



515 PORTAGE AVENUE

**WESLEY HALL
UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG**

City of Winnipeg
Historical Buildings Committee

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HISTORY:

The history of secondary education in Manitoba began with the establishment of the Roman Catholic St. Boniface College in 1818. The Anglicans followed in 1866 with St. John's College and the Presbyterians with Manitoba College during 1871. Among the Protestant denominations was a relative newcomer to the Manitoba scene, the Wesleyan Methodist Church. In the autumn of 1867, a Methodist missionary, the Reverend George McDougall, attended the annual meeting of the Missionary Board held at Whitby, Ontario. There,

He...made a strong appeal for the establishment of a Mission in the Red River Settlement...which he felt would ere long become the home of many of our Canadian Church members and adherents and where there was already a population of ten or twelve thousand, including natives and foreigners, many of whom were insufficiently supplied with the ordinances of religion.¹

So persuasive was McDougall's appeal, that the Board passed a resolution to establish a Red River Mission. The following spring, a volunteer was found in the Reverend George Young (1821-1910), then the 46 year-old minister of Richmond Street Church in Toronto.² Much has been written about Dr. Young's establishment of the Methodist Mission at Red River in the summer of 1868 and his subsequent construction of Grace Church in 1871 on an acre of Hudson's Bay Company land at the southeast corner of Main Street and Water Avenue. (PLATE 1) This marked the beginning of a part of what would eventually evolve into the United Church of Canada.

During the summer of 1872, a Methodist deputation from Toronto visited Winnipeg to check the progress of Young's efforts. The report of Reverend W. Morley Punshon, Reverend E. Wood and J. Macdonald on their return to Ontario, would mark the beginning of Methodist education in Manitoba.³ At the time, the public school system was in a state of disarray, while the denominational schools of the Catholic Church were prospering. This was so much the case that

...a considerable number of the Protestant children of the village were being sent to the institution opened by the ‘Sisters of Charity’ on Notre Dame Street East [St. Mary’s Academy] and among them several of the Sabbath-School scholars of Grace Church. The parents of some of these, finding they were learning some un-Protestant notions and customs, such as crossing themselves before meals, etc., complained to their pastor, asking if something could not be done to protect them from such teaching...⁴

Young responded by erecting a building, which soon became too small to accommodate all the scholars. This led to renewed efforts by him at the London, Ontario Conference to obtain funds from the Methodist Church. The subscription was met with great liberality; so much so in fact, that after local educational needs were satisfied, there remained enough money to aid in the construction of the first Zion Church in Winnipeg, plus five other small churches at outlying points.⁵

Young’s school at Winnipeg was a two-storey wood frame building built in the autumn of 1873 to the north of Grace Church.⁶ This cost about \$2,600 and was referred to as a “tasty edifice” in one press report.⁷ The Manitoban Wesleyan Institute opened on 3 November with space for 100 pupils, though 47 were actually registered. Evening classes were also held in a commercial course and modern languages.⁸ The Institute was under the charge of Reverend Allan Bowerman (c.1848-1927), who later became a major Saskatoon real estate developer. The population of the Institute peaked in the spring of 1876 at 71 pupils; it was destined to exist another year before its closure. According to Young, the rapid development of the Protestant public school system removed the necessity for the Wesleyan Institute.⁹ The building was given over to other purposes after that time, eventually being removed for the Manitoba Hotel in 1889-90.

In the meantime, during 1877, the Manitoba Legislature had passed “An Act to Incorporate Wesley College,”¹⁰ as well as incorporating the University of Manitoba and Trinity College (Methodist Episcopal). The College did not proceed past this Act until 1886, when the Charter was amended to reflect the ecclesiastical and demographic changes of the preceding decade.¹¹ Despite this, the new Board of Directors for Wesley did little to promote this institution of higher education for over a year. In June 1887, at the Methodist Conference held at Brandon, Clifford

Sifton initiated a resolution to secure an immediate meeting of the Wesley directors to start the theological institute. This commission gave its report the next day recommending creation of a college and a subscription list of donors.¹²

Canvassing for funds was undertaken by Reverend Andrew Stewart of Deloraine. A year later, enough funds were in place to hire a principal, and a selection was made in Reverend Joseph Walter Sparling (1843-1912), then in Kingston, Ontario. Sparling arrived in Winnipeg on 19 August, and spent the next month and a half setting up his new charge. Wesley College was informally opened on 1 October 1888 in a suite of rooms in Grace Church on Notre Dame Avenue.¹³ The editor of the Morning Call waxed eloquent upon the event, stating that Wesley College was "...to be welcomed as an evidence of the capability of the University of such development as the increase of population and the new demands of educational progress require."¹⁴ Wesley received an almost immediate affiliation with the University of Manitoba. On that first day, Professors Sparling and R.R. Cochrane met with the first three students. They were joined a few days later by two more students and another professor, Dr. G.J. Laird. By term's end, Wesley had 7 students and three professors.¹⁵

While Wesley reopened in Grace Church for its second term, student body growth had reached 40, and the facility was moved to a building on Albert Street, just north of Notre Dame Avenue.¹⁶ Conditions there were quite abominable and they only remained there for one term.¹⁷ A new home was found in a large, brick-veneered mansion situated at the southeast corner of Broadway and Edmonton Street. (PLATE 2) Built in 1882 for real estate speculator George Winks, the mansard-roofed edifice had lately been the rented home of lawyer J.A.M. Aikins who was also a director of Wesley College. The 15 room dwelling was to be Wesley's headquarters for the next five years. When opened on 1 October 1890, the new facility had accommodation for 100 pupils, though it probably only had about 35 in attendance,¹⁸ increasing to 60 members by year's end.¹⁹ Chemistry classes were held in concert with other colleges in the McIntyre Block on Main Street.²⁰

With the enrollment taking on a spectacular growth rate, the College directors began looking for property upon which to erect a permanent structure. During August 1891, Lieutenant-Governor

John Christian Schultz had endowed Wesley with 240 acres of land,²¹ but this appears to have been rural in nature and meant as a money-maker. At that time, the College was considering three possible sites, all in the western end of Winnipeg. One was a part of the Mulligan Estate, west of Sherbrook Street and south of Portage Avenue; another was the Scott property, south side Portage Avenue, west of Young Street; and the Spence Estate, on the north side of Portage, between Balmoral and Carey (Spence) Streets, and stretching northward to Nellie (Ellice) Avenue.²² This latter site was approximately five acres in size, and had been subdivided by its owner, James Spence, into 53 lots during 1876. In the ensuing 15 years, Spence had only sold two of the Portage Avenue lots,²³ and was constantly complaining about his high taxes.²⁴ Indeed, in 1889, Spence had attempted to unload the property for a public park at \$3,500 an acre, but found no takers.²⁵ Seeing two other competing properties being offered to the College made Spence so anxious that he lowered his price \$2,000 if certain concessions were made.²⁶ As a result, the College purchased the 51 lots offered by Spence on 7 November 1891.²⁷ The two lots not owned by Spence were located at the northwest corner of Portage and Balmoral (Lot 4) and the northeast corner of Portage and Spence (Lot 9). The former lot was vacant and was purchased in 1894,²⁸ while Lot 9 which had a c.1881 brick-veneered building upon it, had been sold to the College in 1892.²⁹ This structure was moved to 278 Balmoral Street in 1900 where it became a house.³⁰ At the time of the Spence purchase, it was stated in the Winnipeg Evening Tribune that “the location is admirable for the interchange of teaching with Manitoba College [on Ellice Avenue at Vaughan Street] which is thought likely to be continued. It is central to other educational institutions in the city and it will show off a fine building to advantage both from Portage Avenue and from the direction of the city.”³¹

There things sat for another year, while the College tried to interest more donors in its programme. In early October 1892, it was reported that a Toronto gentleman had recently “manifested a great interest in the affairs of Wesley College,” and that the Board of Directors had debated at a meeting on the erection of a building.³² It was subsequently revealed that the individual was Hart A. Massey, the agricultural implements mogul, and that he offered \$10,000 as a donation. This was to be increased to \$20,000 should a \$100,000 college be built. As well, \$5,000 was offered by Senator George A. Cox of the Canadian Bank of Commerce.³³ Both men were staunch Methodists. By March 1893, the College fund had \$77,000 pledged,³⁴ and in May

it was decided to ask for architects to submit plans for the consideration of the Board.³⁵ A month later, Dr. Sparling was reported taking two sets of building plans with him to the Methodist Conference in Brandon.³⁶ It is unknown which architects were represented in the two sets: however, in mid-July the architectural firm of Barber and Barber were exhibiting a perspective design in a local store window. Of this, the Free Press commented that the plan “ensures another architectural monument for Winnipeg from the fact that if this one is not built, surely the college board will accept a better one.”³⁷

Another set of plans was accepted: those of architects George Browne and Samuel Frank Peters working in association. These were made public in a mid-January 1894 Board meeting.³⁸ As approved, the new structure was to be four storeys high over a basement, with its walls executed in limestone from quarries at Stoney Mountain and Selkirk. (PLATE 3) Its main façade on Portage Avenue was to be 124’ wide, while it would have a 50’ frontage on Balmoral, 100’ on Spence and 108’ facing Ellice. Browne and Peters’ design was castle-like in appearance — two large towers graced the Portage Avenue façade. The eastern one, the taller of the pair, was octagonal in shape, being surmounted by a steep tower roof with a flag pole. At the base of this roof were gables that ended the stone walls. The smaller tower was round with a similarly steep roof. At its base were dormer windows which were continued as a theme along the slate roof connecting the two towers. A third tower was to be found at the northwest corner of the building. This was the smallest of the three, being a rear tower, but was octagonal like its larger brother to the southeast. The stone façade featured a series of round-topped arches, both on the windows of the main floor, as well as those of the third. All these large features, coupled with the smaller ones of the random-coursed stonework would make this a striking Richardsonian Romanesque style landmark in Winnipeg.

The interior arrangements were spartan in comparison to the elegance of the exterior. The main floor was given over chiefly to classrooms, though rooms for professors, a students’ parlour and the principal’s office were also present. (PLATE 4) Above this, on the second floor were more classrooms, a female students’ parlour and the Chapel. The latter was situated at the rear of the structure, taking in the smallest tower within its confines. This would ultimately become Convocation Hall. The third floor was devoted to dormitories as well as the gallery for the

Chapel. The fourth floor was dominated by more dormitories situated along the outer walls. In all, the new Wesley College was to cost about \$75,000.³⁹

In mid-February, the College Board called for tenders for the new structure.⁴⁰ The competition attracted a considerable number of bids, but a surprise to local builders came when a Calgary contractor, James G. McCallum, was awarded the contract with a bid that was \$7,000 lower than his closest rival.⁴¹ Supposedly, what allowed McCallum to bid so low was that he would use sandstone from the Elbow Quarry which he owned near Calgary.

One of the reasons given for this is the ease with which the sandstone can be worked on account of its softness when first quarried, enabling the workmen to accomplish far more in the same length of time in the preparation of the material than is possible with the much harder limestone.⁴²

While McCallum was the stonework contractor, other trades represented on the Wesley job were: J.C. Gilker; tinsmithing and slating, John Wallace; painting and glazing, James A. Payne; and plumbing by McPherson and McMullen.⁴³ By 17 March, the architects had laid out the building site, and on 19 March 1894, excavations began.⁴⁴ A month later, the Wesley College Board decided to move the building site 25' nearer Portage Avenue than originally intended. This required further excavating.⁴⁵

The cornerstone ceremony was timed to coincide with the annual Methodist Conference being held at Grace Church starting on 21 June. Originally, it was hoped that Hart Massey would lay the cornerstone. Unfortunately, his health took a bad turn, and his place was taken by Dr. Sparling.⁴⁶ Among the featured speakers was Board member and hardware merchant J.H. Ashdown. In commenting on the levels of financial and moral support for Wesley College, he concluded by stating that it “was not a Winnipeg institution merely, it belonged equally to Manitoba and the Northwest...”⁴⁷ The walls of the College were then about 7' above the ground, and the activity on the north side of Portage Avenue was attracting public attention.⁴⁸

One thing not as readily noticed by the public was the bankruptcy of McCallum less than a week after the ceremony. This required the reorganization of the stonework contract with Winnipeg

stove merchant, W.D. Pettigrew, as Supervisor for the Board and merchant Thomas Nixon sent to Calgary to organize that end of things, as the College took over the possession of McCallum's quarry.⁴⁹ By early August, the work was back on track, and the joists for the second floor were being laid.⁵⁰ The work was further delayed by a short-lived stonecutter's strike in mid-September over wages that had been arbitrarily cut by contractors due to a labour surplus.⁵¹ It is probable that the building had a roof on it by the end of the construction season of 1894.

