



**2015 MAIN STREET**  
**RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

City of Winnipeg  
Historical Buildings & Resources Committee  
Researcher: M. Peterson  
August 2023

This building embodies the following heritage values as described in the *Historical Resources By-law*, 55/2014 (consolidated update July 13, 2016):

- (a) Rainbow Stage, Canada's largest and longest running outdoor theatre is an important live theatre venue and has been an integral part of Kildonan Park for many decades;
- (b) The resource, constructed in Winnipeg's post-World War II growth phase, is associated with the ongoing upgrading and modernization of public parks in Winnipeg and the evolution and maturity of the local performing arts sector;
- (c) The building's 1970s-era main entrance is an example of the Brutalist Style of architecture, one of several in the City of Winnipeg, and was designed by internationally-renowned modernist architect Dennis Carter of local firm Smith, Munn, Carter, Katelnikoff. Local firm Ducharme Hamilton Company was the contractor of the original stage. The roof of 1970 was part of the mid-century popularity of the geodesic dome structures;
- (d) The structure is built of reinforced concrete, masonry and steel, its domed roof is a rarity in Winnipeg;
- (e) Rainbow Stage is located in the heart of one of Winnipeg's best known and visited public greenspaces, Kildonan Park; and
- (f) The building's stage area, seating and domed roof have not been severely altered.

## **2015 MAIN STREET RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

“[Recently] the people of this country began to realize the fact that cities were becoming solid masses of masonry... no provisions were being made for lungs for the cities.”<sup>1</sup>

Land for public parks in what became the City of Winnipeg was first identified in the 1870s but disappeared during the railway-initiated real estate boom of the early 1880s. It would be another decade before the City of Winnipeg would officially set aside public parks- a reaction to the great societal changes globally as well as local pressure from citizens and developers.<sup>2</sup>

Winnipeg parks in 1890 fell into two classes: vacant green space that had simply come to be used for park or recreational purposes because it was free and not being used for any other purpose; and park areas owned by individuals or companies and run as commercial ventures, such as Elm Park and River Park.<sup>3</sup>

The movement towards the creation of civic organized parks in Winnipeg, 1880-1910, was influenced by five global trends and developmental philosophies:<sup>4</sup>

1. Commercially oriented parks movement:  
Developers and businessmen saw the setting aside of parks as beneficial to new real estate ventures and to the enhancement of urban expansion.
2. City Beautiful Movement:  
A response by architects, city planners and sociologists that the beautification of the city was necessary to combat urban blight and create “aesthetically pleasing and spiritually uplifting places within the city”<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Winnipeg Engineer’s Report, 1892, quoted in Mary E. Cavett, H. John Selwood, and John C. Lehr, “Social Philosophy and the Early Development of Winnipeg’s Public Parks,” Urban History Review, Vol. 11, No. 1, June 1982. Below as Cavett, Selwood and Lehr, 1982.

<sup>2</sup> The author wishes to thank G. Bugailiskis for sharing his research on Winnipeg parks and greenspaces.

<sup>3</sup> Catherine Macdonald, A City At Leisure. An Illustrated History of Parks and Recreation Services in Winnipeg (Winnipeg, MB: City of Winnipeg, Parks and Recreation Department, 1995)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., and Cavett, Selwood and Lehr, 1982.

<sup>5</sup> Cavett, Selwood and Lehr, 1982.

3. Residential amenity movement:  
Like commercially oriented parks, a push from developers to include winding streets, wide treed boulevards, and small parks to attract a wealthier clientele and convince owners of neighbouring properties to improve their grounds.
4. Mass recreation movement:  
The availability of cheap, rapid mass transportation combined with a need for recreation to result in the call for parks as entertainment.
5. Park-playground movement:  
The belief that sports and games helped youth development led to a call for outdoor recreation sites as relief from urban conditions.

It was George Frederick Carruthers (1846-1918) alderman for Ward Six (area north of the CPR tracks) who spearheaded the move, on the part of Winnipeg City Council, to press the provincial government for legislation that would permit all municipalities in Manitoba to create parks boards and acquire, improve, and maintain public parks. Local newspapers of the day dubbed him “the father of our public parks” (Plate 1).<sup>6</sup>

On March 28, 1892, a draft of a Public Parks Act was drawn up and presented to Winnipeg City Council. It was approved and forwarded to the Provincial Legislature, which passed the Public Parks Act for Manitoba on April 20, 1892 and provided for “the establishment and maintenance of public parks in cities and towns”. The act was based on similar acts which existed in other provinces of Canada and states in the United States, including the Minneapolis, MN Park Commission.<sup>7</sup>

In the next municipal election, the Parks By-law was passed by an overwhelming majority. City Council, on January 9, 1893, gave the final reading to the by-law adopting the Public Parks Act. As E.L. Drewery, first Chairman of the Public Parks Board observed, it would create a “...series of parks [which will be]...educators of a higher taste and admiration for nature.”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> C. Macdonald, op. cit.; and William Douglas, “Winnipeg Parks,” Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba Transactions, Series 3, No. 14, 1959, pp. 61-64.

<sup>7</sup> Manitoba Free Press, March 4, 1892.

<sup>8</sup> City of Winnipeg, Public Parks Board Annual Report, 1893.



While the Board had a long-term goal of creating large “regional parks” around the city, their initial efforts were creating smaller, neighbourhood sites. By the end of 1894, four sites had been selected and purchased: Fort Rouge (originally called Assiniboine), Central, Victoria, St. John’s. Several others followed but it would not be until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, during the City’s great expansion phase, that the regional park goal was achieved.

The land for Assiniboine Park was purchased by the City in 1904 and between 1909 and 1912, the City purchased nearly 40.0 hectares of land for \$163,819.17 north of the City limits on Main Street (Plate 2).<sup>9</sup> Originally referred to as Strathcona Park, Chairman Champion described the site as “rank vegetation...acres of breast high ferns, and the huge masses of grape vine and bittersweet hanging from the tree tops, suggest[ive of] the tropics rather than rigorous Manitoba.”<sup>10</sup> In 1910, the city spent over \$60,000 on improvements to Assiniboine Park and the initial development of Kildonan Park – the later included sowing grass, cleaning up fallen and dead trees, building bridges, and staking and grading roadways and paths (Plates 3-5).<sup>11</sup>

But further work at Kildonan Park was delayed because of City Council’s desire to develop a new, larger site for the Manitoba Exhibition. In 1913, Council chose land adjacent to the park, but this plan was abandoned a year later, allowing progress on Kildonan Park to restart.<sup>12</sup> The landscaping of the park, based on traditional Victorian examples, included formal gardens and plantings (Plate 6).

This landscaping continued and in 1922, the same year as the official opening of the pavilion, an octagonal dark stained wooded bandstand, 9.2 x 9.2 metres was constructed in the park “near the

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<sup>9</sup> City of Winnipeg, Kildonan Park History and Development (Winnipeg, MB: Parks and Recreation Department (Metro), 1972). Below as Kildonan Park History.

<sup>10</sup> G. Champion, “Parks and Recreation Facilities in the United States,” quoted in John Selwood, John C. Lehr, and Mary Cavett, “The Most Lovely and Picturesque City in All of Canada: The Origins of Winnipeg’s Public Park System,” Manitoba History, No. 31, Spring 1996.

<sup>11</sup> Manitoba Free Press, April 9, 1910, p. 40; and Kildonan Park History.

<sup>12</sup> C. Macdonald, op. cit. In 1921, this property was opened as Kildonan Golf Course, the city’s first civic-owned club.

river front.”<sup>13</sup> The bandstand was an extremely popular venue at the park, attracting thousands to live concerts, recitals and other events. The *Winnipeg Tribune*, beginning in 1931, hosted “Nights of Community Song” which drew thousands of Depression-era weary families to several parks, including Kildonan.

The Great Depression and World War II halted any progress on city parks- new capital projects, maintenance, and basic upkeep activities were severely reduced as budgets were slashed. But after the War, like so much of Winnipeg, revenues increased, the economy boomed and budgets were brought back. For Kildonan Park, this meant a host of improvements, including replacing two structures damaged in the 1950 flood – the pavilion and the bandstand. Much of the park was covered with 1.5 metres of muddy water – nearly 500 cubic metres of silt was removed from the park property. The wooden bandstand was lifted off its base and lodged in a nearby grove of trees.<sup>14</sup>

As work progressed clearing the park of silt in July (the Park wouldn’t open to the public until September), the Parks Board debated placing wooden platforms at all major city parks to encourage outdoor concerts. This idea was roundly rejected by members who felt “Winnipeg’s musicians and citizenry deserved something better.”<sup>15</sup> The Parks Board announced a major, three-point expansion program for the parks, a \$25,000 band shell in Kildonan Park being one of the major projects. The Board likened the new facility to the “Theatre Under the Stars” in Vancouver, B.C. (Plates 7-8).<sup>16</sup>

Work began on the actual design of the facility, as well as its financing. The Parks Board agreed in December of 1950 to pay for half the cost, the Winnipeg Civic Music League (and later the Junior Chamber of Commerce) would lead the efforts to raise the other half. Private donations, raffles, fundraising concerts and other events ran through 1951 and into 1952 to contribute to the facility that was now estimated to cost \$30,000.<sup>17</sup> By June of 1952, the finalized plans were made public, with a stage “large enough to accommodate performances of a full-sized symphony orchestra, or

<sup>13</sup> City of Winnipeg, Public Parks Board Annual Report, 1922, p. 11.

<sup>14</sup> Kildonan Park History, p. 12.

<sup>15</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, July 20, 1950, p. 10.

<sup>16</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, July 25, 1950, p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, January 17, 1952, p. 3.

will house the full cast of a large musical comedy.”<sup>18</sup> A model was displayed (Plate 9) and sketches and renderings produced (Plate 10) and the plan was to have the facility open by late summer. The new venue even had a name, given to it by the architect, “Rainbow Stage” because of the rainbow shape of the curved proscenium above the stage floor.<sup>19</sup> But many factors delayed the official opening of the 3,000-seat theatre until July 7, 1954 (Plates 11-15).

## STYLE

Stylistically, the original Rainbow Stage was a simple bandshell with modest extensions enclosing the temporary and permanent seating (Plate 16). This changed, however, when a new front was added to the building in 1975, providing improved ticketing, washroom and access (Plate 17). This heavy curved addition is a good example of the Brutalist Style, which developed in the post-World War II period and is often seen as a conscious move away from the lightness of the International Style. Brutalism is identified by its use of heavier, masonry-base architecture, taking its inspiration from more utilitarian structures such as warehouses. It was made popular by a group of avant-garde architects and artists in London, England and inspired by the reinforced, unfinished concrete designs of Swiss-French architect Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, “Le Corbusier” (Plate 18). The style strove to present a clear, unadorned display of the structure and to celebrate the textures of the construction material - concrete. The French term for raw concrete, *béton brut*, gave the style its name.

The buildings were heavy, with rough, concrete finishes, often showing the impressions of the wooden forms used in the pouring of the concrete. Deeply inset fenestration, concrete with linear patterning or “corduroy concrete” and the use of diagonals and circles was also common. Massing was complex and irregular, mirroring the plan of the building itself.

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<sup>18</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, June 6, 1952, pp. 1 & 9.

