



567 BANNATYNE AVENUE
HUGH JOHN MACDONALD SCHOOL

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



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Date of Construction: 1929

Building Permit: 2976/1929 (Plans at City Storage)

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Claydon Brothers

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

Built in the late 1920s to meet the demand for more classroom space in the neighbourhood, this school has served its community for many years.

This austere, brick-clad building features an elongated plan with running the entire block between William and Bannatyne avenues on the west side of Kate Street. A main entrance with stone embellishments is located on the south end while the central portion of the east façade, believed to be the original 1929 building, is the most ornately treated – modest pilasters, buttresses, large windows with wide concrete lintels and stone sills. Many of the windows in this area have been bricked in.

Additions in 1955-1957, 1964 and 1966 have brought the school to its present size. The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition.



South façade, 2009

The school is a reduced example of the Collegiate Gothic style. This style rose in popularity after 1900 as a reaction to the highly ornamented buildings of the earlier Gothic Revival style. The newer version opted for much simpler silhouettes and subdued ornamentation, in the words of one author, “a calm, disciplined monumentality.”¹

Flat surfaces were preferred; buildings were often long, low symmetrical masses embellished with crenellated towers and the distinctive pointed arch of the Gothic style. Construction material was monochromatic, usually brick or stone, again a departure from the multi-hued façades of the Gothic Revival style. Inspiration for the detailing of the new style was found in the English Perpendicular Gothic design of the 15th century. Because it found widespread expression on the campuses of many North American universities and then in the public school system, it became known as Collegiate Gothic.²

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Named after famous and influential Winnipeg lawyer and politician Hugh John Macdonald, this school is built on the site of the Winnipeg Collegiate Institute (built 1891), which later became known as Maple Leaf School.³



East façade, 2009

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

Under the Historical Buildings By-law, this building meets a number of important criteria:

- its historical importance- a late-1920s era school built just as the Great Depression began and an example of the expansion of services by the Winnipeg School Division;
- its associations- its long-term connections to Winnipeg School Division;
- its design- a reduced example of the Collegiate Gothic style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- defines three important intersection and contributes to the historic streetscape of the neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



East and south façades, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough: Broadview Press Ltd., 1992), p. 166.
- ² Ibid., p. 166; and Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, Historic Resources Branch, 1991), p. 20.
- ³ G. Bugailisikis, "School Buildings of the Winnipeg School Division No. 1: An Inventory of Extant School Buildings to 1940" report for the City of Winnipeg Department of Environmental Planning, 1986, p. 63