



321-31 SMITH STREET

MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL

City of Winnipeg
Historical Buildings Committee

January 1998

321-31 SMITH STREET

MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL

With the war and the financial depression this does not seem the most favorable time for launching an enterprise of the kind. But the tide of affairs is sure to turn, and of the new prosperity that will come sooner or later – and perhaps sooner than later – the new Olympia, there can be little doubt, will have a good share.¹

And so, on November 18, 1914, with Mayor Thomas R. Deacon signing in as the first guest, the Olympia Hotel opened its doors to the public. The optimism of the reporter was shared by many in attendance at the gala events staged all day,² but unfortunately, the rosy future would not come to be.

For a time, however, Winnipeg celebrated the opening of another glittering hotel, one of the many such enterprises that had lined downtown streets since the days of the city's incorporation. These facilities came in all shapes and sizes, from the opulence of the railway hotels – the Fort Garry and Royal Alexandra – catering to wealthy clientele and travellers, to the numerous hotels on and near Portage Avenue and Main Street businessmen and vying for the title of “World's longest bar.” There were also the smaller, less ornamented hotels that filled with working men. All types played an important role in the development of Winnipeg.

For the Olympia and its owners, the excitement and optimism of the first night and first few months were extremely short-lived. War, a deepening depression and other factors combined to slow and then halt Winnipeg's growth, spelling doom for the new hotel.

¹ Manitoba Free Press, November 19, 1914, p. 16.

² The first Manitoba-grown roses graced the tables at the inaugural banquet. Construction, Vol. XVII, No. 1 (January 1924), p. 25.

STYLE

The Olympia Hotel, which was built in two stages, is one of the city's finest examples of Gothic architecture, sometimes referred to as Modern Gothic or Late Gothic Revival. The origins of the style can be traced back to the medieval, especially church, architecture of England and France. The style underwent a revival in the last half of the 19th century, but then lost some popularity until interest in its application to educational structures emerged in the early 1900s. Buildings at the West Point Military Academy and Princeton and Yale universities in the United States were among the early examples of the Modern Gothic style.³ Familiar elements such as pointed arches, intricate tracery, buttresses, spires, oriel and bay windows, and pinnacles (Plate 1) continued to be used. But there also were significant differences compared to previous versions of Gothic design. For example, the polychromy of the early structures was replaced by monochrome limestone or brick. The long, low symmetrical massing of the newer expression of the style was a contrast to the ornate complexity of earlier models, thereby giving the Modern Gothic building a clarity of design and a subdued visage.⁴ The style has been likened to "a calm, disciplined monumentality."⁵ This was just the type of image that many universities wished to display and a variant of the style known as Collegiate Gothic was quickly adopted by institutions on both sides of the border (Plate 2).

Of course, as in the past, churches continued to use elements of the style.⁶ Less common was its application to apartment blocks, office buildings and other public structures even though its vertical emphasis was a perfect fit for the tall skyscrapers that were beginning to dot the urban landscape because of advances in construction technology, specifically reinforced concrete and steel framing.⁷ By the 1930s, the style's popularity had waned.

³ L. Maitland, et al., *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles* (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1992), p. 166; and M. Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780 – A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1985), pp. 173-7.

⁴ L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 166; and *Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba* (Winnipeg: Historic Resources Branch, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 8.

⁵ L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 166.

⁶ Ibid., p. 166; and M. Whiffen, op. cit., p. 174.

⁷ M. Whiffen, op. cit., pp. 176-7.

CONSTRUCTION

Plans for the construction of the Olympia Hotel began in the early 1910s with the purchase of several lots on the east side of Smith Street just north of Portage Avenue. The original owners would have paid dearly for this property as Portage Avenue had become one of the city's leading retail and business thoroughfares. Vacant lots on the avenue and the intersecting streets were quickly filling up, and land was at a premium.

Construction began in 1913 and the new facility was opened in November 1914. The original City of Winnipeg Building Permit describes a nine-storey structure, although the original architect's plans dated October 1913 call for the construction of the first three storeys only, with the upper floors to be built "at a later date."⁸ The upper floors were added in the early 1920s, based on the 1910 plans but supervised by a different architect.

The hotel rests on a reinforced concrete foundation with a steel and concrete frame providing support for the superstructure. The exterior is finished in brick and terra cotta and polished granite accents. The roofs of the original building and the addition were flat. During the 1913-14 construction phase, six cords of stone, 545,000 bricks, 16,700 superficial square metres (20,000 superficial square yards) of plaster and 1,000 cubic metres (1,306 cubic yards) of concrete were used.⁹ The marquee was built of cast-iron with matching light fixtures (also found on the interior).¹⁰

DESIGN

The 1914 portion of the hotel features an enormous array of ornamentation above the polished granite base. Most of the Gothic elements are completed in soft grey-coloured terra cotta, above which the brick walls end in a broken cornice of terra cotta.

⁸ Architect's Plans, #1639/1913.

⁹ City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #1639/1913.

¹⁰ BP #4110/1913; Construction, Vol. XVII, No. 1 (January 1924), p. 25; and Manitoba Free Press, November 19, 1914, p. 16.

The front (west) façade is divided into seven bays, each separated by buttresses extending to the top of the third floor (Plate 3). Within each bay is a large, slightly pointed arched window on the ground floor that is divided in three and embellished with delicate terra cotta unifoil tracery in the arch (this design is found elsewhere on the façade). The mid-point of each of these large openings is highlighted by three panels of quatrefoil tracery. Each panel includes a flower which is executed in coloured terra cotta. Stained and leaded glass adds another dimension to the windows (Plate 4).

Delicate terra cotta flowers are regularly placed along the window frames. Similar shapes, each originally holding lights, run the entire width of the building just above the arches. Another unique feature of the front is the thin ornamental strip above these lights which boasts a wave-like vine from which grapes grow (Plate 5). Similar vines are carved into the underside of the iron marquee. The massive, ornate marquee fills the five middle bays of the ground floor, while two massive iron lights mark the outside corners (Plate 6).

The second and third floors have rectangular windows separated by the continuation of the buttresses. At the corners of each third-storey opening are small, ornate, attached pinnacles. A section utilizing the familiar unifoil shape divides the second and third floor. Above the third floor, another delicate grapevine is placed (Plate 7). A picture taken during World War I shows that little has been altered on this lower section since its construction (Plate 8).

The upper six floors are noticeably plainer but still feature some interesting elements (Plate 9). The buttresses of the lower level are translated on the upper floors into angled brick elements that end in the terra cotta cornice. The seven bays are continued, with lug sills connecting the paired windows of each level. The top floors feature scaled-down versions of the arched windows of the ground floor (Plate 10), with terra cotta detailing. Above the slender cornice is the terra cotta parapet with its quatrefoil elements, similar to the design of the roofline of the 1914 structure.