<sup>19</sup> Loc. cit.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, it had become a prevalent world-wide, often for large public and institutional buildings.<sup>20</sup>

Brutalist Style attributes would include:<sup>21</sup>

- The buildings embody a predominant use of concrete or masonry;
- The fenestration and openings, while highly significant, are subsidiary to solid forms. This results in monolithic-looking, visually-heavy built form;
- The heavily-textured materials imbue a sense of tactility and create a play of light and shadow on the buildings' surfaces (all of these points combine to create what Sigfried Geidion called “the revitalization of the wall” in the post-war era); and
- A sculptural treatment of surface and unorthodox arrangements of contrasting solid masses and voids results in what Reyner Banham would have called a “Memorability as an image”.

Winnipeg's stock of Brutalist Style structures (see Plate 19) includes:

- Canadian Grain Commission Building, 303 Main Street (1973, Smith Carter Parkin);
- Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, 174 Market Avenue (1970, Waisman Ross Blankstein Coop Gillmor Hanna, architects) – one of only two buildings in Canada federally designated as examples of the Brutalist Style; the other is the Confederation Centre of the Arts, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (Plate 20);
- Manitoba Teachers' Society Offices, 191 Harcourt Street (1966, Libling Michener and Associates); and
- St. Boniface Police Station, County Court and Health Unit, 227 Provencher Boulevard (1964, Étienne Gaboury).

The 1970 domed roof was part of an architectural movement popularized by Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) in the late 1940s when he was able to design and built a self-supporting geodesic dome structure that could sustain its own weight. Fuller's U.S. Pavilion Biosphere at Expo 67 in Montreal (Plate 21) brought worldwide attention to the design.

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<sup>20</sup> L. Maitland, et al, A Guide to Architectural Styles (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press Ltd., 1992), p. 185; J. Thorsteinson, Brutalist Tour (Winnipeg, MB: Winnipeg Architecture Foundation, 2012), pp. 9-11; and A. Waldron, “Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba,” Submission Report – Place, Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Report No. 2007-89, 2007 (below as HSMBC Submission Report), p. 5-7.

<sup>21</sup> Thanks to J. Thorsteinson, Historian, Archaeology and History Branch, Parks Canada, in conversation with author, August 23, 2021.

## CONSTRUCTION

Rainbow Stage has an extensive construction history, beginning with the open-air seating (both temporary and permanent), concrete pad in front of the stage, the bandshell-like stage, and the modest extensions (called “pergolas” in the 1955 plans) for concession and washrooms of 1954 (see Appendix I for additional construction information – Plates 22-23).<sup>22</sup> In 1955, the concession and washroom areas were enlarged (Plate 24) and a year later, wings were added to the stage as well as a backstage area used for dressing rooms and equipment, reflecting the increased use of the stage for musical productions (Plate 25).<sup>23</sup> A large addition to the rear of the stage was completed in 1961 for rehearsal space and storage (Plate 26) and in 1970, a City of Winnipeg Building Permit was taken out for the construction of the domed roof which cost \$175,000 according to a 1970 report (Plate 27).<sup>24</sup> In 1974, after some delay, the plans to create a new entrance and stage wings were put to tender in November.<sup>25</sup> The last major alteration, occurred in 1985-1986 with the completion of a new stagehouse area to the rear of the stage with offices, workshops, dressing rooms, etc. (Plates 28-30).

## DESIGN

The original stage area featured a curved proscenium glue-lam arch, 36.8 x 45.7 cm., at its peak 10.1 metres above the stage floor.<sup>26</sup> Protecting the stage area and also part of the acoustics was glue-lam beams covered by 5.1-cm. wood decking and 15-year pitch and gravel roofing.<sup>27</sup> Running out from the stage on both sides, one-storey structures housing washrooms and concession stands, which were enlarged shortly after construction.

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<sup>22</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, June 6, 1952, p. 1.

<sup>23</sup> Heritage Winnipeg blog, “A Theatre Under the Stars.” The first musical staged was Brigadoon in September of 1955.

<sup>24</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, July 25, 1970, p. 5.

<sup>25</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, November 15, 1974, p. 23.

<sup>26</sup> The original proscenium arch was replaced in 1986.

<sup>27</sup> Architect’s Plans #1745/1955, City of Winnipeg, Records Management Division.

As the use of the stage shifted more to the hosting of musical theatre productions and additional production space was required. Wings were placed on either side of the stage and a stagehouse was built to the rear.

The most iconic element of the theatre, the domed roof, was constructed in 1970 (Plates 31-34). Roof construction began in late May and once the steel framing was completed, the dome was covered with a “transparent vinyl skin”<sup>28</sup> in time for the first production of the summer, Wizard of Oz.<sup>29</sup> , which was replaced with plastic several years later. Dominion Bronze Limited was awarded the \$135,000 contract to replace the original roofing material, which was leaking considerably, with more durable plastic skin (Plates 35-37).<sup>30</sup>

The need for modern ticketing, concession and washroom facilities led to the design and construction of the curved concrete front of the theatre. One and two storeys in height, the addition features a central ticket booth, the main entrance, washrooms, meeting areas with tables on the main floor and a second storey walkway/patio (Plates 38-44). Originally the concrete walls were unfinished, but in 2011, Winnipeg artists Mandy van Leeuwen and Michel Saint Hilaire painted a 743.2 square meter mural, one of the largest in outdoor artworks in the City at the time (Plate 45).<sup>31</sup>

At the rear of the stage is the metal-clad 3-storey stagehouse and one-storey sections (Plates 46-49).

## **INTERIOR**

Rainbow Stage has grown since its first stage productions and so too has its facility. The stagehouse now has dressing rooms, a workshop, offices and storage space, and fly gallery (Plates 50-52). Running out from the wings are the concession areas, now joined at the front by the new entrance structure (Plate 53). The seating and stage have seen less alteration (Plates 54-55).

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<sup>28</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), July 25, 1970, p. 5.

<sup>29</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), July 15, 1970, p. 3.

<sup>30</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), March 23, 1977, p. 2 and April 13, 1977, p. 5.

<sup>31</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), June 21, 2011, online edition.

## **INTEGRITY**

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. There have been changes, alterations and upgrades to the facility but the stage/seating area has seen limited alteration since the construction of the domed roof.

## **STREETSCAPE**

Rainbow Stage is located in the heart of Kildonan Park, one of the City's largest greenspaces. It is part of a number of public facilities in the park including a pavilion, swimming pool, and walking trails.

In 1986, a replica of the original glue-lam arch was mounted on concrete bases near the new front entrance of the theatre and commemorative plaques mounted to the bases. Only a portion of the arches and the bases and plaques remain today (Plate 56).

## **ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS**

Dennis Carter (Plate 57) of local firm Smith, Munn, Carter, Katelnikoff prepared the plans for Rainbow Stage.<sup>32</sup> This influential local partnership, in its many forms, was founded in 1947 by three recent University of Manitoba Architecture graduates: Ernest John Smith, Dennis Carter and Walter L. Katelnikoff; and adding E. Fitz Munn in 1954 (see Appendix II for addition information). They have received 20 points from the Historical Buildings and Resources Committee.

Little is known about the local contracting firm Ducharme Hamilton Company, which built the original open-air stage. This short-lived venture was formed in the early 1950s by John L. Ducharme and William R. Hamilton and beyond Rainbow Stage, it received contracts to build Montrose Elementary School, 691 Montrose Street in 1954 (demolished 1999) and the 1956 addition to the Headingley Jail.

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<sup>32</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, June 6, 1952, p. 9.



The 1970, Triodetic Dome Roof manufactured by F. Fentiman and Sons. Ltd. of Ottawa, ON was, according to the plans, “purchased” by the local firm North American Buildings Limited.<sup>33</sup> This company was incorporated in 1944,<sup>34</sup> originally taking a leading role in the construction of pre-fab housing to ease the returning veterans’ housing crisis felt in Winnipeg (as elsewhere).<sup>35</sup> The company operated for many years out of its offices at 205 Fort Street and was connected to the North American Lumber Company, which operated over 60 retail stores across the prairie provinces and Northwestern Ontario by the late 1960s.<sup>36</sup>

Its known contracts include:<sup>37</sup>

- 100-unit sub-division on Flora Place in the former Exhibition Grounds in 1947 (demolished)
- 200-unit housing development in Rivers, MB
- 190 Balfour Avenue (1949) – as part of a local convention, the company completed the home in 5 hours and was occupied by one of its employees
- Churchill High School, 510 Hay Street (1955)
- Winnipeg Arena, 1430 Maroons Road (1955- demolished)
- Canadian Cellucotton Products Co. Plant, 575 Berry Street (1955)
- Dental College [now Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry], Health Science Centre, 790 Bannatyne Avenue (1958)
- Arts & Science Building, United College (University of Winnipeg) 515 Portage Ave. (1958)
- John A. Russell Building (Architecture), University of Manitoba, 83 Dafoe Road (1959)
- Pine Falls, MB Nurses’ Residence (1959)
- Unemployment Insurance Building [MacDonald Building], 344 Edmonton St. (1961)
- Toronto Dominion Bank, 200 Regent Avenue (1962)
- Triodetic Dome Roof, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 1971

The construction company appears to have ceased operations in the late 1990s and dissolved in 2004.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, May 1, 1970, pp. 1 & 8. This report suggests that a “Michigan” firm supplied the entire roof “package”.

<sup>34</sup> “OPENGOVCA,” Open government data in Canada website, [opengovca.com/corporation/131393](http://opengovca.com/corporation/131393).

<sup>35</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, May 11, 1945, p. 5.

<sup>36</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, June 25, 1969, p. 28.

<sup>37</sup> Winnipeg newspapers, various.

<sup>38</sup> OPENGOVCA, opt. cit.

One newspaper account lists Jack Ross, partner in the firm Waisman Ross-Blankstein Coop Gillmor Hanna, as the designer of the 1970 dome, but his name does not appear on the plans.<sup>39</sup>

The dome was erected by Dominion Bridge Company. Founded in Lachine, PQ in 1883, the Dominion Bridge grew to establish factories across Canada by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and in Winnipeg in 1907 (see Appendix III for additional information on the firm). They have not been evaluated by the Historical Buildings and Resources Committee.

## **PERSON/INSTITUTION**

Winnipeg's public parks, greenspaces and outdoor recreation spaces have always been an important part of its civic history and a source of great pride for its citizens. The Parks Board and Parks Department have historically striven to supply these citizens with natural spaces for leisure, sports and recreation. Kildonan Park was the City's second large regional park and has been an important part of the lives of Winnipeggers not only in the area but Winnipeggers as a whole. The ongoing upgrading and modernization of the park facilities is an example of the park's importance within the city.

Rainbow Stage, Canada's longest running outdoor theatre, has been an important part of the Park since its construction. Originally planned as a mixed-use event, it was originally operated/administered by the Winnipeg Summer Theatre Association which was formed in 1956 (Plate 58). Ten years later, with the venue exclusively used for summer musical theatre, the non-profit Rainbow Stage Inc. was chartered. The organization and the venue have continuously presented a summer musical theatre program ever since (Plate 59), except for 1975, when renovations to the entrance could not be completed because of a trades' strike. That year, both shows were staged at the Centennial Concert Hall.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, July 25, 1970, p. 5.

<sup>40</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, June 6, 1975, p. 3.

