



266 LINWOOD STREET
LINWOOD SCHOOL

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



266 LINWOOD STREET LINWOOD SCHOOL

Date of Construction: 1913

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Melville, Alexander R.¹

Contractor: Frid-Lewis Company²

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This red brick, two-storey school building rests on a raised foundation and is similar to public school buildings designed by the larger, more established Winnipeg School Division to the east.

The front (east) façade features large basement windows in the raised foundation wall to provide natural light and ventilation to the classroom space located below grade. The symmetrically designed façade features a centrally located main entrance located atop a wide set of open stairs. Stone is used as accenting around window and door openings and a carved panel with the words “LINWOOD SCHOOL A.D. 1913” is found at the roof line directly above the front doors.



South façade, 2009

The north and south façades were designed with several window openings on each floor; the north end includes two one-storey additions. The rear (west) elevation includes two entrances, marked “BOYS” and “GIRLS”.

The school building stands on its original site, appears to be in good structural condition and does not appear to have suffered major exterior alteration.

This home was the design of brothers Alexander R. and William Melville. A.R. was born in 1873 in Fraserburgh, Scotland and received his architectural and civil engineering degrees in Aberdeen. He came to Winnipeg early in the 20th century and began a practice with his brother William Melville. For many years A.R. Melville was a member of the Manitoba Association of Architects and one of its early council members (1919-20).³ He was also a provincial government draftsman for a short period prior to his retirement. He died in 1949.⁴

The brothers were responsible for designing over 10 fire halls across the city. In the 1913 list, the two brothers appear to have dissolved the partnership. By 1915, William Melville is no longer listed in the directory.⁵

An incomplete list of Melville brother designs includes Fire Hall No. 3, 56 Maple Street (1904, Grade II), Fire Hall No. 8, 325 Talbot Avenue (1906, Grade III), G.A. Glines House (Tremblay Apartments), 55 Hargrave Street (1906, Grade III), Broadway Court Apartments, 251 Broadway (1906, demolished), Fire Hall No. 7, 180 Sinclair Avenue (1910, Grade III), Fire Hall No. 12, 1055 Dorchester Street (1911, Grade III), Coliseum Dance Hall, 225 Fort Street (1912, demolished), Colonial Theatre, 634 Main Street (1912, demolished), Rex (Epic) Moving Picture Theatre, 646 Main Street (1912-13, Grade II), St. Vital Fire Hall, 596 St. Mary's Road (1914, Grade III), Manitoba Telephone System Building, 166 Portage Avenue



Rear (west) and north façades, 2009

East (1930-1931) and Telephone Exchange Building, Elkhorn, Manitoba, 1932. The brothers have been given 10 points by the Historical Buildings Committee.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

This area west of Winnipeg, the Silver Heights/Deer Lodge area, developed quickly in 1912 with a number of grand residential neighbourhood schemes that looked to populate this area. Land was subdivided, lots were surveyed and streets set out. Linwood Avenue, just east of the Portage Avenue bridge to Assiniboine Park (originally known as City Park), was the site of an early four-room frame school building. As part of the development of the area, the school board and the ratepayers decided that a large, more modern facility was warranted and tenders were called in December 1912. Construction began in 1913 and the fine new 12-classroom school was opened that year. The original school building was converted into a manual training department.⁶

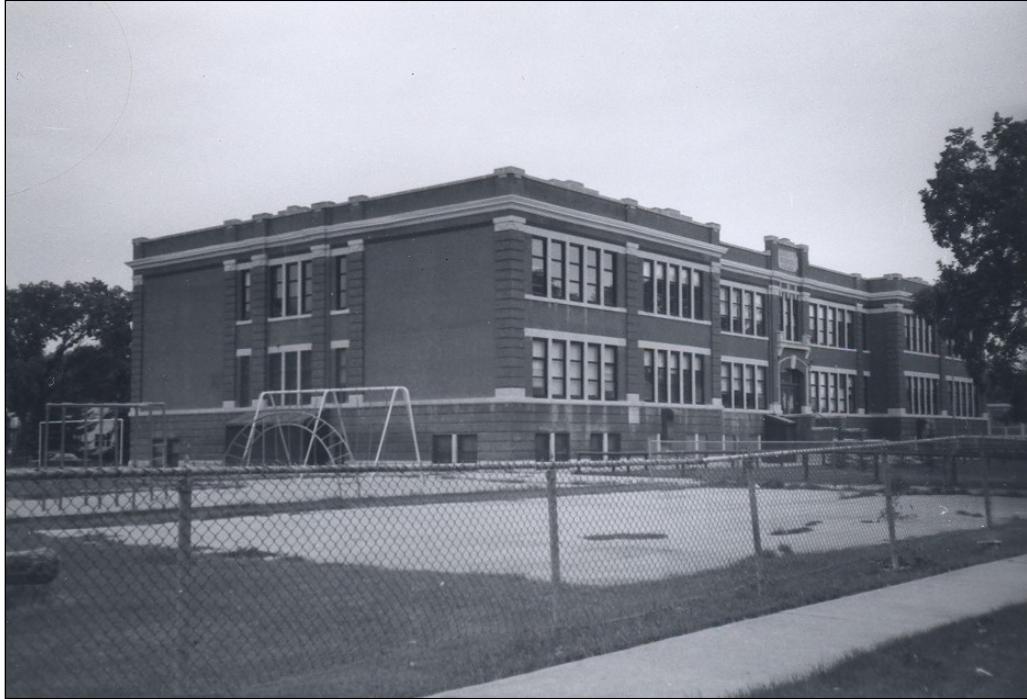


Rear (west) façade, 2009

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- one of the oldest public school buildings in West Winnipeg and an excellent example of a modern school facility built by one of Winnipeg's surrounding communities in the pre-War era;
- its associations- its long-term connections to early public education in St. James;
- its design- an excellent example of a two-storey school building with classical detailing and a raised basement;
- its architect- A.R. Melville was a respected and important practitioner;
- its location- contributes greatly to its neighbourhood streetscape and conspicuous in the area; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (east) and south façades, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Manitoba Free Press, May 2, 1914, p. 11.
- ² Manitoba Free Press, May 16, 1914, p. 11.
- ³ “Alexander Melville” file at the office of the Manitoba Association of Architects.
- ⁴ M. Peterson, 56 Maple Street - Fire Hall No. 3 (Fire Hall No. 2), report for the City of Winnipeg Historical Buildings Committee, October 1990, Appendix I.
- ⁵ City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Books, 1900-1915.
- ⁶ Manitoba Free Press, December 12, 1912, p. 20 and May 2, 1914, p. 11.