Work was resumed on the College on 16 May 1895. McCallum was instructed to have the stone and mason work completed as soon as possible.⁵² By early June, a flag was flying from the newly-finished framework of the southeast tower, a testimony that the highest point of the building had been reached.⁵³ While July saw the work delayed because of material shortages, the beginning of August witnessed the completion of the stonework, and the building taken over by the steamfitters, plumbers, carpenters and plasterers. It was expected that the building would be ready for classes on 1 October.⁵⁴ It was not, however, and would not be ready for the students until 6 January 1896, when the first ones presented themselves.⁵⁵ (PLATE 5) No ceremony attended this arrival, for that formality was withheld until 3 June 1896. That evening, the "magnificent new building" was formally opened with a gathering of citizens of all denominations.⁵⁶ The service was held in the Convocation Hall with its "ceiling of peculiarly beautiful workmanship." While J.A.M. Aikins paid tribute to Wesley's rapid growth to 127 students, representatives from other denominations and colleges also had their say. The situation at Wesley was perhaps best summed up by Reverend Dr. Albert Carman, the General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada. He said that "it was a holy triumph that we see this western star in the heavens. He spoke of that one of colleges which stretched from Newfoundland to the Pacific, and hoped this might be the brightest of them all."⁵⁷ With that, Wesley College embarked on its long career as an educational facility. (PLATE 6)

During 1897, the facilities were augmented by the donation of gymnasium equipment by Manlius Bull, the proprietor of the Royal Crown Soap Company and a major Fort Rouge land owner. The outfit consisted of general equipment, plus a handball court and showers.⁵⁸ The gift, which was housed in the basement, was much appreciated by the students, for it gave the opportunity for much-needed diversion on the fledgling campus. It would remain in service until

1912 when a new one opened in Sparling Hall.⁵⁹ By early 1903, Harold Mortimor Nelson, the Editor of Vox Wesleyana was voicing concern that the building was now inadequate because it only addressed the residence needs of the male students. Female students were required to find room and board near the College, often at high rates as well as at the expense of whatever social life was similarly offered to the men by being in residence. It was suggested that the growth of the female portion of the student body had necessitated the construction of a female residence. It was suggested that the northeast corner of Spence Street and Sargent Avenue (two blocks north) be the residence site, as there was “no room for such a building on the grounds of the college itself” [despite the fact that much of the site was empty!!] Indeed, Nelson also suggested that if there were not enough female students to fill the place, the rooms could be let to non-students in the interim, similar to that being done at the men’s residence.⁶⁰ The problem was not solved until 1917 when the 1912 Matriculation Building became Sparling Hall Women’s Residence at a time of flagging male enrollments.⁶¹

By 1904, the student body of Wesley numbered over 200 students, and while they were “housed in one of the finest buildings in Winnipeg,” it was already proving to be too small to meet this demand. There was an urgent need of more classrooms and of doubled dormitory accommodation. Doubtless, the female dormitory problem contributed to this situation as it was unresolved.⁶² As well, the Editor of Vox had also complained of a lack of a proper reading room, as well as no telephone for student use.⁶³ As usual, “no money” was the problem, though in the summer of 1904, extensive work was being done to the rooms for the opening of the Fall Session. And all this was not without result, for since the first class had graduated in 1890, one hundred and forty Wesley students had received Bachelor of Arts degrees. Eighteen of these were women.⁶⁴ At a time when Winnipeg and Western Canada were entering into the last great growth era, change seemed to be the hallmark of the future at Wesley. (PLATES 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)

As early as 1904, efficiency seemed to dictate the amalgamation of faculties between Wesley and Manitoba Colleges. Enough students were in “joint programs” by that time to warrant consideration of such a possibility.⁶⁵ While this was a foreshadowing of the eventual union in 1925 of the Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists into the United Church, a United College would arrive in 1913-14 when the two were academically joined.⁶⁶ To some extent, this

took the pressure off the Wesley facilities. As well, the new Annex or Matriculation Building (now Sparling Hall) housing Wesley's Preparatory Department was opened in late 1912.⁶⁷ As early as 1909, Dr. Sparling had instructed architect J.H.G. Russell to prepare preliminary sketches of a ladies' residence for the property. Sparling hedged his bets, however, because a government commission was going to report on a new University site, and the possibility of relocating the various colleges to a central location.⁶⁸ The Annex was not built for three years when the University was to be relocated to Tuxedo and the Colleges were assured of their individual survival. Even with that, it was built with the idea of its conversion into an apartment block, and that it would house the overflow of the male dormitory residents and not the ladies.⁶⁹ The future Sparling Hall became the first structure built on the campus since the original building of the nineties. It alleviated the residence and classroom space in the older building for a while, thereby allowing for its further rearrangement to fit changed requirements. (PLATE 12)

The Browne-Peters building would not receive any additions until 1927 when a new reinforced concrete Boiler House was built at the rear, replacing the small brick furnace room of the 1890s.⁷⁰ Seven years later, a 31' x 50', two-storey brick on concrete foundation library wing was added to the north side of the building, just to the east of the boiler house. (PLATE 13) This was a very spartan structure, not in keeping with the 1896 building, but the exigencies of the Depression plus its low cost (\$10,000) warranted its appearance.⁷¹ This became the first material enlargement of the student-faculty facilities in the building since 1896. Lastly, in 1938, a small brick caretaker's suite was built between the Boiler House and Sparling Hall, thereby physically connecting the two buildings.⁷² The latter two additions were both designed by architect J.H.G. Russell who was on the College Board of Management.

During the late 1940s, the City of Winnipeg began to cast covetous eyes at the United College property as the site for a new City Hall.⁷³ This revived a 1909 plan which had fallen through.⁷⁴ After World War II, United College was considering a move away from this portion of Portage Avenue to new land on Wellington Crescent. A delegation of residents in the Crescent area protested the location, and an alternate site was found at Portage Avenue and Raglan Road.⁷⁵ As well, the Board of Regents was also considering a move to the Fort Garry campus of the University. Though the City had taken an option on the Wesley property, the money by-law was

defeated at the polls. As well, the Regents decided to remain downtown. Again, the Portage Avenue City Hall site scheme fell through.⁷⁶ During 1956-57, the question of United relocating to Fort Garry once again arose, but the decision to remain had already been made.⁷⁷

By 1957, Bryce Hall, a theological edifice, had been added to United's building stock, and the College was in the middle of a national fund-raising campaign that would result in the erection of Manitoba Hall (1958-60) and Riddell Hall (1961-62). The old main building was renamed Wesley Hall. In January 1960, it became a Physics Laboratory after some interior redecoration. Furthermore, the residence function of Wesley ceased in the session of 1965-66,⁷⁸ with the vacant space made over into classrooms and offices. As Wesley had become United College in June 1938,⁷⁹ so too did United give over to the University of Winnipeg on 1 July 1967. That year, the Convocation Hall received a new stage and balcony,⁸⁰ while fire repairs were performed in August.⁸¹

During 1973, work began on the restoration of Wesley Hall. This was undertaken because of the historic landmark status of the building and in recognition of its location and particular architectural qualities. Work began on the third floor to provide office space for the President and Vice President (Academic).⁸² The work continued through 1977, and saw the replacement of the 1950s plywood panelling and staircase renovations with oak panelling and a restoration of the main staircase to approximate Victorian style. The fourth floor became the Faculty and Staff Club, while the computer centre moved to the first floor. The fourth floor was given structural repairs in the area above Convocation Hall, as well as having washrooms added.⁸³ Lastly, in 1977, the first floor hallways, rotunda, entrance ways and offices were redone in the oak motif of restoration, thereby completing the programme.⁸⁴ The restoration made the interior of this structure into an imposing sight. Further renovations were performed in Room 407 during 1984,⁸⁵ while Tony's Canteen, housed in the 1934 addition, was renovated by Etienne Gaboury Associates in 1993.⁸⁶ As well, the 1959 overpass between Bryce and Wesley Halls was renovated to a more vintage appearance.⁸⁷ Lastly, in 1997, Convocation Hall was given another overhaul, this time with the inclusion of washrooms.⁸⁸ While the renovations did not return Wesley Hall to its original state, which would have been a rather plain interior with few

adornments, the oak panelling and stained glass windows indicated that the University honoured its past in doing a sympathetic renovation to this most visual landmark.

STYLE

Wesley Hall was built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style then in vogue for many public buildings. The rusticated stonework, the towers with their gable projections, and arched window/door openings were all typical elements of this style. Prior to its 1965 demolition for Lions Manor, the former Deaf and Dumb (1899) Institute at Portage and Sherbrook was similar in appearance to Wesley. The Victorians flavoured dramatic-looking structures featuring towers such as these to present a strong visual identity to both inmates of and visitors to the buildings. Buildings such as Wesley College or the Deaf and Dumb Institute quickly became landmarks wherever they were built. When used for colleges and other educational institutions, this style of building was also associated with the tradition of a sound education. Among Winnipeg colleges which included Manitoba (1881), St. John's (1883), and the University of Manitoba Science Building (1899-1900), Wesley was unique in using the Richardsonian Style to proclaim its presence. The few public buildings that were constructed in Winnipeg in this style during the 1890s have vanished, as have most of the more numerous residential examples. Like most things Victorian, buildings such as these fell out of favour, beginning in the 1930s and stretching into the 1970s, when more enlightened views began to prevail. As a result, the toll was heavy among what were viewed as outdated structures. The casualness of the City of Winnipeg in considering United College for a City Hall site in 1949 typified these attitudes.

The Richardsonian Romanesque Style of architecture has been associated with the work of Henry Hobson Richardson, an American architect who revived Romanesque building forms during the early 1880s. The use of arched window/door openings, towers and very heavy stonework were elements of Richardson's style. In the years after 1880, Richardsonian Romanesque swept North America as a popular style for many types of buildings. The most dramatic examples were to be found as court houses, town halls and schools of various types. Many of these buildings were executed in dark-coloured materials such as red brick or red sandstone to emphasize their solidity and permanency. They slowly went out of style once

Beaux Art Neo Classical forms took hold after 1893, and rapidly went out of favour when Art Deco and Art Moderne forms became popular in North America after the 1920s. Once a common feature of many small American towns, the Richardsonian type was systematically destroyed because of this disfavour. As a result, the remaining examples of what was once very common, are now unusual and treasured landmarks of their communities. This was recognized in the University of Winnipeg's rehabilitation of Wesley in the 1970s.

CONSTRUCTION

Wesley Hall is of load-bearing wall construction. This means that the exterior walls support the weight of the interior floors which are tied into these walls. These floors are also supported structurally by the interior brick partitions which help to spread this load. The outside walls are of yellow Calgary sandstone backed by brick. So complete is the sheathing of the exterior by this stone that no brick was visible from the outside of the original building. As well, all interior partitions of this building were built of brick to discourage the spread of fire and encourage structural stability. This was a common type of construction practice in Winnipeg during the 1880-1910 era, though the extensive use of sandstone in the façade is most unusual for Winnipeg, as are the brick partitions. The building rests upon a limestone foundation. Limestone was to have been the original wall sheathing material in the Browne-Peters design. This was changed because of more favourable costs offered by McCallum the contractor. Unfortunately, it proved to be a poor choice because of the softness of this particular variety of sandstone. Certain parts of the sandstone have been weathering at a great rate causing maintenance problems. This may be limited to certain stones, as graffiti carved into parts of the building in 1921 and the 1940s would indicate some of the stone deterioration is less rapid there than in other areas. A certain amount of this stone was brought into Winnipeg c.1895. It was originally used as window sill and decorative stones in Dalnavert, built in 1895 for Hugh John Macdonald. This severely-deteriorated material was replaced with limestone during the restoration of Dalnavert in the 1970s. It was felt that the limestone had a greater life span than any sandstone replacement, and that its usage was also historically correct. Apparently, this type of sandstone has had a history of disintegration.

DESIGN

Wesley College was designed as a theological and liberal arts educational facility. Until the 1970s when it was restored into a ceremonial edifice with social and office functions, it functioned in the same role, despite numerous changes to accommodate curriculum changes. While the building originally had a residence function on its two upper floors, this ceased in 1965. If nothing else, the survival of this building has demonstrated the reuse possibilities of such an immense, well-built structure.

INTERIOR

The original interior of this building was of a somewhat plain design in keeping with the spartan nature of a religious/arts education of the time. Evidence would indicate that decorative work, such as stained glass panels, were kept to a minimum. Fire code changes in the 1950s dictated that elements such as the open staircase balustrades had to be covered. This was done as cheaply as possible using plywood. This material was also used to replace whatever panelling existed in the hallways. Similarly, the red, white and blue encaustic floor tiles were either replaced or covered over by linoleum at that time. The restoration of the 1970s replaced what had become quite shabby by that time. The codes were worked around and the balustrades re-opened to reveal turned balusters. As well, the newel posts had their elaborate balls replaced, much to the visual delight of the observer. Though the result was somewhat fancier than what had existed originally, it was still in keeping with a sense of respect for this educational landmark.

INTEGRITY

Wesley Hall occupies its original site, and is visually identical to its appearance one hundred years ago. Additions to this building have been kept to the rear, though an overpass from Bryce Hall comes from the east side. The two big chimneys flanking the central gable have been “bobbed” and capped while the flagpole in the southeastern tower has been removed. The original windows have also been replaced with units sensitive to the appearance of this building.

STREETSCAPE

When originally built, Wesley College stood alone on an otherwise vacant tract of land. A limited number of commercial buildings were located nearby, but by and large, its neighbours were scattered urban dwellings. (PLATES 5, 9, 10, 12) This has changed because of the advance of business westward along Portage Avenue, as well as by the development of the Wesley/United/University of Winnipeg tract. In many ways, Wesley Hall is today overshadowed by taller, more gargantuan structures even on its own site. Its generous set-back and unusual appearance offset this differential in a most agreeable fashion. In short, Wesley Hall is not lost in its urban surroundings of the late 1990s.

ARCHITECT

Two architects, George Browne (1852-1919) and Samuel Frank Peters (1847-1926) worked in concert to design this building. Browne had begun his Winnipeg practice in 1882, having been born in Montreal, the son of a notable architect, George Brown, Sr. (1811-85). At 18, the younger Browne went to New York to study under renowned architect Russell Sturgis. In 1873, he went to Europe for three years, studying Europe's buildings and also doing course work at the South Kensington School of Art. His return to Montreal came in 1877; there he practiced for two years. Browne, Jr. Came to Manitoba in 1879 and farmed south of Holland. He was probably unsuccessful at this, and came to Winnipeg. His first known Winnipeg commission was the Massey Implement Company warehouse, Princess Street and William Avenue (1885). By the early 1890s, Browne's practice had hit its stride, with many leading Winnipeg structures to his credit. Among them were public buildings such as the City Market (1889) (PLATE 14); the Masonic Temple (1895) (PLATE 15); and later, the Young Men's Christian Association Building (1901) (PLATE 16). Wesley College was not the lone educational structure among Browne's works, for these included North Central (Norquay) School (1892) (PLATE 17); the addition to Manitoba College (1892) (PLATE 18); Aberdeen School (1893) (PLATE 19); Mulvey School (1893) (PLATE 20); and the University of Manitoba Science Building (1899-1900). (PLATE 21) Browne's connection with the Methodists went back to 1889 when he designed a Sunday School Annex for Grace Church, and of course, he had worked with the

Presbyterians on the addition to Manitoba College in 1892. During the course of an 1894 lecture on “Architecture on the Art and Science of Building,” he alluded to the Methodists’ Portage Avenue building, then half-constructed:

He considered that the Wesley College building showed a greater advance in architecture than had any building yet erected in Manitoba. The college board have succeeded in one respect: their college can be viewed with pleasure from any side, they having avoided the common error of making the building Queen Anne in front and Mary Ann behind [!]

