

**66 CHANCELLORS CIRCLE – ADMINISTRATION BUILDING- UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA (MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE)**

Provincial Architect's Office (Samuel Hooper/Victor W. Horwood), 1913



This architecturally significant building was completed in 1913 as the central structure of the new location of the Manitoba Agricultural College, which had been established in 1903-1904 by the provincial government to provide courses in a wide range of agriculturally-based topics including farm management, crop science and livestock production. The facility was opened in November 1906 in what is now Tuxedo, west of the City on the south side of the Assiniboine River.

But being the only institution of its type in Western Canada and only the third of its type in all of Canada, enrollment quickly rose to the point where the program outgrew its facilities. The decision was made to find a larger site. Land was purchased in 1910 in what became the Municipality of Fort Garry and when the College opened in October 1913, it boasted a number of fine buildings, many of which still stand.

The Administration Building, visually conspicuous at the centre of the campus, is one of Western Canada's best examples of the Neo-Classical or Classical Revival Style. It features a wealth of classically-based ornamental elements including pedimented porticos, columns, symmetrical façades, window pediments, a stone octagonal cupola, cornices and balustrades.

Uniquely, the building is designed with nearly identical main elevations (east and west), while the side façades are also similarly designed and continue the cladding and architectural language of the main elevations.

On the interior, the building original included finely crafted detailing, sections with marble floors and wall cladding and wood accenting throughout. Renovations and upgrades have negatively affected some areas of the interior.

The most significant interior element is undoubtedly the central cross-plan staircase topped by a stained glass dome. This element has not seen significant alteration and remains a uniquely designed and finished interior item.

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

Exterior-

- Four-storey light red brick and stone building with low-pitched roof in the middle of Chancellors Circle in the heart of the University of Manitoba Fort Garry Campus, its main façades facing east and west, its side façades north and south;
- Its symmetrical west façade with wide staircase leading to the pedimented stone portico with unfluted stone columns with plain bases and composite capitals and attached square unfluted columns with composite capitals at the façades, the words "AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE" carved in the frieze and pediments with carved stone vines, arched, rectilinear and circular window openings in the portico with pointed and Swans neck pediments and a stone shield with date above the arched entrance opening, and north and south side wings divided into bays by attached brick columns with stone bases and capitals, rectilinear window openings set in wide stone frames and lowpitched tile roofs with complete entablatures;
- Its symmetrical east façade with wide staircase leading to the pedimented stone portico with unfluted stone columns with plain bases and composite capitals and attached square unfluted columns with composite capitals at the façades, the words "THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA" carved in the frieze and pediments

with carved stone vines, arched, rectilinear and circular window openings in the portico with pointed and Swans neck pediments and a stone shield with date above the arched entrance opening, and north and south side wings divided into bays by attached brick columns with stone bases and capitals, rectilinear window openings set in wide stone frames and lowpitched tile with complete entablatures;

- The brick and stone octagonal cupola finished with round finials, scrolled bracketing and balustrades, metal cornice and windows in oval stone openings;
- The north and south façade with its brick and stone pilasters, projecting stone entrances, rectilinear window openings with stone surrounds and complete entablatures; and

Interior-

- Volume, finishes and design of central staircase with stained glass dome; and
- Examples of dark wood trim and doors, multi-paned transoms and marble cladding.