



283 PORTAGE AVENUE

STERLING BANK BUILDING

City of Winnipeg
Historical Buildings & Resources Committee
Researcher: M. Peterson
November 2016

283 PORTAGE AVENUE – STERLING BANK BUILDING

Winnipeg's first retail district was actually the Hudson's Bay Company's (HBC) fur trading post, Upper Fort Garry, at the foot of today's Main Street and had served as the commercial centre for the small settlement since its construction in the 1830s. By the 1850s and 1860s, the beginnings of a commercial district had begun to develop around the corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street. The HBC finally began selling off its Main Street frontage south of Portage Avenue in the 1870s. It was then that this area began to fill with small- and medium-size commercial enterprises (Plate 1).

In 1883, the Clarendon Hotel was built on the northwest corner of Portage Avenue and Donald Street. It was one of early Winnipeg's best-known buildings, surrounded for many years by bald prairie and small structures. The hotel (Plate 2) was a massive brick and stone structure, five storeys high with retail space on the ground floor of both the Donald Street and Portage Avenue frontages. Built in the Second Empire style, the building was finished with a mansard roof and corner turret. It was, for many years, one of only a handful of significant buildings not located in the Exchange District or on Main Street and virtually the only major building on Portage Avenue's north side.

Soon after the turn-of-the-century, fundamental changes occurred to refocus the retail sector from Main Street onto Portage Avenue. In 1904, the federal government announced plans to build a new Post Office at the corner of Portage Avenue and Garry Street (Plate 3), replacing the 1886 building located on the northeast corner of Main Street and McDermot Avenue.¹ Many citizens and businessmen saw this as an abandonment of the traditional retail section of the city. The editorial comment in the Winnipeg Morning Telegram no doubt echoed the sentiments of many when it labelled the decision "a political land deal and without doubt cut and dried long ago."² Merchants and wholesalers, who were concentrated on both sides of Main Street north of

¹ M. Peterson, "315 Portage Avenue – Former Canadian Bank of Commerce," report for the Historical Buildings Committee, p. 1. The new Post Office was opened in 1908.

² Winnipeg Morning Telegram, March 29, 1904.

Portage Avenue, objected to the inconvenience of the building's location – so far removed from Main Street and their shops and warehouses.

It was not long after that the T. Eaton Company purchased a large tract of land on the south side of Portage guaranteeing that future commercial development would focus on this avenue.³ Adjacent land values soared, paving the way for the construction of large retail/office buildings all along the frontage (Plate 4).

The nearly unbridled growth of downtown Winnipeg paused during World War I as economic focus, materials and manpower shifted to the war effort. After the cessation of fighting, Winnipeg's economy rebounded and while it never again reached the level of the pre-1915 period, the early 1920s did see significant construction and growth. Most importantly for Portage Avenue was the commencement, in the fall of 1925, of the massive HBC Department store between Memorial Boulevard and Vaughan Street, and when officially opened on November 18, 1926, added an important component to the commercial district (Plate 5).

Between the two massive department stores, both sides of Portage Avenue developed with all types of business blocks, office buildings and retail space – over \$10-million worth of City of Winnipeg Building Permits between Main Street and Memorial Boulevard from 1900-1926.⁴

In the fall of 1909, a local newspaper announced that two Ontario-based banks were looking to open branches in Winnipeg in the near future: the Standard Bank of Canada and the Sterling Bank of Canada, which a published report stated, "...would prefer to begin and continue on Portage Avenue, recognizing the tendency in that direction."⁵

³ A.F.J. Artibise, Winnipeg: A Social History of Urban Growth, 1874-1914 (Montreal, PQ: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1975), pp. 154-155; and The Winnipeg Telegram, July 7, 1904, p.7. This article described Eaton's choice: "Experts were employed for weeks, before anything was announced, to look the city over and to make a study of its business district for the purpose of hitting upon the centre of trade, not alone at the present but in the future. They looked and studied and finally chose Portage Avenue."

⁴ City of Winnipeg, Building Permit Ledger Books, City Archives.

⁵ Manitoba Free Press, September 18, 1909, p. 8.

In November, it was announced that the property at the northwest corner of Smith Street and Portage Avenue was sold to a Toronto agent of the Sterling Bank for \$3,500 per foot, a “record price” for Winnipeg real estate.”⁶ Although the bank denied the report, by early February 1910, it was notifying occupants on the property to vacate.⁷

This investment was obviously well-founded; the bank began construction on a large addition to its new office tower prior to the completion of the original structure (Plate 6).⁸ The completed building was ready for occupancy by November 1912 (Plate 7).

STYLE

The Sterling Bank Building is an excellent example of the Chicago School style.⁹ It was popularized in major centres across North America from the late 1890s to the 1920s. The use of skeletal steel and reinforced concrete was outwardly expressed by tall structures with flat roofs and a “grid-like organization of windows and wall surfaces.”¹⁰

These buildings, most often commercial/office structures, were divided into three sections, the ground floor devoted to large glass windows for displays, a central portion consisting of the bulk of the floors, and an attic or top floor finished with a heavy cornice. The top and bottom floors received the majority of the ornamental treatment, usually in sculpted stone or terracotta. This ornamentation could take many forms including Classical, Gothic, Romanesque, Renaissance, Sullivanesque or Art Nouveau.¹¹

⁶ Manitoba Free Press, November 2, 1909, p. 6. The article stated that W.J. Boyd had purchased the land in 1904 for \$70,000 and sold in 1909 for \$308,000.

⁷ Manitoba Free Press, February 7, 1910, p. 18.

⁸ Architect’s Plans, #743/1912, courtesy of the City of Winnipeg. Uniquely, the plans for the addition included the names of the office tenants on several of the floors.

⁹ Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, Historic Resources Branch, 1991), pp. 22-23; and Leslie Maitland, et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1992), pp. 124-131.

¹⁰ L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 124.

¹¹ Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba, p. 22.

There are several exceptional examples of the style in Winnipeg built in the pre-1920 era, including Union Tower, 504 Main Street (built 1904), the Boyd Building, 384 Portage Avenue (1912) and the Paris Building, 259 Portage Avenue (1915-1917) – Plate 8.

CONSTRUCTION

This 8-storey structure with mezzanine level and large penthouse was, as previously mentioned, completed in two phases, the front portion, measuring approximately 13.4 x 27.5 metres and costing \$225,000 to complete.¹² The rear portion was added the next year, measuring approximately 12.2 x 13.4 metres and costing \$70,000.¹³

Its structural system is comprised of 68.6-centimetre reinforced concrete foundation walls, a steel skeleton and solid brick walls ranging in thickness from 33.0 to 53.3 centimetres with terra cotta accenting (see Appendix I for more technical data).¹⁴ By 1911, this type of structural system was being widely used in the city to provide excellent rigidity which allowed for taller buildings and increased fire resistance.

DESIGN

The building, because of its corner location, was designed with two main façades: south facing Portage Avenue (Plate 9) and east facing Smith Street (Plate 10). The symmetrically-designed original Portage Avenue elevation featured a central entrance set in an ornate grey-coloured terra cotta frame with attached columns, an iron and glass hood and a curved pediment with cartouche (Plate 11). The remainder of the terra cotta ground/mezzanine floor featured fluted and unfluted connected columns, large windows in paired, rectilinear openings and a complete entablature. Upper floors, clad in a light brown brick laid with deep grooves at regular intervals, featured banks of windows in rectilinear openings, connected on each floor by terra cotta continuous sills.

¹² City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #2580/1911.

¹³ BP #743/1912.

¹⁴ City of Winnipeg Assessment Record, Roll No. 523015-12-2.

Another terra cotta entablature, with decorative shields at either end, was placed above the seventh storey openings, leading to the top floor with its rectilinear window openings with terra cotta accenting on the sides and heads and the ornate entablature with oversized brackets and heavy overhanging cornice (Plate 12). This layout and the finishes wrap around the southwest corner and run a short distance along the west façade.