**EVENT**

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

**CONTEXT**

The replacement of the original Kildonan Park bandshell with this modern facility was in step with other upgrades to the park during the 1960s. City officials also moved to provide modern live event space for its citizens, deciding on Kildonan Park for the site. It was become one of Winnipeg's most iconic buildings, a source of great civic pride and a staple of summer in Winnipeg for citizens and visitors.

**LANDMARK**

Rainbow Stage is a very well-known structure to Winnipeggers.



## APPENDIX I

### *CITY OF WINNIPEG - Preliminary Report* Assessment Record

Building Address: 2015 Main Street                      Building Name: Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park

Original Use: live stage                                      Current Use: live stage

Roll No. (Old): 14072340500 (20320)                      R.S.N.: 196801

Municipality: 01                      Ward: ---                      Property or Occupancy Code: 94

Legal Description: Parts of River Lots 17/24 Kildonan                      Storeys: 2

Location: Kildonan Park                      Date of Construction: 1954

Construction Type: Steel, concrete block & reinforced concrete

#### **HERITAGE STATUS: NOMINATED LIST**

Building Permits (Plans available: [CS] City Storage):

- 7369/1952 [CS] \$24,000 (original); 1745/1955 [CS] \$10,000 (addition); 1278/1956 [CS] \$8,900 (addition); 1674/1961 [CS] (addition); 3263/1963 \$2,000 (alteration); 3498/1970 [CS] \$11,000 (pilings for roof); 4181/1970 \$164,000 (roof); 293/1975 \$839,660 (renovations); 3057/1982 \$12,500 (interior alterations); 9840/1985 [CS] \$20,000 (stagehouse replacement- remove arch & stage); 100/1986 \$74,000 (stagehouse replacement – [1 storey addition and addition of 3-storey wings]); 213/1986 \$1,223,000 [CS] (stagehouse replacement superstructure)

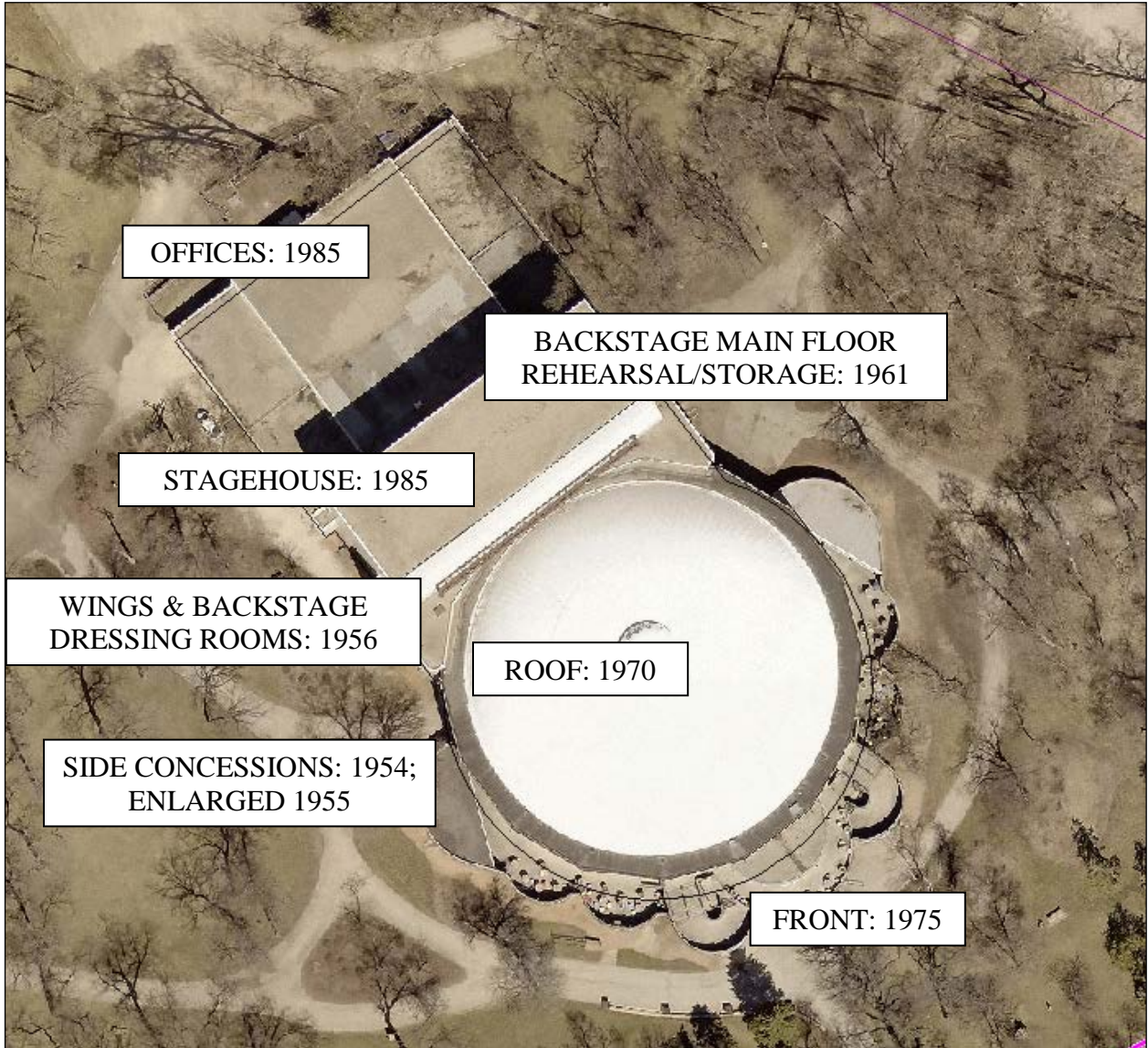
Information:

**ARCHITECT: SMITH, MUNN, CARTER, KATELNIKOFF (1954 +)**

**CONTRACTOR: DUCHARME AND HAMILTON (1954); NORTH AMERICAN BUILDINGS INC. (1970 ROOF); DOMINION BRIDGE COMPANY (1970 ROOF)**







OFFICES: 1985

BACKSTAGE MAIN FLOOR  
REHEARSAL/STORAGE: 1961

STAGEHOUSE: 1985

WINGS & BACKSTAGE  
DRESSING ROOMS: 1956

ROOF: 1970

SIDE CONCESSIONS: 1954;  
ENLARGED 1955

FRONT: 1975

## APPENDIX II

### Smith, Munn, Carter, Katelnikoff

Formed in 1947 by three recent University of Manitoba Architecture graduates, the firm, today operating as Smith Carter, was one of Winnipeg's most prolific and influential firms in the post-World War II era.

Ernest John Smith was born in Winnipeg and won the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Gold Medal at the University of Manitoba, moving on to receive his Master's Degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Joining with Dennis Carter and Walter Katelnikoff to create Smith Carter Katelnikoff, Smith also taught at the University of Manitoba while the practice was being established. Beyond this practice, Smith was also influential through his board work, including: President of the Manitoba Association of Architects (1956-1961); Chairman of the National Joint Committee on Construction Materials (1963-1965); and Dean of the College of Fellows (1972-1975) and Chancellor of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (1979). Smith remained as managing partner of the firm for 38 years, retiring in 1985. He died in 2004.<sup>1</sup>

Dennis Carter was born in Montreal, PQ in 1920 but spent his youth in England, before being sent to Canada during World War II. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Architecture in 1945 and was, like partner E.J. Smith, awarded the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Gold Medal. He died in 2012.<sup>2</sup>

Walter L. Katelnikoff was born in 1918, graduating with his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Manitoba in 1944. He worked for a year in the offices of Moody and Moore and then, with Ernest J. Smith, worked for the firm of Northwood and Chivers.

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<sup>1</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), October 25, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> [Winnipeg Free Press](#), June 30, 2012.



In 1947, Smith Carter Katelnikoff was formed and its commissions grew throughout the 1950s. In 1958, Katelnikoff left the firm and joined with associates John Stuart Allison and James P. Lewis to established Walter L. Katelnikoff and Associates. Katelnikoff died in 1974.<sup>3</sup>

The firm grew steadily in the 1950s on the strength of commissions for several large schools throughout the city and in rural Manitoba and Western Canada where large, modern centralized facilities were replacing the local one-room school.<sup>4</sup> As a result, the firm took on a fourth partner, E. Fitz Munn in 1954, although he only stayed with the firm for two years.<sup>5</sup> In the late 1950s, Jim Searle joined the firm, which became Smith Carter Searle Associates.<sup>6</sup> In 1969, the firm merged John B. Parkin Associates of Toronto to become Smith Carter Parkin.

In 2012, the firm, which had become Smith Carter Architects, was acquired by Genivar Inc.<sup>7</sup> and in 2014, merged with five other Canadian firms to create Architecture 49.<sup>8</sup>

Smith Carter, in all its various forms, is a world-renowned design firm. Among their more notable work are (all buildings Winnipeg unless otherwise noted):

École Varennes, 22 Varennes Avenue (1951)

Norwood Collegiate Institute (now Nelson McIntyre Collegiate), 188 St. Mary's Road (1955)

Rae and Jerry's Steak House, 1405 Portage Avenue (1957)

Monarch Life Building, 333 Broadway (1959-1963) – Massey Medal winner

J.A. Russell Building (University of Manitoba Faculty of Architecture), 83 Dafoe Road (1959) – Massey Medal winner – List of Historical Resources

Knowles School for Boys, 2065 Henderson Highway (1960)

Medical Arts Building Parkade, 218 Edmonton Street (1961)

Canadian Wheat Board Building, 423 Main Street (1962)

Royal Bank Building, 220 Portage Avenue (1965)

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<sup>3</sup> “Walter L. Katelnikoff,” in Winnipeg Architectural Foundation website, <http://www.winnipegarchitecture.ca/walter-katelnikoff/>, 2013 (below as WAF website). Katelnikoff lived for many years at 762 South Drive, a street that was also home to architects Roy Sellors, Allan Waisman, Dennis Carter and John Russell.

<sup>4</sup> Smith Carter website, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> WAF website.

<sup>6</sup> Smith Carter website, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, March 15, 2012, online edition.

<sup>8</sup> Canadian Architect, May 26, 2014, online edition.

Smith Carter designs (continued):

Pan Am Pool, 25 Poseidon Bay (1967)  
Entrance to Expo '67, Place d'Accueil, Montreal, PQ (1967)  
Richardson Building, 1 Lombard Place (1967-1969)  
Manitoba Centennial Centre, 555 Main Street (1967-1972)  
Lombard Garage, 136 Lombard Avenue (1969)  
Winnipeg Inn (Westin, Lombard Hotel, Fairmont Hotel) and Lombard Concourse, 175 Portage Avenue East (1970)  
Canadian Chancery Building, Warsaw, Poland (1970)  
Canadian Grain Commission Building, 303 Main Street (1970)  
Bank of Canada Building, 161 Portage Avenue East (1971)  
Woodsworth Building, 405 Broadway (1973)  
Carlton Club, 280 Fort Street (1976)  
Credit Union Central Plaza (IKON Building), 215 Garry Street (1976)  
Great-West Life Assurance Company Building, 60 Osborne Street (1979)  
Trisec Building, Scotia Bank Building & Winnipeg Square, Portage & Main (1980)  
Great-West Life Assurance Company Building, 60 Broadway (1981-1983)  
Air Canada Building, 355 Portage Avenue (1984)  
Portage Place, 393 Portage Avenue (with Number Ten Architectural Group), 1986  
St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, 351 Avenue Taché (1986)  
John Buhler Research Centre (Health Sciences Centre), 715 McDermot Avenue (ca.1990)  
Kermanshah Technical Training Centre, Iran (date unknown)  
Canadian Embassy Building, Moscow, Russia (date unknown)

## APPENDIX III

### Dominion Bridge Company

Founded at the mouth of the Lachine, PQ canal in 1883, the Dominion Bridge Company grew to establish factories across Canada by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. What began as a manufacturer of steel bridge components grew to include all types of steel fabrication for industrial uses as well as framing for skyscrapers. Other Canadian plants were located in Amherst, NS, Toronto, ON, Winnipeg, MB, Regina, SK, Saskatoon, SK, Calgary, AB, Edmonton, AB, Richmond, BC and Burnaby, BC.

