

124 KING STREET – A. CARRUTHERS COMPANY BUILDING
James Chisholm and Son, 1916



Little construction occurred during World War I because of a lack of materials and manpower. Andrew Carruthers, a Scottish born businessman who had been operating a hide and wool supply company in the City since the late 1880s, was different. His business continued to grow (it became one of the largest of its type in Western Canada), necessitating the construction of this two-storey brick and stone block on the west side of King Street near City Hall, beside his headquarters at 120 King Street.

Costing \$10,000 to build, the structure measures 7.6 x 22.9 metres, the 33.0-centimetre thick solid brick walls rest on a stone foundation 50.8 centimetres thick. Ornamental features were kept to a minimum on the front (east) façade: dark brick walls, modest limestone accenting and ornamental brickwork. The rear (west) and north façades are plainly designed and finished.

The interior of the building originally held both public and private office space on the ground floor and open storage on the second floor. The building has been renovated into restaurant/bar space and much of the original finish and layout was lost. The south wall has been opened on the ground and second floor to give access to the neighbouring building at 120 King Street.

James Chisholm (1840-1920) and his son Colin C. Chisholm (1883-1936), who joined his father's firm in 1906, designed this building. The senior Chisholm began his local architectural practice in 1877 and then after moving to the United States in the early 1890s, returned to Winnipeg in 1900 and was responsible for many fine buildings throughout the City, including: Hochman (formerly Harris) Building, 154 Princess Street (built in 1882); J.W. Harris House, 26 Edmonton Street (1902); and W.J. Guest Fish Warehouse, 98 Alexander Avenue (1905 & 1910). The partnership also produced some notable work: I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows') Temple, 293 Kennedy Street (built 1910); Sterling Bank Building, 283 Portage Avenue (1910-1911); the Granite Curling Club, 22 Granite Way (1912); and the Marlborough Hotel, 331 Smith Street (1913).

Elements of the building that would require approval if alterations were planned are:

Exterior-

- Two-storey brick building with its primary façade facing east on King Street;
- Front (east) façade with its multi-hued dark face brick with stone window sills on the ground and second floors, large ground floor window with wood mullions with decorative capitals and base, evidence of original storefront cornice and awning above ground floor window, door in opening and flat roofline;
- North masonry wall with windows with residual metal components in openings on both floors with stone lug sills; and
- West rear wall with windows and door in openings on both floors with stone lug sills on the second floor and metal element above second storey window.

Interior-

- Exposed masonry walls;
- Basement vault and vault elements on the first floor;
- Wood elements of the central staircase; and
- Wood ceiling on the second floor.