

STOVEL PRINTING COMPANY BUILDING – 365 BANNATYNE AVENUE
(Woodman and Carey, 1916)



Despite difficult wartime conditions, the Stovel Printing Company was forced in 1916 to revive plans for a new plant on the western edge of Winnipeg's warehouse district after its existing premises on McDermot Avenue were gutted by fire.

Stovel's was organized in the city in 1889 by three brothers) John, Augustus B. and Chester D. Stovel) who previously produced a weekly newspaper in their hometown of Mount Forest, Ontario. The firm quickly developed into one of Winnipeg's larger and more progressive printers. In 1893, for example, it was the first in Canada to acquire a job Linotype. It also was among the earliest producers of three-colour process plates.

The Stovels had moved in 1893 from the Spencer Block on Portage Avenue to a new three-storey facility at McDermot and Arthur Street (the present-day Kay Building). Although they substantially expanded this structure a few years later, new quarters were again required by the early 1910s. A

satellite warehouse was established on the north side of Bannatyne Avenue between Dagmar and Ellen streets, but the outbreak of World War I left plans for a new printing plant on hold.

This was one of several large projects delayed or abandoned during the period, causing an abrupt end to Winnipeg's pre-war investment boom. By 1916, the volume of construction activity had dropped by more than 65 per cent and the total value of permits was barely one-fifth the level achieved two years earlier.

The Stovels had to act, however, when a May 1916 fire left only the walls of their McDermot Avenue building intact. They engaged John Woodman and Raymond Carey to design a replacement factory/warehouse for the Bannatyne property. This \$160,000 facility was built by the Fort Garry Construction Company.

The Woodman-Carey partnership produced several office and industrial structures in the city between 1911 and 1916, including the Lindsay, Paris, Free Press, Hudson's Bay Company Wholesale, and Union Stock Yards Administration buildings. Woodman (1860-1944), an Ontarian, came to Winnipeg in 1880 as a railway engineer and construction superintendent. He entered private practice in 1901, becoming a local pioneer in reinforced concrete construction. Following his association with Carey, Woodman worked with A.E. Cubbidge, then eventually retired in 1927. Little is known about Carey except that he was still designing houses as of 1939.

The Stovel Building is a utilitarian, two-storey, rectangular structure with a reinforced concrete foundation, columns, beams, and floors. It has extra-large footings to accommodate future upward expansion. It also contains interior mushroom columns which spread at both floor and ceiling level to enhance structural support.

The 2.14-metre raised basement is faced with smooth-cut Tyndall limestone. Above, contrasting hard-wire-cut red brick covers the exterior walls. The main entrance is outlined by a large by plain stone frame which encompasses both the basement and first floor in the middle of the symmetrical front (south) facade. Additional highlights are provided by stone lug sills under main-floor windows, a wide stone belt between the first and second storeys, and stone panels that surround

groups of four windows set along the upper level of the front and side elevations. Extending upward between these panels are low, horizontal sections of red brick that give a battlement effect to the roof-line.

Post-construction alterations included a new basement (1959) and new loading dock, roof, windows, and flooring (1977). The original main interior stairway remains, as does some of the top-floor warehouse space.

After the Stovel brothers died, management of the printing firm eventually transferred to non-family interests. In c.1953, the company became known as Stovel-Advocate Publishing. However, it was no longer listed in city directories by 1976. The Bannatyne building subsequently was sold to the Dominion Construction Co., then to GWG Limited, and occupied by the Sterling-Stall Group, fur dealers.