Browne’s practice waned somewhat after 1900, and in 1907, he changed his name to George Creeford Browne. From 1895 onward, he had considered relocating permanently to New York and he acquired property in Nyack, New Jersey. He and his wife, Louisa Anna Nicolls Browne left Winnipeg to reside in Nyack. He died there on 11 March 1919 and his wife a month later on 20 April 1919.⁸⁹

Samuel Frank Peters had been born in Yeovil, Somerset, England, the son of architect Samuel Peters, and attended English public schools as well as Hellmuth College in London, Ontario. Peters took his architectural training at the University of Toronto, and practiced at London from 1872-92, first with his father, and later under the firm name of Peters, Jones and McBride. A lifelong Imperialist and militarist, Peters came west briefly during the 1885 Riel Rebellion. His inspection of Winnipeg at that time eventually caused him to relocate there in 1892. His early works in Winnipeg included the Canadian Rubber Company Warehouse (1893); redesigning the Alloway and Champion Block (1893); Wesley College (1894-96); the Ashdown Warehouse (1895); rebuilding the Western Canada Loan Block (1895); Parsons Produce Warehouse (1895-96); the Hammond Block (1898) and the Manitoba College of Pharmacy (1899). He went on to also design the Manitoba Club (1903); two Bank of Montreal branches, and the Western Canada Military Institute (1905). Peters died from the effects of pneumonia on 29 May 1926.⁹⁰

The third architect involved with the Wesley College building was John Hamilton Gordon Russell (1862-1946). He designed the 1934 Library addition as well as the 1938 Caretaker’s Suite which joined Wesley and Sparling Halls. Russell was born and educated at Toronto, and at

age 16 was apprenticed to local architect H.B. Gordon. Though he came to Winnipeg in 1882, he spent the next 13 years working in the United States. During 1895, he established his Winnipeg practice, and over the next several decades became one of Manitoba's best known practitioners. His major Winnipeg works included the McArthur (Childs) Building (1909-10); the Great Western Loan Building (1912-13); the Scott-Bathgate warehouse (1905-07); the Eastman Kodak Building (1929-30); Thomson Funeral Home (1930-31); and the Trust and Loan Building (1910-11). Russell was a Presbyterian, and was responsible for numerous Presbyterian Church designs, such as those of Augustine (1904-05) and Westminster Presbyterian Church (1912). Even prior to Union, Russell sat on the Wesley College Board of Management, and this was indicative of the close ties between Methodists and Presbyterians. Russell was, of course, responsible for the design of Sparling Hall (1912) at Wesley College. He died in February, 1946.⁹¹

Builder

James G. McCallum was a Calgary building contractor. Little is known of his career. It is probable that Wesley College was the only general contract he ever had in Winnipeg. His carpentry contractor, J.C. Gilker was a long time practitioner in the Winnipeg area. Little is known of the tinsmith/slater, John Wallace nor of the painting contractor James A. Payne.

PERSON

The names of prominent graduates of Wesley/United/University of Winnipeg who have had association with this building could fill a small book. The graduates range from James S. Woodsworth (1896), an early social activist and politician; to Jack Pickersgill (1935), a politician on the federal scene; to William Norrie (1950), a lawyer and Winnipeg Mayor through to Susan Thompson, Winnipeg Mayor and businesswoman. Wesley's graduate influence came very early in its history. By 1903, 140 students had received Bachelor of Arts degrees. Of these, 43 were living in Winnipeg and 56 in other parts of Manitoba. As well, of the 122 male graduates, 42 had become clergymen, 26 were lawyers, 10 became doctors, 19 were teaching, four were journalists, one was a dentist and 18 were in mercantile pursuits.⁹² By 1910, W.D. Bayley of Vox Wesleyana was able to state that "if college training and culture has any value at all, then Winnipeg is the richer and better for our college on the one basis alone...that there has

come into the city's life such a goodly proportion of the finished product of Wesley."⁹³ In its various incarnations the former Methodist College has continued to affect Winnipeg in the same manner to the present time.

INSTITUTION

The Methodist Church was one of the major religious denominations in the history of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Canada. Wesley College was one of a number of such educational institutions across Canada. Through the teachings of its faculty — through men such as Reverend Andrew Steward; Principal J.W. Sparling and Reverend Salem Bland — Wesley “provided a richness of Christian social enthusiasm, not only for some of its faculty and students, but for younger clergy of various denominations and socially conscious young men outside the college.”⁹⁴ Wesley thus became the early centre of the social reform movement or Social Gospel for Winnipeg and much of the rest of Western Canada. Aside from its role as a Theological College, Wesley/United/Winnipeg has also remained a vibrant part of its surrounding community, through its faculty, graduates and programs.

EVENT

No single event can be isolated of specific significance. On the other hand, the effects of numerous events over the last century and a quarter in institutional education have had a cumulative effect in elevating the University of Winnipeg to its present position of importance and public esteem.

CONTEXT

Higher education by various religious denominations was a mainstay of the educational scene in Manitoba for many years. During 1877, the University of Manitoba came into existence as an umbrella organization to which various denominational colleges, such as Wesley or Manitoba College, received affiliation in order to have their degrees validated by a standard examining body. As a result, this was given credence by the University of Manitoba. Eventually, the

University evolved into its present form as a “teaching” as opposed to an “examining” facility. The various colleges either combined, as in the case of Wesley and Manitoba which formed United College; remained in existence, but closely tied to the U of M, such as St. John’s, St. Paul’s or St. Andrew’s; or maintained a separate autonomy, as was the case at St. Boniface College or Brandon College. United would evolve into the present University of Winnipeg, while Brandon became Brandon University. Both are now quite separate from the University of Manitoba, providing alternate educational possibilities for their students. In this regard, Wesley Hall’s context is very important, for this building was at the center of much of this change.

LANDMARK

Visually, Wesley Hall is a Portage Avenue landmark because of its distinctive appearance among neighbours which tend to be rather bland and unspectacular. It is a well-known building even to those who do not know its function, and just refer to it as “The Castle.” It is one of the few buildings left in Winnipeg which still sport such prominent towers that help create a strong visual effect. The yellow sandstone with its rusticated surface also aids in this impact, this being the only known Winnipeg building to be constructed entirely of Calgary sandstone.



CITY OF WINNIPEG - Preliminary Report

Date: 16 June 2000

Assessment Record

Prepared By: M. Peterson

Building Address: 515 Portage Avenue

Building Name: University of Winnipeg

Original Use: education

Current Use: education

Roll No. (Old): 516302 (---)

Municipality: 12

Ward: 2

Property or Occupancy Code: 79

Location: north side between Balmoral and Spence streets

Date of Construction: 1894-95+

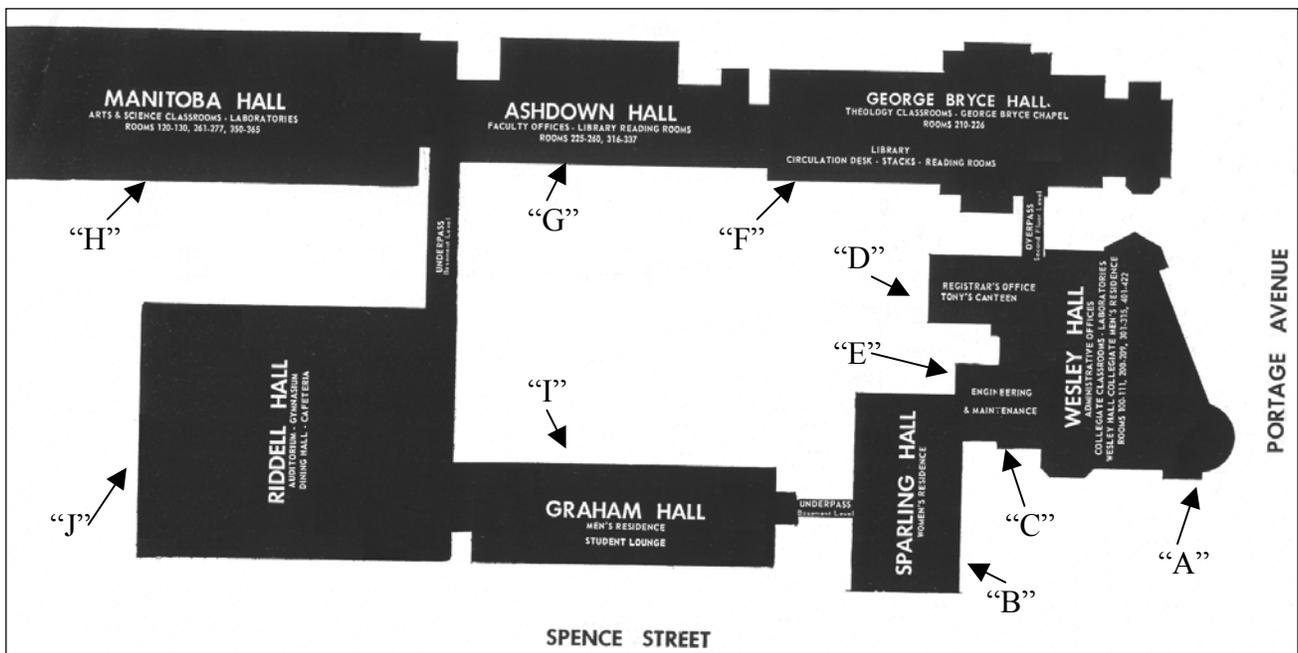
Storeys: varies

Heritage Status: ON INVENTORY

Construction Type: Brick and stone

Building Permits (Plans available: [A] Archives; [M] Microfilm; [V] Vault):

SEE NEXT SHEET



United College Campus, 1963

City of Winnipeg Building Permits:

PERMIT	YEAR	AMOUNT	PLANS	DETAILS
BUILDING "A" – WESLEY HALL				
1899	1959	\$6,800	---	Repairs and bridge to Library
1410	1960	\$4,500	---	Office alterations
81	1961	\$6,000	---	Alterations
1805	1962	\$14,000	V04C10	Alterations
3639	1963	\$4,200	M855	Alterations
3607	1965	\$1,200	---	Alterations
3054	1966	\$12,000	M311	Alterations
4767	1966	\$1,000	M318	Alterations
1241	1967	\$35,000	M404	Alterations to 3 rd and 4 th floors
3166	1968	\$110,000	M147	Alterations and repairs
3171	1968	\$2,275	---	Construct underground storage tank
1200	1970	\$5,500	M9	Alterations
3869	1970	\$1,800	---	Alterations to seating and control room
5207	1973	\$50,000	M172	Alterations to 3 rd floor
2245	1974	\$4,000	M613	Alterations
9417	1974	\$17,000	---	Renovations to 4 th floor stairwell
6277	1975	\$25,000	M728	Interior alterations to east part of 4 th floor
9005	1975	\$15,000	M745	Interior alterations to west part of 4 th floor
4217	1976	\$20,000	---	Interior alterations to 3 rd floor
9392	1976	\$40,000	M15C04	Interior alterations to 2 nd floor
10437	1976	\$25,000	M16B09	Alterations to roof structure
3380	1977	\$50,000	M03A08	Interior alterations to main floor
4701	1979	\$5,000	M05B07	Interior alterations
3570	1983	43,000	M09A05	New north and south entrance doors
BUILDING "B" – SPARLING HALL				
1202	1912	\$42,000	---	Construct hall
455	1963	\$24,000	M849	Alterations
1922	1964	\$34,000	V04A04	Alterations to 2 nd floor
3381	1964	\$2,000	V04B03	Air changing equipment
2345	1965	\$10,000	M519	Renovations to 5 th floor
5067	1967	\$5,000	---	Repairs

PERMIT	YEAR	AMOUNT	PLANS	DETAILS
BUILDING "C/E" – ENGINEERING/MAINTENANCE				
3050	1927	\$4,000	---	Construct Boiler house
1616	1938	\$1,300	---	Construct Engineering office/Caretaker's Suite
BUILDING "D" – REGISTRAR'S OFFICE				
1324	1934	\$10,000	---	Construct
BUILDING "F" – GEORGE BRYCE HALL				
2251	1950	\$250,000	---	Construct hall
2478	1965	\$45,000	M520	Alterations
4740	1973	\$9,000	---	Alterations
7107	1981	\$5,000	---	Concrete wheel chair ramp
BUILDING "G" – ASHDOWN HALL and BUILDING "H" – MANITOBA HALL				
3552	1958	\$1,018,000	---	Construct halls
7660	1964	\$410,000	V05C10	Addition (4 storeys)
4912	1967	\$4,000	---	Alterations
1236	1969	\$50,000	M48	Alterations
1236	1970	\$50,000	---	Alterations to main floor laboratories, Manitoba Hall
8867	1972	\$55,800	M226	Alterations
4420	1973	\$40,000	---	Alterations
2985	1980	\$180,000	M01A05	Interior alterations, Manitoba Hall
BUILDING "I" – GRAHAM HALL and BUILDING "J" – RIDDELL HALL				
3055	1961	\$100,000	---	Foundation for gymnasium (Riddell Hall) & residence (Graham Hall)
3751	1961	\$497,000	---	Construct gymnasium (Riddell Hall) and residence (Graham Hall)
856	1970	\$4,500	M6	Alterations to computer room and office, Graham Hall
3086	1983	\$20,000	---	Wheel chair ramp and lift, Graham Hall
OTHER				
4598	1968	\$135,000	---	Pilings for Lockhart Hall
7189	1968	\$2,665,000	M166	Construction of Lockhart Hall
4844	1970	\$200,000	---	Pilings for Centennial Hall
7600	1970	\$2140,000	---	Centennial Hall
2690	1971	\$4,194,000	M99	Centennial Hall
8376	1971	---	M132	Alterations (Permit reads: "No charge, no value")
2859	1972	\$60,000	---	Alterations to 4 th floor, Lockhart Hall

PERMIT	YEAR	AMOUNT	PLANS	DETAILS
6130	1977	\$233,000	M07L00	Addition
1400	1984	\$150,000	M08C06	Interior alterations
7686	1986	\$38,000	B06B01	Interior alterations
6926	1988	\$70,000	V07D01	Interior alterations
6080	1989	\$96,000	V06D01	Interior alterations
7802	1989	\$200,000	V06B11	Interior alterations
9520	1989	\$215,000	V09B01	Interior alterations
3867	1990	\$450,000	M11B03	Interior alterations
4715	1990	\$300,000	M11B03	Interior alterations
6944	1991	\$85,000	---	Structural framing for addition
6945	1991	\$15,000	M04D07	Interior alterations
3721	1992	\$232,000	---	Interior alterations
4190	1992	\$300,000	M10C11	Interior alterations
6841	1992	\$30,000	B35C07	Exterior alterations
3989	1993	\$16,000	B35A02	Interior alterations
5930	1993	\$25,000	---	Foundation for addition
7859	1993	\$55,000	B35B11	Walkway
7976	1993	\$1,795,000	---	Addition
6880	1995	\$6,800	---	Roof repairs
220	1996	\$2,500,000	M18A10	Interior alterations and addition
974	1996	\$110,000	M10B15	Interior alterations
2528	1996	\$5,000	---	Interior alterations
2568	1996	\$70,000	M18A01	Interior alterations
2984	1996	\$8,000	---	Interior alterations
1890	1997	\$300,000	---	Interior alterations

