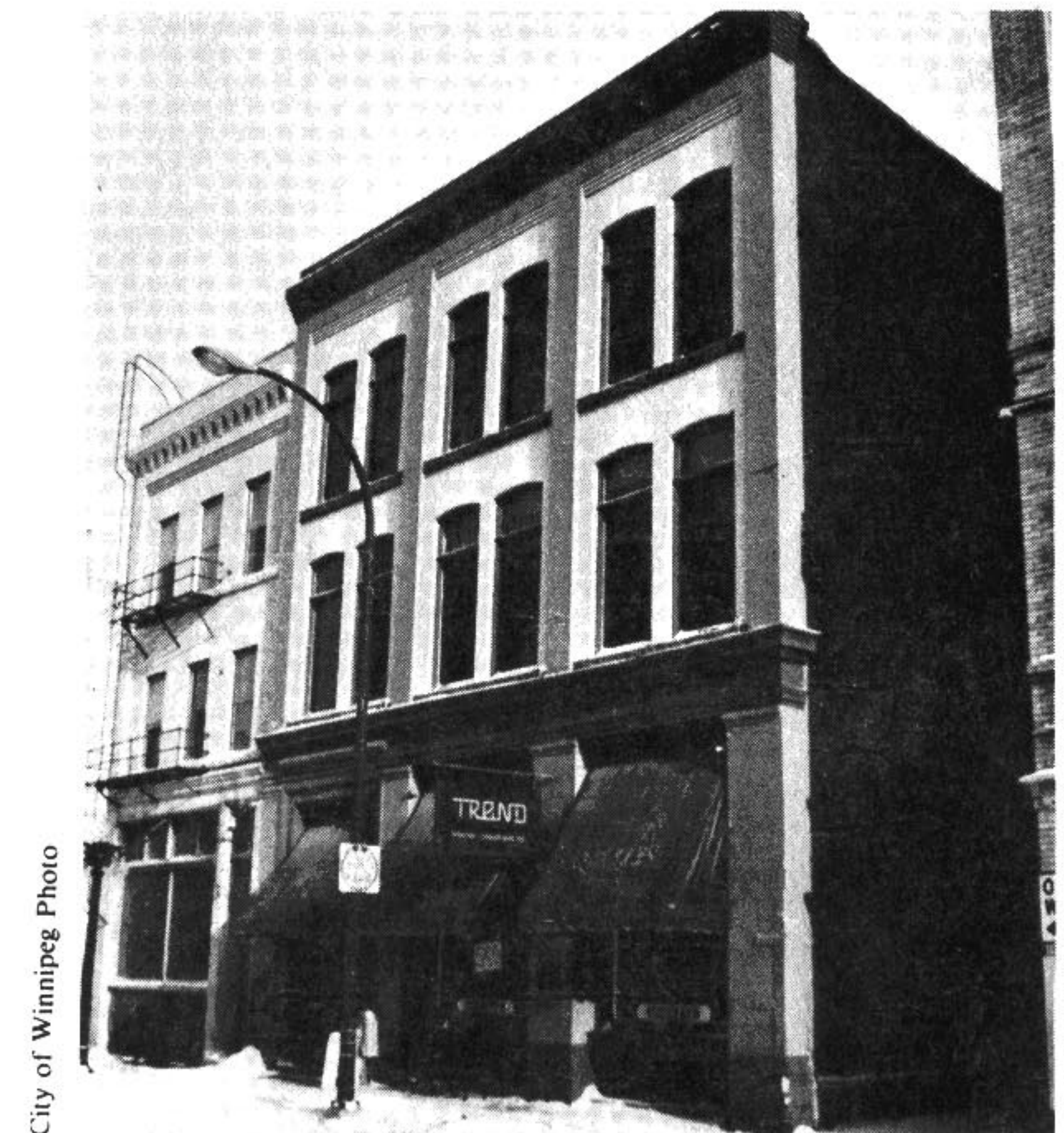
This Albert Street section was first used as warehouse space for a variety of businesses until it was sold in 1929 to the Canadian Legion. In 1935, the Max Steinkopf family bought the structure and converted it into the Young Men's Hebrew Association. Until 1952, the YMHA on Albert Street was a hive of recreational, social and cultural activity until the group outgrew the facilities and built the existing "Y" on Hargrave Street. From 1953 to 1975, an auction mart and small businesses were located at 91 Albert Street until the building was renovated by Trend Interiors, creating new and vibrant commercial and office space in the old dry goods store.



Manitoba Archives Photo

*Right: The Royal Bank being constructed within the existing walls of the Imperial Dry Goods Building, 1909.*

*Far Right: Trend Interiors, 1980.*



City of Winnipeg Photo









*Bible House in 1918, looking east down Alexander Avenue.*

The British and Foreign Bible Society was organized in England in 1804, to bring the bible to the heathen peoples of the world.

In 1912, this five-storey office building was erected for the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Auxiliary of the Society; it was known as Bible House. Based on the reformation movement of Europe, the work of the Bible Society was to distribute the Word of God for the individual to interpret. It was also seen as an assimilating force in the moulding of the British Empire through the propagation of shared values and Christian ideals.

The Bible Society located deliberately in the North End to do its work among the thousands of new immigrants who had recently come to Canada. Here, among shocking and squalid conditions, the Bible Society worked alongside numerous agencies such as the Children's Aid Society and J. S. Woodsworth's All People's Mission in an effort to ease the conditions of the poor and establish a solid Christian society.

As conditions changed, the role of the Society also changed and it soon required less space to carry on its work. Parts of the building were rented out until 1949, when the structure was sold to the Ukrainian publishing company of the newspaper **New Pathway**. Various Ukrainian groups kept space in the building until 1977 when Bible House was completely renovated into a museum, gallery and office for a centre of Ukrainian culture. The building has been renamed "Oseredok" ("centre" in Ukrainian), and its function has gone full circle. The second and third generation of those who were the very target of the Bible Society's endeavours now use the building to strengthen and celebrate their ethnic identity.





City of Winnipeg Photo

*The Ukrainian Cultural Center - 1980. The buildings immediately to the west were demolished in order to construct the Disraeli Freeway.*





Manitoba Archives Photo

*The grocery brokerage firm of Nicholson and Bain flourished at the turn of the century. Note the covered bicycle stand in front of the taller building.*

Originally two buildings with a common wall, both warehouses were built in 1899. The five-storey structure on the west side was built for a stove and furnace wholesale firm by the name of Merrick-Anderson. The company also marketed heavy hardware and some industrial supplies, all of which came to require a good deal of space. Offices and showrooms for a staff of 50 were also required.

The Merrick-Anderson Building was designed by

architect J.J. McDiarmid, who presumably also designed the attached Bain Building. Both feature solid brick bearing wall construction in the warm buff-coloured brick that is common to Winnipeg. Stone was used for the lintels and sills and across the heads of the rounded windows. Both buildings also feature strawbasket brick detailing that demonstrated great skill in craftsmanship and a delightful sense of design. The cornices also show a deft touch so that the buildings are neither heavy nor somber in appearance. The differences bet-

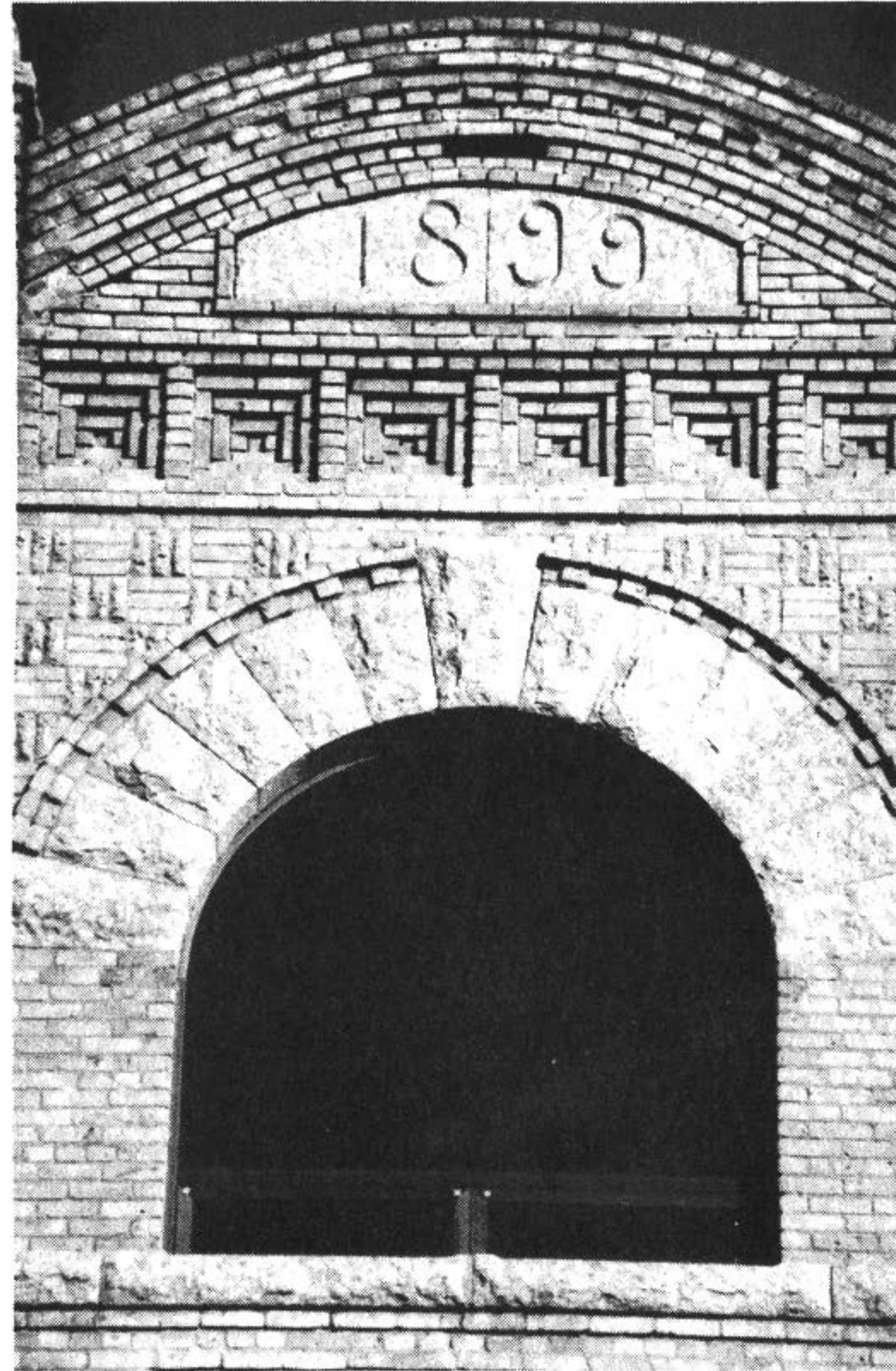
ween the two structures, particularly on the ground floor, were obviously designed to indicate the existence of two separate businesses.

The smaller structure on the east portion housed the grocery brokerage firm of Nicholson and Bain. As junior partner, Donald H. Bain grew in resources and ability, and eventually bought out his partner in 1917, changing the business to his name. Bain also cut quite a figure in Winnipeg, being a national hockey star at the time the two warehouses were constructed. When the death of Thomas Anderson of the Merrick-Anderson Company forced the sale of that business, Donald Bain purchased the remainder of the building. This more than doubled the amount of space, but the grocery brokerage was expanding so fast that it quickly filled it. The locale was convenient. Boats docked at the Red River at a wharf below the building, then dray horses hauled supplies from the boat to the warehouse.

In 1970 the building became vacant and so remained for seven years until purchased by Tom Dixon, a market consultant, who began restoring the building with great integrity and care, such as saving buff-coloured bricks for any of the alterations. The facade was cleaned, revealing the warm native brick in all its splendor. Inside, the old ceiling was removed to display the heavy timber beams and joists, the wood cleaned and open to view.

Renamed "The Brokerage" by Mr. Dixon, the building was sold to Michael Decter who continued the renovation. Now The Brokerage provides office and commercial space to lovers of brick, massive wood beams and history.