The Winnipeg plant, opened in 1907, occupied a large piece of property at the corner of Empress Street and Dublin Avenue.<sup>1</sup> From this plant, Dominion Bridge supplied steel all across Western Canada. One of the company's first local contacts was to supply over 1,800 metric tons of steel for the Canadian Pacific Railway's massive train shed, which measured 33.6 x 144.9 metres.<sup>2</sup> The company continued to be a major player in the regional construction industry throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1930, it purchased Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works.<sup>3</sup> During World War II, the company manufactured shells for the war effort.

By the early 1990s, the company had begun to downsize, maintaining only four plants. The company declared bankruptcy in 1998, but later that year, it was purchased and the Winnipeg plant went back into production in the spring of 1999.<sup>4</sup> But the restart was short-lived and the property now stands virtually empty.

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<sup>1</sup> Winnipeg Tribune, November 24, 1906, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Loc. cit.

<sup>3</sup> "Dominion Bridge Company," Manitoba Historical Society website, 2022

<sup>4</sup> Winnipeg Free Press, April 28, 1999, p. 24.

Some of the projects Dominion Bridge supplied steel include:

- Union Tower, 504 Main Street, 1904
- Canadian Pacific Railway Train Shed, Higgins Avenue, 1906-1907
- Nelson River Bridge, Port Nelson, MB, 1912-1917
- Bergen Cut-off Bridge, 1913
- Hudson Bay Railway Bridge, Port Nelson, Manitoba, 1914
- Lee River Bridge, R.M. of Lac du Bonnet, 1915 (demolished)
- Birdtail River Bridge, Municipality of Prairie View, 1923
- Assiniboine River Bridge, R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth, 1926
- Jacques Cartier Bridge, Montreal, 1929
- Winnipeg River Bridge, R.M. of Lac du Bonnet, 1931
- Lions Gate Bridge, Vancouver, 1938
- Qu'Appelle River Bridge, R.M. of Ellice-Archive, 1948
- Bowsman River Bridge, Municipality of Minitonas-Bowsman, 1948
- Assiniboine River Bridge, R.M. of St. Francois Xavier, 1948
- Triodetic Dome, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 1970
- Shell River Bridge, Municipality of Roblin, date unknown

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 1 – G.F. Carruthers, ca.1902. (Representative Men of Manitoba [Winnipeg, MB: The Tribune Publishing Company, 1902].)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

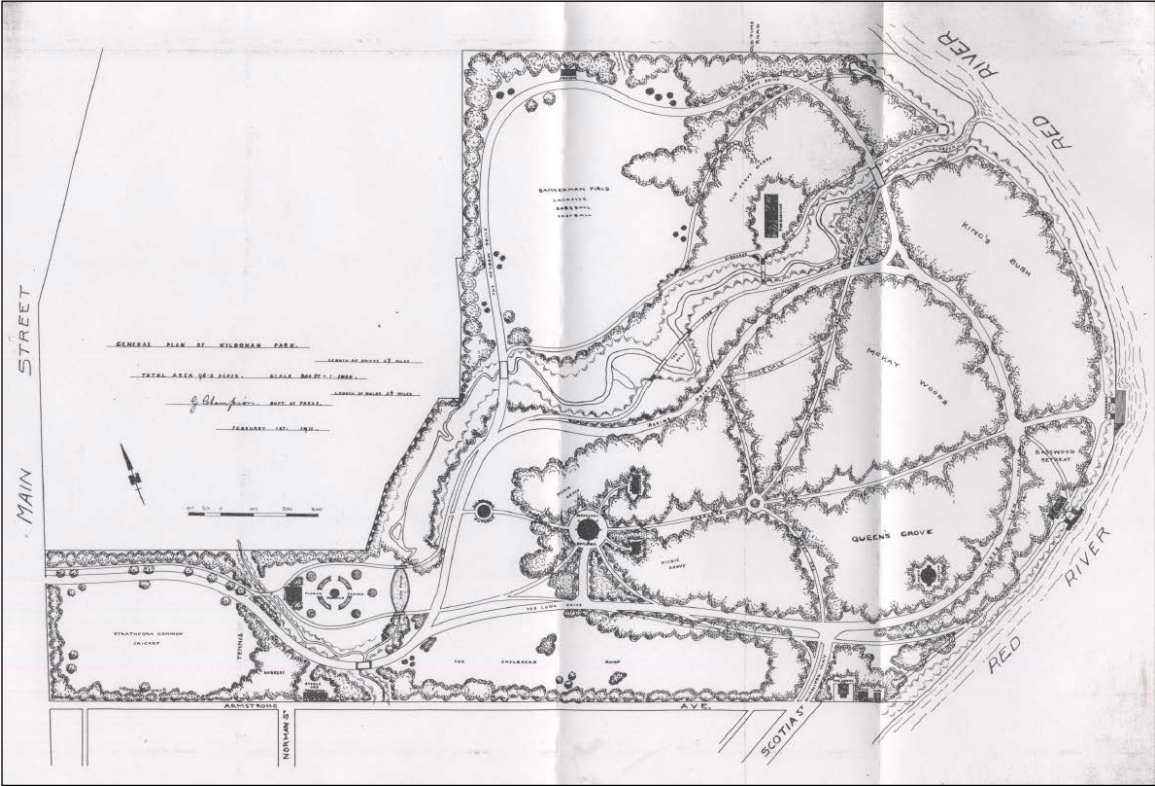


Plate 2 – “General Plan, Kildonan Park, 1911.” (City of Winnipeg, Kildonan Park History and Development [Winnipeg, MB: Parks and Recreation Department (Metro), 1972].)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

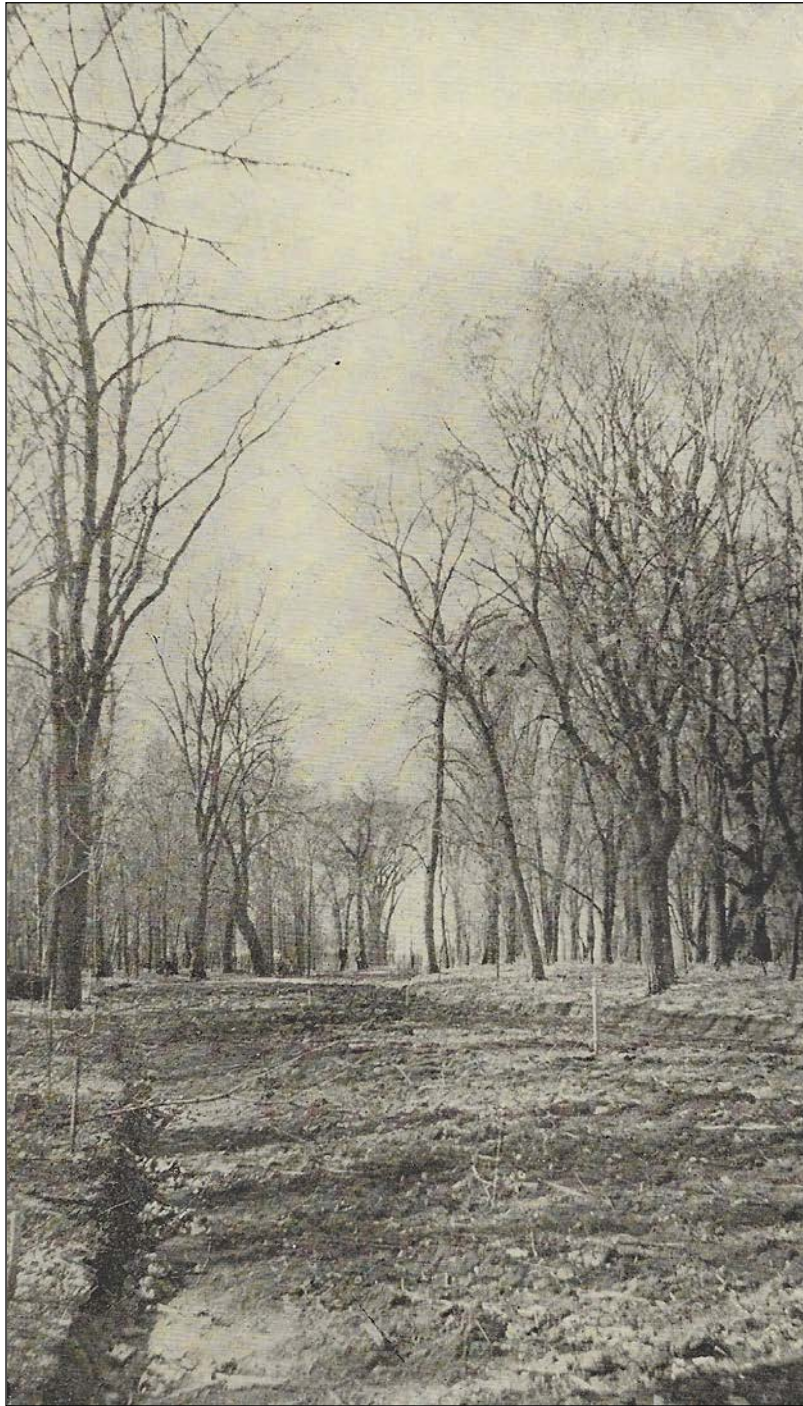


Plate 3 – Road grading at Kildonan Park, 1910. (Winnipeg Public Parks Board, Annual Report, 1910, p. 28.)