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

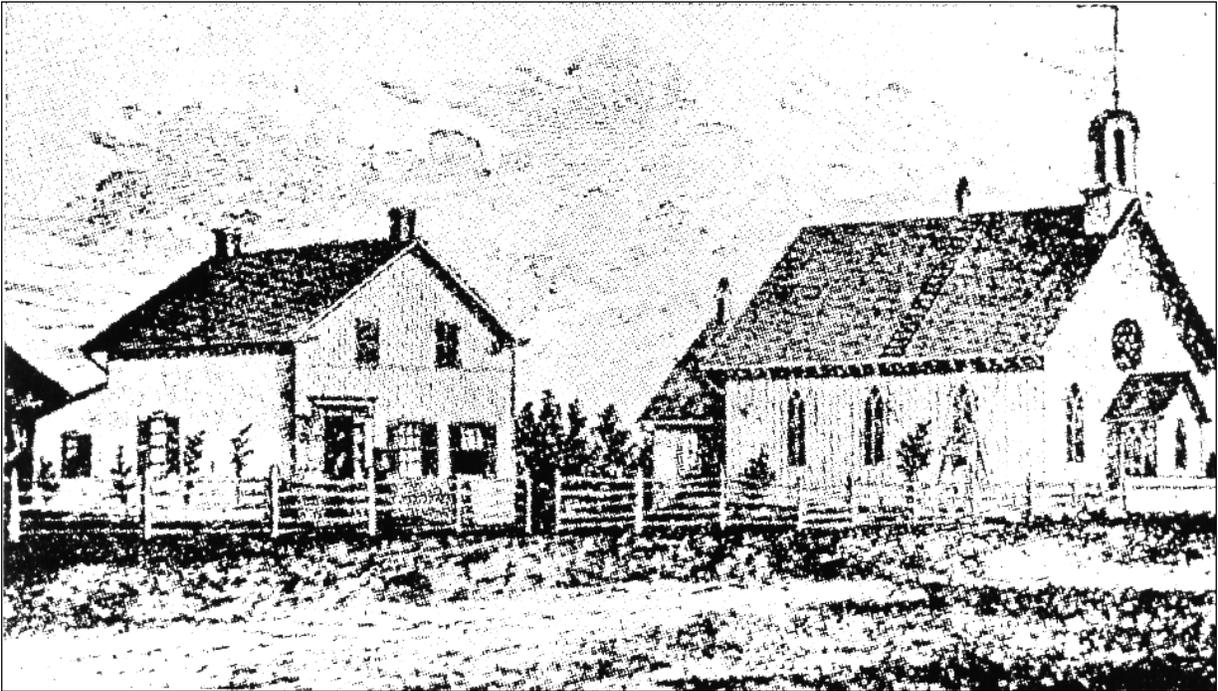


PLATE 1 Wesley Hall and Grace Church, SE Main Street and Water Avenue, Winnipeg, c.1872. This was the “Mother Church of Methodism” in Western Canada. Wesley Hall was also the parsonage for Grace Church, and was demolished about 1889 for the Manitoba Hotel. Grace Church was absorbed, physically into another structure called the Wesley Hall Block in 1881, and was ultimately burned in 1897. The Wesleyan Educational Institute (1873) stood to the north or left of this pair. This precursor of the Wesley Hall on Portage Avenue was moved to a site farther south along Main Street, only to be demolished c.1917. (Manitoba Archives, Winnipeg Churches - Grace (1) 2.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)



PLATE 2 George Winks Residence, 378 Broadway (SE Edmonton Street), 1882. McCoskrie and Greenfield, architects. Demolished 1901. Winks, a land speculator, built this Second Empire mansion in what would become Winnipeg's first affluent residential district. From 1887 on, Winks rented out his house, eventually losing it to a finance company in 1895. From 1890-95, this was the quarters of Wesley College and provided ample room for only a couple of years. (Manitoba Archives, Winnipeg - Views/Album 9, #72.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

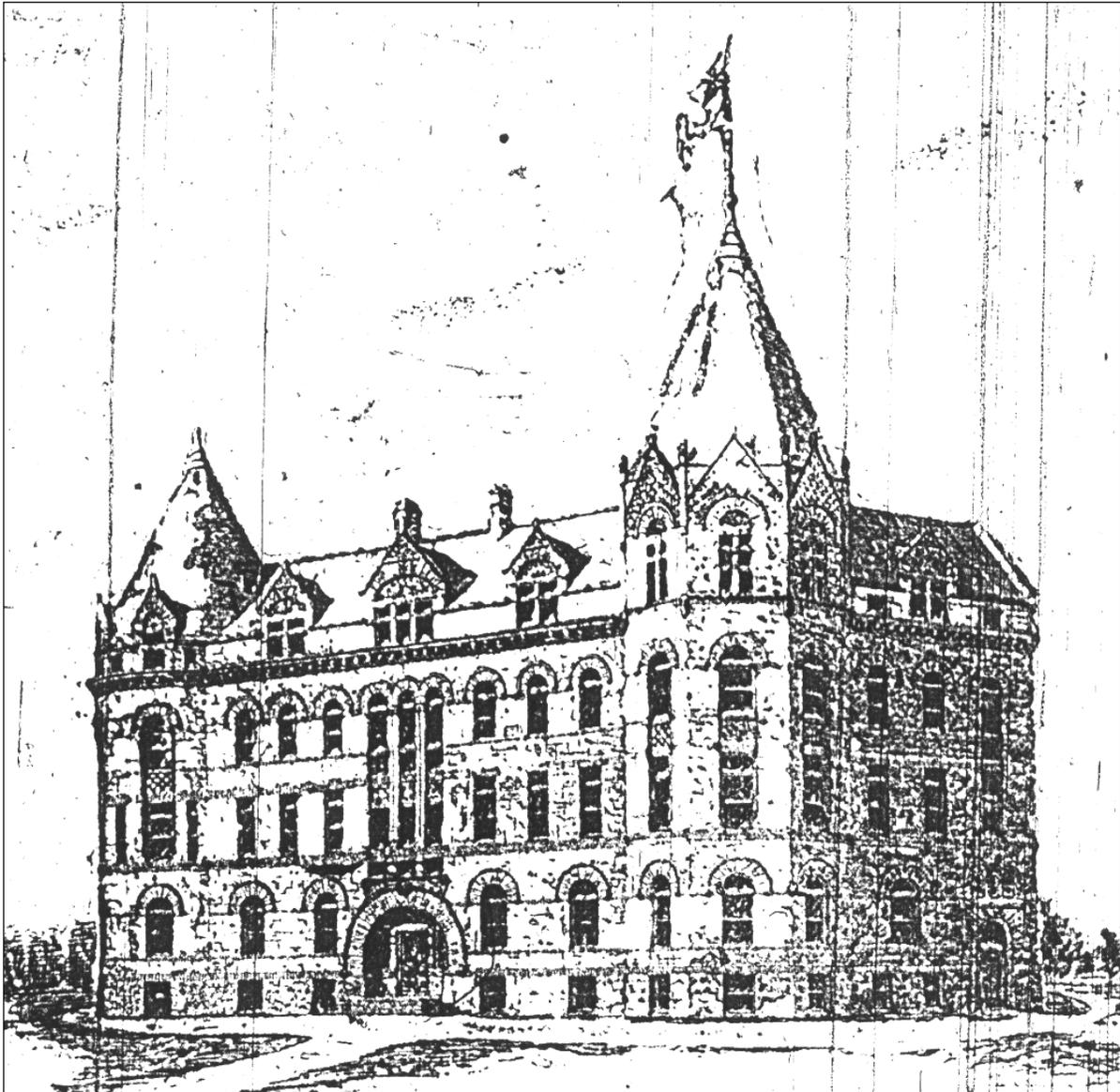


PLATE 3 Architects sketch, proposed Wesley College, Portage Avenue, Winnipeg. Browne and Peters' proposed building was very much like the completed structure, except that sandstone replaced limestone in the walls. (Legislative Library of Manitoba, Manitoba Free Press, 15 January 1894, p. 5.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

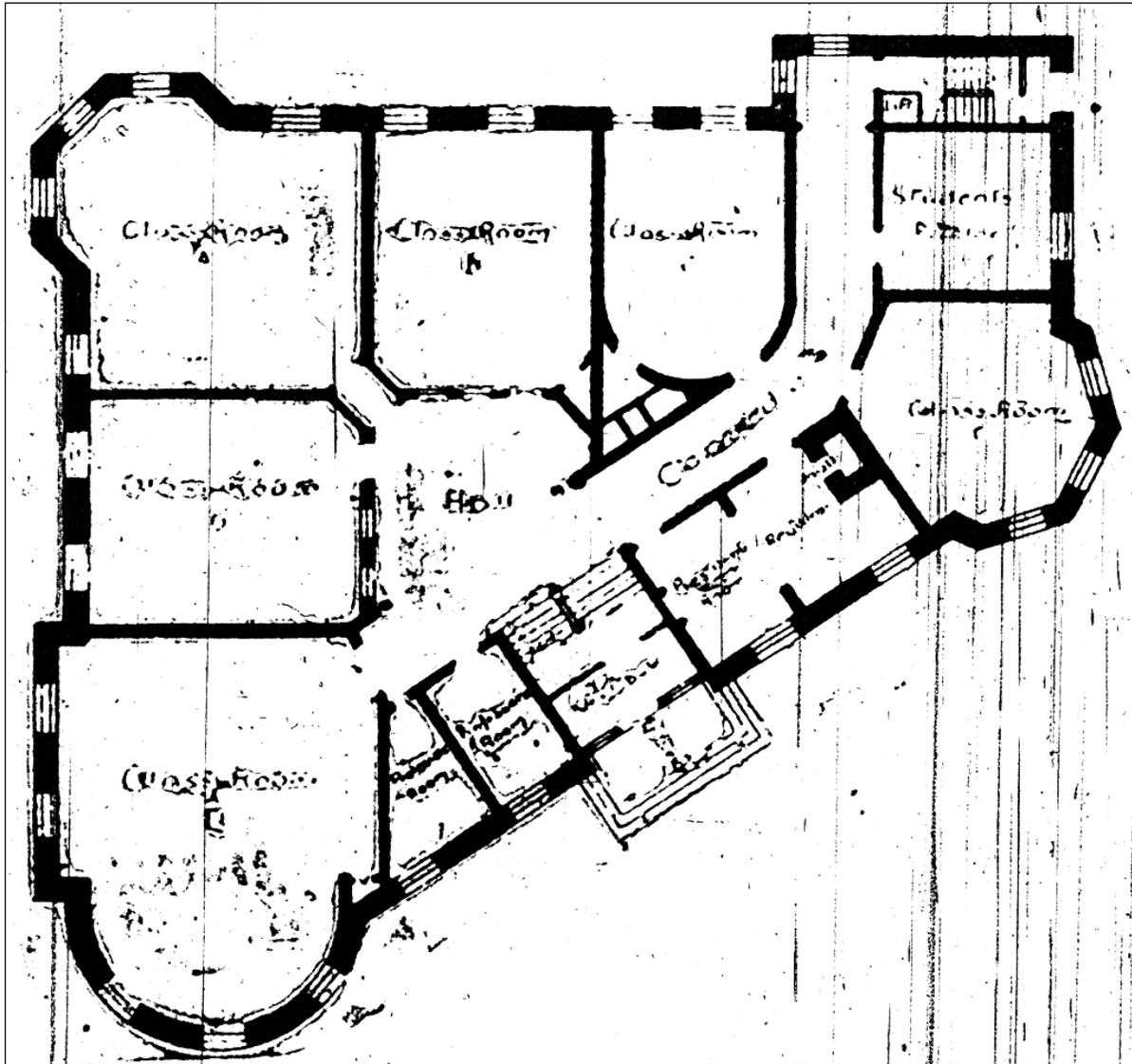


PLATE 4 Floor Plan, First Level, proposed Wesley College, Portage Avenue, Winnipeg. It is evident that this new structure was to consist of many no nonsense classrooms. (Legislative Library of Manitoba, Manitoba Free Press, 15 January 1894, p. 5.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)



PLATE 5 Wesley College, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg. George Browne and Samuel Frank Peters, architects, 1894-95. This early view (1899) shows the recently completed Wesley and the somewhat natural condition of its grounds. From the start this building had a strong visual presence. (Manitoba Archives, Thomas Burns Collection, 357.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