The main floor has been significantly altered but the upper floors remain virtually unchanged (Plates 13-15) and a tall flagpole continues to top the building.

The Smith Street (east) façade is a continuation of the materials and design of the front elevation. The northern-most three bays are the addition (Plate 16). Window and door replacement has negatively affected the original ground floor design, the upper floors have not been significantly altered (Plate 17).

All original window units on the upper floors of the two main façades have been replaced.

The west façade was designed with rectilinear window openings in the window well that runs from the second floor upwards and in the brick wall to the north. The brick wall to the south of the window well includes painted signage (Plate 18). The rear (north) façade features windows in rectilinear openings with lug sills and a metal fire escape (Plate 17).

INTERIOR

There is a complete set of interior drawings for the original building and the 1912 addition, describing a well laid-out, comfortably finished office building. The basement held vaults at the north end and a Safety Deposit Vault in the centre; the ground floor banking hall was accessed through a revolving door which led to the “Entrance Hall.” To the right (east) were the private offices of the manager and directors, to the right a set of stairs to the mezzanine level and two passenger elevators (Plate 19). Through another set of doors, visitors came to the bank room with

central “Check Counter” set within the U-shaped screened tellers’ counter. To the rear, a stairs in the northeast corner led to the basement and cash and book vaults were found along the north wall.

The mezzanine floor was located at both the front (south) and rear (north) and held offices and a book vault and stationary room respectively.

The 3rd and 7th floors were identical, with office space from the corridor (featuring marble and granite walls and terrazzo flooring)¹⁵ along the west side of the building and Men’s washrooms in the northwest corner. The 4th, 6th and 8th floors featured the same layout except for no washroom facilities and the 5th floor featured “Ladies” washrooms. The washrooms featured marble throughout.

On the roof, an elevator machinery building and a steel water tank were found, as was a two-bedroom suite with kitchen, pantry, living room and bathroom (Plate 20). It was not uncommon to include a residential suite in bank buildings at the time in order to provide some 24-hour security for the building.

The 1912 addition lengthened the interior corridor and supplied a large open space or several smaller offices.

Today, the banking hall space has been divided, the materials replaced (Plate 21). Many of the upper floor corridors maintain their original finishes (Plates 22 and 23) and the iron, wood and marble stairs are another unaltered original feature (Plate 24). The caretaker’s suite on the roof is still intact (Plate 25).

INTEGRITY

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition for its age. Alterations have been extensive to the ground floor of the Portage Avenue façade as well as the

¹⁵ Architect’s Plans, #2580/1912, courtesy of the City of Winnipeg.

replacement of all upper storey windows. Much of the intricate ornamentation, however, remains intact.

STREETSCAPE

The building, because of its corner location, has been an important part of two downtown streetscapes (Plates 26 and 27). Even with the construction of newer towers nearby, the Sterling Bank Building continues to be an important contributor to Portage Avenue and Smith Street.

ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS

The architectural firm responsible for the design of this office tower was James Chisholm and Son, a prominent pair that worked in the City from ca.1906 until after World War I (see Appendix II for biographical information). The pair has been given 20 points by the Historical Buildings and Resources Committee.

Contractors of the building were the well-known firm Carter-Halls-Aldinger Company, which built structures in Winnipeg and throughout Western Canada (see Appendix III for biographical information).

PERSON/INSTITUTION

The Sterling Bank of Canada was incorporated in Toronto in 1905 (Plate 28) and remained a mainly Ontario-based financial institution until opening some Western Canadian branches prior to World War I. In 1924, it merged with the Standard Bank of Canada (founded in 1873 as the St. Lawrence Bank and reorganized as the Standard Bank in 1876). The new Standard Bank merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce on November 5, 1928.¹⁶

¹⁶ Corporate information found at <http://www.cibc.com/ca/inside-cibc/history/mergers-amalgamations/bank-of-commerce.html>, Copyright 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

America Realty Company is listed as the owner of the building in 1920 and from the 1930s to the 1960s Toronto General Trusts Corporation was the owner and one of the tenants.¹⁷

Tenancy in the building has been varied, doctors, dentists, lawyers, chartered accountants and insurance companies making up the bulk of the occupants. Other tenants have included the Moose Mountain Fur Ranches Limited (1930), the Farm Equipment Dealers Association (1950), the Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach (1970-1980) and the Consulate of Italy (1980-1990).¹⁸

EVENT

There is no known important historical event connected with this building.

CONTEXT

Paying a high price for this valuable downtown property, the Sterling Bank saw the worth of its investment bring immediate returns as demand necessitated an addition prior to the occupancy of the original. It is an example of the type of economic growth in Winnipeg in the years before World War I and the high demand for modern office space in the downtown.

LANDMARK

Located on one of Winnipeg's busiest downtown intersections, the Sterling Bank Building has long been a conspicuous structure in the city.

¹⁷ City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 13-052301500, 1920-1990.

¹⁸ Henderson's Directory, 1915-1990.



APPENDIX I

CITY OF WINNIPEG - Preliminary Report

Building Address: 283 Portage Avenue

Building Name: Sterling Bank Building

Original Use: bank & offices

Current Use: offices

Roll No. (Old): 13052301500 (---)

RSN: 155461

Municipality: 12

Ward: 2

Property or Occupancy Code: ---

Legal Description: 1 St. John, Plan 24208, Lot 7

Location: northwest corner Smith Street

Date of Construction: 1911

Storeys: 8 & mezzanine

Heritage Status: NOMINATED LIST

Construction Type: Steel, reinforced concrete, brick & terra cotta

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

SEE NEXT PAGE

Information:

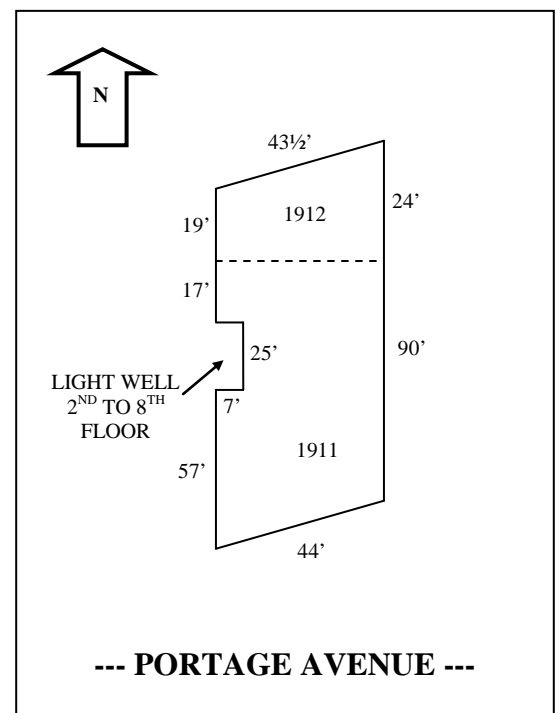
- 44 x 117

- wall thicknesses: B- 27" concrete; 1st & mezz- 17-21" brick;
2nd- 17" brick; 3rd to 8th- 13" brick; Penthouse- 13" brick

- ceiling heights: B- 8.8'; 1st/mezz- 25.2'; 2nd- 11.2'; 3rd to 6th-
10.3'; 7th & 8th- 10.6'; Penthouse- 9.2'

ARCHITECT: J. CHISHOLM & SON

CONTRACTOR: CARTER-HALLS-ALDINGER



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

YEAR	NO.	PLANS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1911	2580	CS	\$225,000	Superstructure
1912	743	CS	\$70,000	8-storey addition
1961	586		\$3,000	Interior alterations
1965	1441	M520	\$4,000	Interior alterations
1965	6697	M519	\$30,000	Interior alterations
1965	7245		\$3,000	Interior alterations
1967	4615	M418	\$2,000	Interior alterations
1967	6775	M424	\$3,000	Alterations
1967	6891		\$1,000	Repairs
1968	5825	M158	\$50,000	Interior alterations
1971	6525	M120	\$28,000	Interior alterations
1972	368	M175	\$5,500	Interior alterations
1973	4635	M165	\$8,000	Interior alterations
1974	520		\$7,000	Interior alterations
1974	6276	M634	\$3,000	Interior alterations
1977	5328	CS	\$10,000	Interior alterations
1978	5985		\$90,000	Interior alterations
1979	4863	CS	\$15,000	Interior alterations
1980	7281	CS	\$48,000	Interior alterations
1983	10192	CS	\$37,000	Interior alterations (279 Portage Ave.)
1990	7830		\$5,000	Interior alterations (279 Portage Ave.)
1998	6783		\$135,000	Interior alterations (279 Portage Ave.)
2000	163018		\$7,000	Interior alterations

APPENDIX II

James Chisholm and Son

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

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

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

¹ Family information courtesy of Jim Chisholm, grandson of James and son of Colin C. Chisholm.