The grandeur of the 1914 structure and its 1921-23 addition is not diminished by an addition built in the latter 1950s immediately to the north (Plate 11).

INTERIOR

As one would imagine, the opulence of the exterior was only a harbinger for the interior space, considered one of the finest in the city. Although the owners were careful to use local materials wherever possible, many of the finishing materials were imported - marbles from Italy, furniture and stained and leaded glass from England, and silk brocades and tapestries from France.¹¹

The extensive description that follows was written in a national construction trade magazine in January 1924¹² after the upper floors were completed. The rotunda was finished in an array of stone - buff-coloured Caen stone walls, Tavernell marble wainscoting and Tennessee marble flooring. Arches and English-style lighting fixtures continued the Gothic theme. The main restaurant on the ground floor included two-storey ceilings with walnut wainscoting, above which hung French silk tapestries in greys and blues. This room was considered the most beautiful room in all of Winnipeg for many decades. Special mention was also made in the magazine of the English stained glass that was used extensively throughout the interior. The basement grill room, one of the hotel's largest spaces, featured a heavy beam ceiling with tapestry brick walls, oak accents and a tile floor. The space provided ample room for dancing.

The eighth floor was specially appointed for conventions and meetings. The Blue Room, finished in old Ivory and blue, was located in the northwest corner of the building. The adjoining ballroom could fit 300 couples and had a luxuriously appointed lounge attached to it. The conventional hall, with stage and seating for 450 people, was located nearby. Kitchen facilities were also on this floor and could feed as many as 1,100 guests.

The upper floors were built with the latest in fireproofing technology, including wire mesh windows, eight means of exit (enclosed staircases, fire escapes and three elevators), and steel and hollow tile support. This was also Canada's first hotel to employ a fully automatic sprinkler system.¹³ Ventilation, also an important consideration, was extensively described in the trade

¹¹ Winnipeg Free Press, November 6, 1976, Leisure Magazine, p. 4.

¹² Construction, Vol. XVII, No. 1 (January 1924), pp. 25-31.

¹³ Winnipeg Free Press, November 6, 1976, Leisure Magazine, p. 4.

magazine article. Details were provided on the system of filters and washers used for the fresh-air fans and on the capacity of the foul-air exhaust system.

Another important area was the tea room on the mezzanine floor which was equipped with chintz and rattan furniture and Tiffany fixtures. An adjoining musicians' gallery accommodated live music. The bar, finished in dark wood, was another example of the Gothic styling. No less than twelve barbers worked in the hotel's huge shop.¹⁴

As can be seen from the list in Appendix I, interior alterations to the building have been numerous over the years. The most dramatic in terms of the hotel that has stood since 1923 occurred in 1976-77 with the renovation of the suites into office space and merchandise showrooms. The \$2 million project also entailed the renovation of the suites in the 1956-60 building. The total number of rooms in the hotel dropped to 150 from 280.¹⁵

Presently, much of the original ornamental space in the 1914 section is still intact. The grill room in the basement is gone and its space is used by employees and the Winnipeg Press Club. The ground floor has a coffee shop (Joanna's Café) with high ceilings embellished with carved faces, stained glass windows and a host of other ornamental features. One of the original clocks hangs in here (Plates 12 and 13). The main-floor dining room (Victor's Restaurant) still features the high ceilings and wooden accents. The orchestra gallery above the main doors is still used occasionally (Plates 14 and 15). The mezzanine level has been altered (the tea room no longer exists), although some of the interior finishes can be seen in some of the rooms (Plate 16). The second to seventh floors remain as office space ("The Fashion Mall"). The lower floors have been refinished (exact date unknown), while the sixth and seventh floors do not appear to have been altered since they were converted in the late 1950s. Much of office space on these six floors is now vacant. On the eighth floor, the ballroom space has remained unchanged and still features a wealth of ornamentation (Plates 17 and 18). The ninth floor was renovated in the early 1990s into two meeting rooms.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 4; and Winnipeg Free Press, November 13, 1976, Leisure Magazine, p. 4.

¹⁵ Winnipeg Tribune, August 10, 1976, p. 52 and August 13, 1976, p. 13.

The newer section, which operates as the hotel, was completely renovated over the last five years as part of its operation by the Ramada Inn chain.

INTEGRITY

The hotel stands in its original location and appears to be in good structural condition. Alterations to the original structure have concentrated, as previously mentioned, on the interior.

The first major exterior change came in 1921-23 with the addition of six floors and the construction of a two-storey addition to the north side of the hotel. The latter provided several small office/meeting rooms as well as a larger space which could be internally divided into smaller spaces.¹⁶

The next major change came in 1956 with the announcement of a large addition to the north end of the hotel. Officially opened in February 1960, the eight-storey structure cost nearly \$2 million and included a top-floor dining room – the Skyview Ballroom (Plate 19), 200 rooms, a cocktail lounge, beverage room, coffee shop and basement grill room.¹⁷

STREETSCAPE

The Marlborough Hotel is located in an area that has seen a good deal of development since its construction. It is one of several major buildings of its era that remain an integral part of the downtown streetscape, even with the demolition of some of its nearby contemporaries and the construction of newer office towers, parking garages and other structures.

¹⁶ Architect's Plans #1918/1923. This addition was demolished prior to the construction of the large hotel addition of the late 1950s.

¹⁷ When asked why the project took so long, owner Nathan Rothstein replied, "We ran out of two important metals – gold and silver." Winnipeg Free Press, February 4, 1960, p. 5.

ARCHITECT/CONTRACTOR

James Chisholm and Son was the local architectural firm given the task of designing the Olympia Hotel in 1913. J. Chisholm was born in Ontario and settled permanently in Winnipeg in 1900 (Plate 20). His son, Colin Campbell Chisholm (Plate 21), joined his father's firm in ca.1906 (see Appendix II for additional biographical information). Chisholm has been given 20 points by the Historical Buildings Committee.

The addition of the upper six floors in the early 1920s was supervised by John Hamilton Gordon Russell, who also designed the two-storey addition. He was another well-known local designer who began his career in the city in 1895 (Plate 22). He has also been given 20 points by the Historical Buildings Committee.

