

**283 BANNATYNE AVENUE – TRAVELLERS BUILDING**  
*Darling and Pearson, 1906*



Located at the corner of Bannatyne Avenue and King Streets, this handsome building as erected in 1906 as the Northwest Commercial Travellers Building. This was a national organization, founded in Winnipeg in 1882. It acted as a protective union for its members who were traveling salesmen. At that time Winnipeg was the center of a huge supply area that extended from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean. The head offices and warehouses of dozens of supply industries located in Winnipeg's warehouse district and an army of traveling salesmen peddled their wares to the towns and villages of the north-west. This Northwest Commercial Travellers Association grew to include 2,000 members by 1906 and provided accident policies, insurance and reduced train and hotel rates for its members. The group still exists.

The Travellers Building is six storeys high, built of reinforced concrete with an exterior of deep red brick. Darling and Pearson, a prestigious firm of Toronto architects, designed the structure which was built at a cost of \$115,000. In the basement were Turkish baths and a barber shop, a restaurant on the main floor, and a dining room, club room, smoking and reading rooms and the

Association offices on the second floor: in short, everything for the weary salesmen. Third and fourth storeys were rented office space, taken by manufacturers' agents and there were show rooms on the sixth floor. The building was finished with a handsome stone archway at the entrance, marble finishing and dark oak woodwork.

In 1954, the federal government made some alterations to the building to house the office of the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Health and Welfare Department. In 1976, it was redeveloped to become a vertical shopping center with a series of specialty shops, galleries and restaurants.