² Certificate of Naturalization, United States of America (County of Douglas, Wisconsin), dated February 19, 1896; and Local Preacher's License, dated September 8, 1893; and F.H. Schofield, The Story of Manitoba (Winnipeg: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913), p. 723.

About 1911, Chisholm and his wife began wintering in Santa Monica, California because of continued poor health and they moved there permanently in 1914. He died on October 14, 1920 in Ocean Park, California.³

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

The firm was responsible for designing buildings throughout Winnipeg and Manitoba as well as in Regina, Saskatoon (Bowerman [Canada] Building, 1912-1913), and Moose Jaw (Wesley Methodist [United] Church, n.d. – demolished), Saskatchewan, and Edmonton, Alberta.⁶ An incomplete list of their Winnipeg structures includes:⁷

James Chisholm:

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

³ Manitoba Free Press, October 18, 1920, p. 15.

⁴ F. H. Schofield, op. cit., pp. 723-24.

⁵ Winnipeg Tribune, September 5, 1936; and Winnipeg Free Press, September 7, 1936, p. 6.

⁶ F. H. Schofield, op. cit., p. 723.

⁷ Compiled from Ibid., pp. 723-24; Winnipeg Tribune, September 5, 1936; Winnipeg Saturday Post, June 8, 1912, p. 39; and City of Winnipeg Building Permits, 1900-26.

James Chisholm (continued):

Waterous Engine Works Company Warehouse, 157 Higgins Avenue (1902)
Coleclough Company Building, 654 Logan Avenue (1902)
W.J. Guest Building, 598 Main Street (1902)
E.N. Page House, 198 Spence Street (1902)
J.W. Harris House, 26 Edmonton Street (1902) – Grade III
Alexander McCormack House, 160 Edmonton Street (1902)
Wright and Stewart Building, Alexander Avenue (1902)
A.J. Adamson House, 161 Mayfair Avenue (1903)
G. Forsyth House, Carlton Street (1903)
Mill Ross Block (Gallie Hotel), 336 Ross Avenue (1903)
C. Lilt House, Hargrave Avenue (1903)
Dr. M.C. Clarke House, 70 Furby Street (1903)
D.A. Stewart House, Wardlaw Avenue (1903)
C.E. Young House, Mayfair Place (1903)
Zion Methodist (then Zion Apostolic) Church, 335 Pacific Avenue (1904), destroyed by fire 1970
M. Woodlinger House, Pacific Avenue (1904)
Young Men's Liberal Club, 310 Notre Dame Avenue (1904)
Manitoba Cartage Company stable, Henry Avenue (1905)
W.J. Guest Fish Warehouse, 98 Alexander Avenue (1905 & 1910)
Exeter Apartments, 76 Lily Street (1905)
Shiple Court Apartments, 327 Furby Street (1906) – demolished
Arbuckle Jardine House, 115 Middle Gate (1906)

James Chisholm and Son:

Walter Woods Company Warehouse, 10 Robinson Street (1907)
W.J. Guest House, 75 Academy Road (1907)
Jobin-Marrin Warehouse, 158-162 Market Avenue (1907)
Young Methodist (United) Church, 222 Furby Street (1907, 1910) – Grade II (only tower left after fire)
Strathcona Curling Rink, Furby Place (1908) – demolished
Kipling Apartments, 465 Langside Street (1908-1909)
James T. Gordon House, 514 Wellington Crescent (1909)
House for St. John's Methodist Church, Polson Avenue (1909)
George F. Galt House, Wellington Crescent (1910)
J. Ryan Sr. House, Central Avenue (1910)
Semmons Warehouse, 468 Ross Avenue (1910)
I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows') Temple, 293 Kennedy Street (1910) – Grade III (façade only remains)
Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue (1910-1911)
Frank S. Parlee House, 131 Canora Street (1911)
E.C. Marrin House, Dorchester Avenue (1911)
Gowans, Kent, Western Building, 166-168 Market Avenue (1911-1912)
Granite Curling Club, 22 Mostyn Place (now 22 Granite Way) (1912) – Grade III

James Chisholm and Son (continued):

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

C.C. Chisholm:

Clarendon Hotel, 311 Portage Avenue, fire repairs (1923) – demolished
Filling station for M. Bergstrom, Maryland Street (1924)
Calvary Evangelical Church, Alverstone Street (1925)
Royal Oak Court, 277 River Avenue (1928)
Addition, Winnipeg Police Court, Rupert Avenue (1930) – demolished

APPENDIX III

Carter-Halls-Aldinger Company

The principals of the Carter-Halls-Aldinger Company (CHA) were William Henry Carter (1874-1962), a contractor; Frank Ernest Halls (1872-1950), a fire-proofing expert; and Albert Henry Aldinger (ca.1876-1942), a civil engineer.¹ CHA had its origins with the arrival in Winnipeg in 1903 of Carter, who was representing the William Grace Company, a Chicago contracting firm that was building the Bank of British North America, 436 Main Street. Carter worked for Grace until February 1907 when he joined with Halls and Aldinger to found the new firm. By 1915, CHA was well-known throughout Western Canada with such Winnipeg buildings to its credit as the McArthur (later Childs) Building, 211 Portage Avenue (1909 – demolished); Confederation Life Association Building, 457 Main Street (1912 – Grade II); the Winnipeg Electric Railway Building, 213 Notre Dame Avenue (1912-1913 – Grade II); the Manitoba Free Press Building, 300 Carlton Street (1913 – Grade II); the Olympia (later Marlborough) Hotel, 331 Smith Street (1913 – Grade II); and the Minto Armouries, 969 St. Matthews Avenue (1914). The firm also had contracts in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon, SA, Calgary and Edmonton, AB and Prince George, BC.

Their clients included the Dominion Government, as well as the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern railways. They also worked on the new Hudson's Bay Company stores in Calgary (1912), Vancouver (1913), and Winnipeg (1926), the Banff Springs Hotel, Alberta and later the Winnipeg Civic Auditorium (1933). The firm specialized in bridges, subways, railway works, steel frame and other fireproof construction, as well as heavy masonry foundations and caisson work as found in the new Hudson's Bay Company store at Winnipeg. CHA was placed in voluntary liquidation in 1944, and was reorganized as two firms, Commonwealth Construction Company Limited and the Carter Construction Company of Toronto. This latter firm relocated to Winnipeg in 1950, being managed by W.H. Carter after his

¹ R.R. Rostecki, "450 Portage Avenue – Hudson's Bay Company Store," report for the City of Winnipeg Historical Buildings Committee, October 2002; Historical Buildings and Resources Committee files; and M. Peterson, personal files.

retirement from the Greater Winnipeg Transit Commission in 1956. Carter Construction remained in business until 1972 as a St. Boniface firm.