Contractor for the hotel in 1913-14 and 1921-23 was another well-known local firm, Carter-Halls-Aldinger. It was one of western Canada's busiest construction companies at the time and a list of its projects would be very long. In 1912 alone, the firm's major works in Winnipeg totalled over \$1.4 million, including the Strand Theatre on Main Street (\$40,000), Winnipeg Electric Railway Company Chambers on Notre Dame Avenue (\$500,000) and the Great West Permanent Loan Company Block on Main Street (\$310,000).¹⁸

PERSON/INSTITUTION

The original owners of the Olympia Hotel were all Italian immigrants (see Plate 23). Leonardi Emma and Joseph Panaro arrived in the early 1890s, the first Sicilian immigrants to reside in Winnipeg.¹⁹ They soon opened a Main Street fruit store and confectionery, later organized as the Emma and Panaro Company. Augustine (Bill) and Guiseppe (Joe) Badali,²⁰ the other owners of the hotel, arrived in Winnipeg shortly after Emma and Panaro. They too opened a fruit store in a small building on the northeast corner of Portage Avenue and Smith Street which, at the time,

¹⁸ City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Book, 1912.

¹⁹ Stanislao Carbone, The Streets Were Not Paved With Gold. A Social History of Italians in Winnipeg (Winnipeg: Manitoba Italian Heritage Committee, 1993), p. 33. Carbone gives their names as Leonardo Emma and Guiseppe Panaro.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 34. Carbone spells the names Agostino and Giuseppe Badali.

was considered a long way from the business district of Winnipeg on Main Street (Plate 24). When the Kensington Building was constructed on the same corner in 1905, the Badali Brothers occupied the ground floor as the Olympia Café. The café was well-known around town and, when Eaton's and other major businesses began moving onto Portage Avenue, business in the restaurant rose dramatically.²¹

The four men pooled their capital, purchased the land north of the Olympia Café in 1910 from printer A.B. Stovel,²² and began their dream of building a high-class hotel in downtown Winnipeg. As mentioned previously, the plans called for finery imported from all over the world and no expense was spared in furnishing the interior spaces (estimated to have cost \$500,000).²³ The owners hired the finest staff, bringing in A.T. Folger, who had managed the Château Laurier in Ottawa, to run the hotel.²⁴

But it soon became apparent that the economy would not turn around quickly enough for the hotel and its owners. The war, the depression and prohibition (which closed bars during the evenings) combined to make it impossible for the owners to continue. The hotel suspended operations in May of 1915, only six months after officially opening.²⁵

The hotel did not remain empty for long. The Canadian government took it over and used it to house members of the 184th Battalion (Plate 8).²⁶ The hotel was owned by the Olympia Hotel Company through the war and it was this group that built the upper floors in 1921. But this company also suffered financial problems and the building was again vacated.²⁷ In 1923, the

²¹ Winnipeg Free Press, November 6, 1976, Leisure Magazine, p. 4.

²² City of Winnipeg Assessment Roll (below as ARo), 1 St. John, Plan 129, Block 3, Lots 214/217.

²³ Winnipeg Free Press, November 13, 1976, Leisure Magazine, p. 4.

²⁴ Manitoba Free Press, November 19, 1914, p. 16.

²⁵ The four men were back in business soon after this set-back, the Badali brothers and Joseph Panaro were listed in 1917 as proprietors of the Olympic Café on Donald Street, Leonardi Emma was a restaurateur on Main Street. Winnipeg Free Press, November 13, 1976, Leisure Magazine, p. 4.

²⁶ M. Peterson, "Manitoba Memories," Senior's Today, October 15, 1996, p. 6.

²⁷ R. Bellan, Winnipeg First Century: An Economic History (Winnipeg: Queenston House Publishing Co., 1978), pp. 158 and 162.

facilities were purchased by Great West Securities Company,²⁸ the two-storey addition was completed, and the facility was renamed the Marlborough Hotel. It was managed for a time by Colonel Ralph Webb, World War I hero and mayor of Winnipeg (1925-27 and 1930-34).²⁹

Since the 1920s, the hotel has seen numerous changes to its ownership, size and function. Owner Nathan Rothstein nearly doubled the number of rooms with the addition to the north end of the original building in 1956-60. From that time until the mid-1970s, the hotel was plagued by ownership changes and losses. It was purchased in March 1975 by the Great-West Life Assurance Company that entered into an agreement with Delta Hotels to manage the facility. The new owners then converted the old suites into offices and showrooms in an attempt to diversify the facility, renamed the Delta Marlborough Inn.³⁰

In 1991, the German-Canadian Congress purchased the building for \$5.5 million with plans to convert part of the space into a cultural centre and part into a seniors' retirement community (the building was to be renamed the Hespeler Centre). Serious financial difficulties surrounded this development, however, and the hotel closed its doors and laid off 120 employees in August 1992.³¹

The hotel/office facility is now run by the Ramada Inn chain.

EVENT

There are no known significant events connected with this building.

²⁸ ARO.

²⁹ Winnipeg Tribune, February 3, 1977, p. 7.

³⁰ Winnipeg Tribute, August 10, 1976, p. 52, and August 13, 1976, p. 13.

³¹ Winnipeg Free Press, January 22, 1991, April 13, 1991, p. 41, August 1, 1992, p. A11, and August 25, 1992, p. B15; and Winnipeg Sun, August 1, 1992, p. 7.

CONTEXT

The Marlborough Hotel has been part of many major developments within the context of Winnipeg. When it was originally built, it was the end of the growth phase of Winnipeg and thus represents one of the last major structures from that era. Its opulence on both the exterior and the interior were common features of the buildings of that era when the city was prosperous and at the forefront of Canadian cities. That it could not sustain itself over the short term was an excellent indication of how Winnipeg's economy had fundamentally changed and that the earlier growth would never be repeated to the same degree.

Construction in the 1950s mirrored a period of renewed optimism when Winnipeg used its geographical location to promote itself as a convention centre for North America. In terms of the Marlborough Hotel, this refocusing met with mediocre success. Since then, financial difficulties have followed the hotel as it has struggled to find its niche in the Winnipeg economy in general and hotel sector specifically.

LANDMARK

The Marlborough Hotel began operations as one of the finest facilities in Winnipeg. Its restaurants, tea room, lounges and other amenities were among the city's finest and everyone was familiar with it. In recent years, however, this familiarity has waned, with newer, more up-to-date facilities gaining in popularity.

