

63 ALBERT STREET – HAMMOND BUILDING
J.H.G. Russell, 1902



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

The early Hammond Building was only two storeys, 44 x 122 feet of brick with wood beam and post construction. The architect was J.H.G. Russell, and the cost was \$14,000. In 1905, a further two storeys were added which were leased out as sample rooms to manufacturer's agents. Again in 1907, more space was added to the north side at a cost of \$35,000, and the final addition was made in 1909. It is obvious that Hammond added to his building in this piecemeal

fashion as he acquired the capital. With a variety of architects used in the process, not all the additions were sympathetic to the original design. There were 52 suites in 1909, but a fire in 1923 gutted most of the interior. When the internal structure was rebuilt under the direction of J.H.G. Russell, only 25 suites were renovated.

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

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