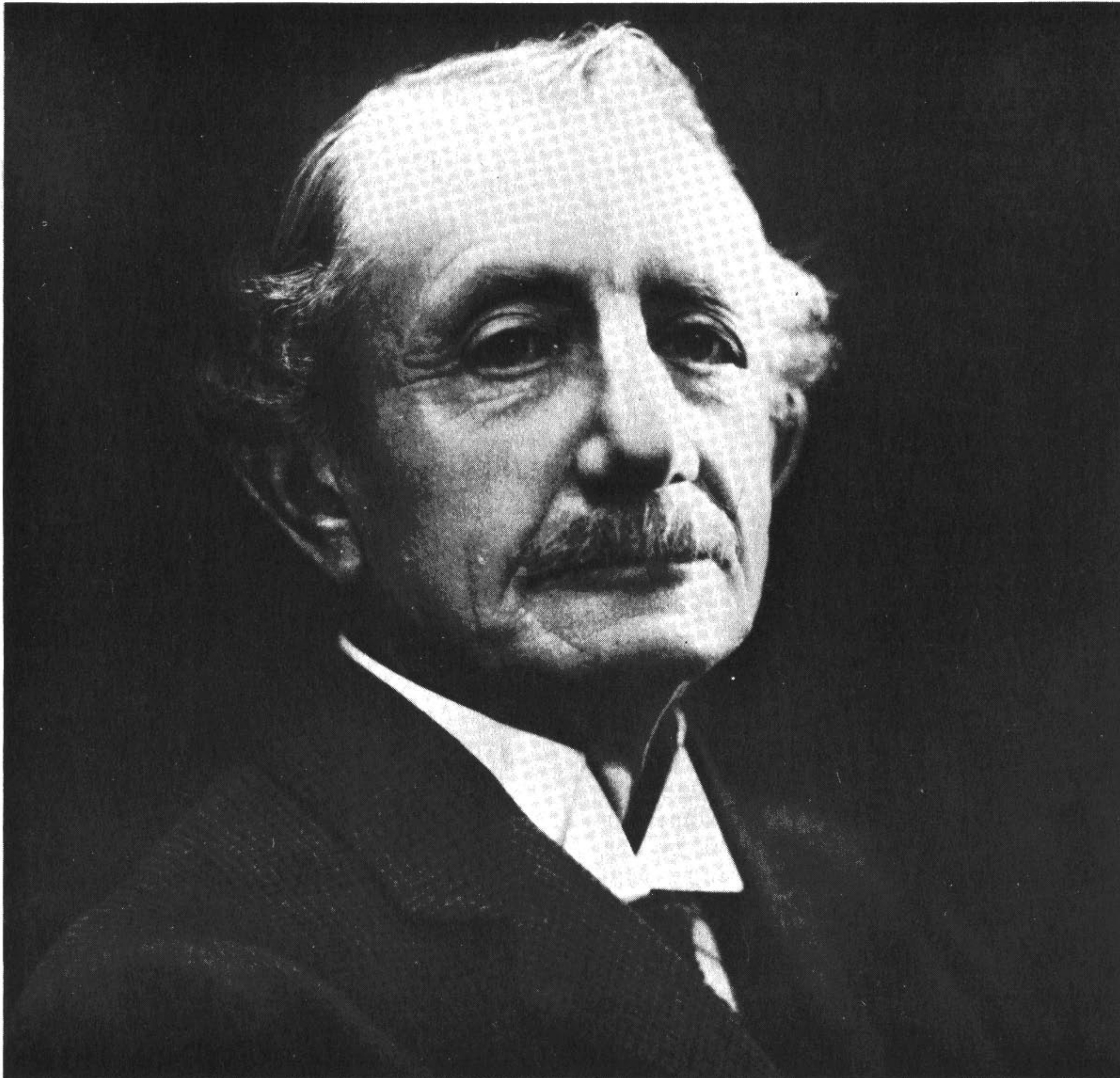




City of Winnipeg Photo

*A detail of the Bain Building illustrating "strawbasket" brickwork above the arch.*





Manitoba Archives Photo

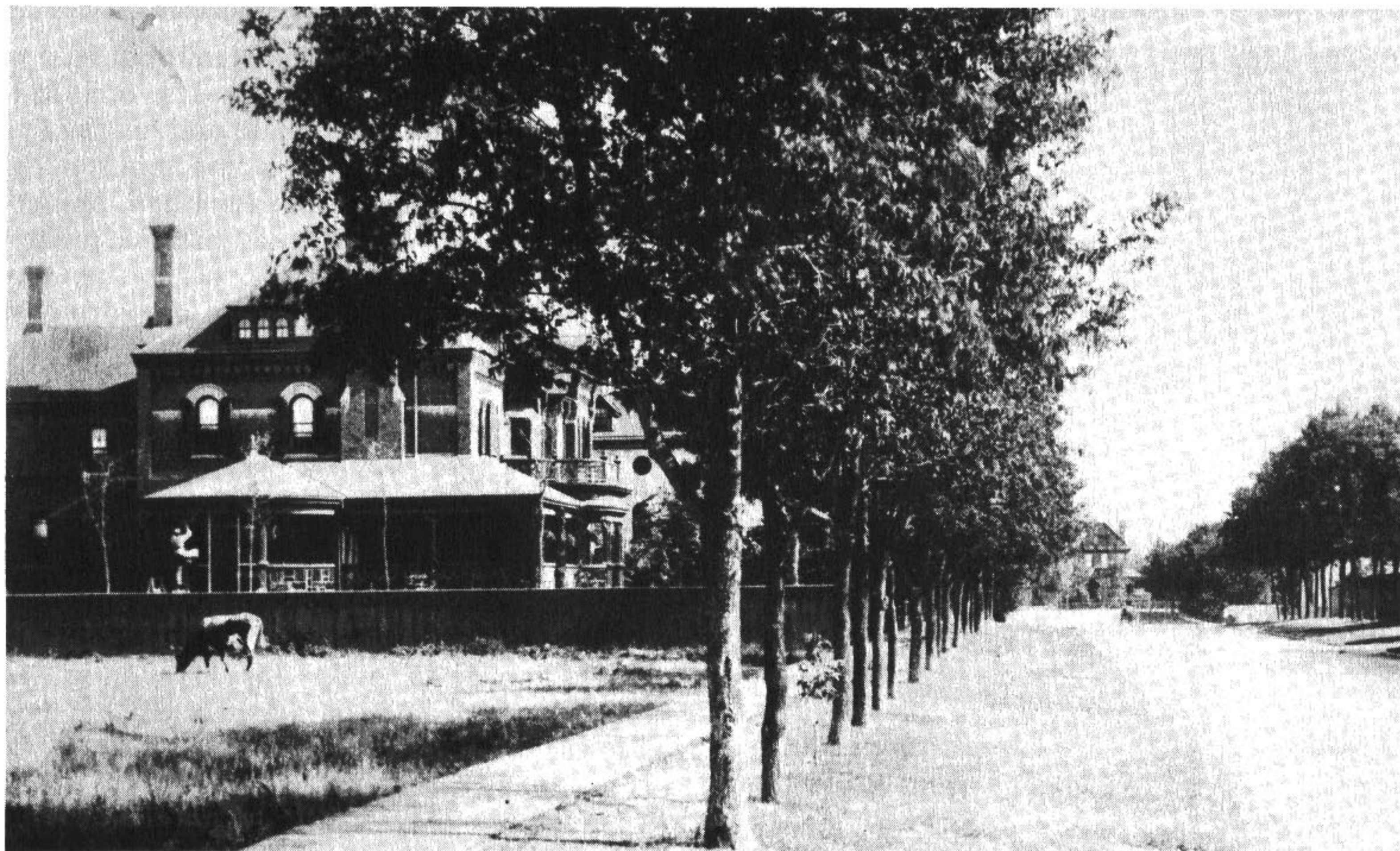
*Sir Hugh John Macdonald photographed in March, 1921.*

Recently restored by the Manitoba Historical Society as a museum, this house was built in 1895 for Sir Hugh John Macdonald and his family. As the son of Canada's first prime minister, Macdonald trained in law as his father had, but moved to Winnipeg in 1882. His legal practice made him prominent in the community, which the Conservative party capitalized upon in pressuring Macdonald to enter national politics. Although he won the seat of South Winnipeg in 1891, Hugh John was a reluctant politician and retired shortly after Sir John A.'s death a few months later. Again in 1896, Hugh John was pressured into running for office but now found himself on the opposition benches. He resigned in 1897 to become the leader of the provincial Conservatives and was elected premier of Manitoba in December, 1899. Although only in office for 11 months, Macdonald proved to be a fair-minded and honest premier.

He returned to his law practice and was appointed Police Magistrate, a position he held for 18 years. Sir Hugh John was knighted in 1913. In 1919, he was influential during the Winnipeg General Strike, and was instrumental in the hiring of "special" police whose role exacerbated the "red scare" factor of an already difficult situation. When Sir Hugh John died in 1929, the City mourned its loss.

Macdonald built his red brick mansion in what was then Winnipeg's most elegant area. The architect, Charles Wheeler, was well known in the west. His expertise with materials and design is reflected in the three-storey, red brick mansion crafted in Victorian splendor: round-headed windows, shed-roof dormers, a corbelled cornice, a sweeping veranda, and a circular balcony. The house featured full plumbing, central heating,





Manitoba Archives Photo

*Carlton Street, south of Broadway, as it appeared in 1900.*

walk-in closets, electricity, servant quarters, and a conservatory. The design of the Macdonald house is a collection of styles and elements grouped in what has been described as one of the finest examples of Victorian domestic architecture remaining in North America.

The name Dalnavert was carried on from Macdonald's grandfather's home in Scotland, and his father's home in Toronto. The household thrived as the centre of much social and cultural activity. Sir Hugh, Lady Macdonald and their two children were prominent in Winnipeg's wealthy circle and Sir Hugh's community involvement made him one of the city's leading citizens.

When Sir Hugh died in 1929, Lady Macdonald sold the house. It became a rooming house, and later a boarding house for fashionable women. In 1970, it was saved from demolition by the Manitoba Historical Society and restored with great fidelity. To determine the original design, extensive stripping was conducted, including the removal of partitions, paint and as many as twelve layers of wallpaper.

Today Dalnavert is appointed with the furniture and fixtures of the period, including such household items as the silver tray used by the maid to present calling cards of visitors. The parlor has French doors, a fireplace bordered by columns,

ceiling coving, a chandelier medallion, gilt-edged ornamental niches, and silk-screened wallpaper based on the original design. The hallway has an oak staircase, and a stained glass transom. Two steps down from the hall is a greenhouse-solarium with double-glazed ceiling and walls, and a tiled floor slanted into a central drain. The dining room is finished in golden oak.

The master bedroom features a fireplace, twin roundheaded windows, and to the rear a small bathroom and dressing room. There are three other bedrooms, a family bathroom, and a sewing room. The servants' quarters are at the rear of the house, connected to the kitchen by the back stairs.

It was gracious living and Lady Macdonald, a charming and ambitious chatelaine, entertained on a lavish scale. Today Dalnavert provides another type of entertainment, as a fine museum of upper class Victorian life. Originally, Dalnavert cost \$10,000 to build. Now, at a cost of \$520,000 and three years to restore, Macdonald House is a showpiece of 1895.



City of Winnipeg Photo

*The Dalnavert Museum is an immensely popular attraction for Winnipeggers and tourists alike.*





Manitoba Archives Photo

Residence of Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, 61 Carlton Street









Manitoba Archives Photo

*Ross House, pictured in 1890. The "Red River frame" construction is evident on the summer kitchen at right. Wood siding has been added to the main house.*