Building Permits (A- City Archives; 4th- Fourth floor, 65 Garry Street):

| YEAR | PERMIT NO. | PLANS AVAILABLE | COST | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| 1913 | 1639 | A | \$400,000 | 3-storey hotel |
| 1913 | 4110 | A | \$1,000 | Marquee |
| 1921 | 550 | | \$200,000 | 6-storey addition |
| 1923 | 1918 | A | \$20,000 | 2-storey addition |
| 1929 | 1766 | A | -- | Alteration to beer parlour |
| 1942 | 2552 | A | -- | Beer parlour alteration |
| 1945 | 365 | A | -- | Minor alteration |
| 1950 | 4048 | | -- | Alteration |
| 1951 | 7795 | | -- | Repairs |
| 1955 | 3493 | | -- | |
| 1956 | 127 | | -- | Demolition of north portion |
| 1956 | 1584 | 4 th - V02B11 | \$1,850,000 | Addition to north side |
| 1959 | 4188 | 4 th - M16C13 | \$5,500 | Interior alteration |
| 1961 | 42 | | \$4,500 | Basement lounge |
| 1964 | 1310 | | -- | Alteration |
| 1966 | 2391 | | \$2,000 | Alteration |
| 1970 | 5489 | | \$7,000 | Interior alteration |
| 1973 | 7173 | | \$300,000 | Alteration |
| 1973 | 8673 | 4 th - M15A06 | -- | Alteration |
| 1974 | 1286 | | -- | Alteration |
| 1975 | 393 | | -- | Alteration |
| 1976 | 3926 | 4 th - M15C01 | \$6,000 | Alteration to 6 th floor interior |
| 1976 | 6698 | 4 th - M15B02 | \$1,000 | Exterior alteration |
| 1976 | 7138 | 4 th - M14B11 | \$200,000 | Alteration |
| 1977 | 3678 | 4 th - M03D07 | \$400,000 | Alteration |
| 1978 | 1566 | | \$3,000 | Alteration (mezzanine Press Club) |
| 1979 | 731 | 4 th - M05B13 | \$25,000 | Alteration |
| 1979 | 6295 | | \$1,500 | Interior alteration |
| 1980 | 4651 | | \$100,000 | Renovation to Rose & Crown Room |
| 1980 | 5262 | | \$10,000 | Interior alteration |
| 1985 | 680 | | \$500 | Interior alteration |
| 1991 | 2149 | | \$19,000 | Interior alteration |
| 1991 | 5586 | | \$110,000 | Interior alteration |
| 1991 | 6286 | | \$16,000 | Interior alteration |
| 1996 | 1067 | | \$56,000 | Alteration |

APPENDIX II

James Chisholm

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 plow 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 Building, 1912), and Moose Jaw (Wesley Church, n.d.), Saskatchewan, and Edmonton, Alberta.⁶ An incomplete list of their Winnipeg structures includes:⁷

James Chisholm:

Hochman (formerly Harris) Building, 154 Princess Street (1882)- Grade III
Grace Methodist Church, Notre Dame and Ellice avenues (1883)
A. Wilson House, Charlotte Street (1900)
Addition to J. Ryan Building, 678-80 Main Street (1900)
J.H. Turnbull House, Edmonton Street (1900)
C.N. Bell House, Carlton Street (1900)
D. Horn House, Edmonton Street (1901)
J. Watson House, River Avenue (1901)
C.H. Nix Building, Ross Avenue (1901)
Rev. J.A. McClung House, Balmoral Street (1902)
W.G. Moyses House, Langside Street (1902)
G.N. Jackson House, 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, Higgins Avenue (1902)
Coleclough Company Building, Logan Avenue (1902)
W.J. Guest Building, 598 Main Street (1902)
N. Page House, Spence Street (1902)
J.W. Harris House, 26 Edmonton Street (1902)
A. McCormack House, Edmonton Street (1902)
Wright and Stewart Building, Alexander Avenue (1902)
J.D. McArthur House, Cumberland Avenue (1902)
G. Forsyth House, Carlton Street (1903)
Hotel, Notre Dame Avenue East (1903)
A. MacDonald Company Warehouse, Market Avenue (1903)
C. Lilt House, Hargrave Avenue (1903)
Dr. Clarke House, 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, Notre Dame Avenue (1904)
Manitoba Cartage Company stable, Henry Avenue (1905)
W.J. Guest Fish Warehouse, 98 Alexander Avenue (1905 & 1910)
Exeter Apartments, 76 Lily Street (1905)
Shipley Block, 614-18 Portage Avenue (1906)

James Chisholm and Son:

Woods Building Company Warehouse, Robinson Avenue (1907)
W.J. Guest House, 75 Academy Road (1907)
Jobin-Marrin Warehouse, 158-62 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)
Kipling Apartments, 534-36 Langside Street (1908-09)
J.T. Gordon House, Wellington Crescent (1909)
House for St. John's Methodist Church, Polson Avenue (1909)
G.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 (1910-11)
F.S. Parlee House, Canora Street (1911)

James Chisholm and Son (continued):

E.C. Marrin House, Dorchester Avenue (1911)
Gowans, Kent, Western Building, Market Avenue (1911-12)
Granite Curling Club, 22 Mostyn Place (1912) – Grade III
Sparling Methodist Church, Elgin Avenue (1912)
Thistle Curling Club, McDonald Avenue (1912)
Grandstand for Stampede Amusement Company, Sinclair Street (1913)
B. Shragge Warehouse, Sutherland Avenue (1913)
Marlborough Hotel, 331 Smith Street (1913)
La Salle Hotel, 346 Nairn Avenue (1914)
City Light and Power, additional storey to power house, 54 King Street (1915)
City Light and Power, additions to terminal station, McFarlane Street (1918)
City Light and Power, show room, rear of 54 King Street (1919)
City of Winnipeg garage, Elgin Avenue (1919)
Walter Woods Warehouse, Sutherland Avenue (1920)
F.W. Leistikow Block, Portage Avenue at Dominion Street (1920) and fire repairs (1923)
Filling station for M. Bergstrom, Maryland Street (1924)
Calvary Evangelical Church, Alverstone Street (1925)

C.C. Chisholm:

Royal Oak Court, 277 River Avenue (1928)
Addition, Winnipeg Police Court, Rupert Avenue (1930)

John Hamilton Gordon Russell

J.H.G. Russell was born in Toronto, Canada West (Ontario) in 1862, the son of a dry goods dealer. After attending school in that city, he went to work for H.B. Gordon, a prominent area architect. Russell was with Gordon from 1878 until his departure for Winnipeg in 1882.⁸ From 1886 to 1893, Russell travelled throughout the United States, learning civil engineering, surveying and architecture in centres such as Chicago, Illinois, Spokane and Tacoma, Washington, and Sioux City, Iowa.⁹

⁸ G. Bryce, A History of Manitoba (Toronto: The Canada History Company, 1906), p. 480.

⁹ Ibid., p. 480; and M. Peterson, "The Wilson House (Klinic), 545 Broadway," Report to the Historical Buildings Committee, May 1990, Appendix I, n.p.