Major Winnipeg projects:

Security Storage Building, 583 Ellice Avenue (1909)
Campbell House, 140 Roslyn Road (1909)
Childs (McArthur) Building, 211 Portage Avenue (1909) – demolished
Casa Loma Building, 644 Portage Avenue (1909)
Oldfield, Kirby Gardner Building (North West Trust), 234 Portage Avenue (1909) – Grade II
Grand Garden Restaurant, 224 King Street (1910) – demolished
Hudson's Bay Co. Mail Order Building, 111 Fort Street (1910) – demolished
Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue (1911)
Richards and Brown Warehouse, 132 James Avenue (1911)
Agricultural College (St. Vital), 139 Tuxedo Avenue (1911) – portions designated
University of Manitoba - Administration Building, 66 Chancellors Circle, 1911-1913
De Laval Co. Warehouse, 128 James Avenue (1912) – List of Historical Resources
Strand (Beacon) Theatre, 559 Main Street (1912) – demolished
Confederation Life Building, 457 Main Street (1912) – Grade II
Osborne Theatre, 108 Osborne Street (1912)
Western Glove Building (Finnie and Murray Block), 321 McDermot Avenue (1912) – Grade III
Turner-Walker Block, 425 Henry Avenue (1912) – Grade III
Winnipeg Electric Railway Co. Building, 213 Notre Dame Avenue (1912-1913) – Grade II
Quebec Bank Building (Montreal Trust Building), 216 Portage Avenue (1913) – demolished
St. Charles Hotel, 235 Notre Dame Avenue (1913) – Grade III
Marlborough (Olympia) Hotel, 331 Smith Street (1913) – Grade II
YMCA, 301 Vaughan Street (1913) – Grade II
Free Press Building, 300 Carlton Street (1913) – Grade II
Minto Armouries, 969 St. Matthews Avenue (1914)
Ford Motor Company Plant, 1181 Portage Avenue (1915)
Paris Building, 259 Portage Avenue (1915) – Grade II
Eaton's Mail Order Building (Eaton [City] Place), 333 St. Mary Avenue (1916)
Union Bank Building (Musker Engineering Institute), 1515 Main Street (1919) – demolished
Santa Furs (former Merchants' Bank), 842 Corydon Avenue (1919)
Marshall-Wells Co. Warehouse, 490 Des Meurons Street (1919)
Portage Village Inn (Clarendon Hotel), 311 Portage Avenue (1920) – demolished
Grain Exchange Annex, 153 Lombard Avenue (1920) – demolished
Manitoba School for the Deaf, 500 Shaftsbury Boulevard (1921)
Nurses' Residence, 1 Morley Avenue (1921) – demolished
Union Bank Annex, 500 Main Street (1921) – Grade II
Albert Street Burger, 58 Albert Street (1921)
Winnipeg Film Exchange Building, 361 Hargrave Street (1922) – Grade III
Hudson's Bay Company Store, 450 Portage Avenue (1926)
Johnston Terminal Building (National Cartage Bldg.), 25 Forks Market Road (1928) – Grade III
Power Building, 428 Portage Avenue (1928)

Carter-Halls-Aldinger Company contracts (continued):

Northern Electric Building, 65 Rorie Street (1928) – Grade III

SS Kresge Store, 368 Portage Avenue (1929)

Greater Winnipeg Gas Building (CGE Building), 265 Notre Dame Avenue (1930) – Grade III

Winnipeg Civic Auditorium, 200 Vaughan Street (1933)

Federal Building, 269 Main Street (1936)

Cinema Centre Building, 281 Colony Street (1937)

Mall Hotel, 465 Portage Avenue (1938)

283 PORTAGE AVENUE – STERLING BANK BUILDING

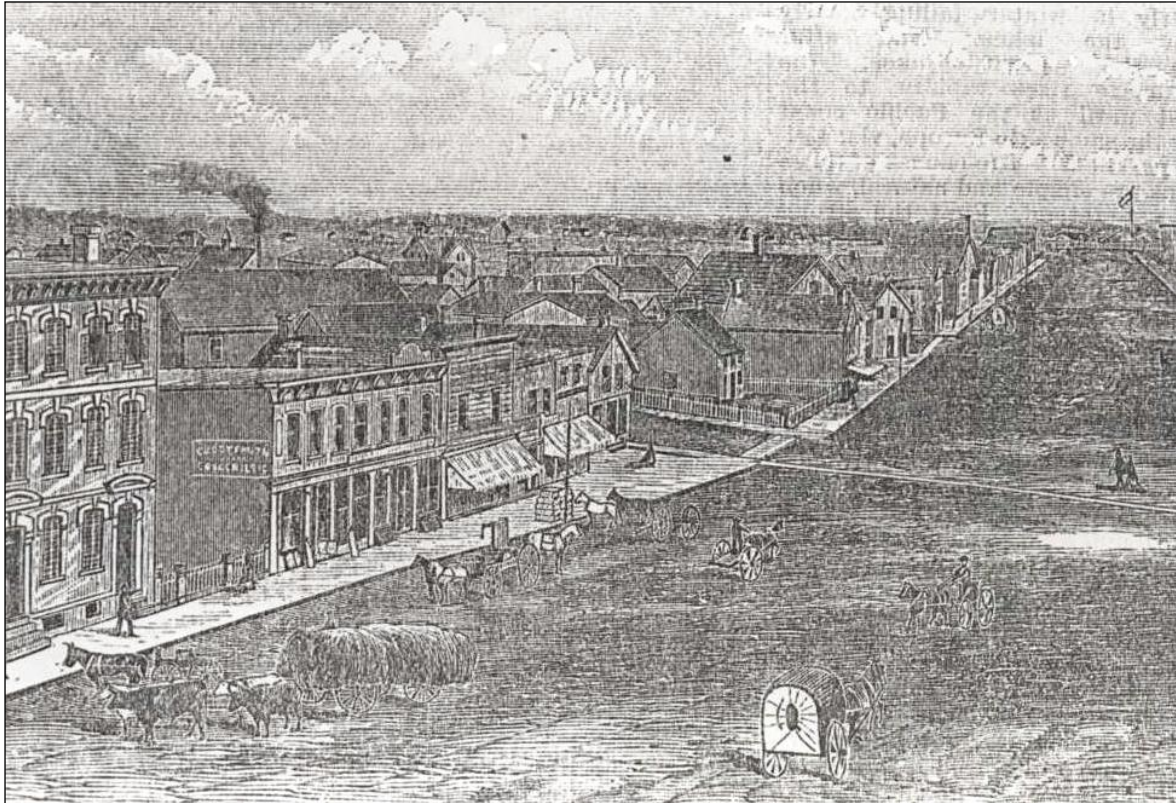


Plate 1 – This sketch from ca.1877, shows the east side of Main Street looking south from near Portage Avenue. The flag in the upper right corner flies over Upper Fort Garry. (Reproduced courtesy of Western Canada Pictorial Index, 604-18896.)

283 PORTAGE AVENUE – STERLING BANK BUILDING



CLARENDON HOTEL

Plate 2 – The Clarendon Hotel, northwest corner of Portage Avenue and Donald Street (#311),
ca.1905. (M. Peterson Collection.)