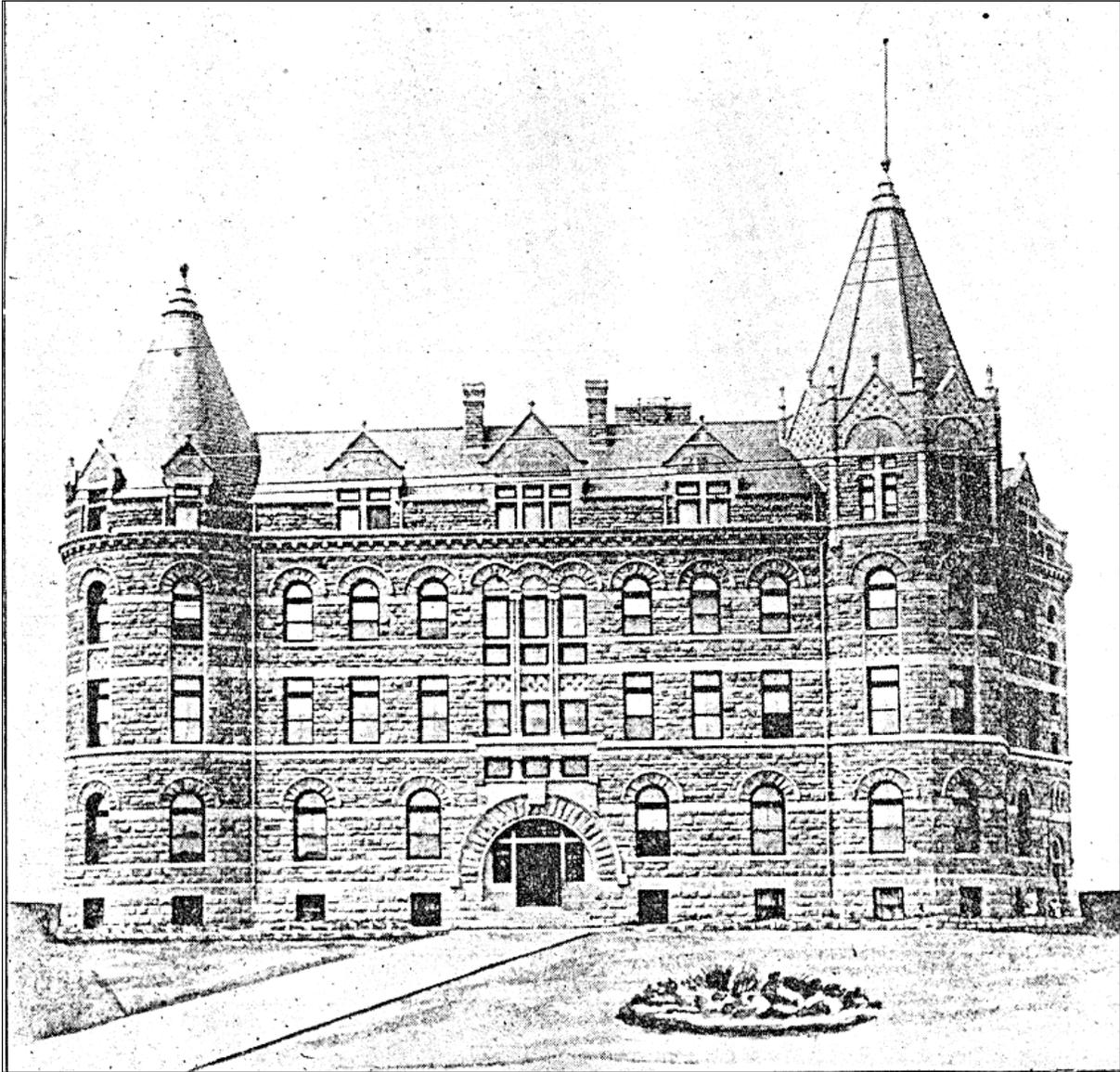


PLATE 6 Wesley College Advertisement, 1901. If the grounds were somewhat lacking in finesse, the artist's touch could make vast improvements. (Legislative Library of Manitoba.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

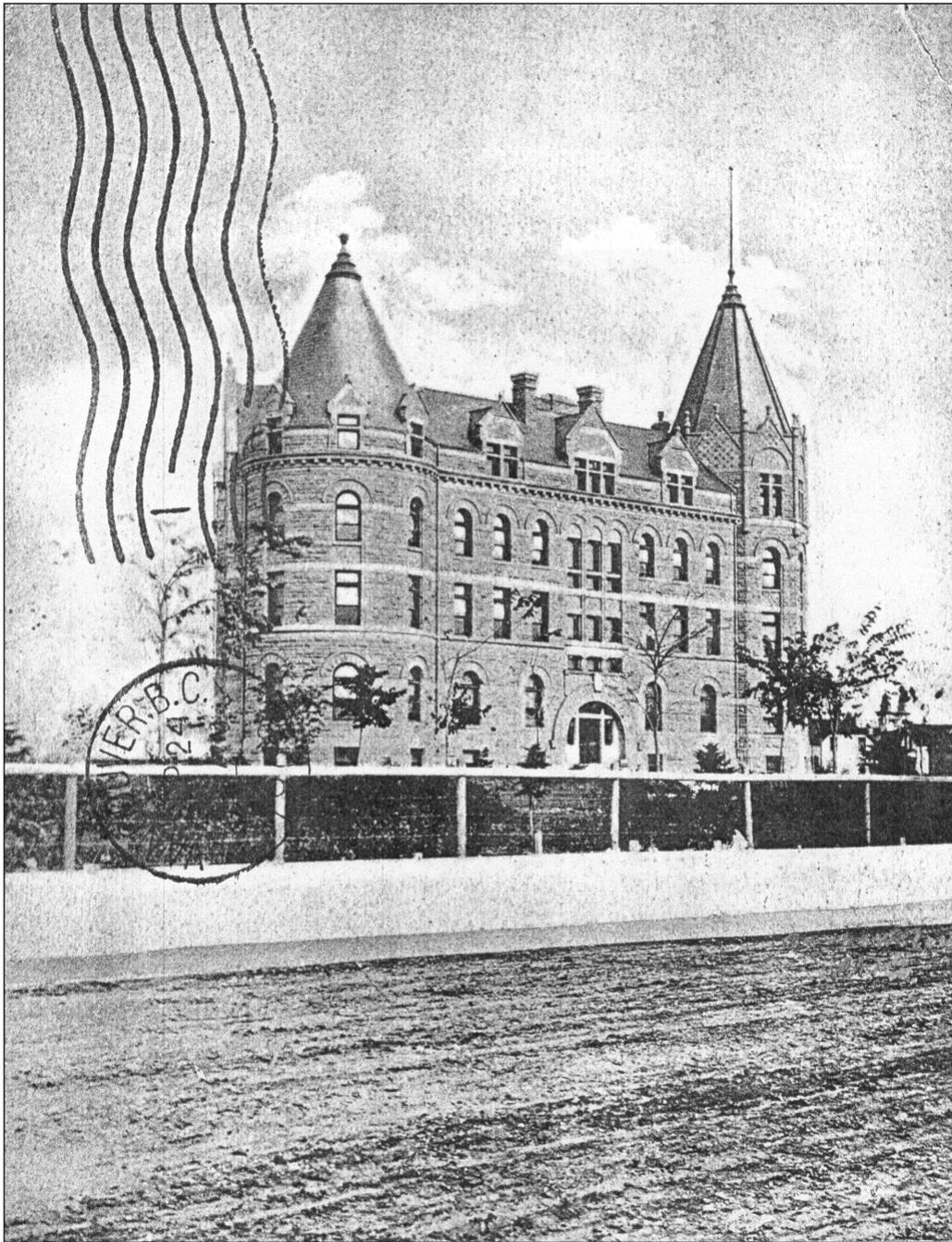


PLATE 7 Wesley College, looking north, c.1908. From muddy Portage Avenue, the College presented a green vista beyond the fence. (Author)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

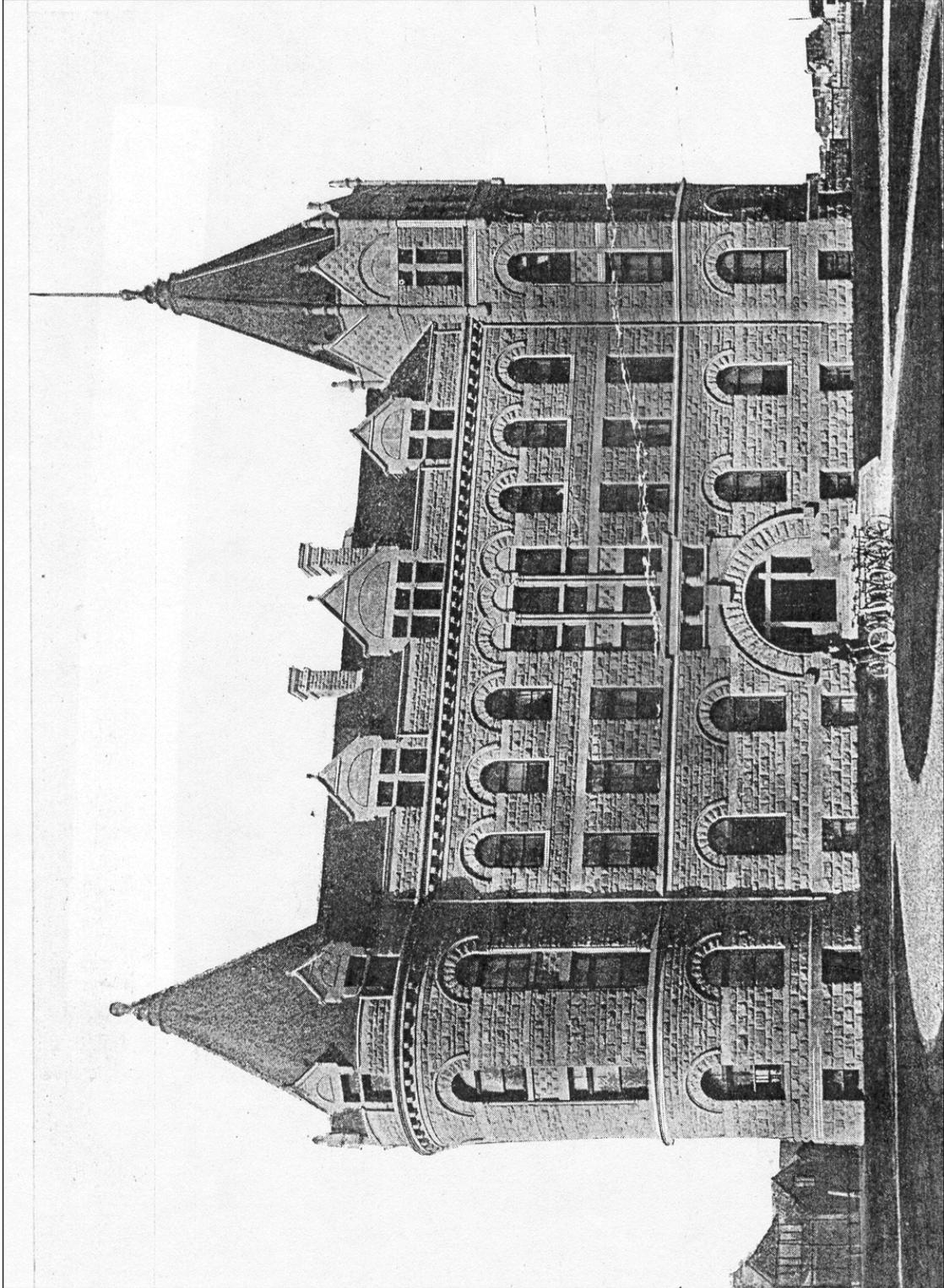


PLATE 8 Wesley College, c.1905. The scale of this building is put into perspective by the bicycles in the foreground. (Author)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

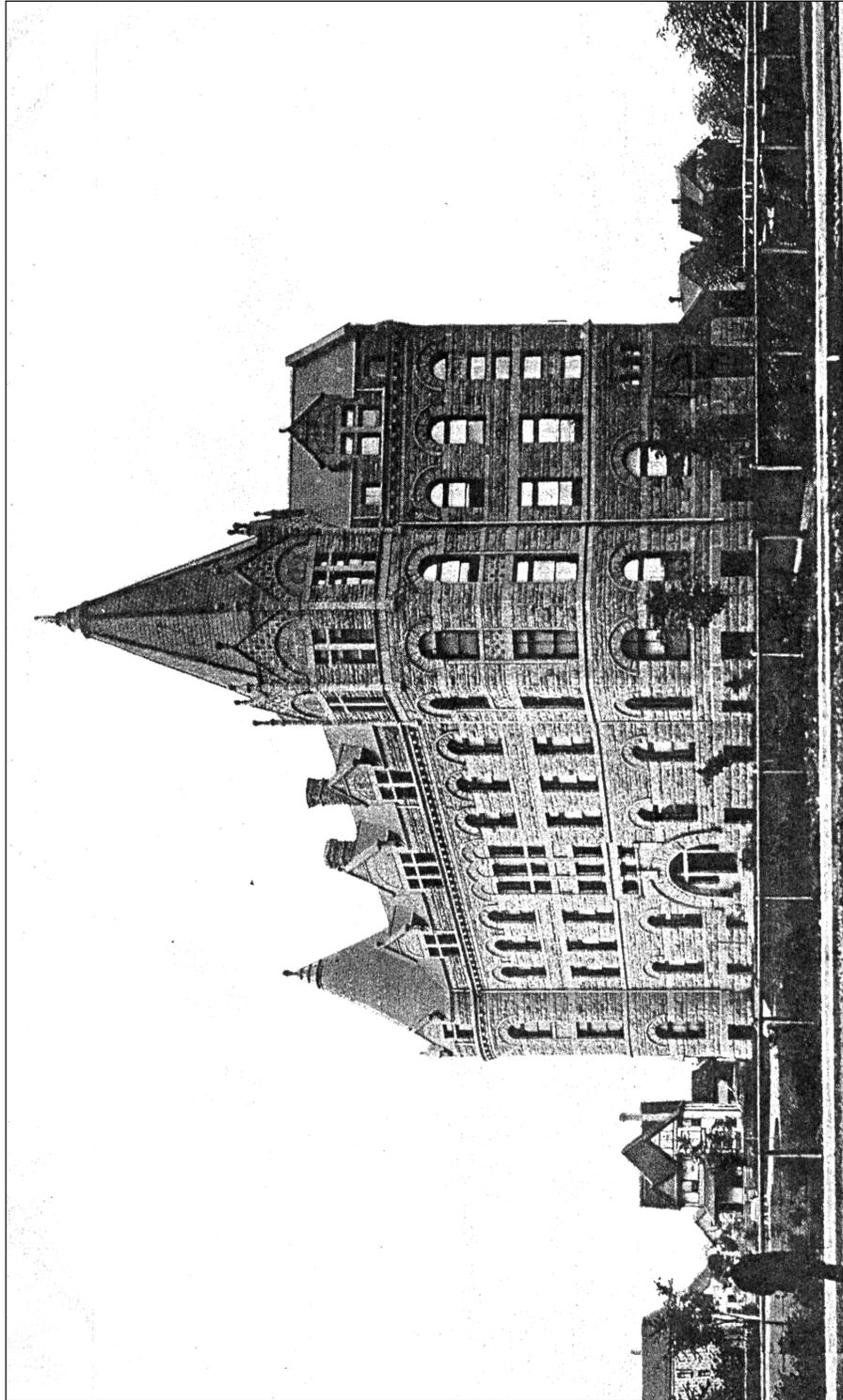


PLATE 9 Wesley College, looking west, c.1905. Like many Victorian era buildings, Wesley ended abruptly at the northern end of its east façade. Perhaps a fourth tower might have been envisioned for the future, or perhaps an addition could have been made. (Author)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