In 1895, two years after returning to Winnipeg, he set up his private practice, coinciding with the city's period of unbridled growth. His designs were (and are) scattered throughout the city, province and western Canada, covering a variety of building types, sizes, prices and uses.

Russell was president of the Manitoba Association of Architects (1925) and served for three terms as the president of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (1912-15). His chairmanship of the Presbyterian Church Board of Managers¹⁰ and his devotion to Presbyterianism partially explain the large number of churches he designed for the denomination in Winnipeg and western Canada. Russell died in 1946.

A complete list of his designs would be lengthy indeed. Many of his earlier works have been demolished and therefore usually are no longer included in inventories of his portfolio. Among his projects were:

Outside Manitoba-

- Knox Presbyterian - Prince Albert, Sask.
- Knox Presbyterian - Kenora, Ont.
- St. Andrews Church - Moose Jaw, Sask.

Manitoba-

- Starbuck Presbyterian (United) - 1904
- Treherne Presbyterian (United) - 1907-08 (originally Chambers Presbyterian)
- Pilot Mound Public School
- Killarney Public School
- Foxwarren Public School

Winnipeg-

- Churches- Augustine Presbyterian (United), 444 River Avenue, 1903-4
- Crescent-Fort Rouge Methodist (United), 525 Wardlaw Avenue, 1906-11
- Westminster Presbyterian (United), 745 Westminster Avenue, 1910-12
(Grade II)
- Robertson Memorial Presbyterian (United), 648 Burrows Avenue, 1911
- Robertson Memorial Presbyterian Institute, Burrows Avenue, 1911
- Knox Presbyterian (United), 400 Edmonton Street, 1914-17

¹⁰ M. Peterson, op. cit., n.p.

J.H.G. Russell, continued:

Winnipeg-
Churches-

Home Street Presbyterian (United), 318 Home Street, 1920
St. John's Presbyterian (United), 250 Cathedral Avenue, 1923 (Grade III)
Riverview Presbyterian (United), 360 Oakwood Avenue 1925

Residences- J.H.G. Russell, 237 Wellington Crescent (demolished)
R.R. Wilson, 545 Broadway, 1904 (Grade III)
H. Archibald, 176 Roslyn Road, 1909
J.D. Ormsby, 119 Campbell Street, 1910
J.H. Ashdown, 529 Wellington Crescent (now Khartum Temple), 1913
(Grade II)
R.R. Wilson, 680 Wellington Crescent, 1925

Commercial- Addition to J.H. Ashdown Warehouse, 157-179 Bannatyne Avenue, 1899-
1911 (Grade II)
Lake of the Woods Building, 212 McDermot Avenue, 1901 (Grade III)
Hammond Building, 63 Albert Street, 1902
Porter and Company Building, 368 Main Street, 1902-03 (demolished)
McKerchar Block, 600-02 Main Street, 1902-03
Additions to McClary Building, 185 Bannatyne Avenue, 1903 & 1904
(Grade III)
Thomson Block, 499 Main Street, 1903 (demolished)
Adelman Building, 92-100 Princess Street, 1903 (Grade II)
Bole Warehouse, 70 Princess Street, 1903
Additions to the Bright and Johnston Building, 141 Bannatyne Avenue,
1903 & 1907 (Grade III)
Silvester and Willson Building, 73 Albert Street, 1904
Green and Litster Block, 235-7 Fort Street, 1904 (demolished)
Franklin Press, 168 Bannatyne Avenue, 1904 (Grade III)
Addition to Daylite Building, 296 McDermot Avenue, 1904 (Grade II)
J.H. Ashdown Store, 476 Main Street, 1904
Allman Block, 592-4 Main Street, 1904
Porter Building, 165 McDermot Avenue, 1906 (Grade III)
Child's (McArthur) Building, Portage Avenue, 1909 (demolished)
Glengarry Block, 290 McDermot Avenue, 1910 (Grade III)
Dingwall Building, 62 Albert Street, 1911 (Grade III)
Great West Permanent Loan Company Building, 356 Main Street, 1912
(demolished)
Eastman Kodak Building, 287 Portage Avenue, 1930 (demolished)

J.H.G. Russell, continued:

Other- Gladstone School, Pembina Street, 1898 (demolished)
Casa Loma Block, Portage Avenue, 1909
Chatsworth Apartments, 535 McMillan Avenue, 1911
YMCA, Selkirk Avenue, 1911
YMCA, 301 Vaughan Street, 1911-13, with Jackson and Rosencrans of New
York, (Grade II)
Guelph Apartments, 778 McMillan Avenue, 1912
Addition to the Marlborough (Olympia) Hotel, 321 Smith Street, 1921-23
Odd Fellows Home, 4025 Roblin Boulevard, 1922
Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Portage Avenue, 1928
Hugh John Macdonald School, William Avenue, 1929
Aurora Court Apartments, 543 Ellice Avenue, n.d.
Central Park Block, 389 Cumberland Avenue, n.d.
Johnson Apartment Block, 524 Sargent Avenue, n.d.

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 1 – Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 269 Donald Street, is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Canada. Designed by Charles H. Wheeler (1838-1917) and built between 1882 and 1884. (Provincial Archives of Manitoba.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 2 – Former School for the Deaf, 500 Shaftesbury Boulevard, one of the few Collegiate Gothic style buildings in Winnipeg; built in 1921-22, designed by J.D. Atchison. (M. Peterson, 1998.)



Plate 3 – Marlborough Hotel, front (west) façade. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL