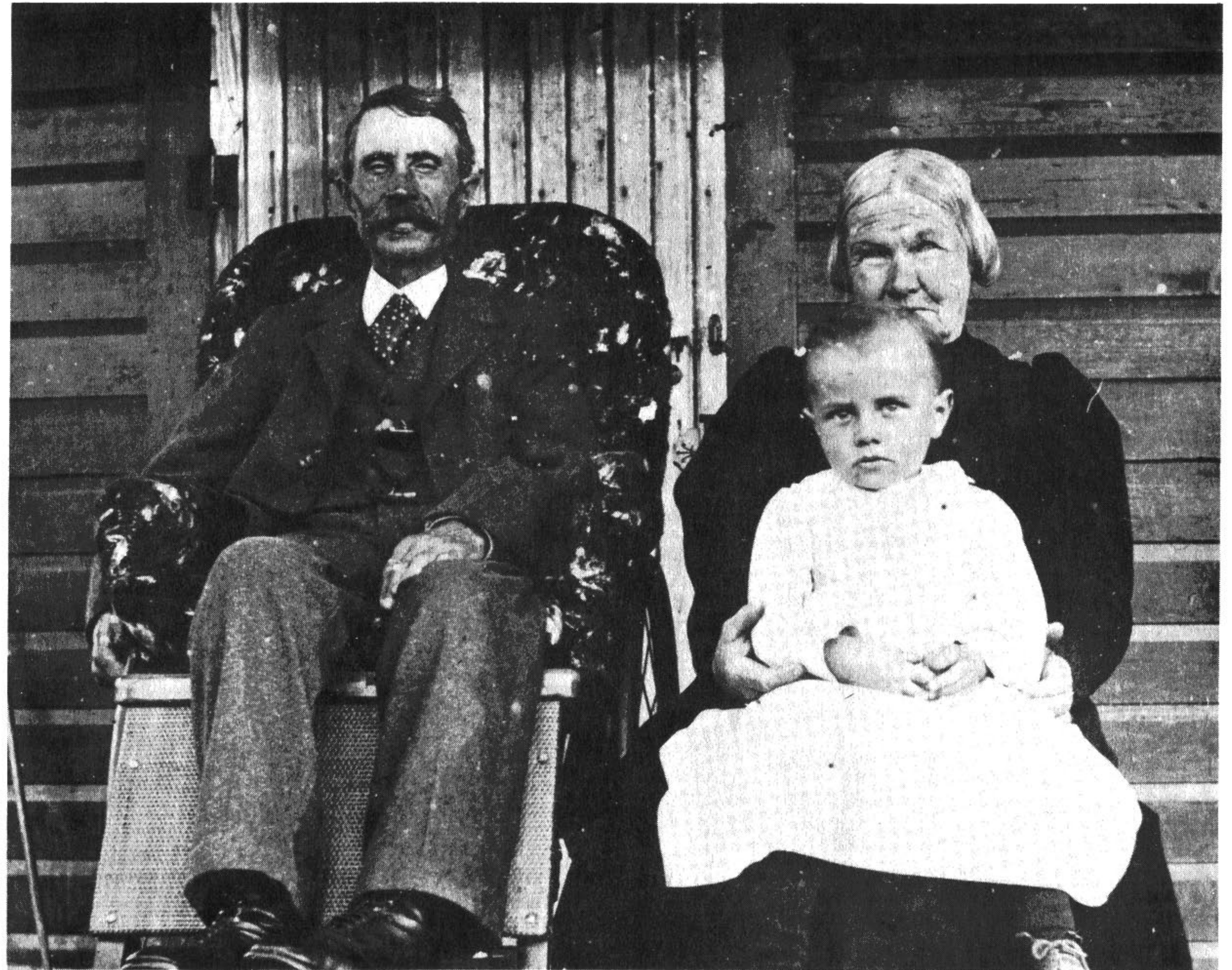


Ross House is steeped in the history of the fur trade, the Indians, the early settlers, and the cultural and commercial life of Red River, as the community was known before it became Winnipeg. The Ross family in Winnipeg dates to 1825 when Alexander Ross originally brought his Indian wife and children to Red River to obtain a "Christian education". Ross was a former fur-trader, who commenced farming on his new river lot, granted by Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company. In addition Ross kept a store to service the settlement, and was appointed both councillor and sheriff to the Council of Assiniboia.

The Ross children were raised in an atmosphere of enlightened faith with a sense of public responsibility. Son James attended university in the east where he won a gold medal, returning to Red River to edit the first newspaper, the *Nor-Wester* and to be the Sheriff of Assiniboia. In 1870, he was prominent in the dealings of the "Scots" community with Riel's provisional government.

Daughter Henrietta married John Black, the first Presbyterian minister in the west who came to the colony in 1851. Alexander Ross had been the leader of a persistent group of Selkirk settlers who had pleaded for almost 30 years, finally to have Kildonan Church erected by Black, near the historic area of Seven Oaks.

His son William was the builder of Ross House, completed in 1855, somewhere behind the present site of the Centennial Centre on Main Street. He and his wife Jemima raised their family in a log house, typical of the riverside colony. The base of the house was of horizontally laid beams. Uprights, mortised deeply, were set at the corners and at windows and door positions. The remaining logs, which



Manitoba Archives Photo

*William Coldwell, at left, married Jemima Ross (right) following the death of William Ross in 1857. On Jemima's knee is grandson Clarence James, circa 1898.*

formed the walls, were notched at each end and dropped down the mortised grooves. Gumbo, as the local clay is called, was used with lime for plaster. The attic was reached by solid stairs, held aloft by a rope.

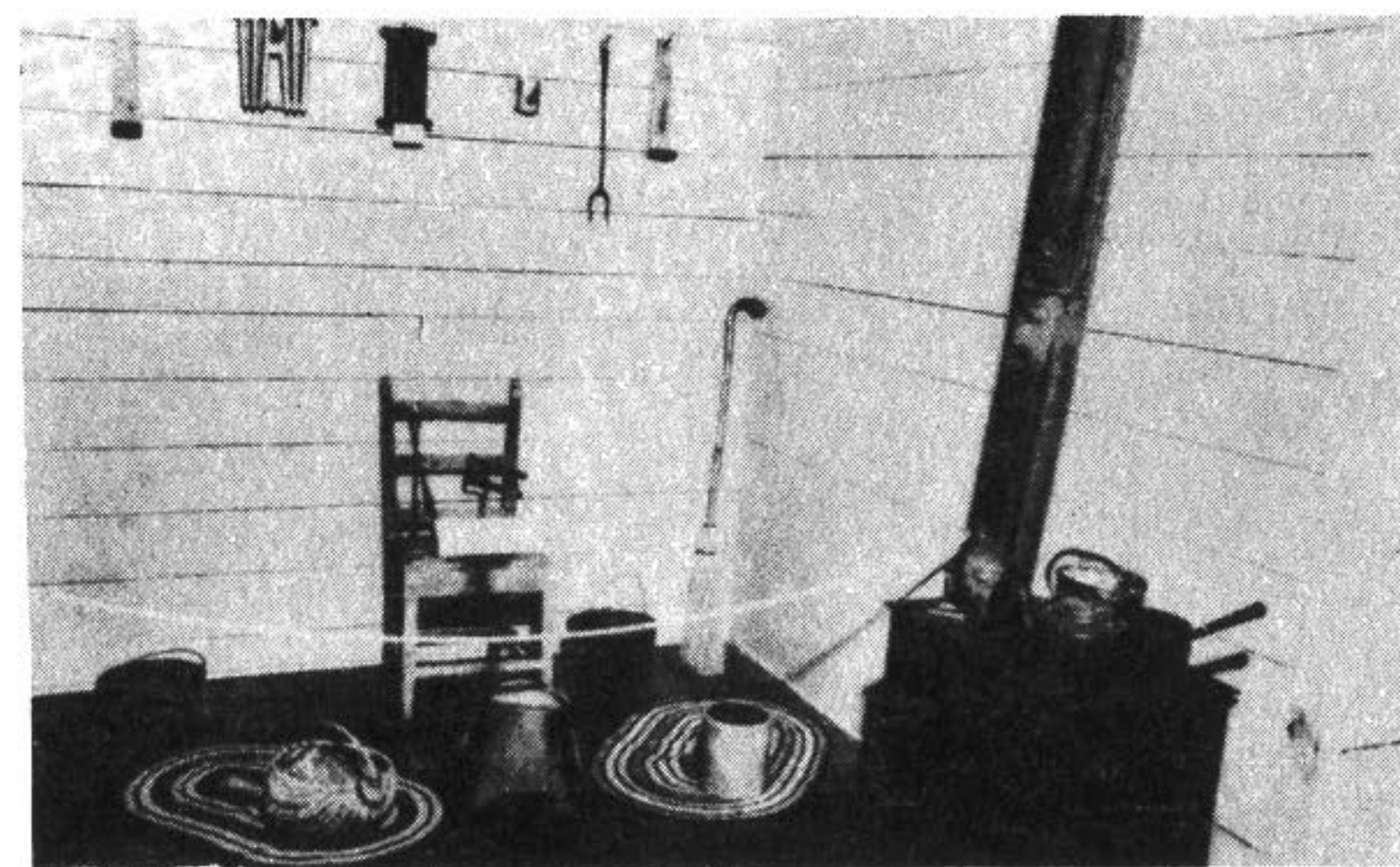
Floods and a shortage of material delayed completion of the house, but when the family took occupancy in early 1855, Alexander called it "the prettiest in Red River". The cost was more than £252. William, like his father, was a cen-



tral figure in the community: sheriff, councillor, a magistrate, and keeper of the jail.

He was also the first postmaster, earning the grand salary of £5 a year. The post office was operated from his home and was a regular meeting place. In the first year, it handled 2,912 letters, 2,437 newspapers and 580 parcels. Letters were addressed simply to "Red River, British North America". The mail left Red River for Pembina, then through Minnesota, and east to its destination.

William Ross died after living in the house less than two years. His widow married William Coldwell, a journalist, and they lived in Ross House until well past the turn of the century. The house was then used as an office for a lumberyard. It was saved in 1947 by the Manitoba Historical Society and was restored and moved to Higgins Avenue across from the Canadian Pacific Railway station. Today, the house is a museum of Red River family life, and early postal services, as well as a tribute to the historic Ross family.



Manitoba Archives Photo

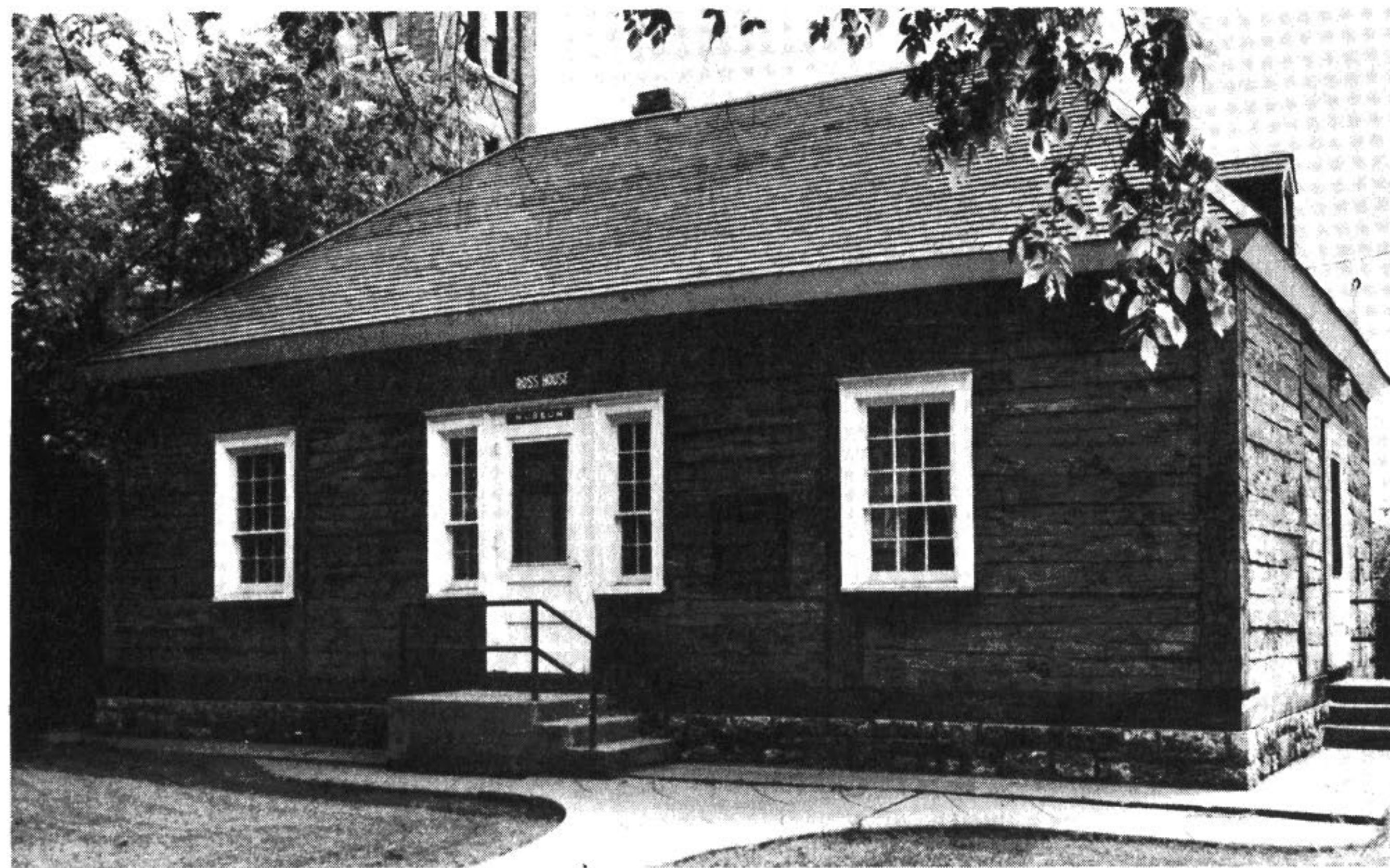


Manitoba Archives Photo

*Ross House relocated to its James Street site - 1948.*

*Below left: Interior view of the Ross House museum, 1955.*

*Below: The Ross House Museum at its present site on Higgins Avenue, 1980.*



City of Winnipeg Photo









Archie Macdonald learned the building trade in Scotland, came to Winnipeg in 1883 at the age of 32 and worked as a contractor. In 1902 he designed and built his own home on Hargrave Street, keeping in mind the needs of his wife Helen and his six children.

While the exterior was a common brick design, the interior was a delightful assemblage of beautiful and artistic elements, illustrating the tastes and experience of someone in the building trade. There were several stained glass windows, built-in wood cabinets with leaded panes, elaborate hardware, French doors and a fireplace that showed great woodworking skill. The floor of the dining room had a frieze with inlaid wood of a lighter colour while the floors of the other main rooms were a fine hardwood.