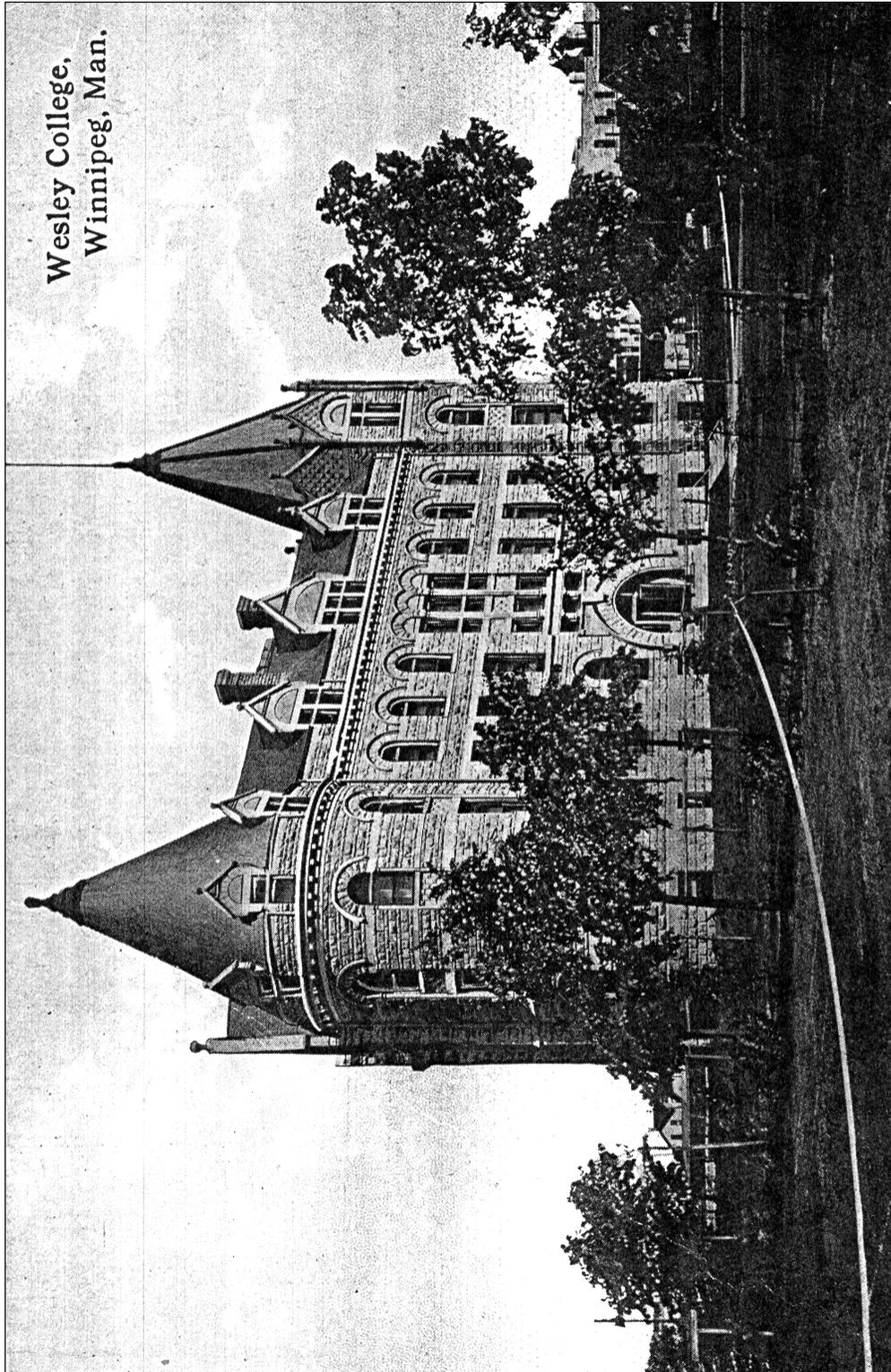


PLATE 10 Wesley College, looking north, c.1910. As the trees and grass got better established, the College began to assume a more settled appearance. (Author)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

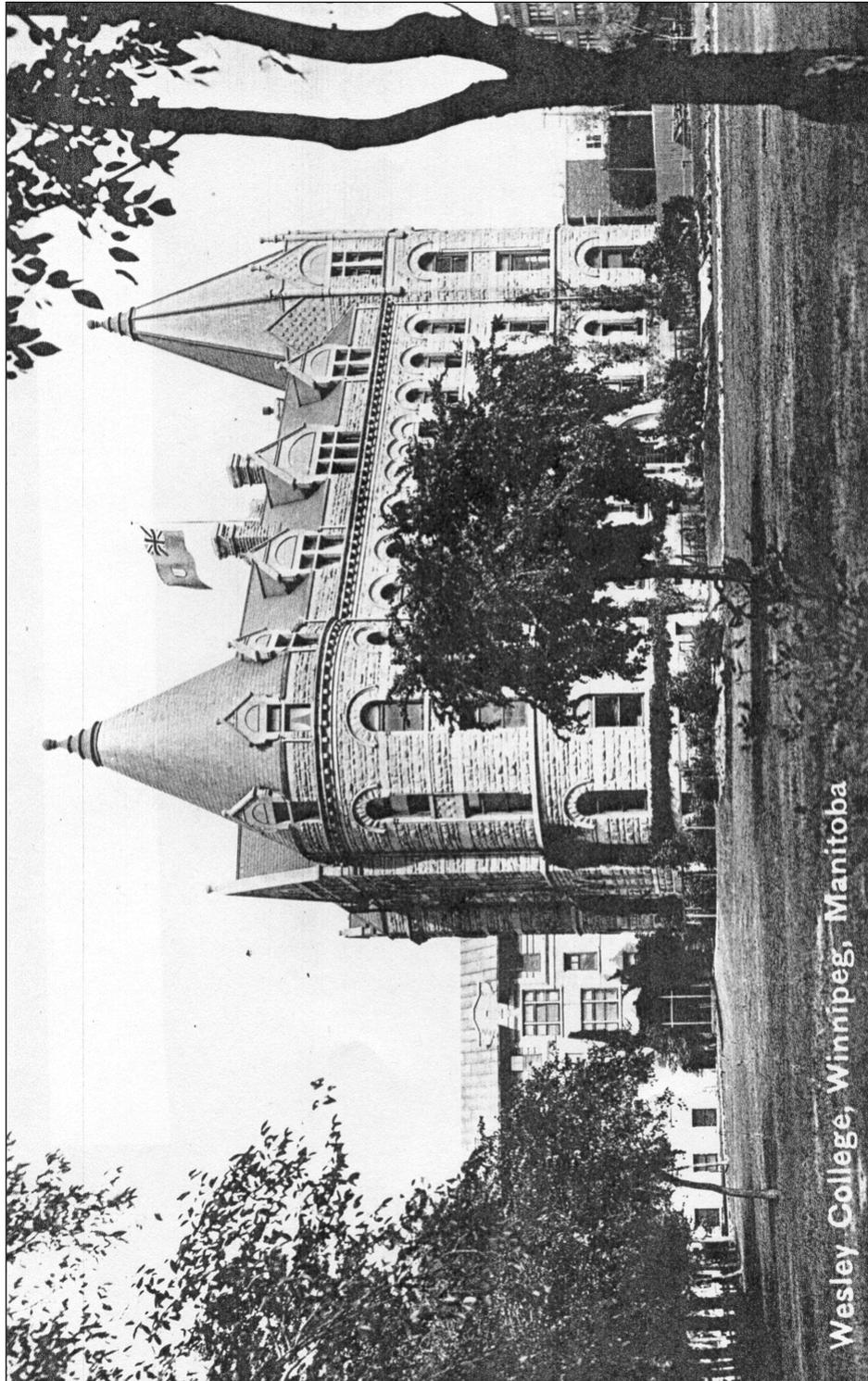


PLATE 11 Wesley College, looking north, c.1925. Compare this with the previous illustration, now that Sparling Hall had been built. (Author)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

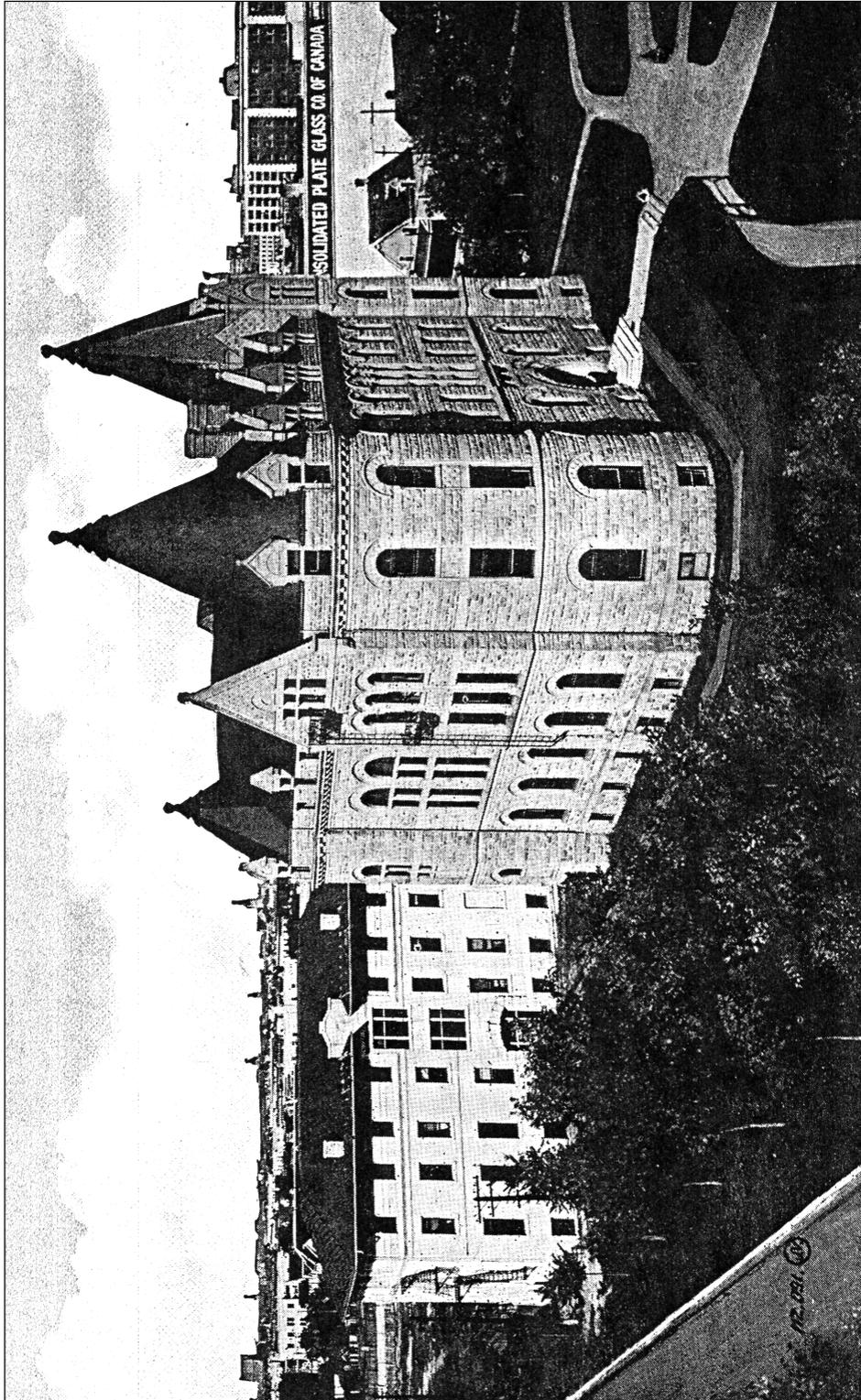


PLATE 12 Wesley and Sparling Halls, looking northeast, c.1920. Taken from Elim Chapel, the original building is shown in relation to both the 1912 Sparling Hall, as well as to neighbouring structures. (Author)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

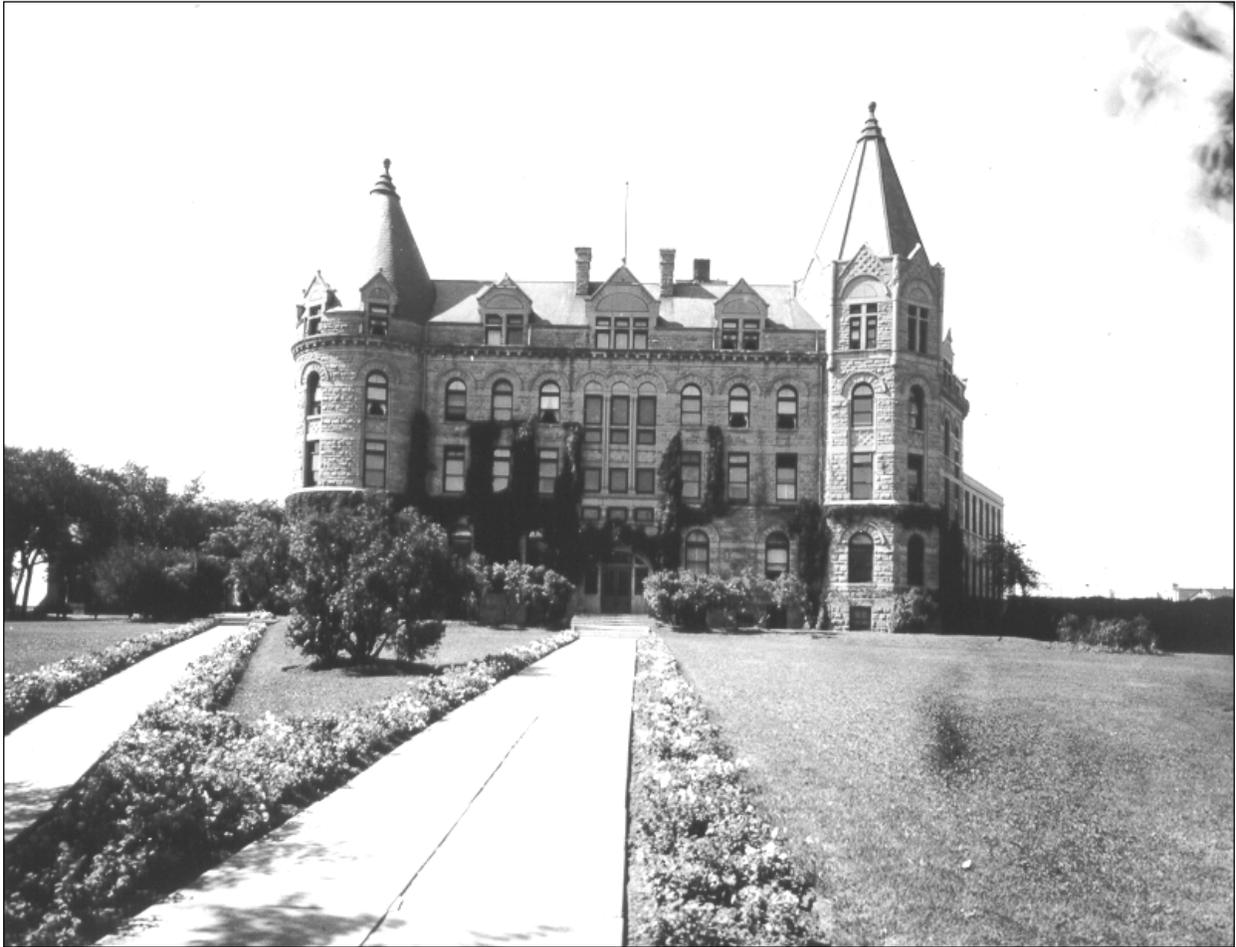


PLATE 13 United College, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, 1943. By World War II, United was being stereotyped as the ideal college with ivy-covered walls. As picturesque as this was, it helped to deteriorate the sandstone. Note the 1934 Library wing at the right rear of the building. (Manitoba Archives - Foote Collection, 1323.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

