

145 MARKET AVENUE – STANLEY BROCK BUILDING
John Hamilton Gordon Russell, 1916



In 1916, in the middle of World War I, the Grain Growers' Grain Company (GGG) completed this large building in downtown Winnipeg. The Company was formed in 1906, the first co-operative grain handling organization owned and managed by farmers in Western Canada that would ultimately become United Grain Growers. Expansion and mergers greatly increased the business of the GGG which built its headquarters on Market Avenue, only to sell them shortly after completion.

The next owner/tenant of the property was the Stanley Brock Company, founded in Winnipeg in 1908, a laundry machinery and cleaning goods distributor. The company operated out of the building into the 1970s and rented out some of the space to small-scale wholesalers and commission agents. Athletes Wear was a tenant in the 1990s. The building has been converted into office and residential space.

The main (south) façade features rusticated stone cladding a grade leading to the dark red brick superstructure with cut stone accenting around doors and windows. A stone cornice and stepped, stone-capped parapet highlight the flat roof. The east façade is hidden by the neighbouring building, the west façade is plainly designed, as is the rear (north) façade, which originally looked out on a back lane that included a spur rail line. Some alterations to the original design have occurred, including the replacement of the original window units.

The original interior featured a large showroom and shipping area that was connected to the interior driveway placed in the building's southeast corner. General and private offices were found on the second floor and the upper levels were undivided storage space. The main staircase at the front of the building was designed with tin ceilings, wood accenting and large windows.

J.H.G. Russell, one of Winnipeg's most prolific early 20th century architects, was responsible for the design of this building. Russell designed dozens of buildings of every size and use throughout his long career. Sutherland Construction Company, a local building firm, was the building contractor.

The building stands on its original location and appears to be in good structural condition. Alterations to the original exterior have been minimal.

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

Exterior-

- Four-storey brick and stone warehouse with main façades facing south onto Market Avenue and west onto Lily Street;
- Main (south) façade with its rusticated stone cladding at grade, dark red brick superstructure, smooth cut stone entablature as belt course dividing the first and second floors and bracketed above the main entrance (west end) and former interior driveway (east end), the upper three storeys with large, squared windows in openings with stone lug sills, a stone cornice above the fourth floor windows and the stepped and stone capped parapet at roof level; and
- The rear (north) façade with a ladder-type fire escape and windows in arched openings with lug sills and radiating heads.

Interior-

- Components of the heavy timber mill structural system;
- East demising wall; and
- Steel lintels on the front (south) windows.