From 1905 to 1919, Albert A. Gilroy and his family owned the big house. An Ontario businessman, Gilroy was sent from the T. Eaton Company head office in Toronto to open Eaton's bold new store in Winnipeg. The store, with a staff of 1,100, was much larger than the population of Winnipeg warranted. Eaton's gambled that its huge volume of catalogue sales in the prairie west would make the venture profitable. Under Gilroy's management, Winnipeg became Eaton's greatest success. Gilroy used his managing skills to build the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition (later the Red River Ex) into one of the finest livestock and grain exhibitions in the world.

After several different occupants, the house was purchased by a retired couple, Arthur and Rose Rivard, who lived there for 30 years until 1970. It was then altered to become a rooming house with seven suites. For a few years it was a retreat for artists. In 1978 and 1979 it was operated by the YWCA as a halfway house for battered wives,

under the name of Osborne House. Located in a built up area of apartment blocks, it remains one of the few original homes in this district.

In 1980, the house was substantially renovated by a firm of hair stylists who cleaned the exterior masonry and rehabilitated the interior.



*Doorknob and lockset detail.*



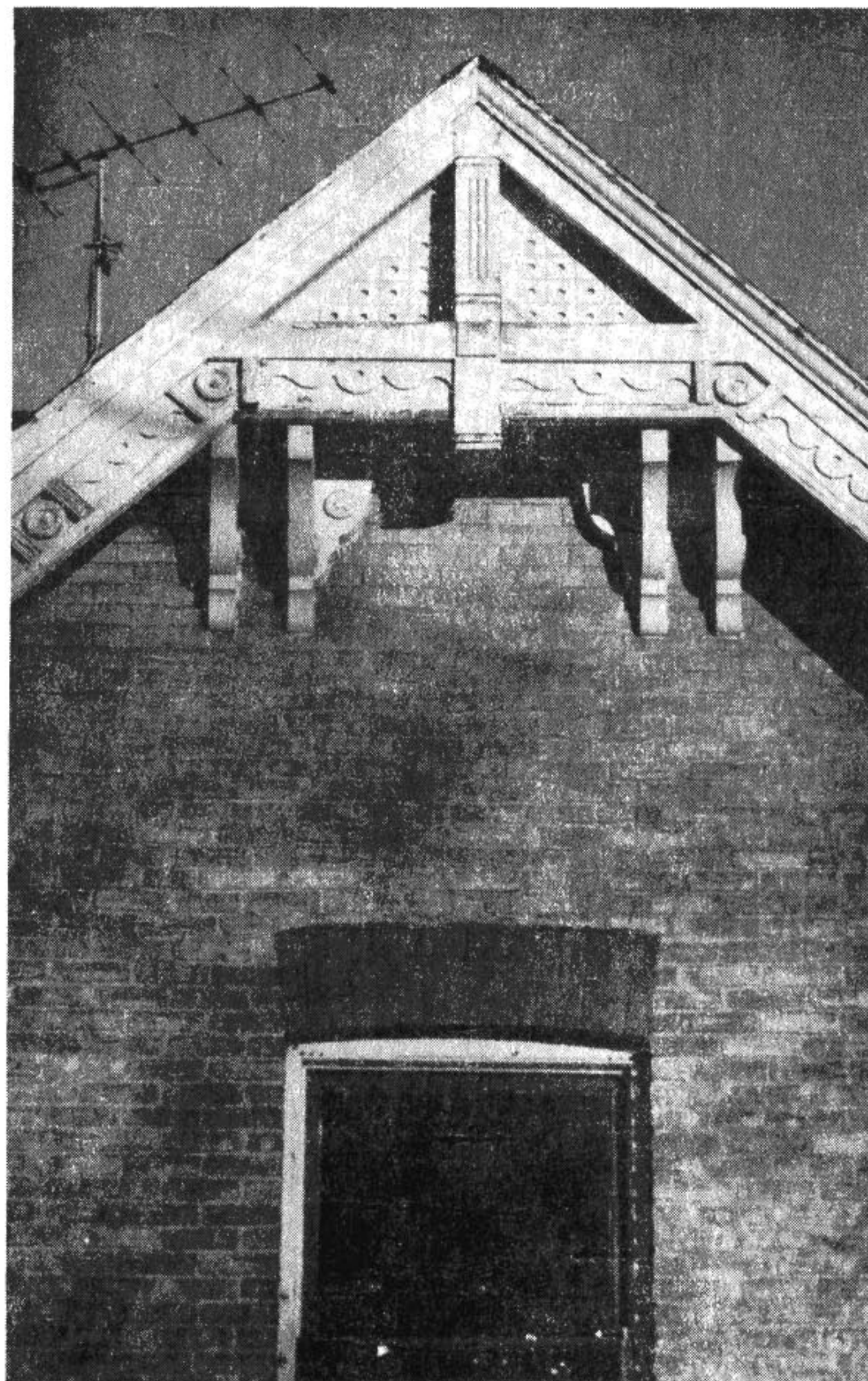






City of Winnipeg Photo

*Front elevation on Kennedy Street, 1980. The interior has been gutted.*



City of Winnipeg Photo

*Gable detail illustrates "gingerbread" carpentry work.*

When this house was built in 1891, it looked out upon the former legislative building, the old law courts building and the Fort Osborne barracks, located where the present legislative building now stands. The district south of Broadway was then Winnipeg's newest and most exclusive; the residents formed the city's social and commercial elite. The owner of 65 Kennedy was William Rourke, founder of the Granite Curling Club and partner to Eddie Cass in the prominent contracting firm of Rourke and Cass, which built many significant public buildings in Winnipeg.

The house cost \$6,500, a price which at the time assured a solid, even lavish dwelling. Its style was certainly personal for the Rourkes, finished in a delightful collection of details so pleasing to Victorian tastes. Cross gables, dormer windows peeking out in all directions, gingerbread woodwork, fanciful brick work, an elaborate veranda and a beautiful ornamental entranceway added up to an architectural statement of a bygone era.

When William Rourke left Winnipeg to prospect in the Klondike in 1897, the house was sold to William H. McWilliams, head of Canadian Consolidated Grain. Involved in directorships and other business positions, McWilliams also belonged to the clubs, church and sports in which the elite took part. In 1914, McWilliams added a double brick garage for his new motorcar. The garage was connected to the house when it was converted into a duplex in 1951.

The character of Kennedy Street has changed since 1891 with the commercial development of the downtown and many of the original buildings have been replaced. This brick house remains a steadfast witness to the stately homes which once lined the street.







**123 MAIN STREET  
UNION (CNR) STATION  
1911**



Manitoba Archives Photo

*This view of Union Station, taken in 1920, dramatically illustrates the station's physical relationship to the tree-lined boulevard of Broadway.*

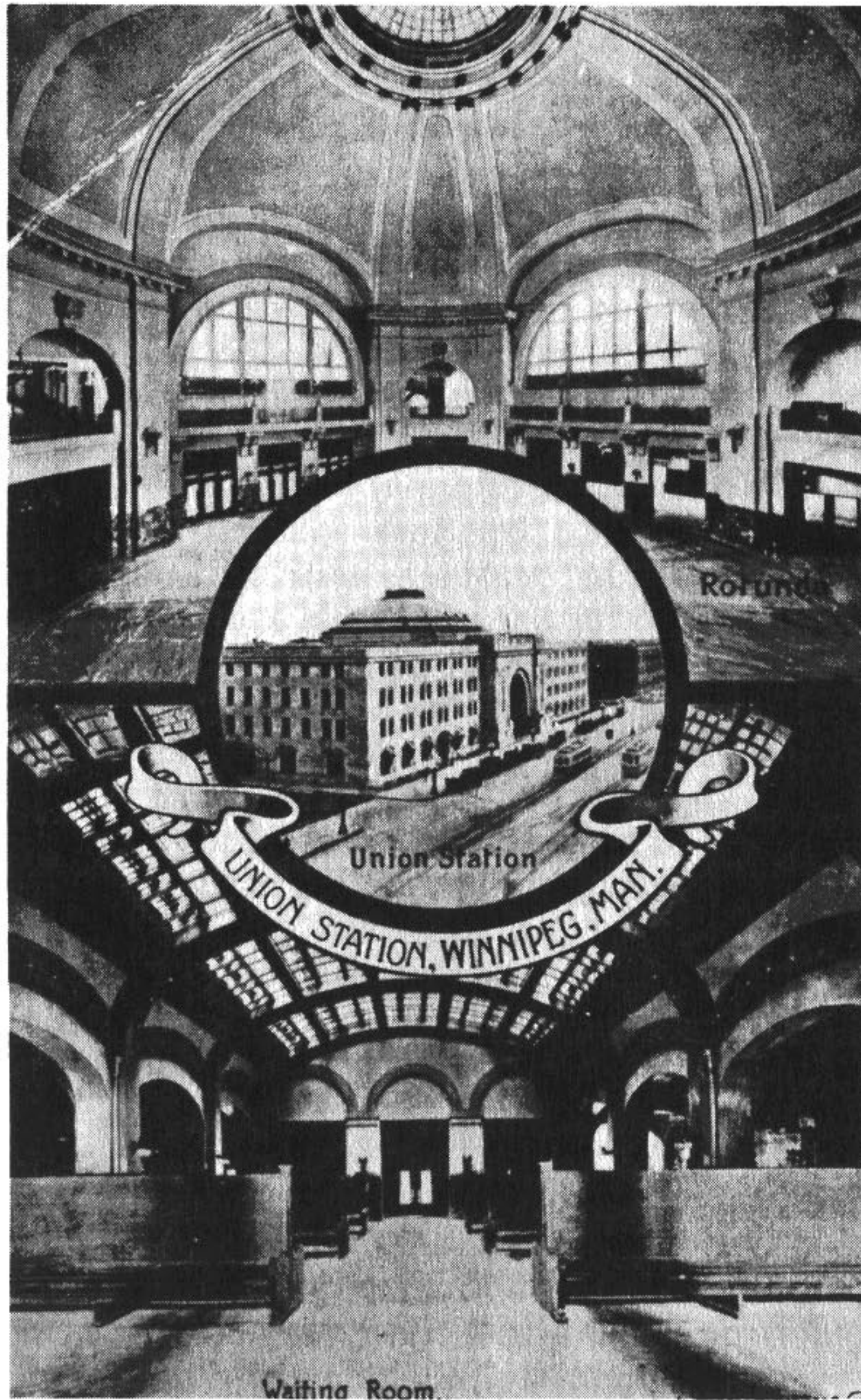
Fine architecture and a colourful history combine in one of Winnipeg's most famous landmarks. Union Station, built jointly by the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific, was designed by Warren and Wetmore, the prestigious architectural firm that built Grand Central Station in New York. Union Station opened in 1911, following four years of construction. Its style is Beaux-Arts/classical, a definite state-of-the-art statement of dignity and restrained grandeur. Although formal, the station is not without drama: the enormous dome, offset by floral motifs in the surrounding plasterwork, creates a striking effect in the marble-lined rotunda. Arched windows and a long skylight over the passenger area give light and delicacy to the public area which prevents it from being somber. Although the two office wings have been altered since the station opened, the rotunda, 100 feet high and circular in shape, the floral plasterwork, walls wainscotted in marble, and terrazzo floor emblazoned with a large marble star remain. The original oak benches are still in the waiting room.

An interesting sign of its times, the basement of the north wing was devoted to containing the masses of immigrants who poured into the station. A large waiting room and laundry and bath facilities were available but this area had a separate passageway from the trains and to the street. The immigrants thereby avoided contact with the other customers and were clearly kept at arm's length.

The rail yards permitted both freight and passenger service. Union Station formed a striking gateway in the European tradition to Winnipeg's only true boulevard — Broadway. It was a particularly appropriate monument for the western centre of the massive rail network that opened up the Prairies. The station saw several trains come and go each day with thousands of people pouring



through it. In wartime, troops were moved internally by rail which made for tearful departures and homecoming parades. Until the extensive use of the automobile and the airplane in the last forty years, trains were virtually the only method of travel.



A 1912 illustration provides images of the original interiors.