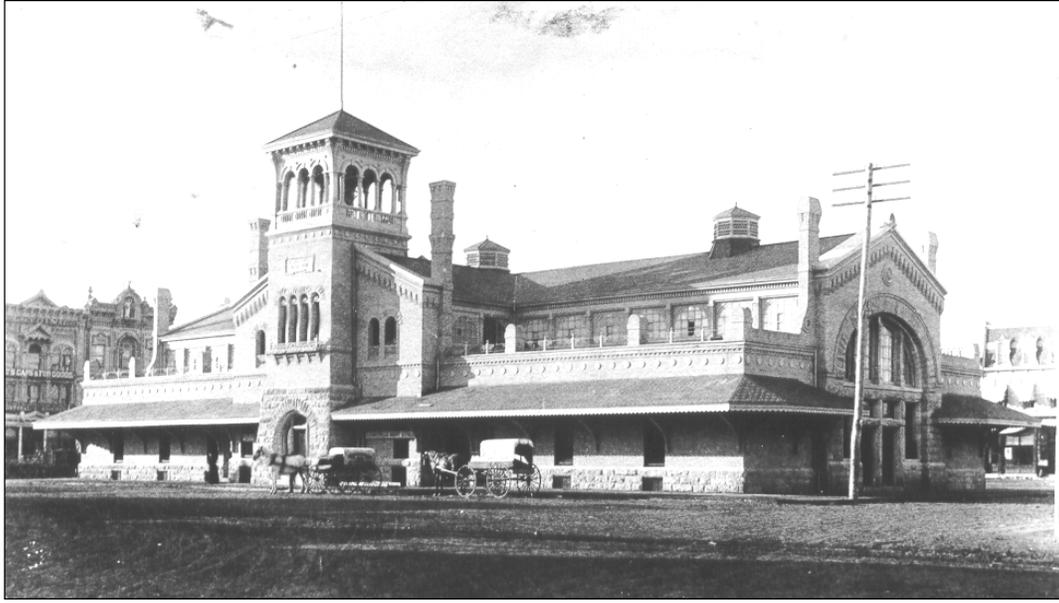


PLATE 14 City Market Building, Market Square at King Street, 1889-90. George Browne, architect. Altered 1919, demolished 1963. Browne's Richardsonian Romanesque Market was as distinctive a building as was the neighbouring City Hall. (Manitoba Archives - Winnipeg - Buildings - Municipal - City Market 6.)



PLATE 15 Masonic Temple, 335 Donald Street (SE Ellice Avenue) 1895. George Browne, architect. Seen in 1900, the Masonic Temple was a solid looking landmark that depicted the variety of Browne's designs when compared to Wesley College built the same year. (Manitoba Archives - Winnipeg - Buildings - General - Masonic Temple 1.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)



PLATE 16 Young Men's Christian Association Building, SE Portage Avenue and Smith Street, 1901. George Browne, architect. Later remodelled into the Birks Building, this combined business block/institution was a second generation design for the YMCA. The original 1899 design had been an emphatic Richardsonian Romanesque design complete with tower and rusticated stonework. ([Manitoba Archives - Winnipeg - Buildings - General - YMCA/Portage 2.](#))

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

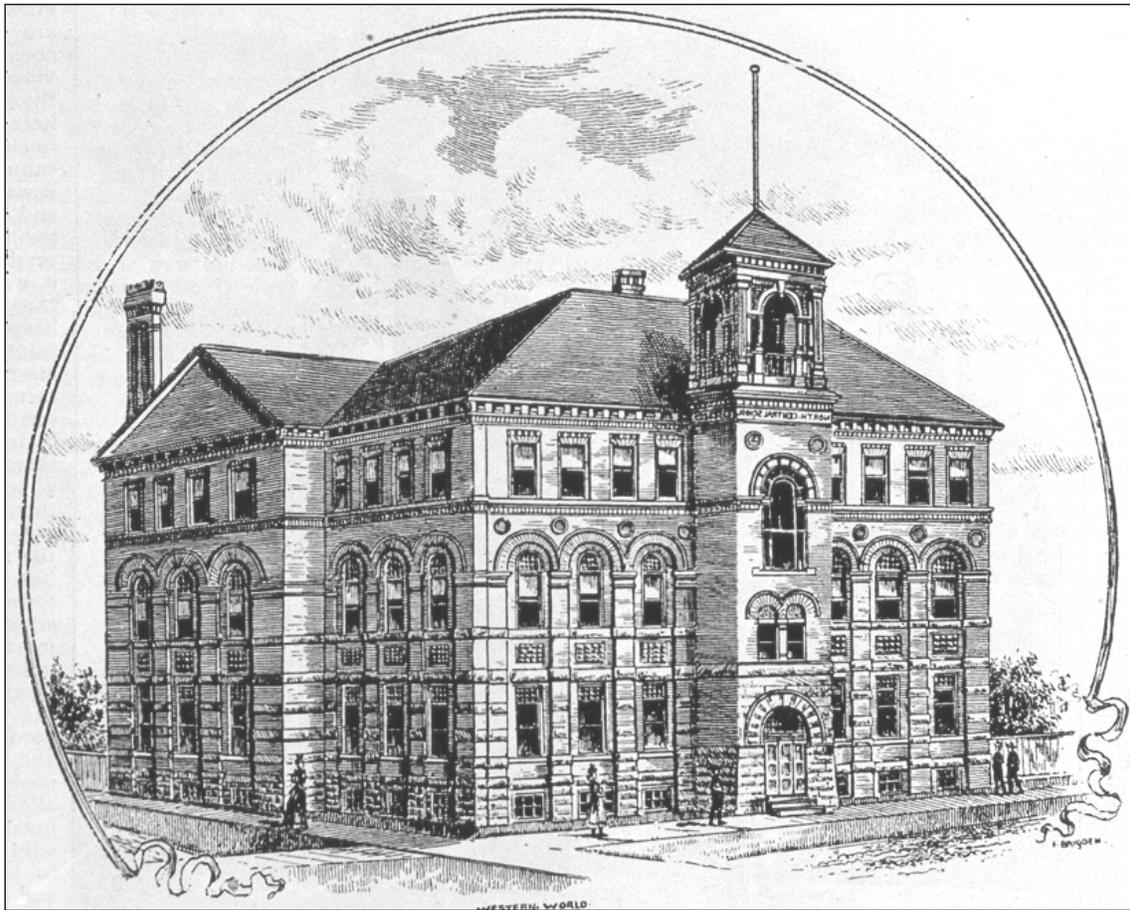


PLATE 17 North Central (Norquay) School, NW Euclid Avenue and Granville Street, 1892. George Browne, architect. Demolished 1950s. Some similarities to Wesley College could be seen in the arched windows on the second storey of this building. ([Manitoba Archives - Winnipeg - Schools - North Central 2.](#))

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

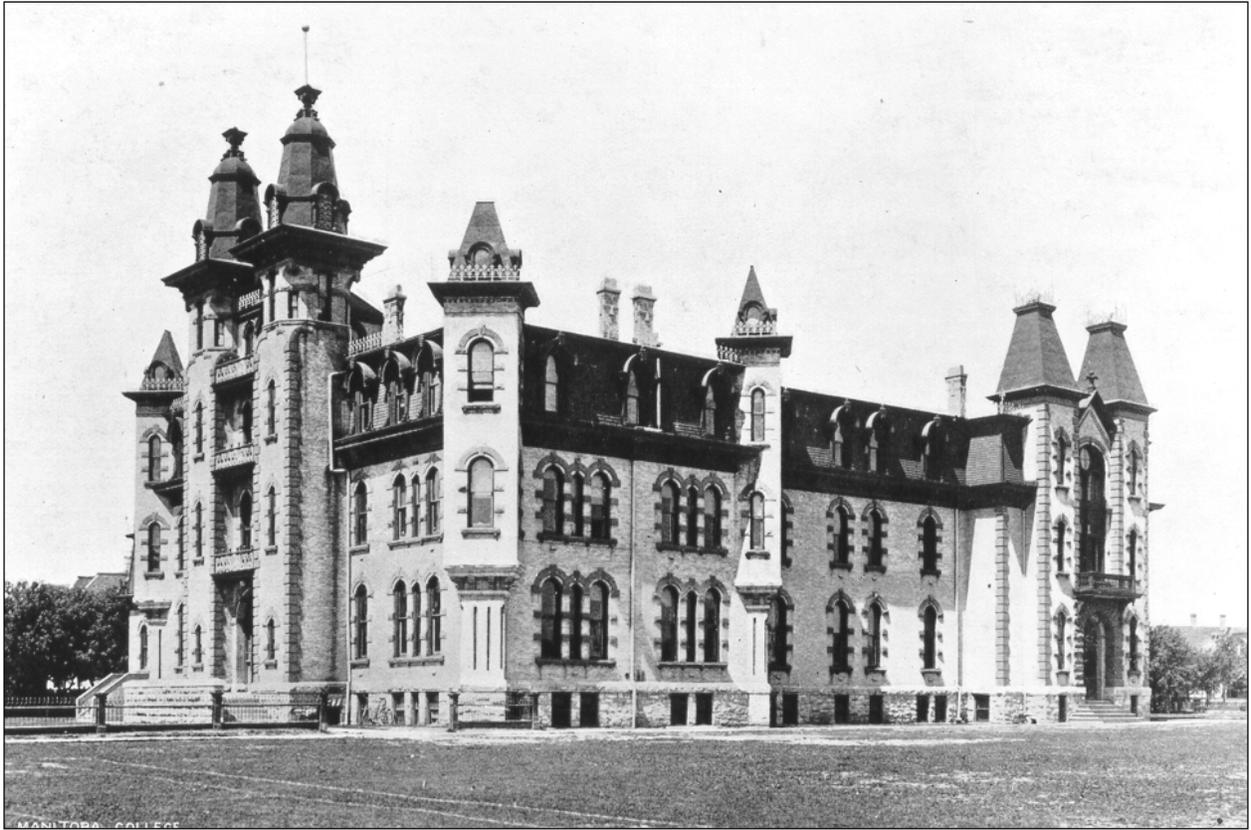


PLATE 18 Manitoba College, 435 Ellice Avenue (at Vaughan Street) 1881-82. Barber and Bowes, architects. Demolished 1964. During 1892, architect Browne designed the north wing of this building, situated to the right of the second corner tower in the foreground. His design matched that of the original building, though was somewhat less flamboyant in its outlook. (Manitoba Archives.)

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

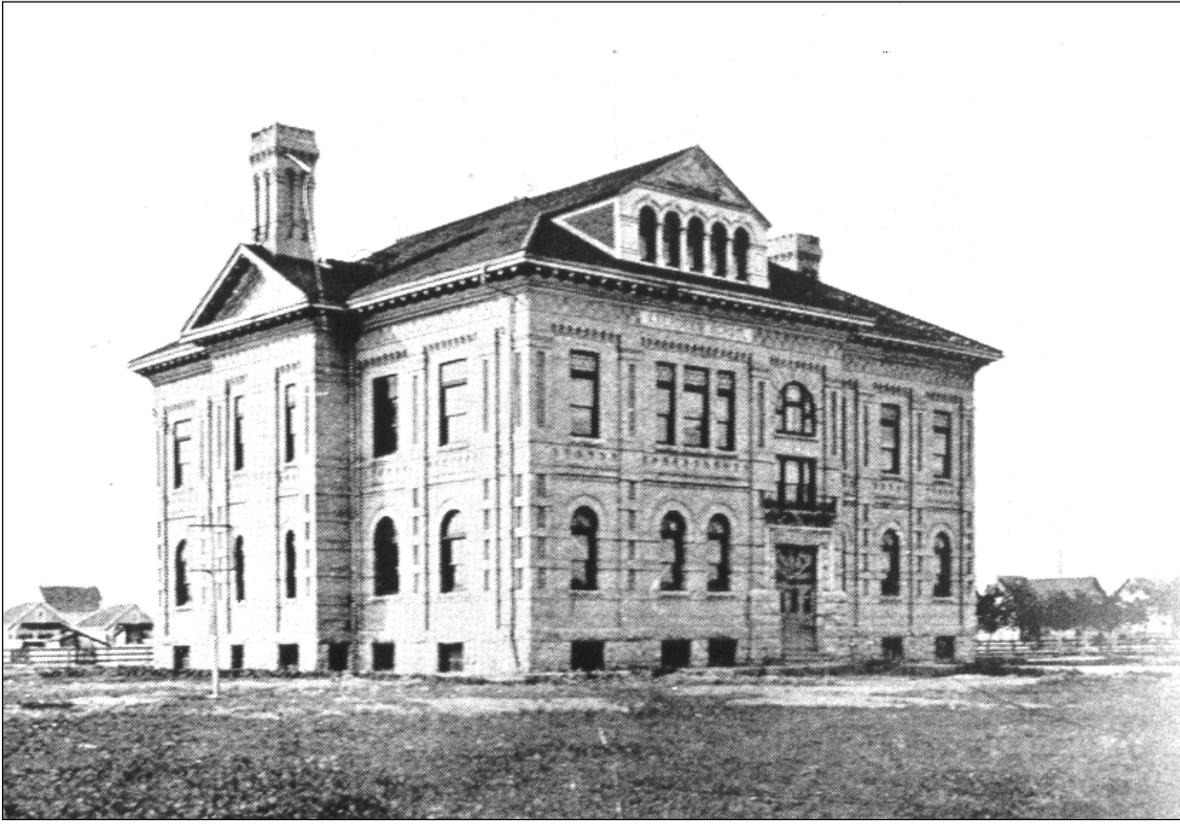


PLATE 19 Aberdeen School, SW Salter Street and Flora Avenue, 1893. George Browne, architect. Demolished. While not as huge as Norquay School, Aberdeen was a striking presence at the north end's western built up limit. ([Manitoba Archives - Winnipeg - Schools - Aberdeen 1.](#))