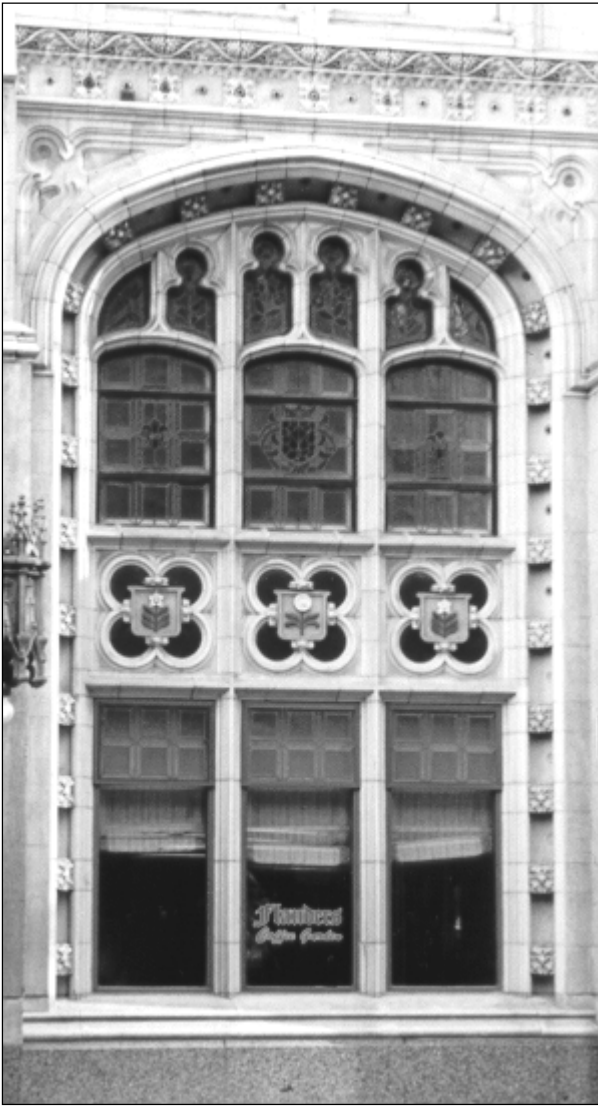


Plate 4 - Marlborough Hotel, main-floor window. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL

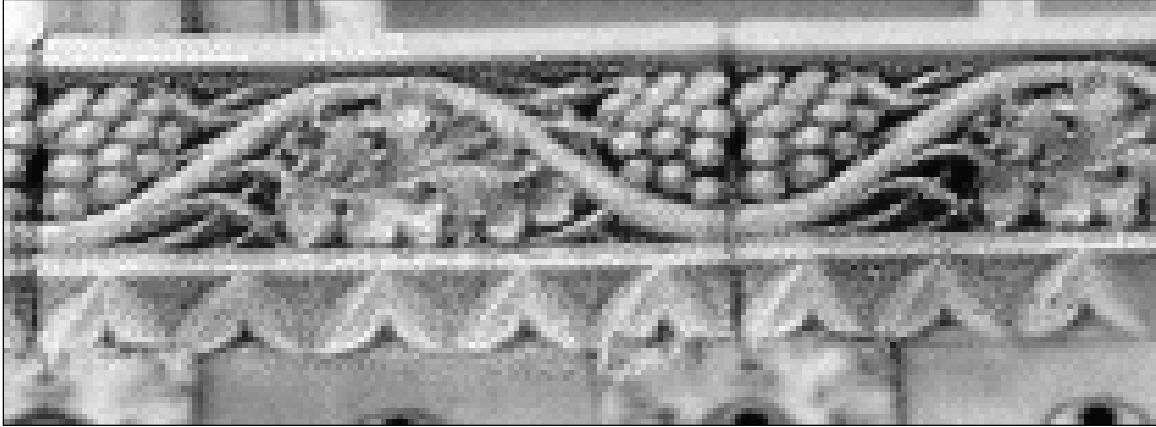


Plate 5 – Marlborough Hotel, detail of grapevine on front (west) façade. (M. Peterson, 1998.)



Plate 6 - Marlborough Hotel, iron light on front (west) façade. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 7 - Marlborough Hotel, detail of upper-floor ornamentation. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL

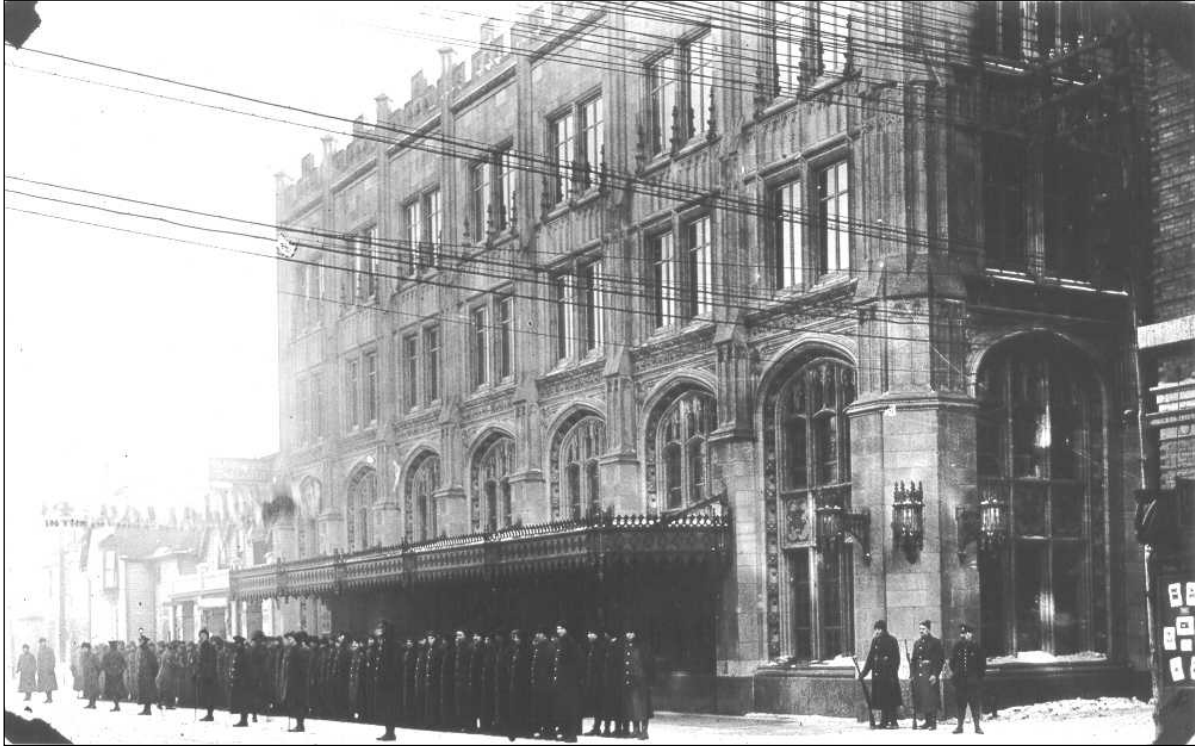


Plate 8 – World War I recruits lined up outside the Olympia Hotel, Smith Street, 1915. (Provincial Archives of Manitoba.)



Plate 9 - Marlborough Hotel, upper floors of front (west) façade. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 10 - Marlborough Hotel, portion of front (west) façade. (M. Peterson, 1998.)



Plate 11 – Marlborough Hotel complex. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 12 - Marlborough Hotel, first-floor coffee shop. (M. Peterson, 1998.)