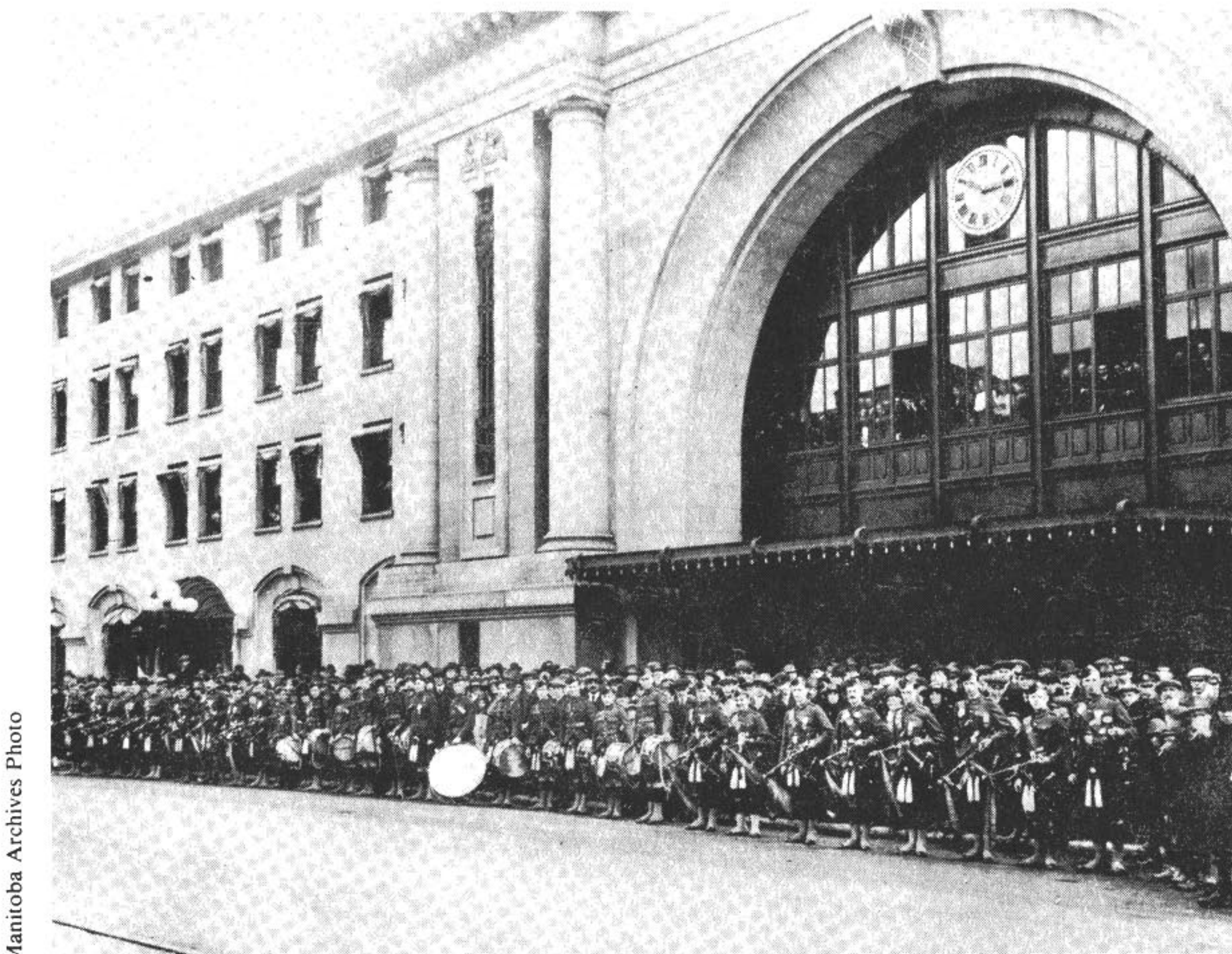


Newly-opened Union Station, looking south on Main Street in 1911. The Arctic Ice Company sheds can be seen in the background.

As important as railways were to western Canada, the country could not support three transcontinentals. The government bought up the smaller lines, first the Canadian Northern Railway in 1919, then the Grand Trunk Railway in 1923 and amalgamated them as the Canadian National Railway. All the support structures--the shops, sheds, hotels and stations--became the property of CNR including the Fort Garry Hotel and Union Station.

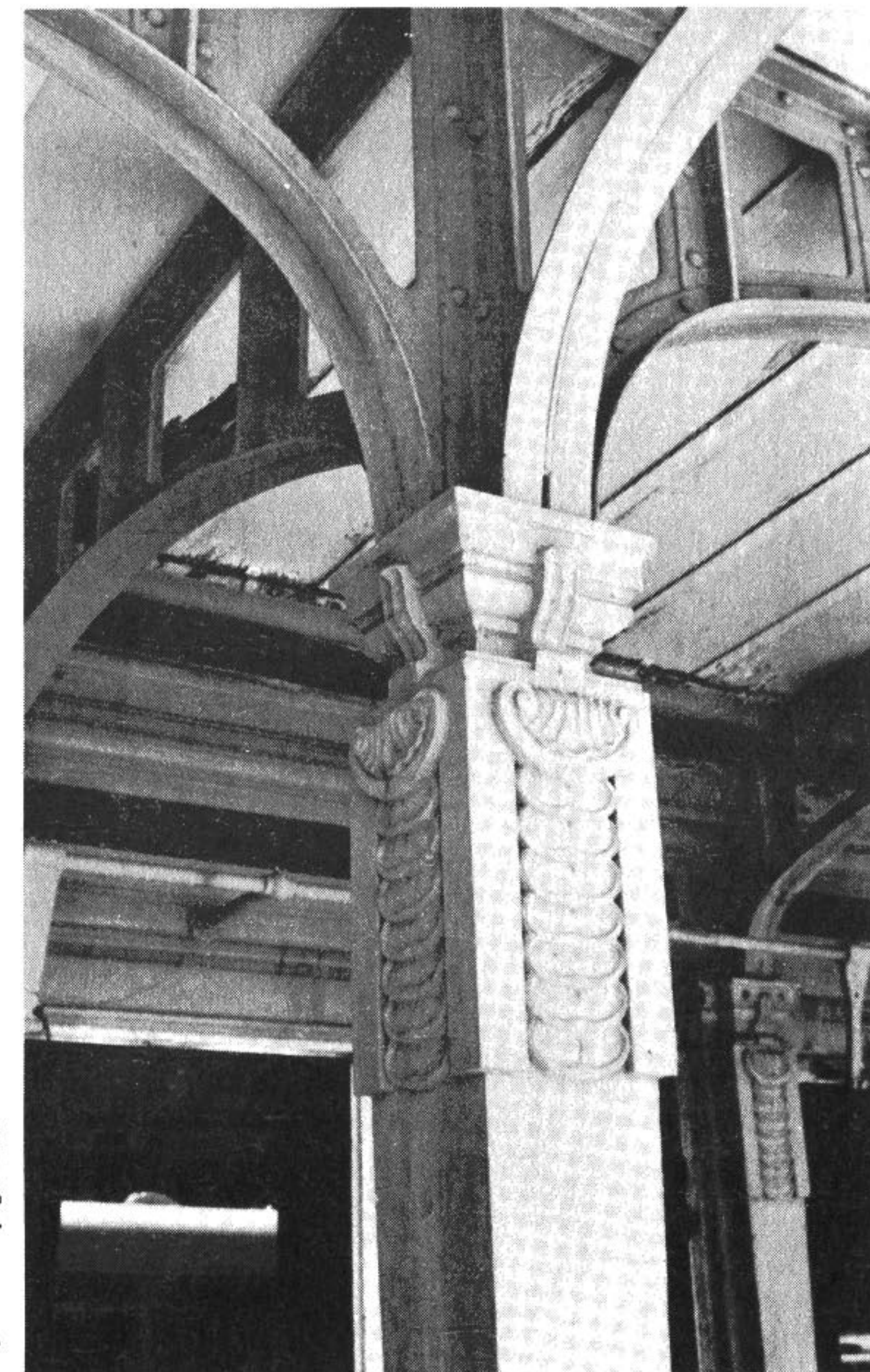
The CNR station now handles all passenger traffic with the CPR transporting freight only, following the creation of VIA Rail. Today the future looks brighter for the station. There are plans to expand the facilities for VIA Rail, while retaining the fine architectural qualities of the building.





Manitoba Archives Photo

*In 1915, the band of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders proudly paraded at Union Station in preparation for the Great War.*



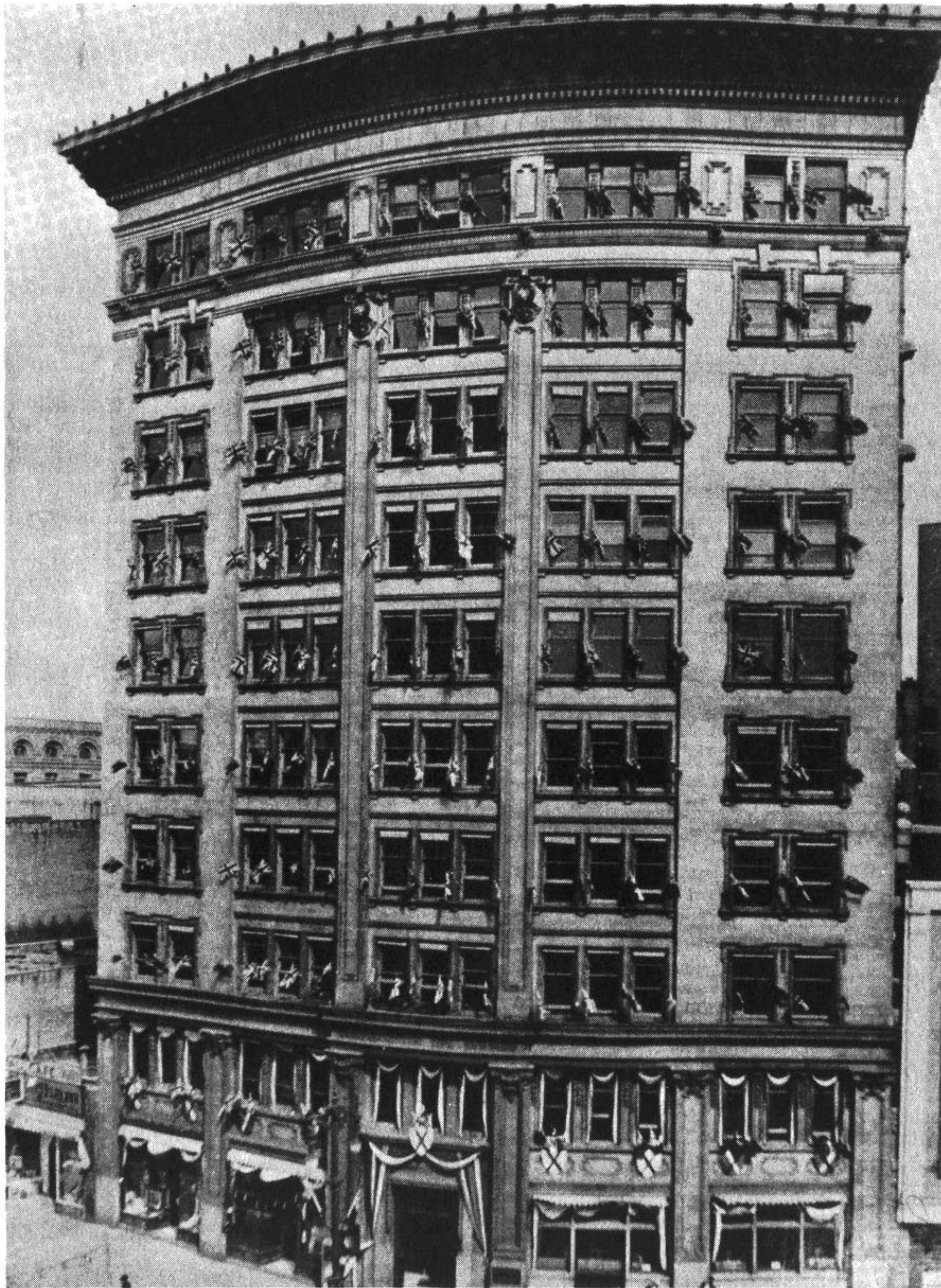
City of Winnipeg Photo

*Detail of cast iron canopy on Main Street.*









Manitoba Archives Photo

*An early photograph of the Confederation Life Building decorated for a Royal visit.*

Situated in the heart of Winnipeg's business district, the Confederation Life Building is one of the city's finest skyscrapers. Constructed in 1912 during a period of rapid urban expansion, the building was designed by architect J. Wilson Gray of Toronto. Ten storeys of steel and concrete, Confederation Life owes its unique appearance to the curved facade that follows a bend in Main Street. Following the example of the "Chicago School" of architecture, the building does not mask its skeletal form but rather proclaims it.

Sheathed in white terra cotta and a base of polished granite, the structure is divided into three sections of a base containing the ground and mezzanine floor, the mid-section of offices set behind piers and large windows, and the attic and cornice. Together, the effect mimics a classical column with a base, shaft and ornamented capitol. The other walls were simply finished in a veneer of buff-coloured brick.