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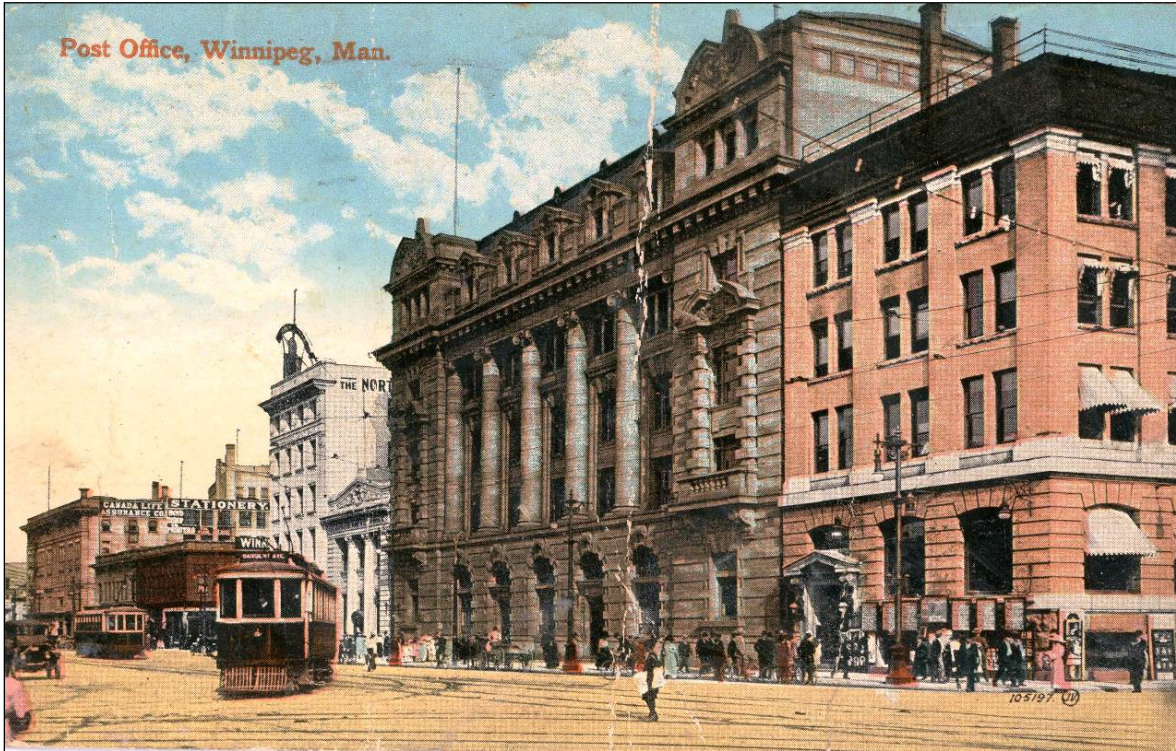


Plate 3 – Winnipeg’s Main Post Office, 236 Portage Avenue, date unknown. The building to the right is the Manitoba Free Press Building, 240 Portage Avenue and to the left, the small Oldfield, Kirby and Gardner Building, 234 Portage Avenue, the only one of the three still standing. (Winnipeg Public Library, Historic Postcards.)

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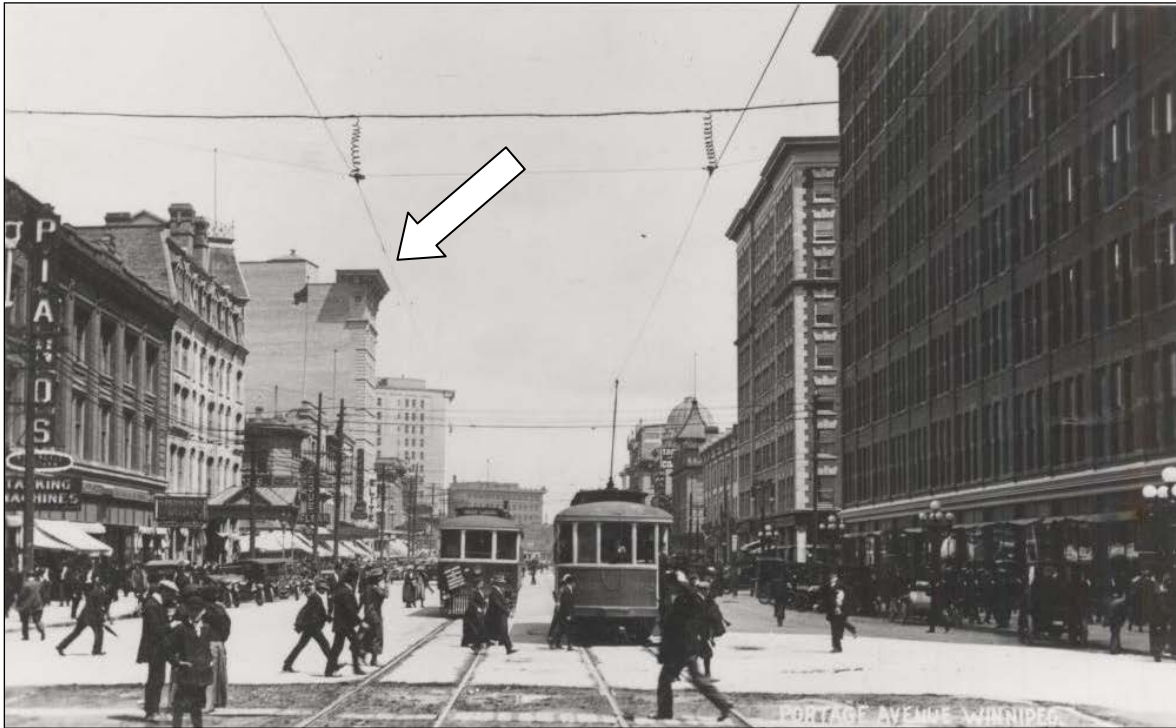


Plate 4 – Portage Avenue looking east from Hargrave Street, ca.1915. Eaton's (right foreground) towers over the smaller buildings on the north side of the street and the Sterling Bank Building is at the arrow. (Archives of Manitoba, N12614.)

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Plate 5 –Hudson’s Bay Company Store, 450 Portage Avenue, during construction, August 23, 1926. (Hudson’s Bay Company Archives.)

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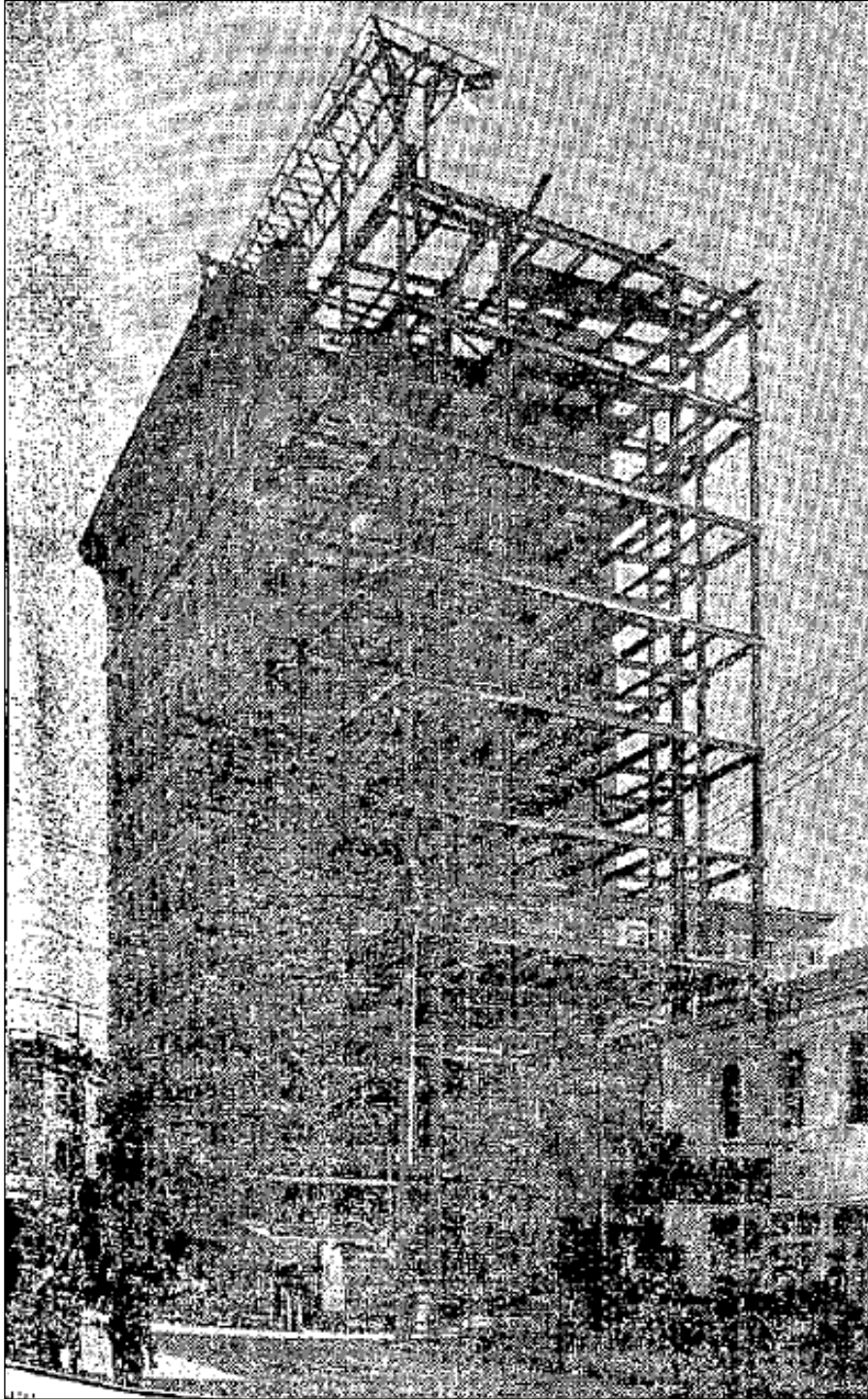