**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

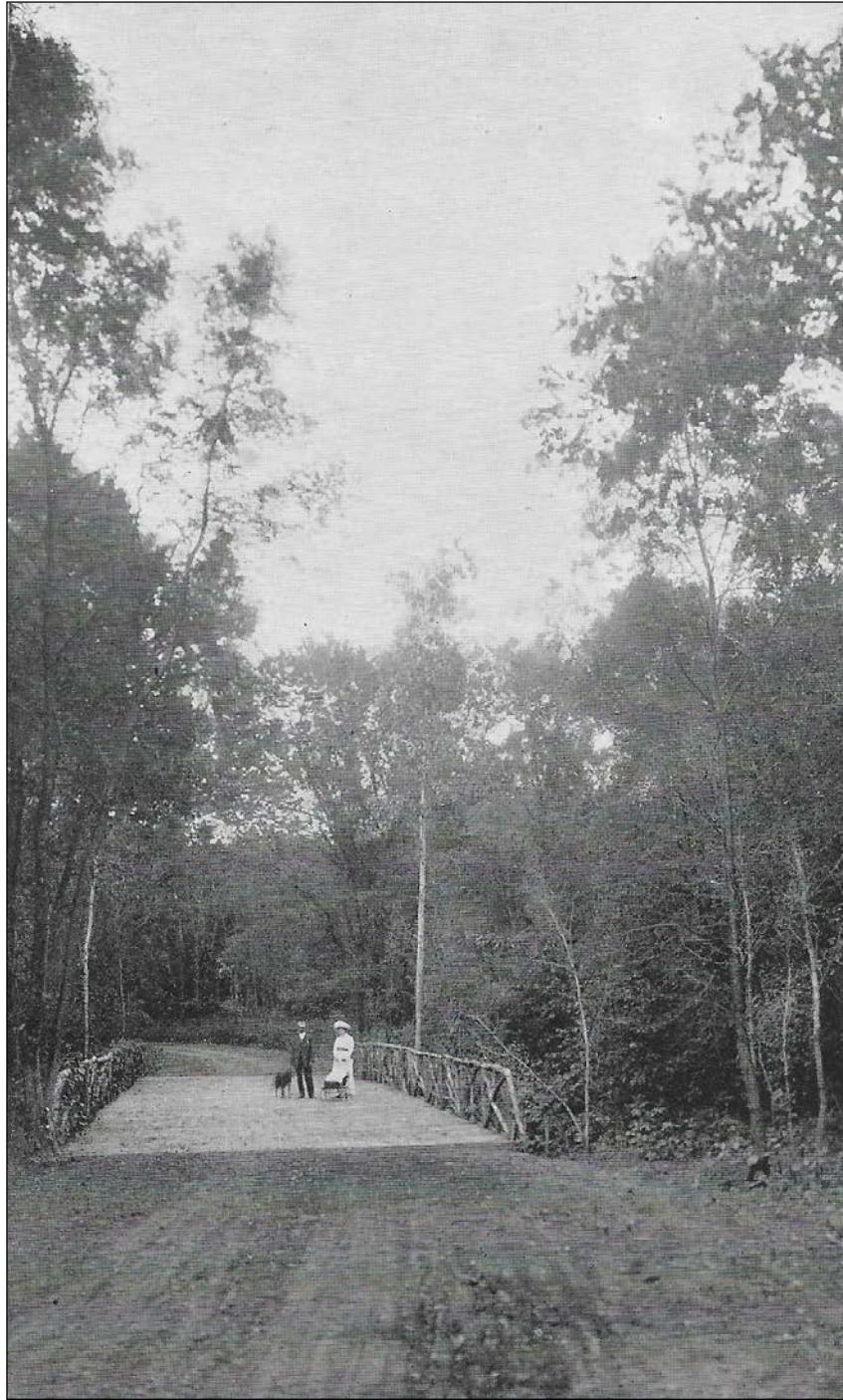


Plate 4 – Bridge over Lord Selkirk Creek, Kildonan Park, 1911. (Winnipeg Public Parks Board, Annual Report, 1911, p. 12.)



**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

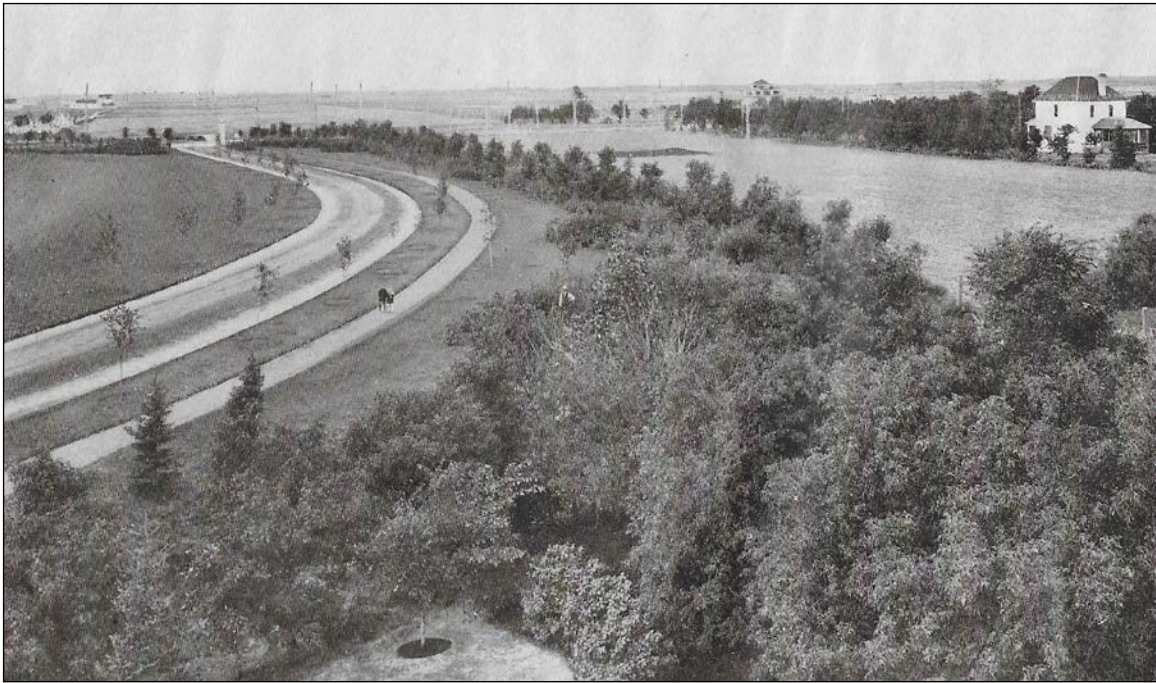


Plate 5 – Original Main Street entrance, Kildonan Park, 1916. (Winnipeg Public Parks Board, Annual Report, 1916, p. 6.)



Plate 6 – Formal flower beds and lily pond, Kildonan Park, ca.1930. (City of Winnipeg Archives, Martin Berman Postcard Collection.)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 7 – A crowd watching a performance at Vancouver’s “Theatre Under the Stars,” Stanley Park, 1942. ([Heritage Winnipeg, https://heritagewinnipeg.com/blogs/a-theatre-under-the-stars-rainbow-stage/.](https://heritagewinnipeg.com/blogs/a-theatre-under-the-stars-rainbow-stage/))

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Plate 8 – The rear “bowl” of Vancouver’s “Theatre Under the Stars,” Stanley Park, 1942. (City of Vancouver Archives, #1184-410.)



**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 9 – Model of the original Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, ca.1954. (City of Winnipeg.)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

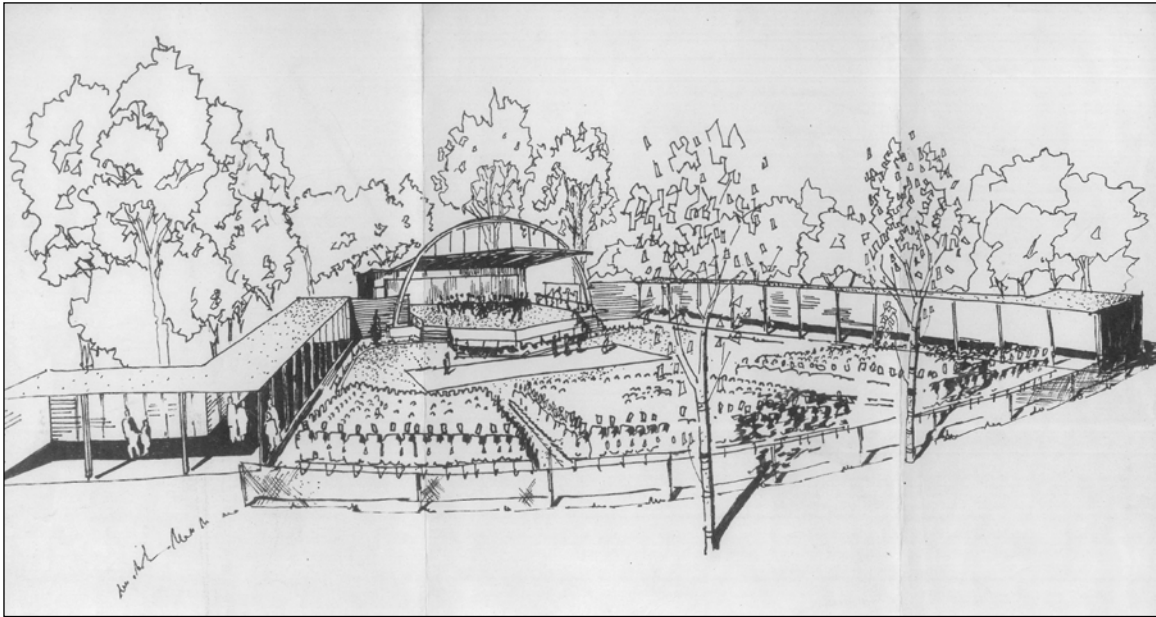


Plate 10 – Sketch of Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 1954. (City of Winnipeg.)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 11 – Cover of the official opening of Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, July 7, 1954. (City of Winnipeg.)



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Plate 12 – An early production at Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, date unknown. (Reproduced from [www.rainbowstage.ca](http://www.rainbowstage.ca).)



Plate 13 – Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, date unknown. (Photo courtesy of [J. Olenko](#).)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 14 – Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 1954. (Photo courtesy of J. Olenko.)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 15– The original Rainbow Stage seating, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, ca.1960. (Photo courtesy of J. Olenko.)



**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 16– Aerial view of Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 1968, shortly before the domed roof was built. (Photo courtesy of J. Olenko.)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 17– Newly constructed entrance to Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 1976, shortly before the domed roof was built. (City of Winnipeg.)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 18 – Chapel of Notre Dame du Haut, Ronchamp, opened in 1954, designed by Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, “Le Corbusier”. (Stock photograph, no date.)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 19 – Examples of Brutalist Style buildings in Winnipeg: #1- Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, 174 Market Avenue (Waisman Ross Blankstein Coop Gillmor Hanna, architects); #2- Canadian Grain Commission Building, 303 Main Street (Smith Carter Parkin, architects); #3- Manitoba Teachers' Society Offices, 191 Harcourt Street (Libling and Michener, architects); #4- Public Safety Building, 151 Princess Street (Libling Michener [L. Stechesen], architects - demolished); and #5- St. Boniface Police Station/Jail/County Courthouse, 227 Boulevard Provencher (E. Gaboury, architect).



**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**



Plate 20 – Confederation Centre of the Arts, Charlottetown, P.E.I., opened in 1964, designated a National Historic Site in 2003 because, according to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, “it is a distinguished example of Brutalist architecture in Canada.” (Photograph by Centre des arts de la Confédération, World Architecture website, no date.)