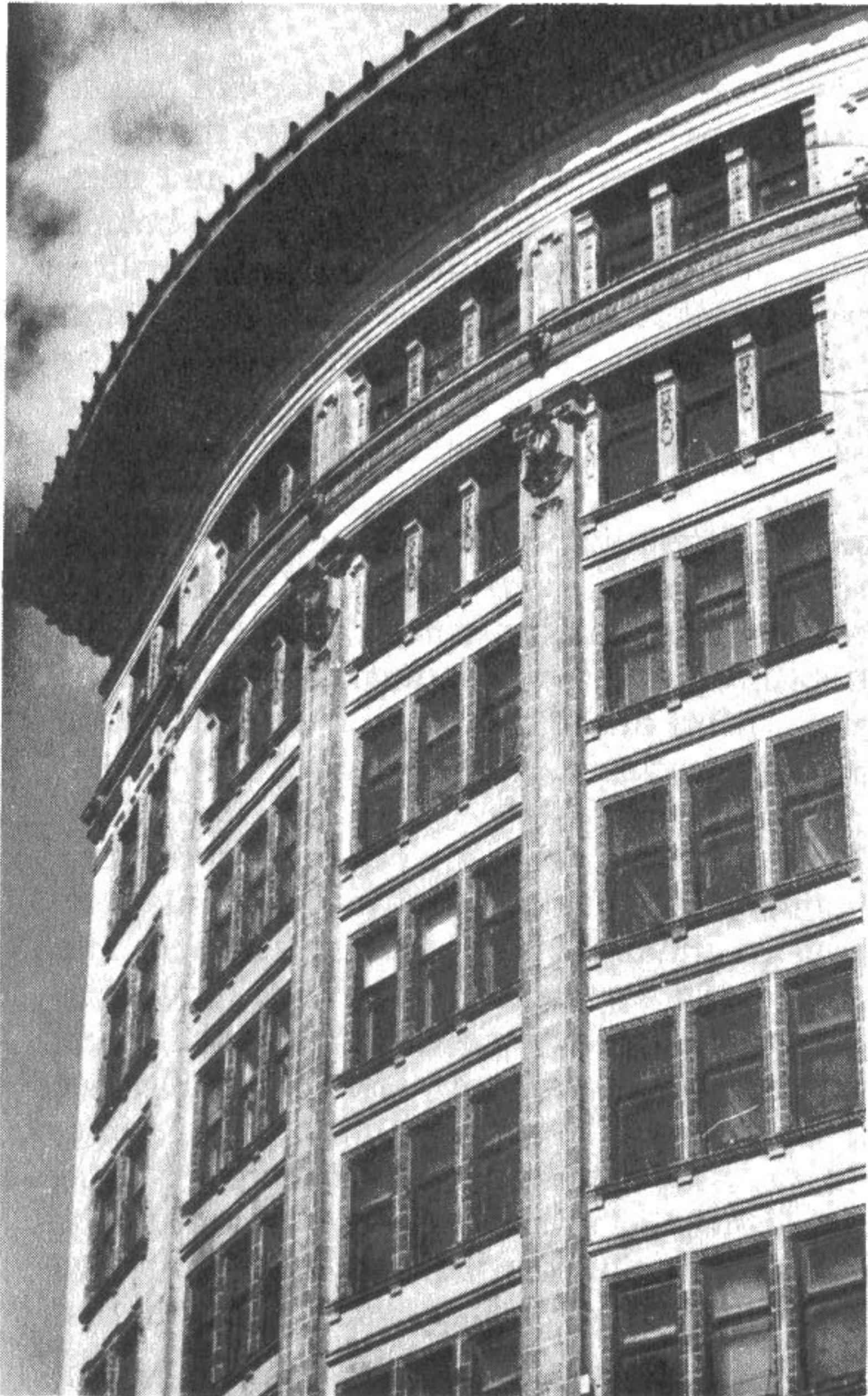
Although alterations have been made over the years, the principal interior features of the Confederation Life Building remain, namely marble wainscoting and three elegant copper-plated cage elevators. Most of the office space was finished in a utilitarian manner.

The Toronto-based company began its operations in Winnipeg in 1879, growing to occupy its own building by 1890. This first Confederation Life Block was on the same site, but by 1912 it was inadequate for such a large and prestigious enterprise. The new skyscraper also offered office space for lawyers, loan companies and manufacturers' agents. As the centre of Winnipeg's commercial district shifted to Portage Avenue, the building became increasingly vacant. This was coupled with the fact that in 1960, Confederation Life Association constructed new quarters and sold the old building.



Together with the Royal Bank Building, the Confederation Life Building forms a northern gateway to Winnipeg's downtown area.

*The cornice (below) provides a strong definition along Main Street.*



City of Winnipeg Photo

*The original barber shop, located in the basement, featured imitation marble columns and facia above the mirrors.*



Manitoba Archives Photo

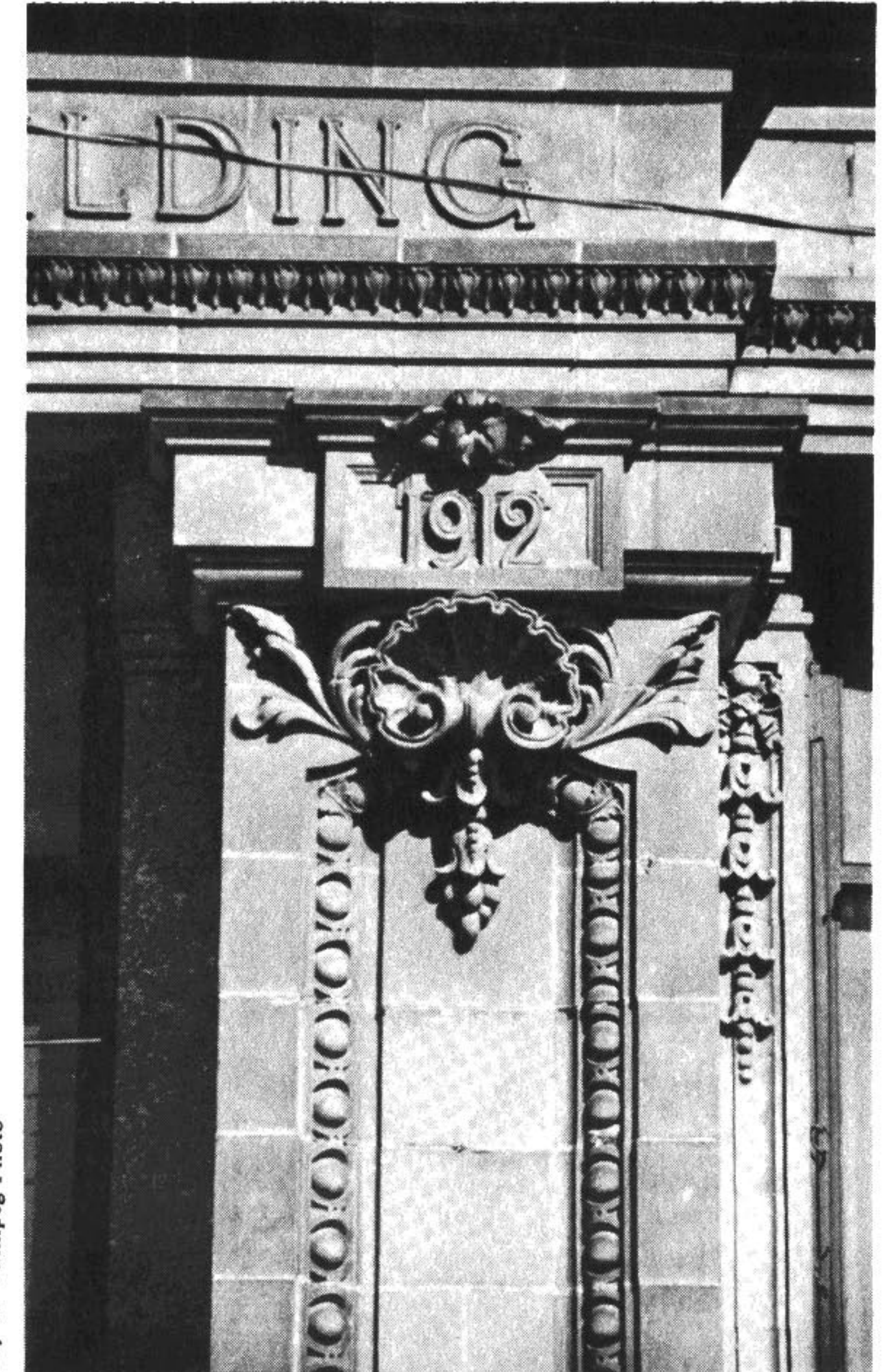


*Original ground-floor elevator lobby photographed prior to renovations which enclosed the elevator shaft.*



Manitoba Archives Photo

*The fine white terra cotta facade has been obscured by years of dirt and exhaust smoke.*



City of Winnipeg Photo









Manitoba Archives Photo

*Colin Inkster at his doorstep, circa 1930.*

The son of a fur-trader and Selkirk Settler, Colin Inkster was born on his parents' farm in Red River in the year 1843. His father, John Inkster, kept a store and a mill which, together with his farm, produced sufficient income to build a fine large house, now the Seven Oaks Museum. Young Colin followed in his father's footsteps, farming part of the river lot, and becoming involved in the turbulent local politics of 1870. In 1871, Colin was appointed Speaker to the first Manitoba Legislative Council, patterned after the British Upper House. When it was argued that a second House was redundant in 1874, it was his vote that abolished it. Inkster was promptly awarded the position of High Sheriff of Manitoba, a position

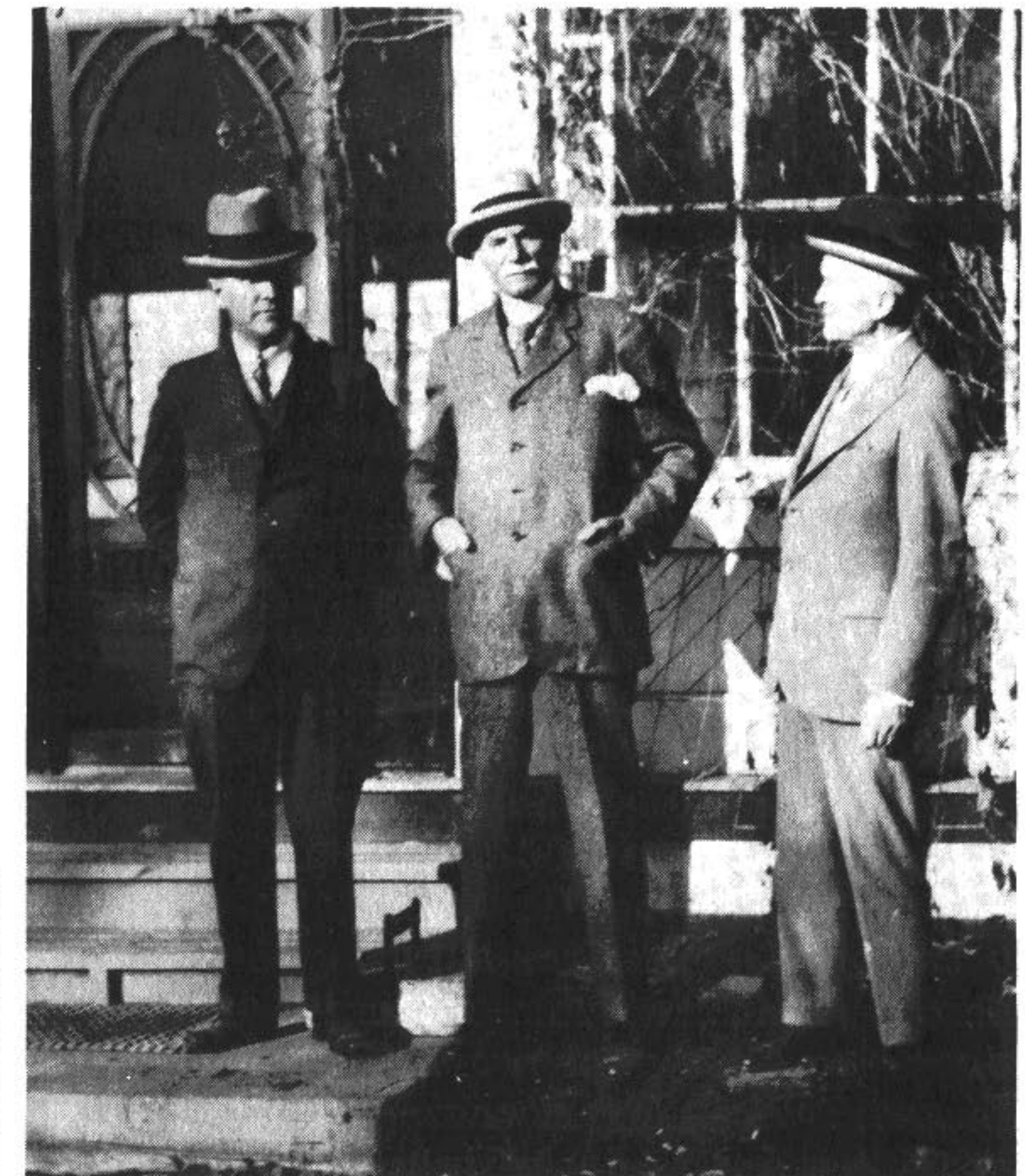
that he tended with wisdom and honour for 51 years.