Plate 6 –View of the rear (north side) of the Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, 1912. The front of the building is nearly complete as the steel framing goes up on the addition. (Reproduced from the Winnipeg Free Press, May 11, 1912, p. 25.)

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Plate 7 –Recently completed Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, ca.1913. (Colour postcard courtesy of Winnipeg Public Library, PastForward – Post Card Collection.)

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Plate 8 – Some examples of Winnipeg’s Chicago Style commercial buildings: Union Tower, 504 Main Street, built 1904 (top left); Boyd Building, 384 Portage Avenue, built 1912 (top right); and the Paris Building, 259 Portage Avenue, 1915-1917 (bottom). (M. Peterson.)

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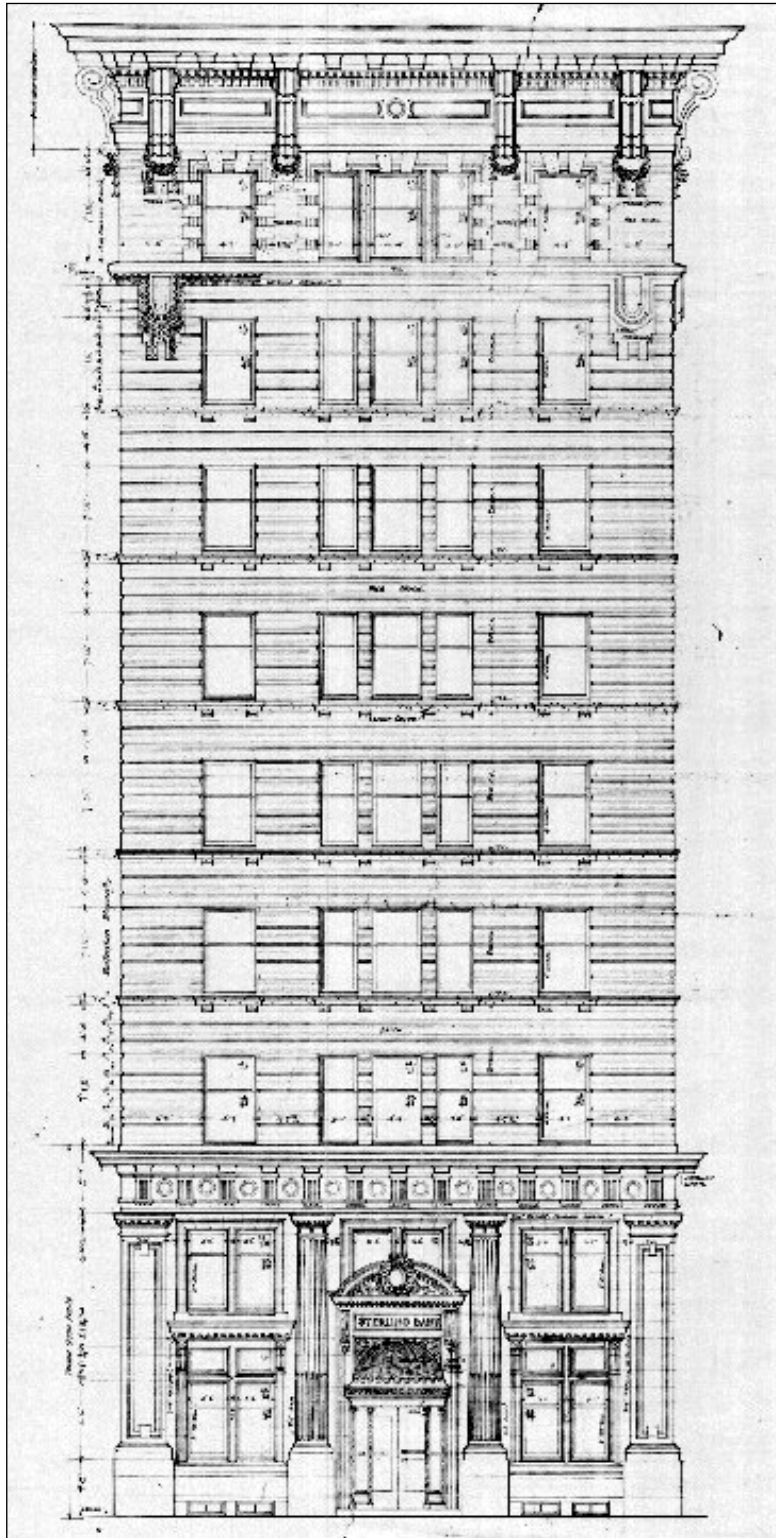


Plate 9 – Sterling Bank Building, Portage Avenue, Architect’s Plans, “Portage Avenue Elevation,” 1911. (Courtesy of City of Winnipeg, Plan #2580/1911.)