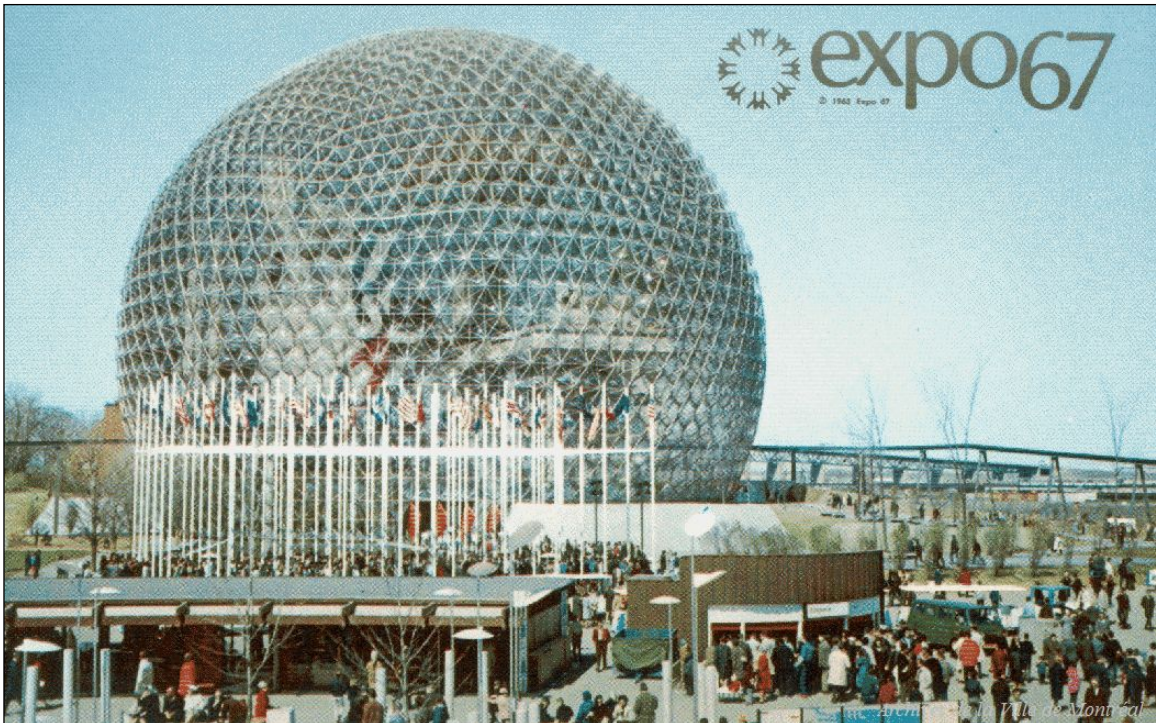


Plate 21 – Postcard from Expo 67 showing the Buckminster Fuller designed U.S. Pavilion, ca.1967. (Archives of Montreal, 001 P110-Y 15-001.)





**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

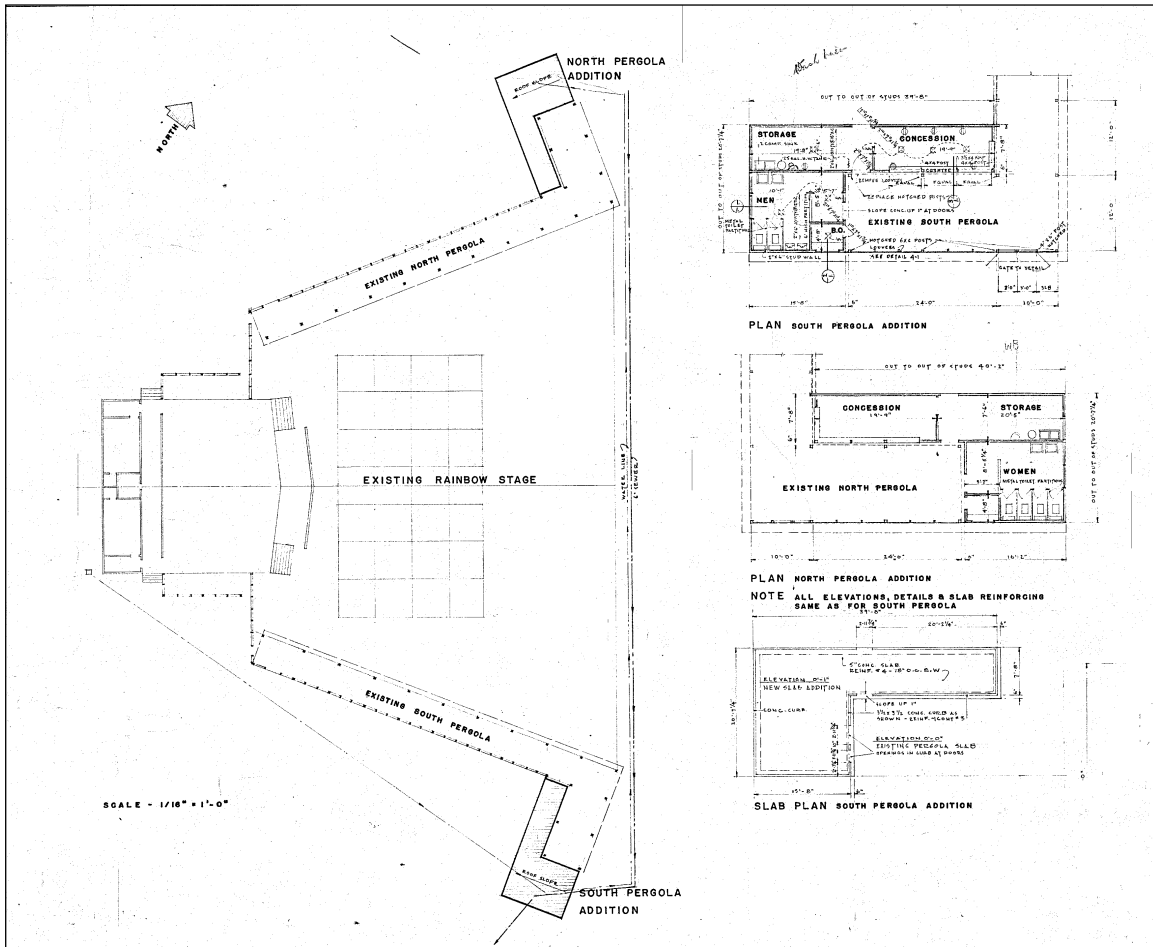


Plate 24 – “Concession & Rest Room additions,” architect’s plans #1745/1955. (City of Winnipeg, Records Management Division.)

2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK

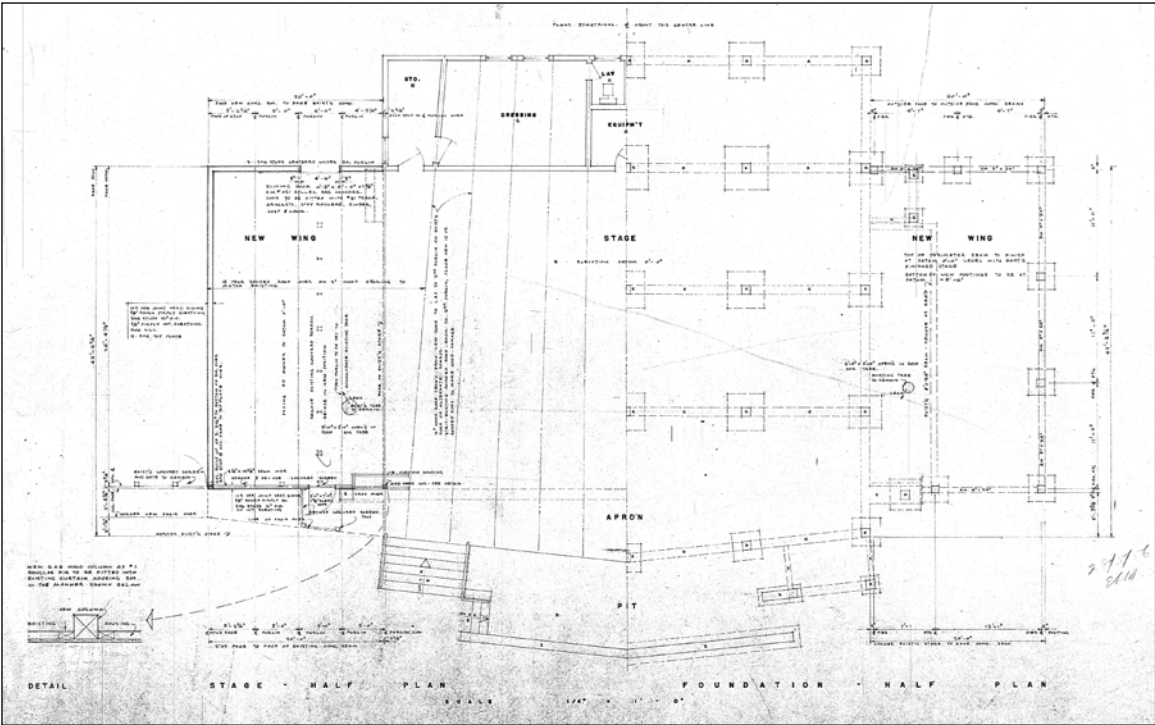


Plate 25 – “Stage Half Plan & Foundation Half Plan,” architect’s plans #1278/1956. (City of Winnipeg, Records Management Division.)



# 2015 MAIN STREET RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK

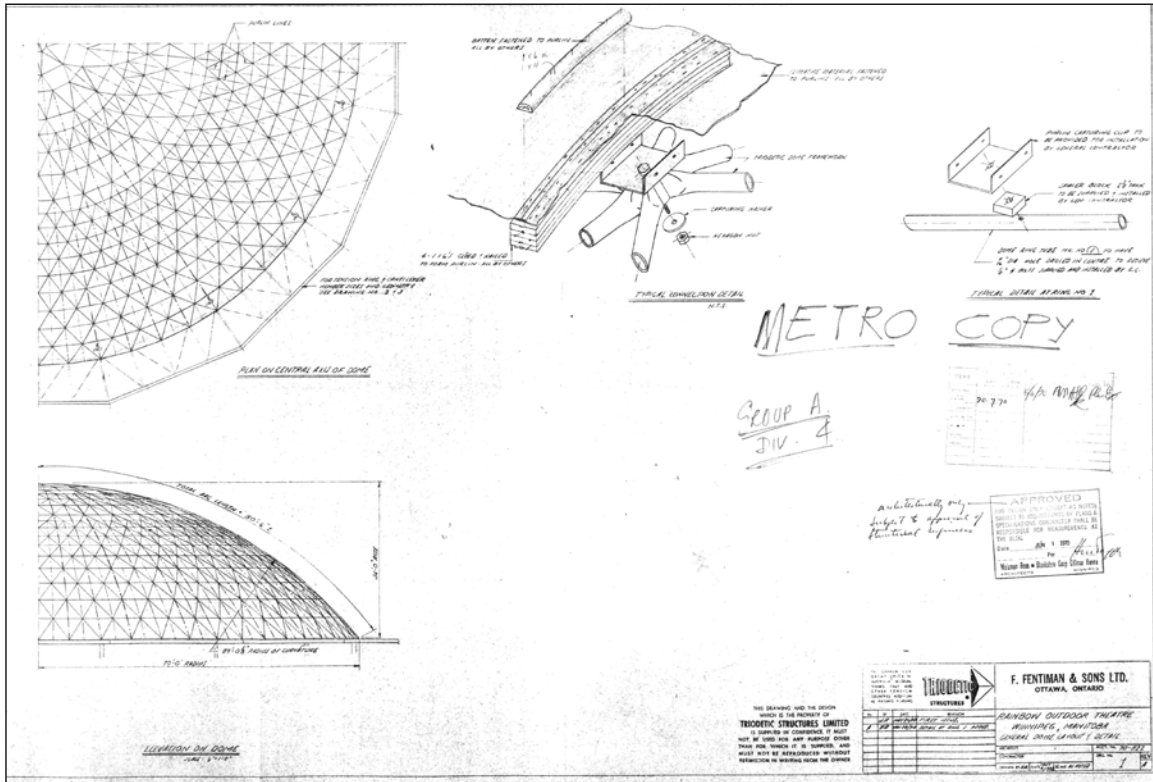


Plate 27 – Architect’s plans #4181/1970. (City of Winnipeg, Records Management Division.)