Bleak House, as the second generation Inkster family called their home, was erected in 1874. The farm around the house produced crops as well as purebred cattle and stud horses, as Inkster pursued a "scientific" approach to agriculture. Even when he was 80 years of age, the old sheriff sold chickens in the City Market. Living to be past 90, Colin Inkster was able to pass on vivid memories of the formation of the province in 1870 and his role in the development of the city and province. Inkster died in 1934.

As the city crept out towards the farm, the Inksters sold more of their land, leaving 6.5 acres of grass and trees around the historic house. Employing a method known as "Red River frame", the house was built of solid squared logs, fitted and mortised, in this case finished with a wood siding for extra warmth. An addition to the rear, and a twentieth-century porch across the front have not modified the house substantially and its early characteristics are still apparent.

The last of the Inkster family to live in the house was Sybil, Colin's daughter, who died in 1973. Today, the old house has a new vitality and function as Bleak House Centre, a senior citizens' drop-in facility providing space for activities and hobbies for dozens of seniors.

*Colin Inkster (center) poses with Messrs. W. S. Healy and George Chipman, circa 1930.*

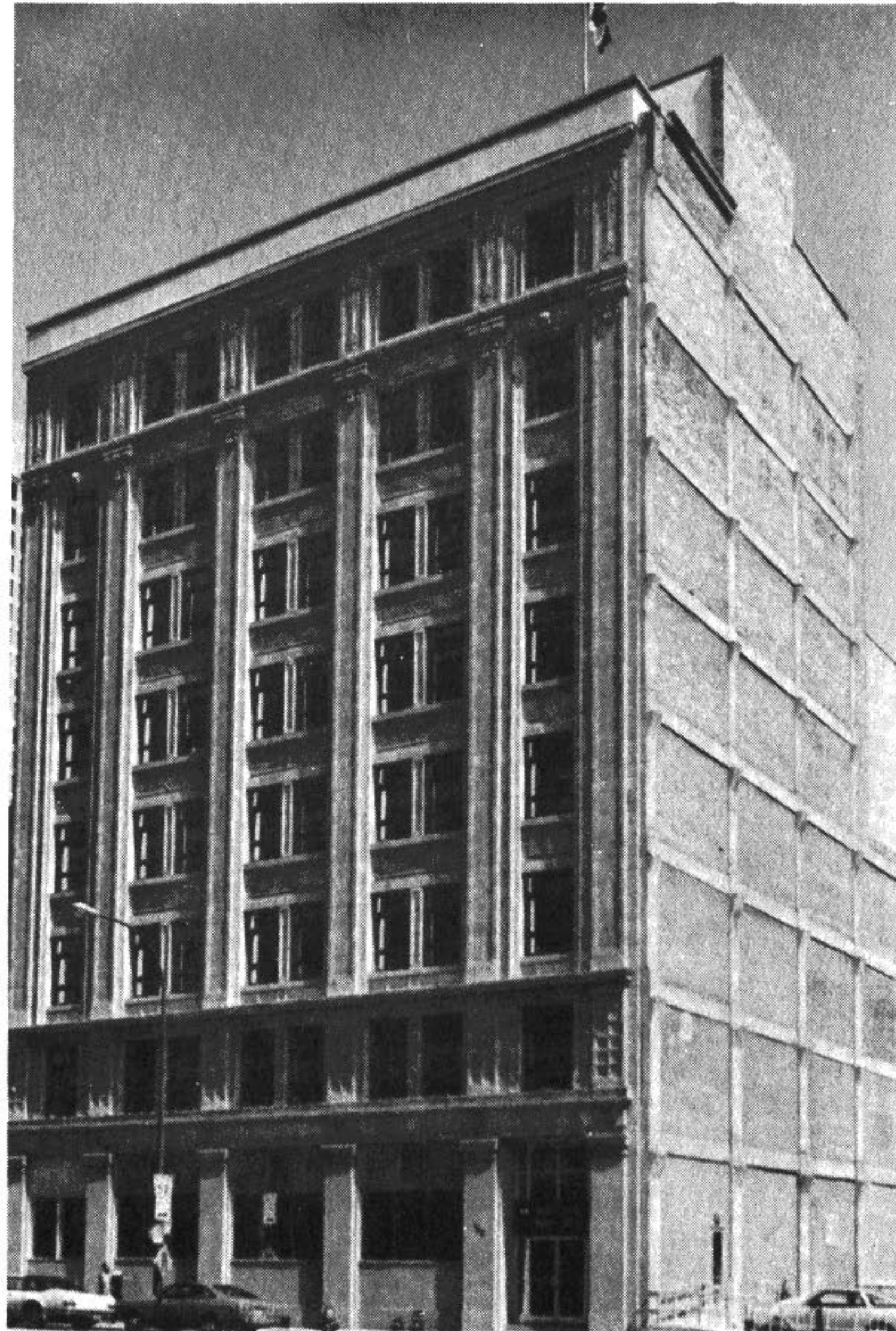


Manitoba Archives Photo









City of Winnipeg Photo

*The Commercial Building, 1980.*

This eight-storey office building was originally called the Notre Dame Investment Building when Pioneer Street was still Notre Dame Avenue East. The investment company that built it was owned by Edward Cass, a contractor who had started Winnipeg Paint and Glass (next to the Commercial Building) in 1903. The new office structure, built in 1912-13, also housed several other companies which Cass owned jointly, forming a brilliant example of vertical integration in the building trade. In later years, the Builders' Exchange was located in the building. In 1926, the federal government purchased the structure, renamed it the Commercial Building, and adapted it for several government departments which remain today.

The structure was one of four large buildings which were prompted by the construction of the Provencher Bridge. Between 1910 and 1915, the character of the area between Main Street and the river changed from residential to commercial.

The Commercial Building is a good example of early "skyscraper" construction, utilizing a reinforced concrete skeleton and superficial sheathing, in this case in terra cotta and brick. This "Chicago style" was both fashionable and modern, symbolic of Winnipeg's prominence in the development of the west.







As the town of Transcona grew from a handful of houses beside the CNR shops to a respectable boom town, service industries were established to cater to the new population. The Bank of Toronto anticipated solid and steady growth in Transcona and opened a modest branch there in 1911, one of its first nine branches in Manitoba.

Despite some financial difficulties in its early years, Transcona eventually proved itself to be a permanent settlement with a reasonably stable growth rate. By 1927, the Bank of Toronto had outgrown the original small frame building and built a new bank down the street at 141 Regent.

This brick bank is a two-storey rectangular building. Its details are classic and intended to give the impression of stability in the banking business, assuring the customers of its security. In 1941, the Bank of Toronto moved across the street where the Toronto-Dominion Bank now occupies a steel-frame and glass structure.

The old bank was bought by the Town of Transcona and re-fitted to house the town's municipal offices. The original town hall was demolished in the 1950's. Following the centralization of services within Unicity, the building stood empty because many of the old municipal functions had been amalgamated. The old bank is currently being renovated by the City of Winnipeg and will shortly see new life as a municipal museum.

*Below: The Transcona Municipal offices in 1980, prior to conversion to the Transcona museum.*

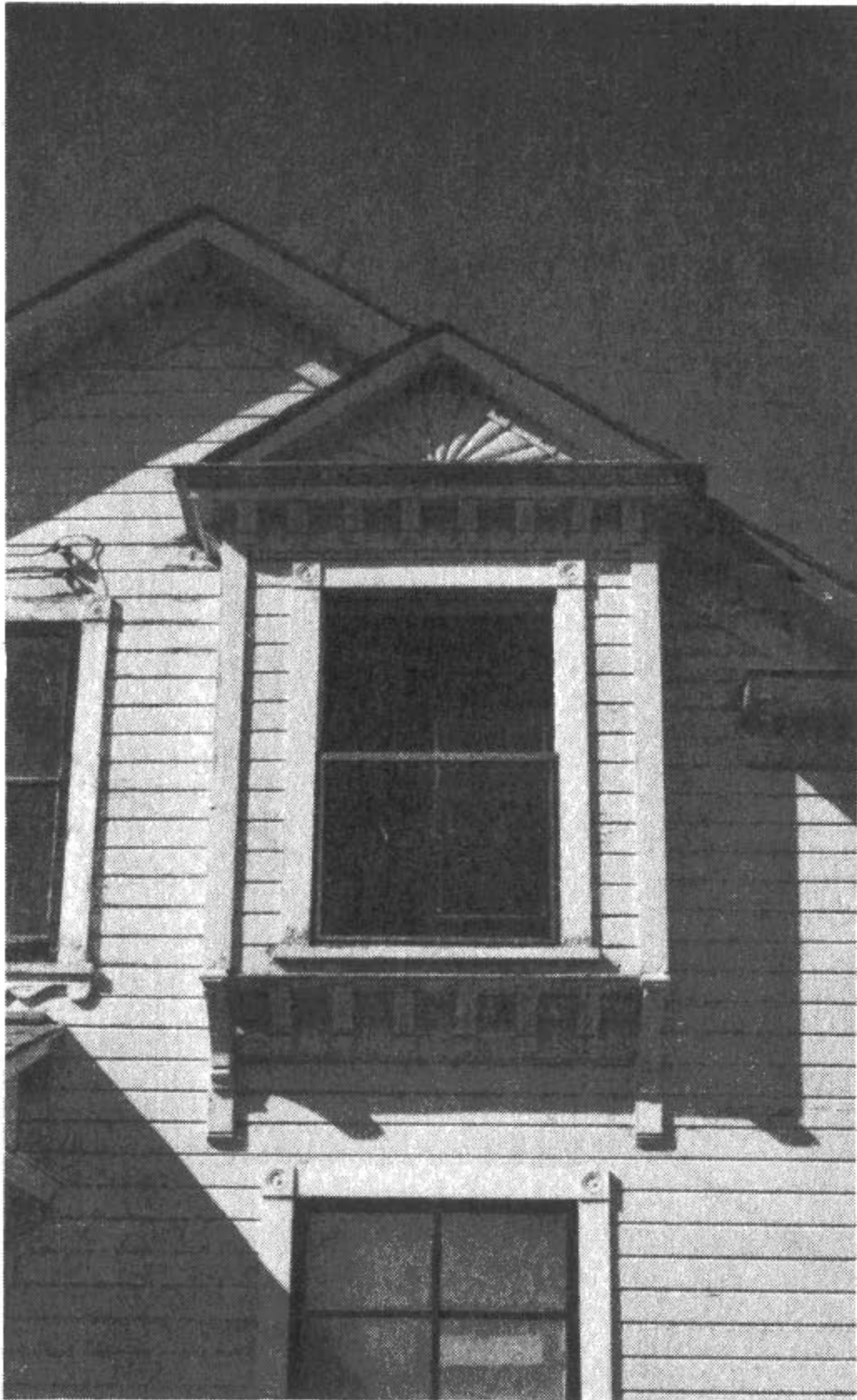


City of Winnipeg Photo









City of Winnipeg Photo

*Detail of projecting window on second floor, 1980.*

The "Levêque House" was built on land given to Bishop Provencher by Lord Selkirk in 1818 as the site of the St. Boniface Mission. Eventually, a small townsite grew north of the cathedral, the earliest permanent settlement of St. Boniface. To this cluster of homes were added residences of five bright young Québec intellectuals whom Archbishop Taché brought out to advise him during the political troubles of 1870. These men, Joseph Dubuc, Marc Amable Girard, Joseph Royal, Alfred Bernier and Alphonse Larivière remained in the settlement as lawyers, politicians, journalists and educators, leaders in the development of Winnipeg and St. Boniface.

Adjacent to this group was Luc Joseph Arthur Levêque, formerly of the Québec Rifles sent out by the Crown to maintain law and order in Red River in 1870. Levêque was a close companion of these prominent citizens, and their children were closer still. Levêque homesteaded first in rural St. Boniface before moving his family to a rented house on Taché Avenue. He worked as a commission agent until he became a clerk in the Indian Department of the federal government in 1877, which gave him the means to build a frame house on Rue St. Joseph, just north of Boulevard Provencher. Levêque was elected reeve of the municipality in 1882 and mayor of the town in 1887; as well he was active in several cultural groups. He died in 1904.

His only surviving child, Taillefer Levêque, married and lived in his parents' home with his family. Taillefer also worked for the federal government before becoming vice-principal of an Indian residential school. By the time he died in 1958, the tiny French settlement had grown into a cosmopolitan and industrialized city. Taillefer's son, Arthur Levêque, one of six children, next took over the family home; his

widow sold the house to the City of Winnipeg in 1978.

For a lack of documentation, the research on this house raises as many questions as it answers. The Levêque house was one of several frame houses built in the late 1870's by a local contractor named Antoine Gauvin. Photographs indicate a distinct similarity in these buildings, but only the Levêque house remains. At the turn-of-the-century, the Levêque house had a large addition across the rear containing a greenhouse and living space which was later removed. A two-storey veranda encircled the original section. Many alterations over the years have left little of what may be the only remaining frame house of an early St. Boniface family dating from the 1870's.