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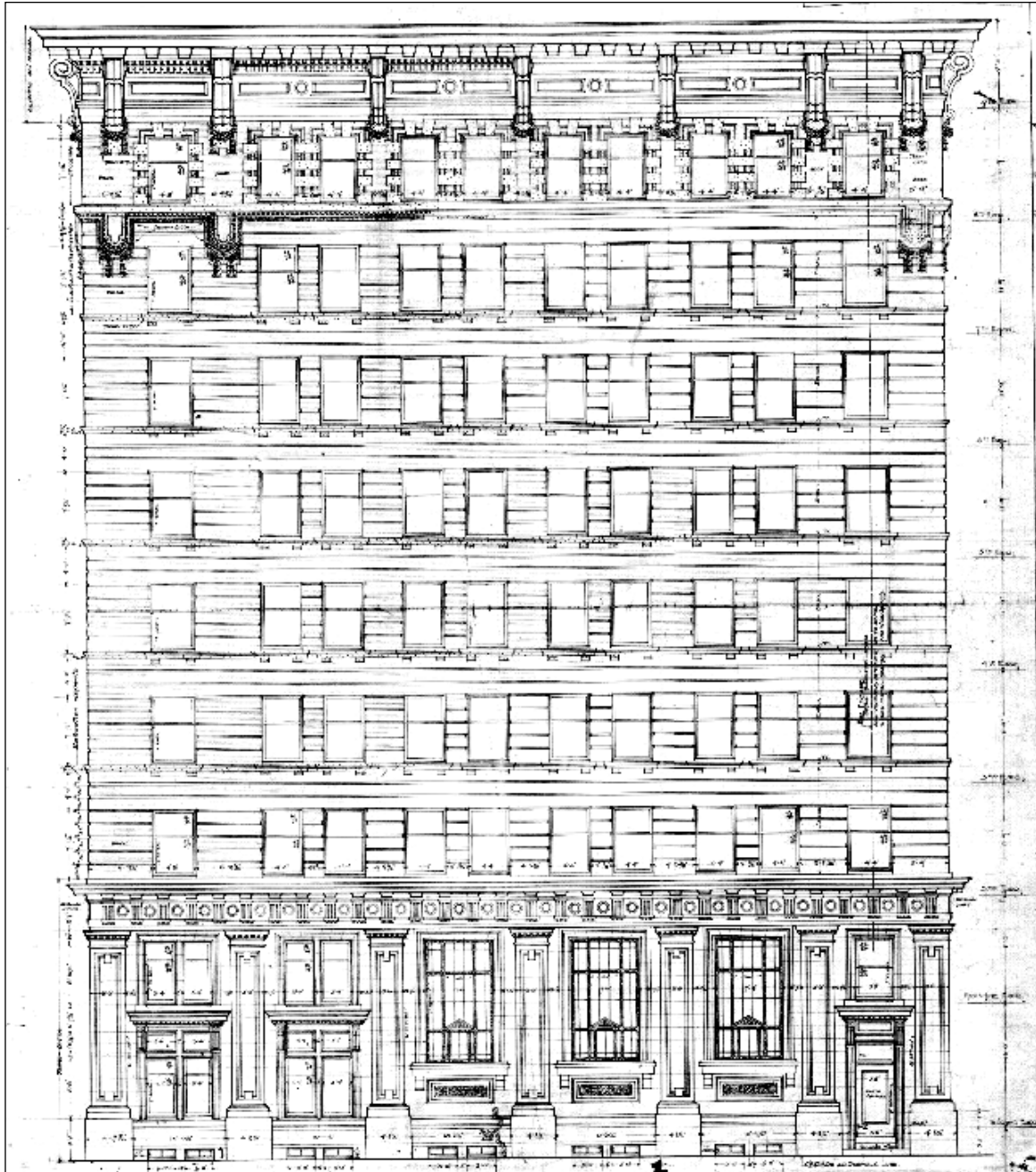


Plate 10 – Sterling Bank Building, Portage Avenue, Architect’s Plans, “Smith Street Elevation,” 1911. (Courtesy of City of Winnipeg, Plan #2580/1911.)

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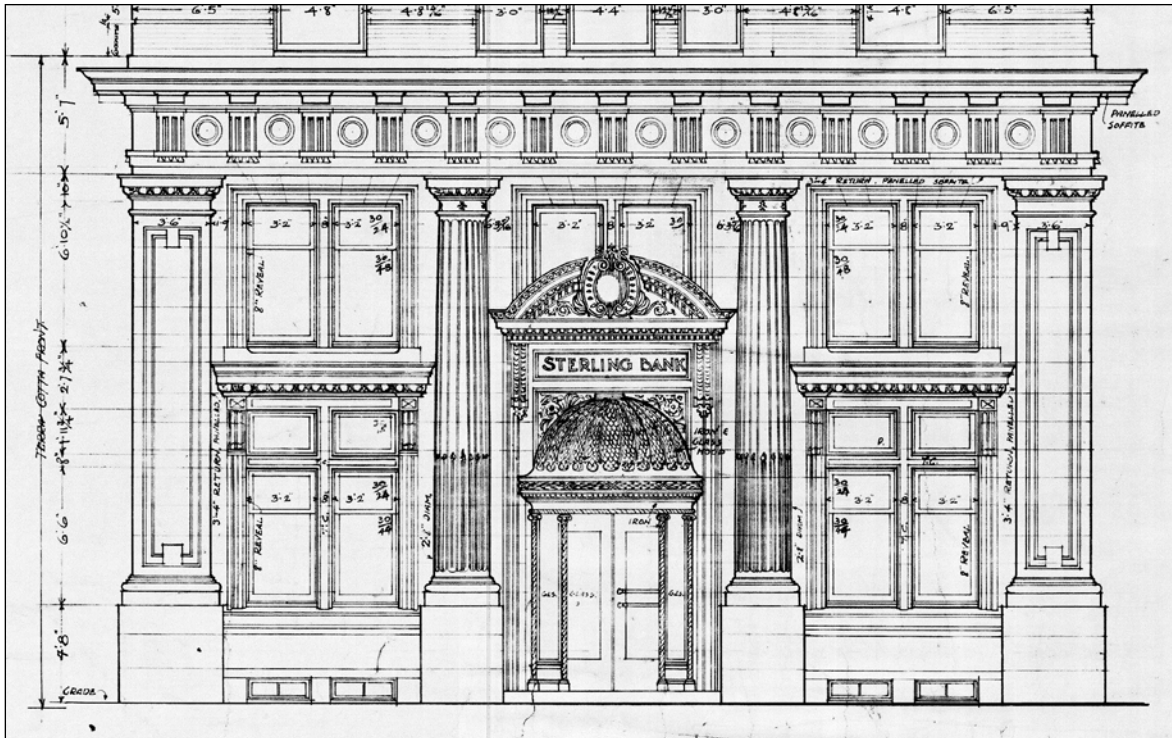


Plate 11 – Sterling Bank Building, Portage Avenue, Architect’s Plans, “Portage Avenue Elevation,” 1911, ground floor detail. (Courtesy of City of Winnipeg, Plan #2580/1911.)

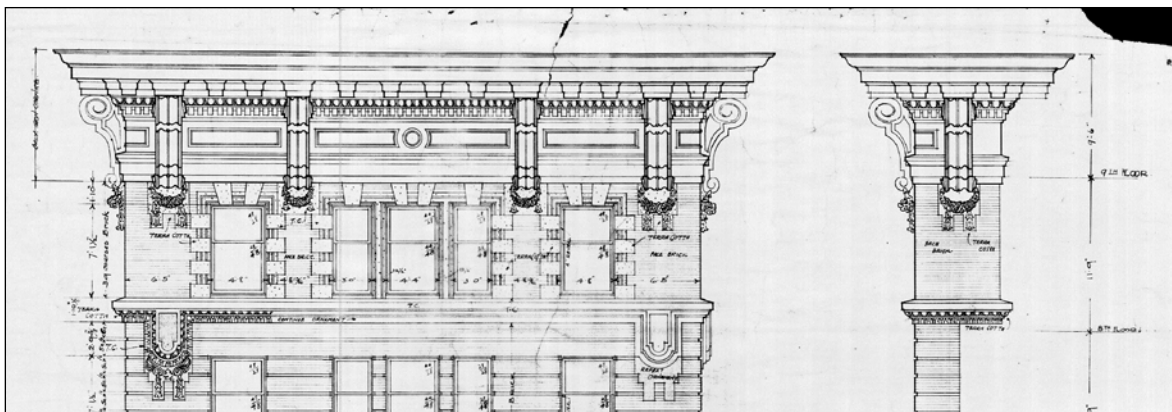


Plate 12 – Sterling Bank Building, Portage Avenue, Architect’s Plans, “Portage Avenue Elevation” (left) and “Elevation of Returns” (right), 1911, roof detail. (Courtesy of City of Winnipeg, Plan #2580/1911.)