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RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

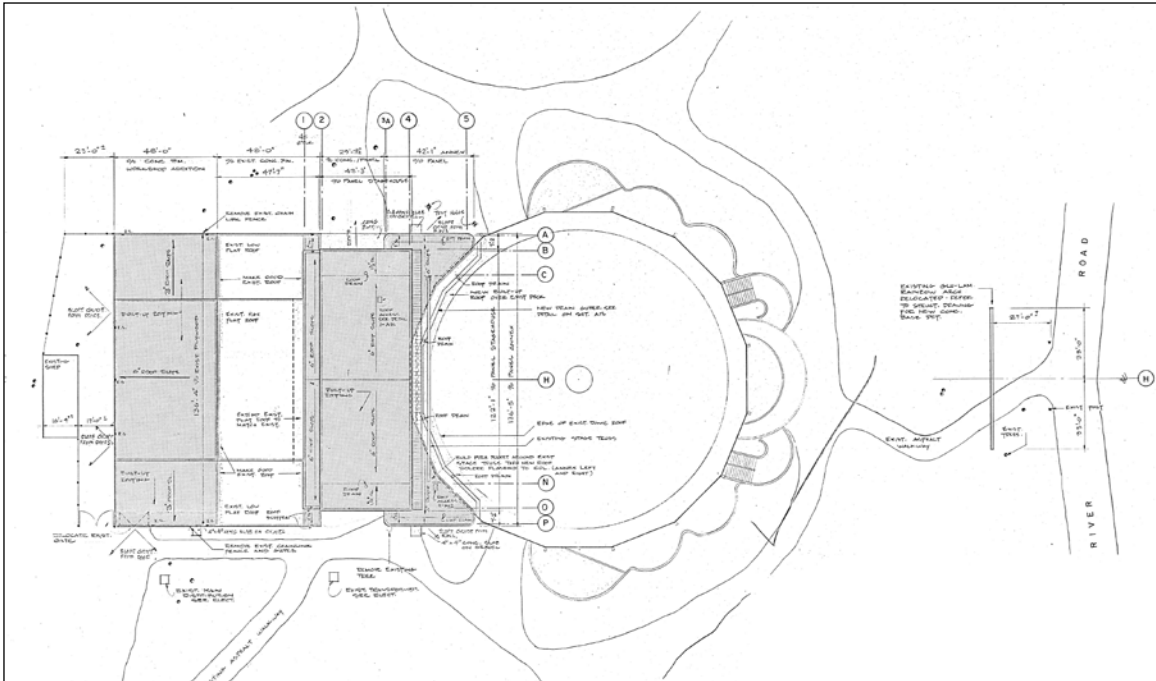
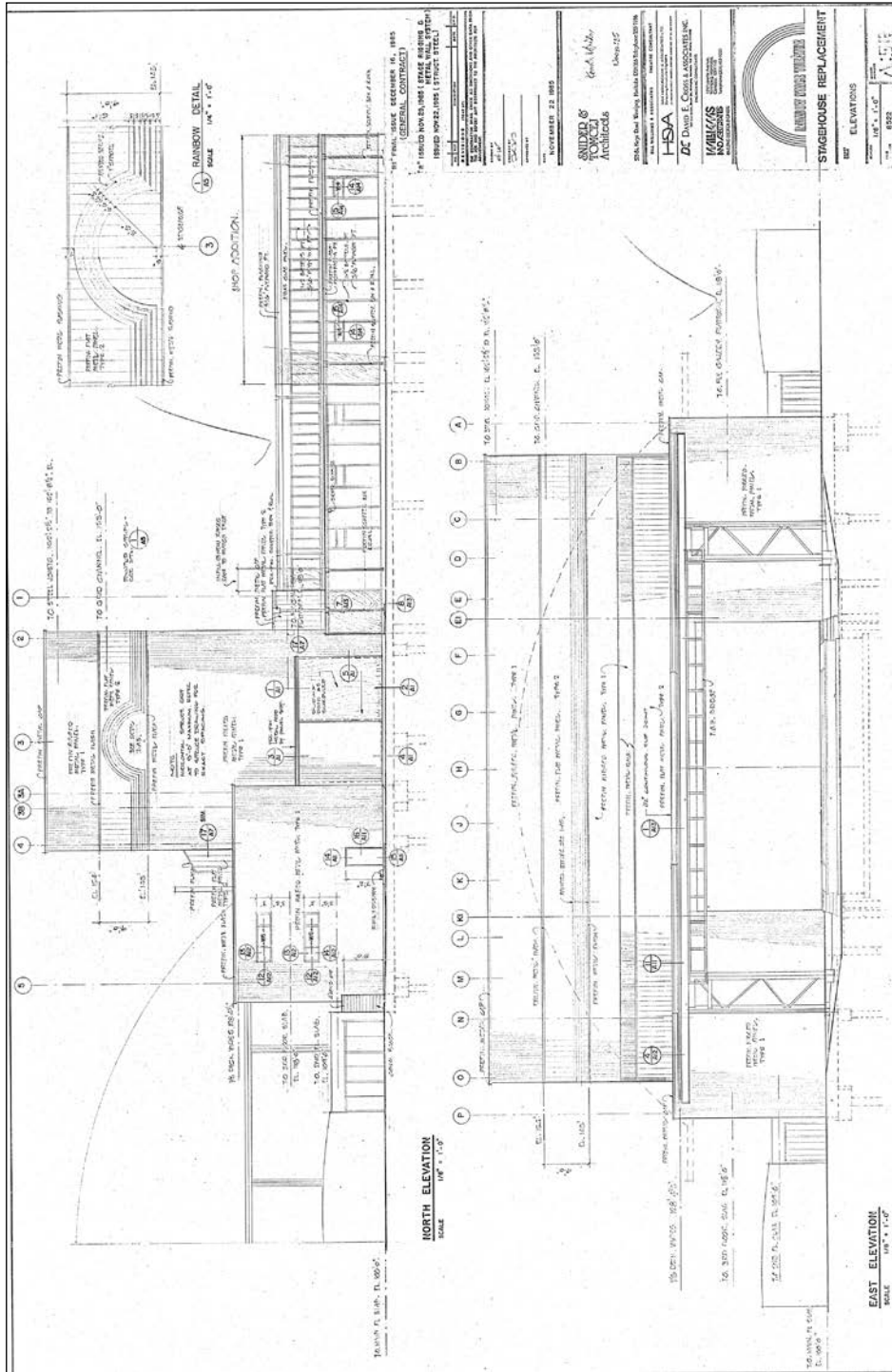


Plate 28 – “Site Plan,” architect’s plans #2213/1986. (City of Winnipeg, Records Management Division.)

# 2015 MAIN STREET RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK







**2015 MAIN STREET  
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Plate 31 – Construction of the domed roof, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 1970.  
(Photograph by Jerry Olenko.)

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Plate 32 – Construction of the domed roof, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 1970.  
(Photograph by Jerry Olenko.)

**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

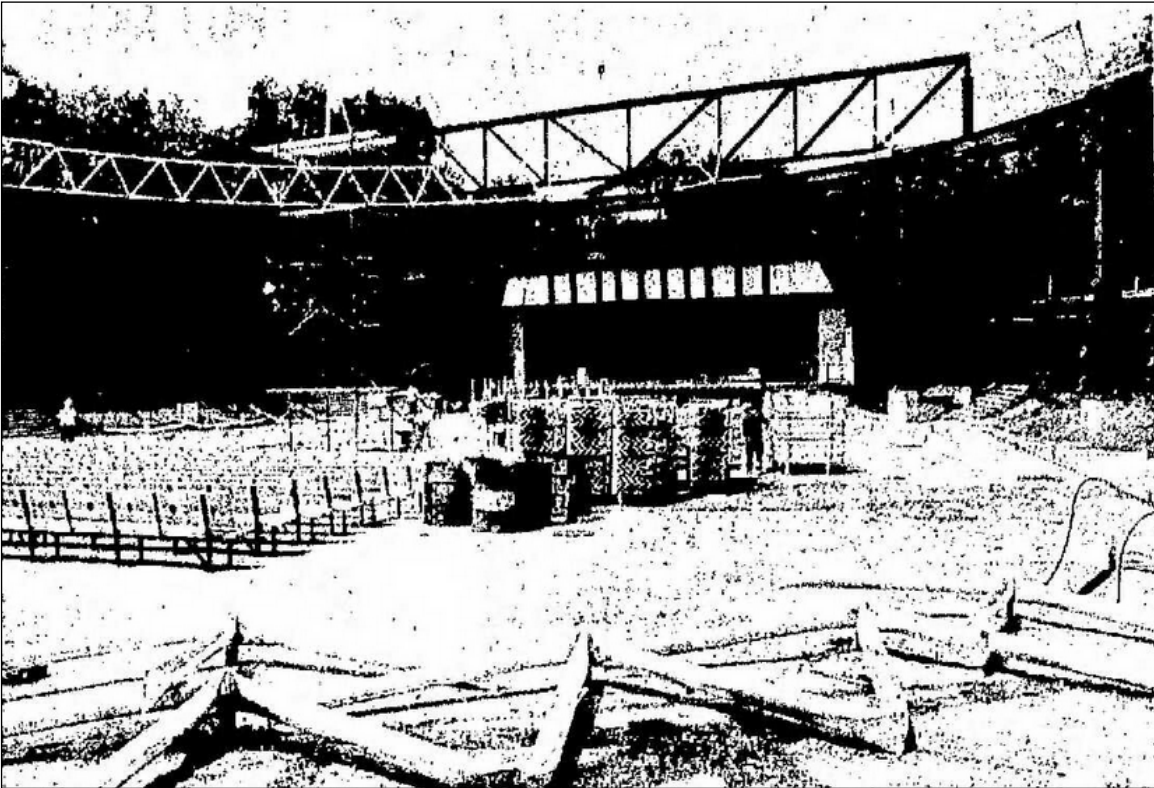


Plate 33 – Construction continues on the domed roof of Rainbow Stage. (Winnipeg Free Press, June 24, 1970, p. 3.)

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Plate 34 – Affixing the roofing material to the domed roof ribbing of Rainbow Stage. (Winnipeg Free Press, July 25, 1970, p. 5.)