Plate 13 - Marlborough Hotel, original Dingwall clock in coffee shop. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 14 - Marlborough Hotel, first-floor restaurant. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 15 - Marlborough Hotel, orchestra loft above first-floor restaurant. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 16 - Marlborough Hotel, Oxford Room, mezzanine level. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

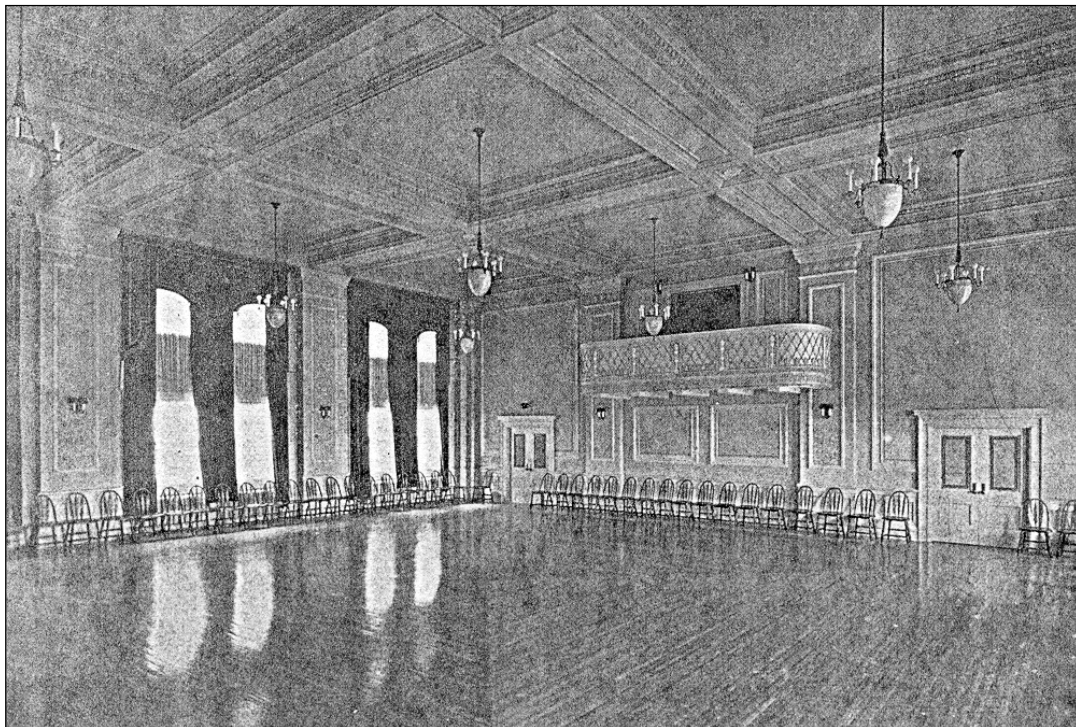


Plate 17 – Marlborough Hotel, eighth-floor ballroom, as it looked in 1924. (Construction, Vol. XVIII, No. 1 (January 1924, p. 27.))

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 18 - Marlborough Hotel, eighth-floor ballroom, 1923 section. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

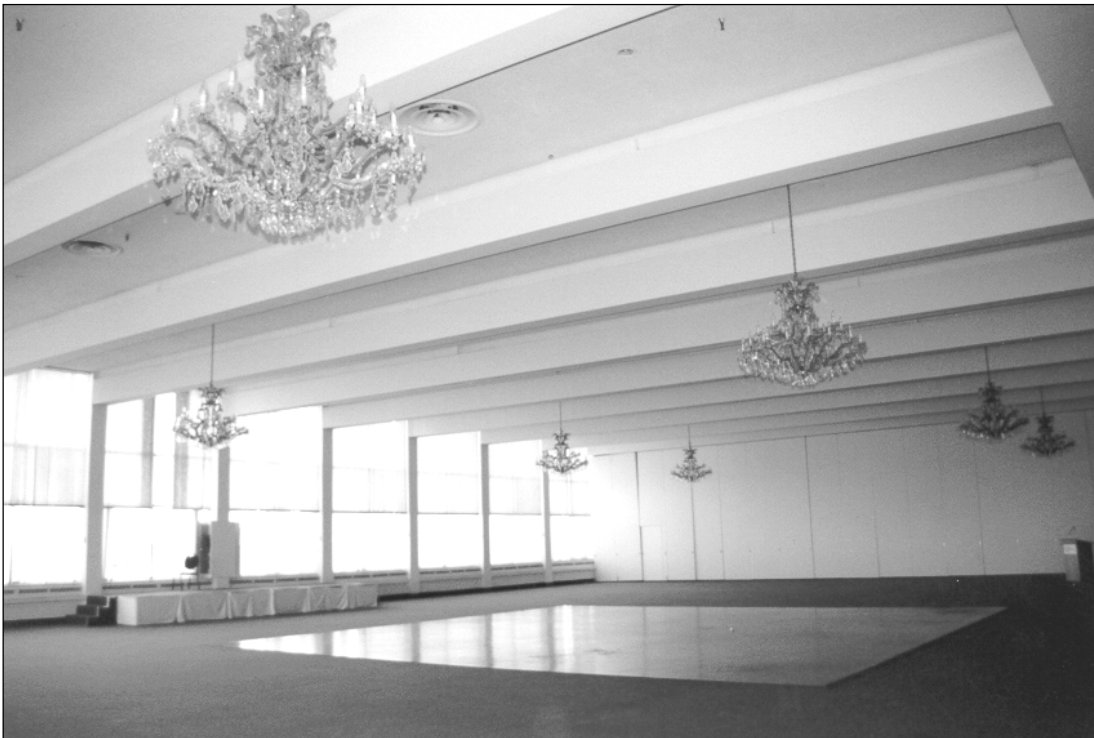


Plate 19 – Marlborough Hotel, the Skyview Ballroom. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL

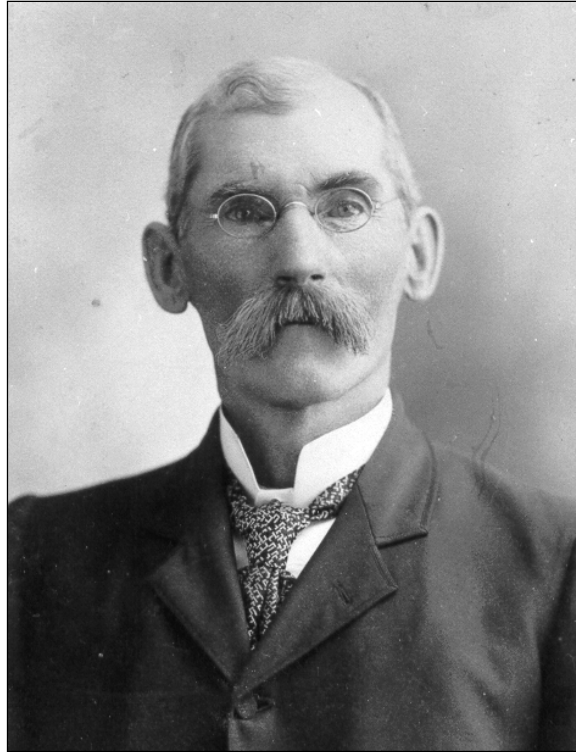


Plate 20 – James Chisholm, no date. (M. Peterson Collection.)