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Plate 13 – Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, detail of front (south) façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 14 – Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, detail of front (south) façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 15 – Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, detail of front (south) façade roofline, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 17 – Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, east and north façades, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 18 – Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, west façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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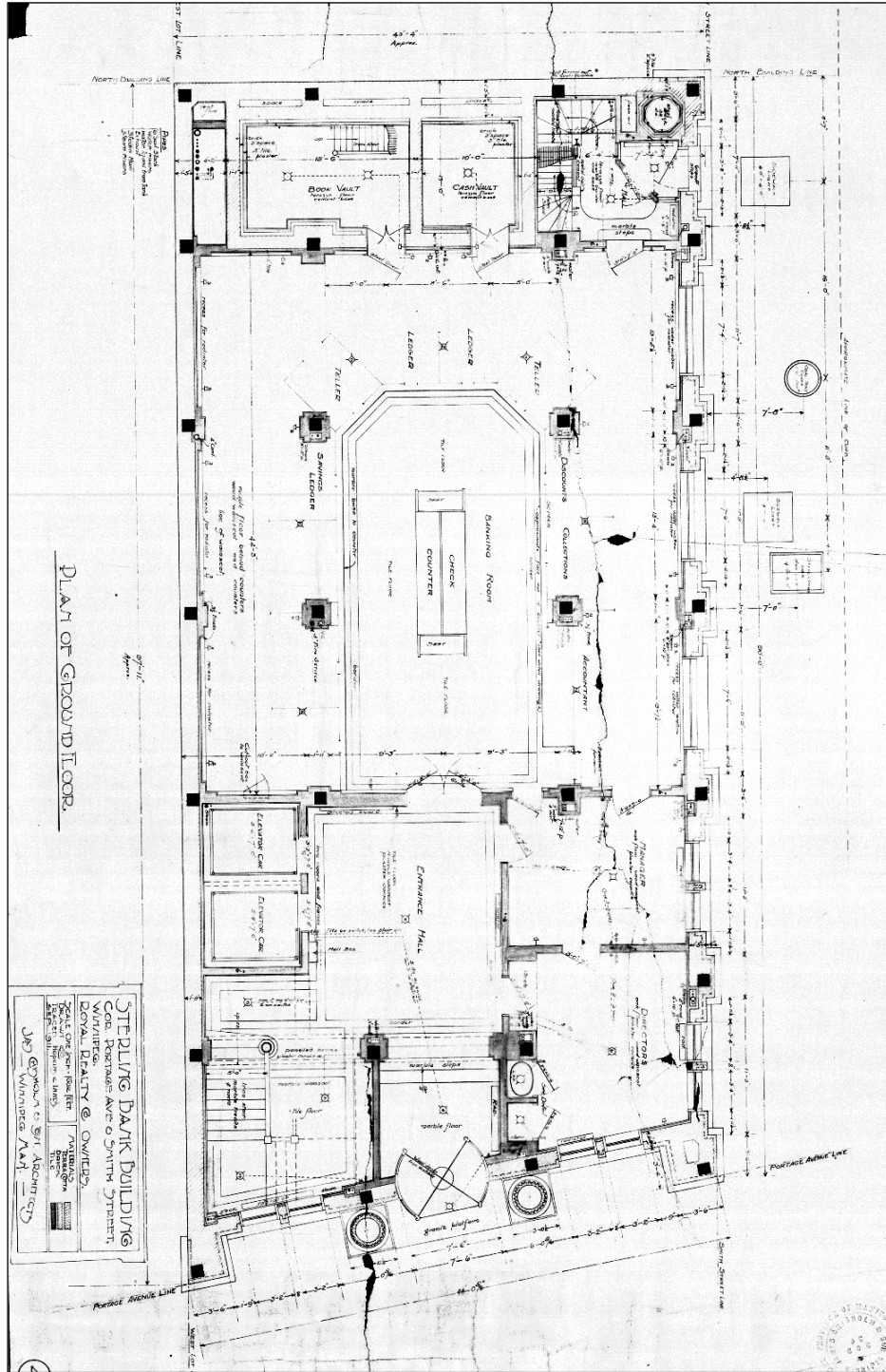


Plate 19 – Sterling Bank Building, Portage Avenue, Architect’s Plans, “Plan of Ground Floor,” 1911. (Courtesy of City of Winnipeg, Plan #2580/1911.)

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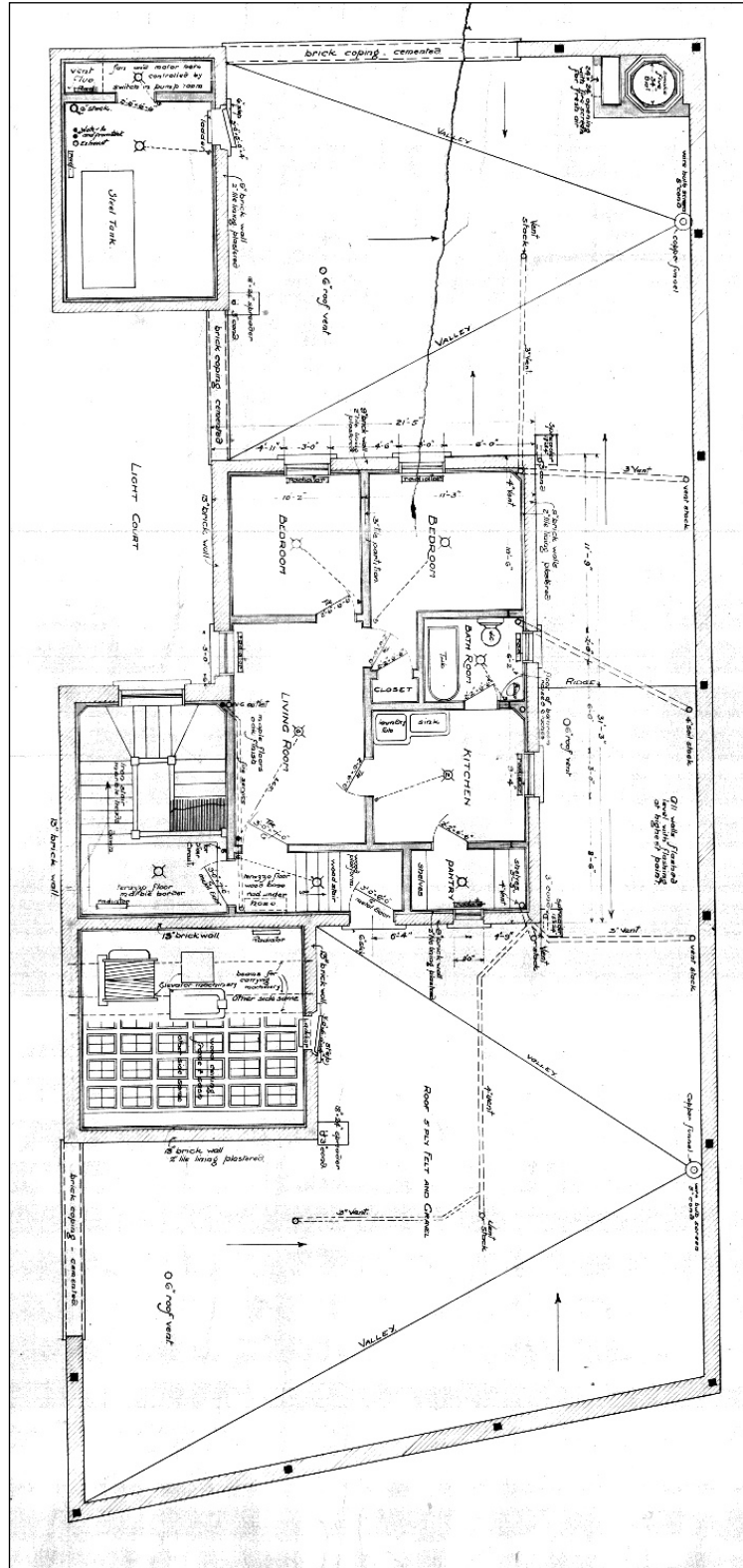


Plate 20 – Sterling Bank Building, Portage Avenue, Architect’s Plans, “Plan of Houses Above Roof,” 1911. (Courtesy of City of Winnipeg, Plan #2580/1911.)

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Plate 21– Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, main floor, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 22 – Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, third floor hallway, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 23 – Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, fifth floor hallway, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 24– Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, staircase from the eighth floor, 2015.
(M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 25 – Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue, rooftop caretaker's suite, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

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Plate 26 –Portage Avenue looking east from Donald Street, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)



Plate 27 – Portage Avenue looking west from Smith Street, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 28 – Sterling Bank \$5 note, 1906. ([Reproduced from Canadacurrency.com.](http://Canadacurrency.com))