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Plate 35 – Domed roof, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



**2015 MAIN STREET  
RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK**

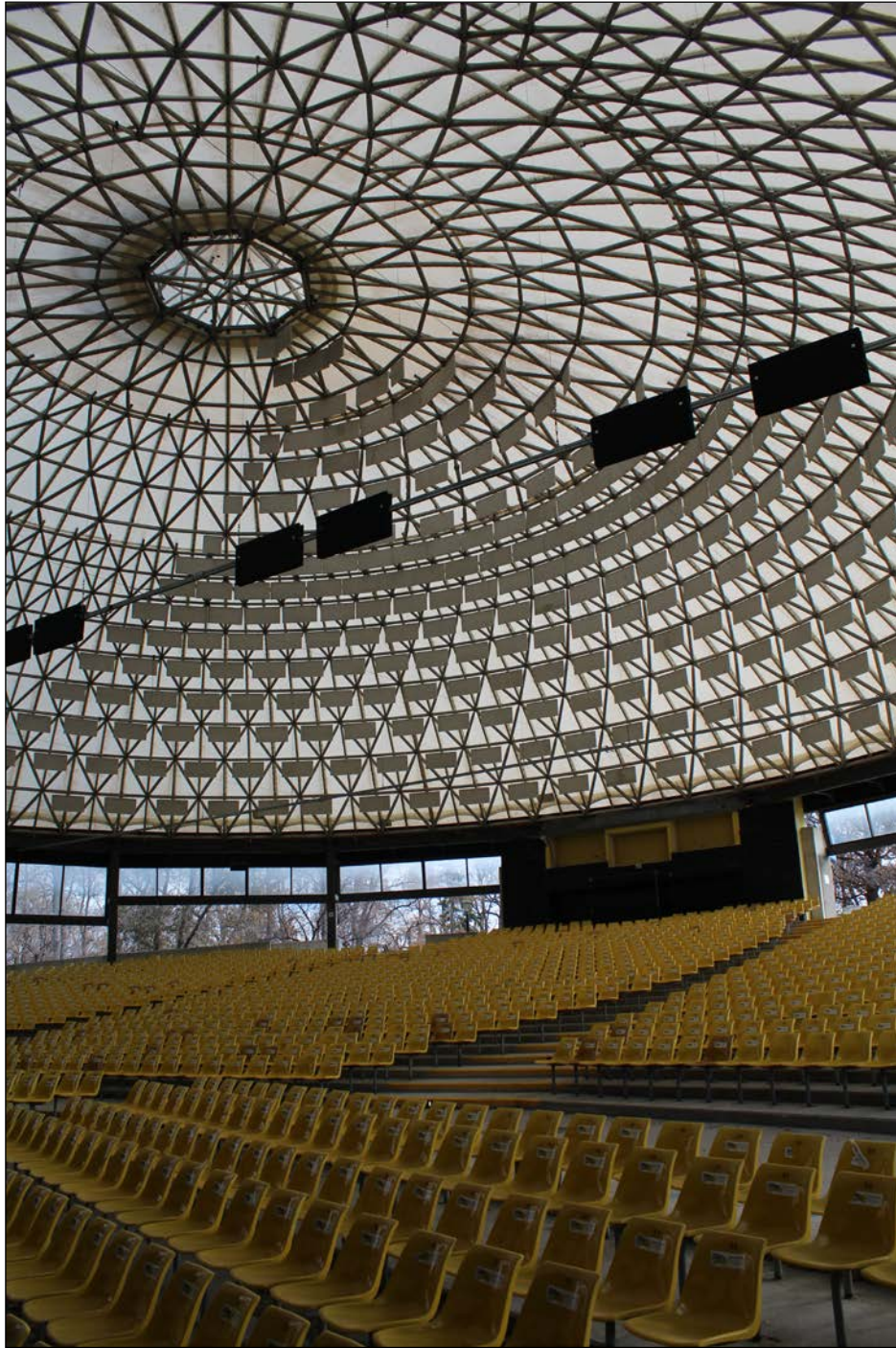


Plate 36 – Seating and domed roof, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



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Plate 37 – Front (east) of Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)

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Plate 38 – Main entrance, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



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Plate 39 – Main entrance, north side, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



Plate 40 – Main entrance, south side, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)

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Plate 41 – Main floor open lounge area, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022.  
(M. Peterson, 2022.)



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Plate 42 – Main floor entrance area, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)

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Plate 43 – Main floor entrance area, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



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Plate 44 – Second floor stairs, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)

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Plate 45 – Painting of the outdoor mural at Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2011. (Photograph by John Woods, Winnipeg Free Press, June 21, 2011.)



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Plate 46 – East side of rear of Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



Plate 47 – West side of rear of Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)

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Plate 48 – West side of rear of Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



Plate 49 – Rear of Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



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Plate 50 – Backstage hallway, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)

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Plate 51 – Stage area, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



Plate 52 – Workshop in stagehouse, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



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Plate 53 – Concession area, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)

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Plate 54 – View of seating looking towards stage, Rainbow Stage, Kildonan Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)

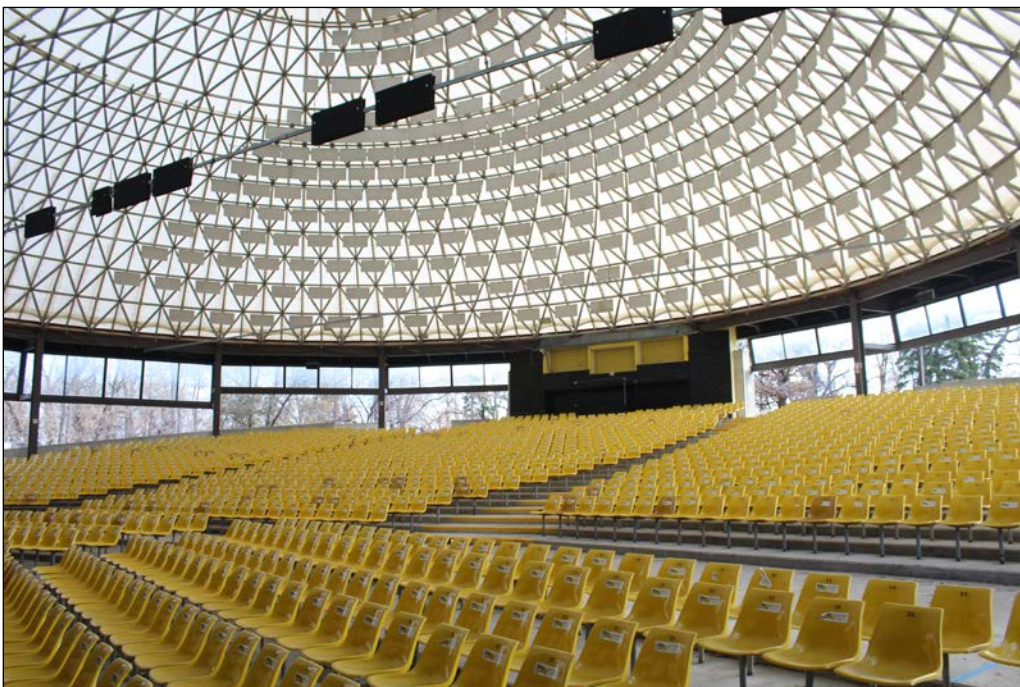


Plate 55 – View of seating from stage, Rainbow Stage, Kildonon Park, 2015 Main Street, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)



**2015 MAIN STREET  
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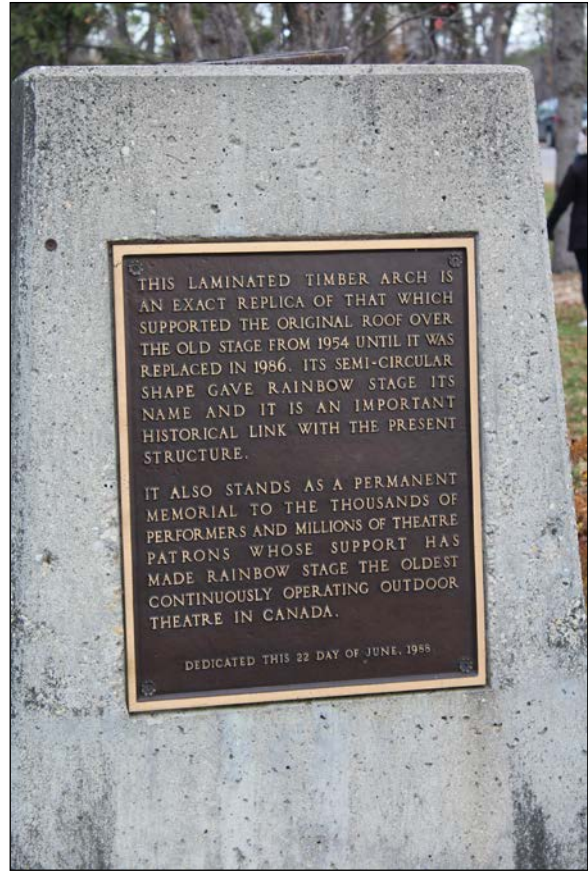


Plate 56 –Base and commemorative plaque for the glue-lam arch, 2022. (M. Peterson, 2022.)




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Plate 57 – Dennis Carter, date unknown. (“Carter, Dennis,” [Winnipeg Architecture Foundation website, 2023.](#))

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**RAINBOW STAGE**  
Set in each natural woodland surroundings, this is truly the best in musical productions made, even more enjoyable.



**EVENINGS AT 8:00**

**RESERVED SEAT TICKETS on sale now!**

**MUSICALS:** \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.50, 90¢, 65¢

**OUR TOWN:** Front Half—\$1.00 Rear—50¢

**"POP" CONCERTS:** \$1.50, \$1.00, 90¢, 60¢

All seats are reserved—secure the best locations early.

**RAINBOW STAGE**  
Set in each natural woodland surroundings, this is truly the best in musical productions made, even more enjoyable.

**"ANNIE GET YOUR GUN"** July 2-7  
The exciting Western show featuring Annie Oakley and the popular songs "You Can't Get a Man With a Gun," and "You Can't Get a Man With a Gun." (Children's tickets are half price for first night.)

**"OUR TOWN"** July 31—August 2  
(A dramatic play)  
A folksy warm play with the human elements of pathos and drama, lightened by music and comedy. A hauntingly beautiful play by Thornton Wilder.


**PARENTS — here's a money saver!**  
Attend FAMILY NIGHT performances: Children's tickets at half price available for the First Night of "Annie Get Your Gun" and the First Two Nights of "Wizard of Oz."

**"WIZARD OF OZ"** July 16—July 21  
Be sure to take the whole family on the "col- le brick yoad" to enjoy this famous fantasy. Follow the adventures of Dorothy, the Scare- cow, the Tenderhearted Lion, and the Tin Goddman, in the wonderful land of Oz. (Children's tickets are half price the first two nights)


**"KISS ME KATE"** August 13—August 18  
One of the most popular musicals ever pre- sented on Broadway. A racy interpretation of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew," set to the tuneful music of Cole Porter.

**TWO "POP" CONCERTS**  
July 10 and August 8  
Orchestra of 45 under the direction of Eric Wild. Famed baritone DON GARRARD of "Showtime" is soloist for July and ROLANDE GARNIER, mezzo-soprano, sparks the August performance.

**YOUR ROUTE TO the "TOPS" in outdoor summer entertainment!**  
PRESENTED BY THE WINNIPEG SUMMER THEATRE ASSOCIATION



**JULY 2 TO AUGUST 18**  
six weeks of delightful summer entertainment at  
**THE RAINBOW STAGE**  
Kildonan Park



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**Rainbow Stage**  
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**MAIL ORDERS ACCEPTED!**  
Send stamped, self-addressed en- velopes and tickets will be mailed to you. Please allow 10 days for the box office to be held for you at the time of performance.

Plate 58 – 1956 Program at Rainbow Stage under the organization of the Winnipeg Summer Theatre Association. (University of Manitoba Libraries, Digital Collection.)

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RAINBOW STAGE, KILDONAN PARK

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Plate 59 – 2007 Rainbow Stage program.