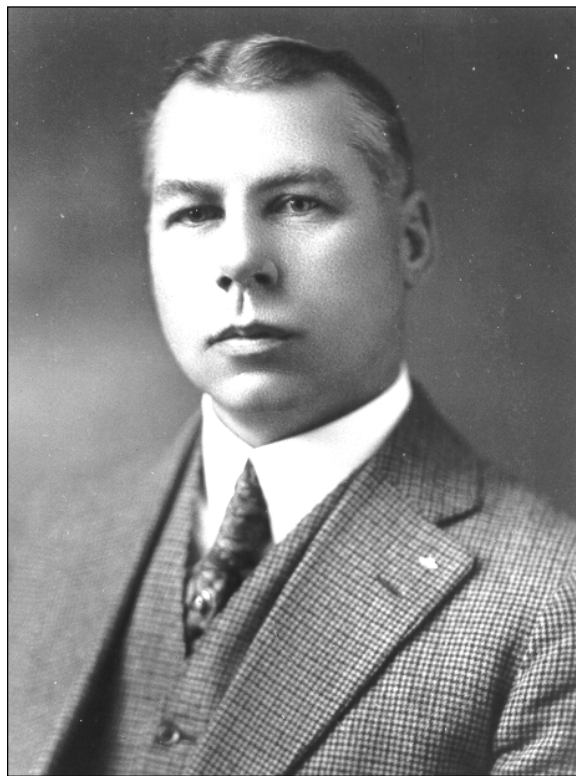


Plate 21 – Colin Campbell Chisholm, no date. (M. Peterson Collection.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL

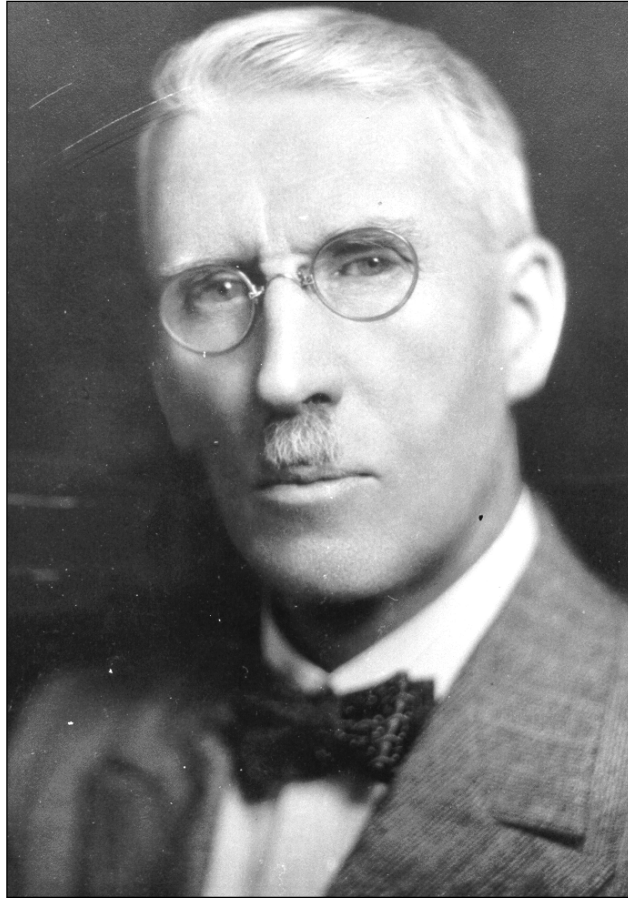


Plate 22 – John Hamilton Gordon Russell, no date. (Western Canada Pictorial Index.)

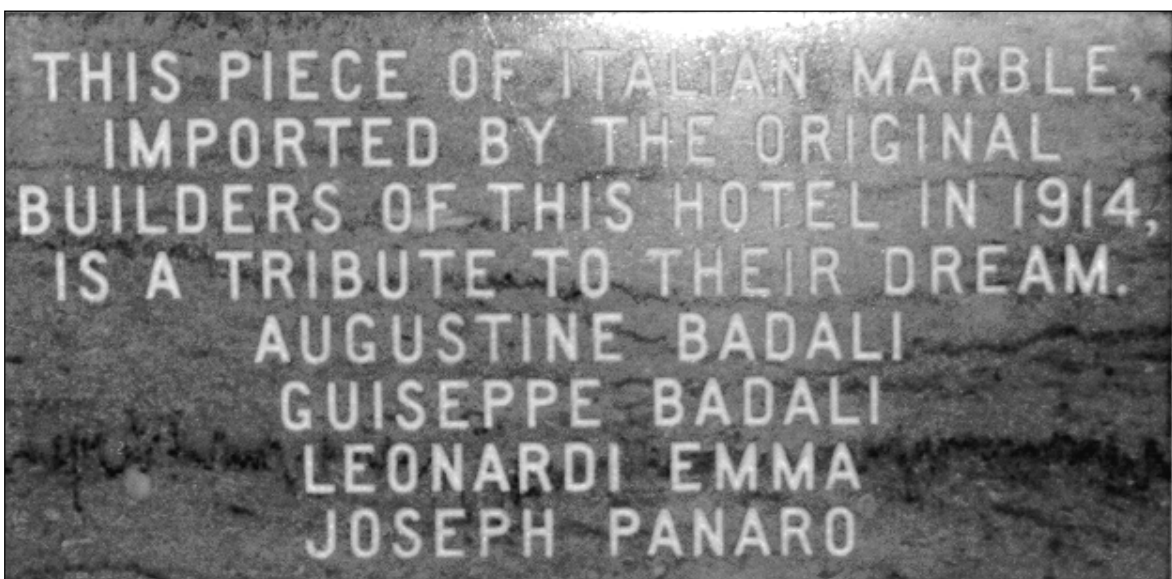


Plate 23 – Marble table in lobby commemorating the original owners of the Olympia Hotel. (M. Peterson, 1998.)

321-31 SMITH STREET – MARLBOROUGH (OLYMPIA) HOTEL



Plate 24 – The Badali Brothers Fruit and Confectionery Shop, Portage Avenue, ca.1900.
(Reproduced from S. Carbone, The Streets Were Not Paved With Gold. A Social History of Italians in Winnipeg.)