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)



PLATE 20 Mulvey School, Maryland Street south of Portage Avenue, 1893. George Browne, architect. Demolished. Browne's west end school was destroyed by fire in 1895, but was rebuilt to the same plans. Its design was successful enough that it endured a number of enlargements prior to its replacement in the early 1960s. ([Manitoba Archives - Winnipeg - Schools - Mulvey 1-1.](#))

515 PORTAGE AVENUE – WESLEY HALL (UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG)

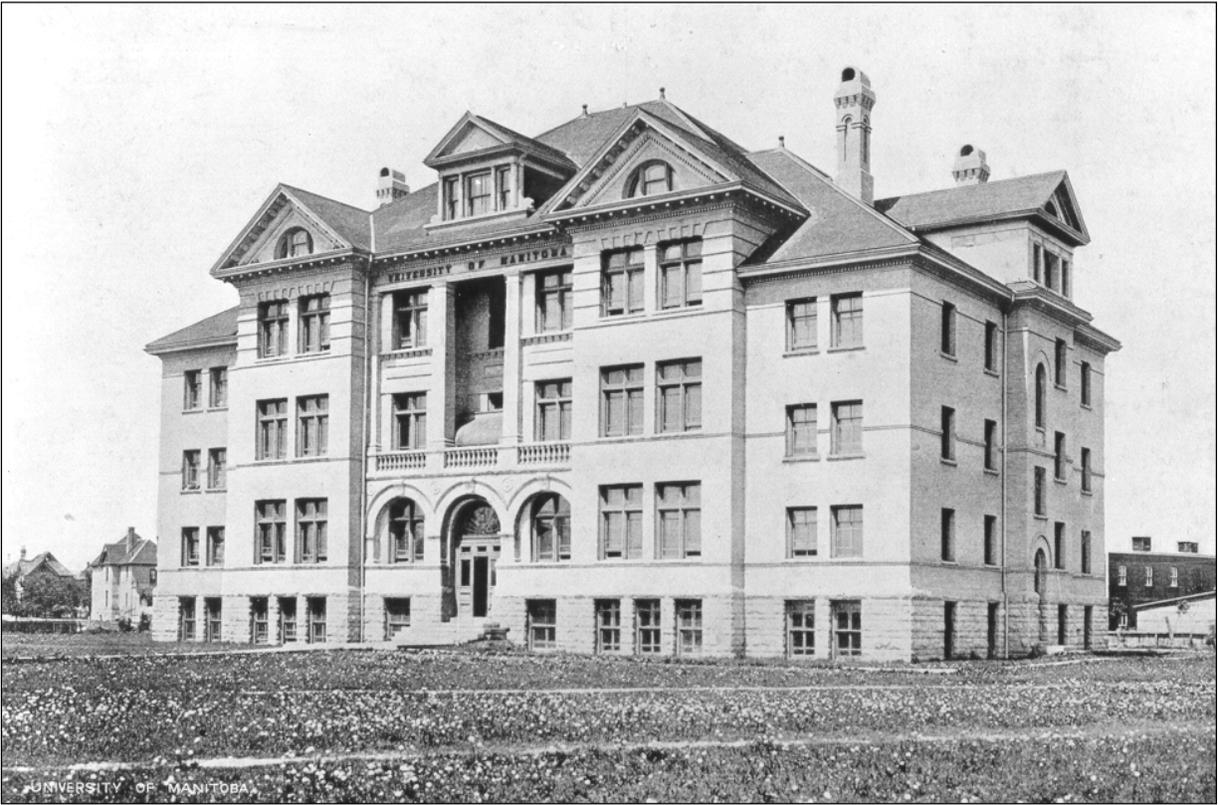


PLATE 21 University of Manitoba Science Building, north side Broadway (NW Memorial Boulevard) 1899-1900. George Browne, architect. Demolished 1960-61. This was Browne's other college building, executed in brick and performing similar functions to nearby Wesley College. It was a somewhat less remarkable design than that of the Methodist institution. (Manitoba Archives - University of Manitoba - Broadway Site - Science Building 8.)

ENDNOTES

- ¹ George Young, Manitoba Memories (Toronto: William Briggs, 1897), p. 27. Hereafter, cited as Young.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Ibid., p. 237.
- ⁴ Ibid., p. 270.
- ⁵ Ibid., pp 271-72.
- ⁶ “Local and Provincial,” Manitoba Free Press (below as MFP), 27 September 1873, p. 5.
- ⁷ “The City’s Progress,” MFP, 18 October 1873, p. 5.
- ⁸ Young, pp. 272-73.
- ⁹ Ibid., p. 275.
- ¹⁰ Manitoba, Province of. The Statutes of Manitoba, 1877, Chapter 41. (Winnipeg: Alexander Begg, 1877), pp. 172-176.
- ¹¹ Manitoba, Province of. Statutes of the Province of Manitoba, Vol. 1, Chapter 72. (Winnipeg: Gédéon Bourdeau, 1886), pp. 65-67.
- ¹² “Methodism,” Morning Call (below as Call), 22 June 1887, p. 3.
- ¹³ “Wesley College Opened,” Manitoba Sun, 1 October 1888, p. 1.
- ¹⁴ “An Important Addition,” Call, 1 October 1888, p. 2.
- ¹⁵ W.A. Cooke, “The Early Days of Wesley College,” Vox Wesleyana (Vox), Midsummer 1900, pp. 129-32.
- ¹⁶ “Reminiscences of Wesley College, 1889-92,” Vox, December 1911, p. 23.
- ¹⁷ Watson Kirkconnell, The Golden Jubilee of Wesley College, Winnipeg, 1888-1938. (Winnipeg: Columbia Press, 1938.) p. 14. Hereafter, cited as Kirkconnell.
- ¹⁸ “Progress of Methodism,” Winnipeg Evening Tribune (below as Tribune), 17 September 1890, p. 3; “The Reportorial Round,” Tribune, 30 September 1890, p. 4.
- ¹⁹ “Reminiscences of Wesley College,” Vox, January 1912, p. 36.
- ²⁰ L.S. Povah, “Reminiscences,” Vox, March 1912, p. 21.

- 21 “Wesley College Endowed,” Tribune, 17 August 1891, p. 4.
- 22 A.G. Bedford, The University of Winnipeg: a history of the founding colleges. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976), p. 32. Hereafter, cited as Bedford.
- 23 Winnipeg Land Titles Office (WLTO), Old System Abstract Book, Winnipeg 64 (Abstract 64), p. 4, instrument 12657; p. 9, instrument 1009.
- 24 City of Winnipeg Archives (CWA) Council Communications (CC), Series II, No. 1733, Letter, James Spence to City Council, 24 March 1891.
- 25 CWA, CC, No. 1310, Spence to City Council, 24 September 1889.
- 26 Bedford, loc. cit.
- 27 WLTO, Abstract 64, p. 5, instrument 56671.
- 28 CWA, Winnipeg Assessment Roll (below as AR), 1895, Ward 3, p. 69. The lot had been split into two parts in 1886.
- 29 *Ibid.*, 1893, Ward 3, p. 57. This was the Fitch Block, built by Michael Fitch in 1881.
- 30 Tribune, 19 May 1900, p. 8. See also City of Winnipeg Permits Branch (CWPB) Building Permit (BP) 198/00. This structure was still standing in the summer of 1997 as 276 Balmoral Street.
- 31 “Block of Land Purchased,” Tribune, 9 November 1891, p. 4.
- 32 “Will Arise and Build,” MFP, 4 October 1892, p. 8.
- 33 “For Wesley College,” MFP, 25 November 1892, p. 8.
- 34 “City and Country,” MFP, 4 March 1893, p. 8.
- 35 “Plans For A College,” MFP, 9 May 1893, p. 8.
- 36 “The Reportorial Round,” Tribune, 12 June 1893, p. 8.
- 37 “City and Local,” MFP, 13 July 1893, p. 6.
- 38 “New Wesley College,” Tribune, 13 January 1894, p. 8.
- 39 “New Wesley College,” MFP, 15 January 1894, p. 5.
- 40 “Tenders,” MFP, 17 February 1894, p. 6.
- 41 “Brief Locals,” NorWester, 7 March 1894, p. 8; also same 17 March 1894, p. 8.

- 42 “Calgary Sandstone,” MFP, 15 March 1894, p. 6. The quarry was on the Elbow River, two miles south of Calgary, and distant only a quarter of a mile from the Southern or Macleod branch of the CPR.
- 43 “New Wesley College,” MFP, 10 March 1894, p. 1.
- 44 Tribune, 17 March 1894, p 8; also “Evening Local Edition,” MFP, 21 March 1894, p. 6.
- 45 “The Reportorial Record,” Tribune, 14 April 1894, p. 8.
- 46 “Cornerstone Laid,” NorWester, 27 June 1894, p. 3.
- 47 “Laying the Corner Stone,” Tribune, 27 June 1894, p. 3.
- 48 “The Methodist Conference,” Tribune, 26 June 1894, p. 5.
- 49 Bedford, op. cit., p. 33.
- 50 “Brief Locals,” NorWester, 8 August 1894, p. 8.
- 51 “In City and Country,” MFP, 15 September 1894, p. 8; also Tribune, 17 September 1894, p. 8.
- 52 “Local Brevities,” MFP, 12 May 1895, p. 8.
- 53 “The Reportorial Round,” Tribune, 8 June 1895, p. 8.
- 54 “Wesley College,” MFP, 7 August 1895, p. 6. Some evidence exists that the stonework was not completed until 10 days later. See “The Reportorial Round,” Tribune, 17 August 1895, p. 8.
- 55 “New Wesley College,” MFP, 6 January 1896, p. 5.
- 56 “Wesley College,” Tribune, 4 June 1896, p. 3.
- 57 Loc. cit.
- 58 Tribune, 25 September 1897, p. 8. See also Vox, October 1897, p. 81.
- 59 Vox, January 1913, p. 23.
- 60 “Residence For Women,” Vox, January 1903, p.
- 61 Bedford, op. cit., p. 122.
- 62 “Wesley College is Rapidly Expanding,” Tribune, 18 August 1904, p. 10.

- ⁶³ “A Proper Reading Room,” Vox, February 1903, p. 83; also “Hello Central! Give Me Wesley,” December 1903, p. 50.
- ⁶⁴ “Some Facts About Our ‘Grads’,” Vox, December 1903, p. 73.
- ⁶⁵ “United Faculties,” Vox, November 1904, pp 8-9.
- ⁶⁶ Bedford, op. cit., p. 110.
- ⁶⁷ “Preparatory Department of Wesley College,” Vox, November 1912, unpaginated; see also “The Matriculation Building,” Vox, January 1913, p. 24.
- ⁶⁸ “Wesley May Have Ladies’ Residence,” Tribune, 31 March 1909, p. 8.
- ⁶⁹ CWPB, BP 1202/12.
- ⁷⁰ BP 3050/27.
- ⁷¹ BP 1324/34. See also “New Library Wing at Wesley Opened by Hoey,” Tribune, 10 November 1934, p. 13.
- ⁷² BP 1616/38.
- ⁷³ “City Hall On College Site Seen...” WFP, 13 August 1949, p. 1.
- ⁷⁴ “Third City Hall May Be Erected On Wesley Site,” Tribune, 6 October 1909, p. 1.
- ⁷⁵ “College May Get Omand’s Park Site,” WFP, 9 September 1949, p. 3.
- ⁷⁶ Bedford, op. cit., p. 272.
- ⁷⁷ A.G. Bedford, “One Hundred Years of History,” University of Winnipeg Alumni Journal, Summer 1988, p. 8.
- ⁷⁸ Bedford, op. cit., pp. 338-39; 343.
- ⁷⁹ Kirkconnell, op. cit., p. 46. Union with Manitoba College had taken place at the time of Church Union during 1925-26.
- ⁸⁰ CWPB, BP 4912/67.
- ⁸¹ BP 5067/67.
- ⁸² “Report on Planning and Development,” in University of Winnipeg Report, 1972-74, pp. 42-43.
- ⁸³ *Ibid.*, 1976-77, p. 33.

- ⁸⁴ Ibid., 1977-78, p. 39.
- ⁸⁵ CWPB, BP 10327/84.
- ⁸⁶ BP 3989/93.
- ⁸⁷ BP 7859/93; BP 1899/59.
- ⁸⁸ BP 1890/97.
- ⁸⁹ Browne biography based upon: Tribune, 1 April 1895, p. 8; "George Browne," Tribune, 1 August 1891, p. 13; "George Browne," in William Cochrane (ed.), The Canadian Album, Men of Canada Vol. III (Brantford: Bradley, Garretson and Company, 1895), p. 222; "History of Architecture," MFP, 30 November 1894, p. 4; "George Browne," in George Bryce A History of Manitoba (Toronto: Canada History Company, 1906), pp. 483-84; Manitoba Archives Probate Application Register, GR 3750, Reel M1280; Roll No. 3, Book 16; Nos. 25077 (George) 25051 (Louisa). As well, see "A History of Architecture," MFP, 30 November 1894, p. 4. See also J. Douglas Stewart, "George Browne," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography Vol XI (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1982), pp. 117-119, for an account of Browne's father.
- ⁹⁰ Peters biography based on "Cap't S. Frank Peters," in Who's Who and Why, 1917-18 (Toronto: International Press Ltd., 1917), p. 382; "Cap't F.S. Peters Died After Brief Illness," MFP, 31 May 1926, p. 3; "Cap't F. Peters, Veteran of Riel Rebellion, Dies," Tribune, 31 May 1926, p. 15; "S. Peters and Son," in London City and Middlesex County Directory, 1881-82 (London: London Publishing Co. 1881), p. 1.
- ⁹¹ Russell biography based upon "J.H.G. Russell," in F.H. Schofield, The Story of Manitoba, Vol. III (Winnipeg: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913), pp. 156-57. See also Bedford, op. cit., p. 148.
- ⁹² "Some Facts about Our 'Grads'," Vox, December 1903, p. 73.
- ⁹³ "Wesley College and Winnipeg," Vox, February 1910, p. 17.
- ⁹⁴ Richard Allen The Social Passion, Religion and Social Reform in Canada, 1914-28 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1971), p. 10.