City of Winnipeg Photo

*The Levêque House, 1980. The large section visible at the rear is a later addition.*









Manitoba Archives Photo

*The monastic church, vacant since 1978 when the Trappist monks moved to a new monastery south of Holland, Manitoba.*

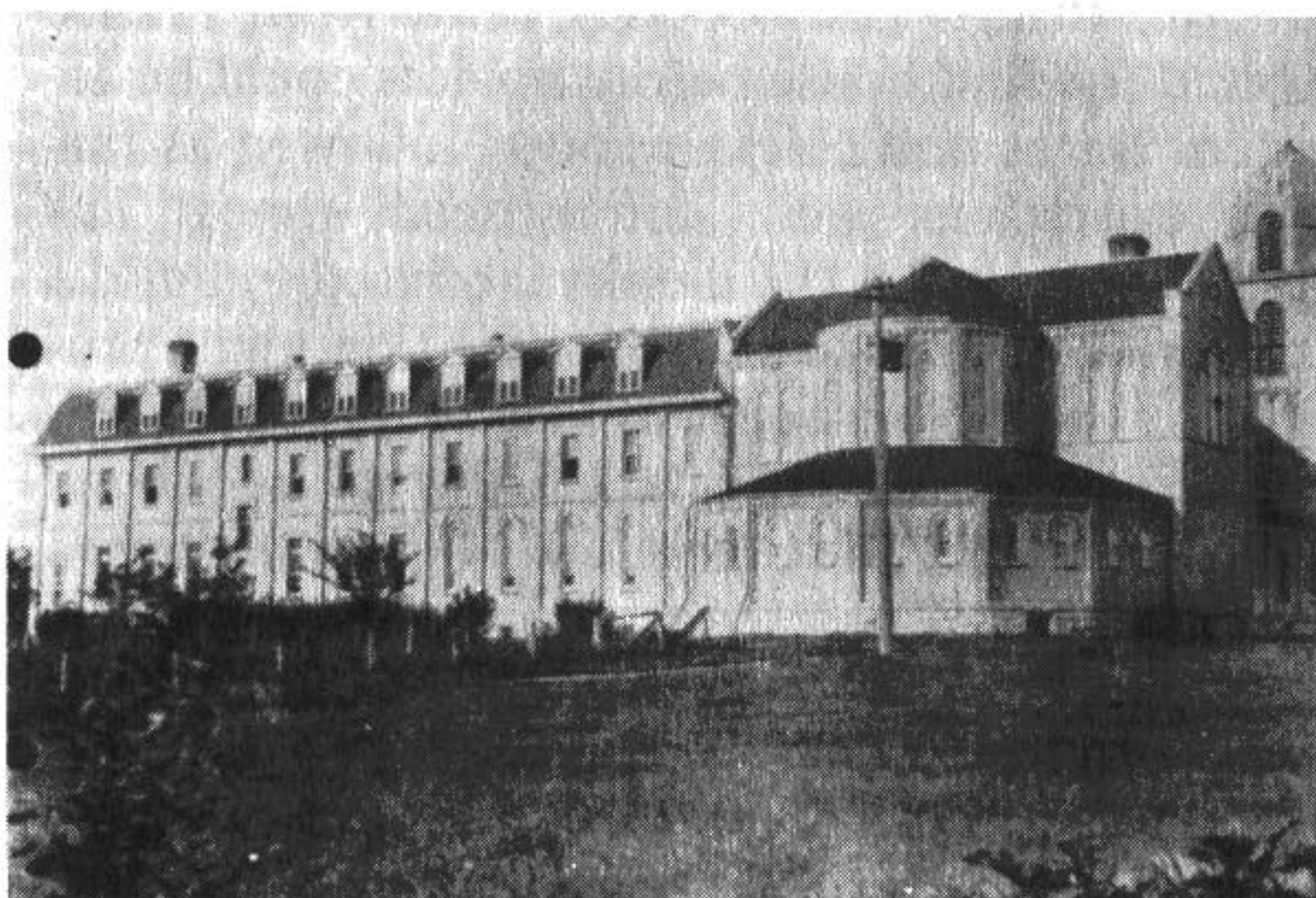
The former Trappist Monastery was located at an elbow of the picturesque LaSalle River in St. Norbert. The site offered privacy and sustenance to the Trappists who, as part of the Cistercien Order, had their roots in medieval Europe. They obeyed the Rule of St. Benedict, a strict code of moral and spiritual behaviour which regulates the monk's life of contemplation and labour away from the distraction of worldly pressures. Traditionally, the monks supported their community by farming; the St. Norbert monastery grew cereal crops, raised purebred horses and Holstein cattle, and sold honey and Oka cheese. The Monks raised their own food for a diet that was strictly vegetarian.

Called Notre Dame des Prairies, the monastery began in 1892 on land set aside by Father N. J. Ritchot, the influential parish priest of St. Norbert. Priests and brothers came from France to build the first house before novices could be accepted. Barns and chicken coops followed as farming operations were commenced almost immediately. In 1904, the monks laboured to build a large brick and stone church, based on plans provided by the motherhouse in France. The apse was two-tiered and semi-circular. A domed bell tower on the west elevation held two fine embellished cast iron bells. The interior walls of the apse were supported by eight columns of Ohio stone. Seven chapel alters led from the central area into the sanctuary, the main central alter for communal services, the others for private masses by the monks. To this was added the monastic wing, the actual living quarters of the community, which was completed in 1905. The two buildings were connected and constructed in similar materials, although their forms were quite different.



When the original wooden residence burned down in 1912, it was replaced by a large wood frame structure that became the guest house for clerics and lay visitors.

The fire also demolished the apiary, which was replaced in 1912 with two large barns. A greenhouse, cannery, bakery, shoemaker and forge all helped to make the Trappists self-sufficient. In 1921, a huge new stock barn was built, employing contracted labour for the first time, with the monks finishing the interior. As the efficiency of farms elsewhere improved, so too did the monks adopt modern methods. Their crop farm and highbred stock were always a model for local farmers and the monks published papers and attended seminars on agricultural advancement, their dairy herd thought to be among the finest in the country.



Manitoba Archives Photo

*The monastic wing contains small chapels, a library and the monks' dormitory.*



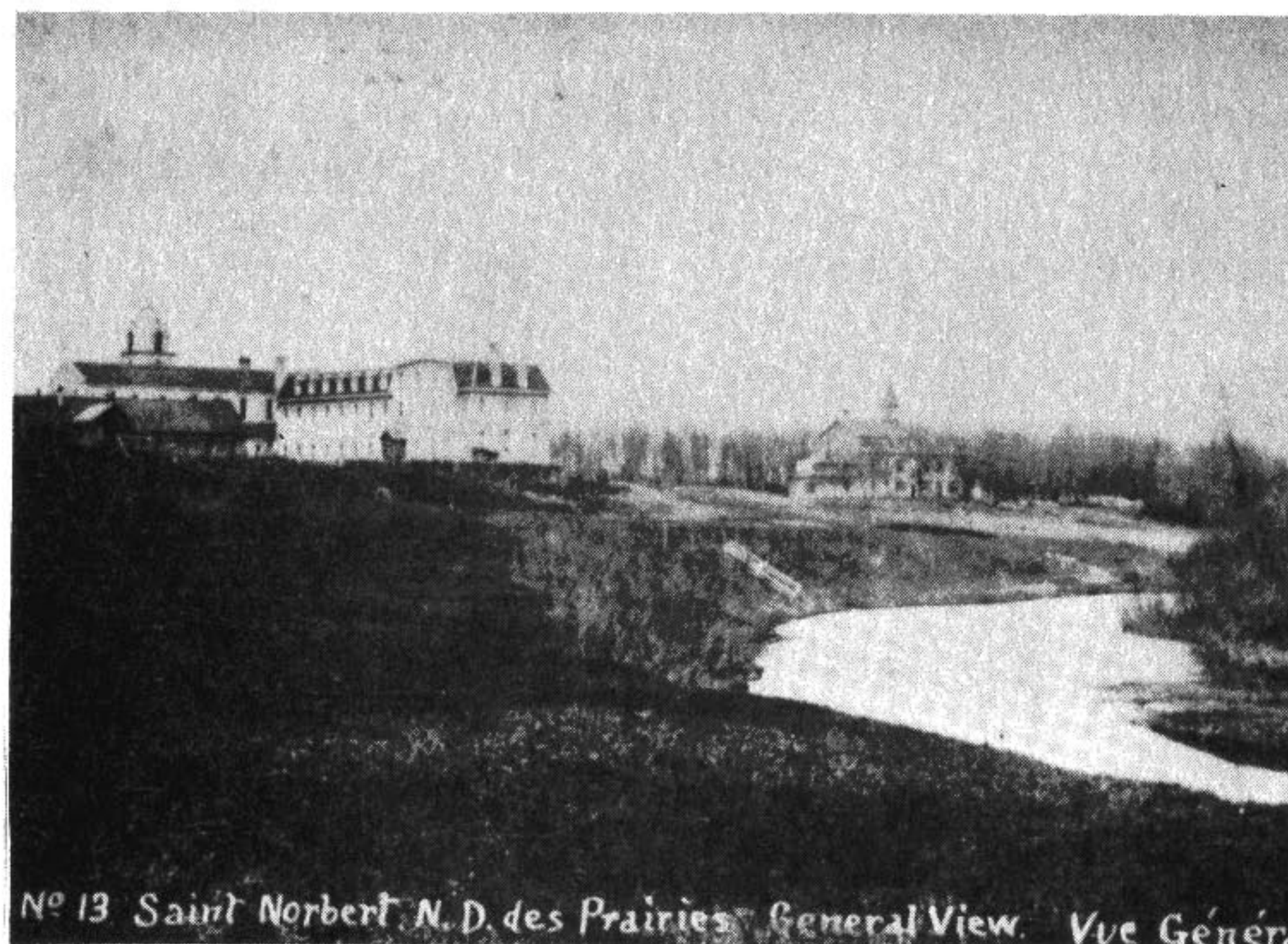
Manitoba Archives Photo

*Interior of the chapel of the monastic church circa 1925. The ceiling has been ornately decorated with religious scenes.*



As the area around St. Norbert grew increasingly urbanized, the Trappists found it more difficult to maintain their private rural life. They sold their 1,200 acre farm in the summer of 1978, and relocated to a new monastery south of Holland, Manitoba. Many of the old farm buildings were taken down or moved. All that is left on the river-bank site are the beautiful old church, the monastic wing and the guest house. (There is also a gate house dating from 1946). These remain as the handcrafted labours of western Canada's first monastery.

Manitoba Archives Photo



*Above Right:*

*A general view of Notre Dame des Prairies, circa 1910. The church and monastic wing are visible at left, with the guest house shown at right.*

*Right:*

*A 1914 photograph shows the entrance to the church with the cheese factory in the foreground.*

Manitoba Archives Photo











Manitoba Archives Photo

*This photograph, showing the construction of the Y.M.C.A. in 1911, also illustrates the row housing built six years earlier immediately to the north.*

Half of an original group of four buildings, these twin terraces were erected between 1904 and 1905. Although there are few remaining examples of terrace housing left in downtown Winnipeg, it was a popular construction form with tenants as well as a lucrative investment for the owners. The Manitoba Free Press in 1905 stated: "In this country, where fuel is high and maintaining a household considerably exceeds the average in other cities...the apartment block or flat dwelling is bound to grow in popularity." With the remarkable growth of Winnipeg from 1900 - 1914, terraces and apartment blocks were a logical solution to the housing shortage.

The terrace tenants were working people who enjoyed the proximity to the city centre. Among the earliest tenants of these terrace houses was J.S. Woodsworth, later the founder of the C.C.F. party, but then a minister teaching at nearby Wesley College (now the University of Winnipeg). As he became increasingly disillusioned with the established church, Woodsworth grew more concerned with the plight of God's people on earth and resolved to take a more active role in the problems of the urban poor. Towards that end, he moved to work at All People's Mission in the north end, which attempted to close the gap between rich and poor, and immigrant and native.

This work later led to political involvement and national prominence.

In the years after 1940, some of the terrace houses were split into smaller suites, with lower rents and smaller spaces squeezing out families and attracting more transient tenants.

The brick-veneered terraces were designed by their builder, a local contractor. Originally each unit contained two large homes and the units were grouped by two with a single roofline in the front and twin gables in the rear. This created a total of 16 separate homes. Utilitarian in their design, the terraces nonetheless were handsome, particularly due to the large verandas, supported by classic columns with a lattice base, which swept across each building.







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Therefore when we build let us think that we build forever — let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for and let us think as we lay stone on stone that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them and that men will say as they look upon the labour and the wrought substance of them “See! This our fathers did for us.”

John Ruskin

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