442 SCOTIA STREET

MARYMOUND SCHOOL COMPLEX

City of Winnipeg
Historical Buildings Committee
Researcher: M. Peterson
December 2011
One of the results of Winnipeg’s dramatic rise in population in the late 19th and early 20th century was an equally dramatic rise in crime. The Province’s Court of King’s Bench was quickly overwhelmed to the point of crisis – on one occasion there were two trials being run simultaneously in the same courtroom.\(^1\) And while all crime was increasing, it became obvious that youth crime was becoming a major problem. On the national stage, the federal government passed The Juvenile Delinquents Act in 1908, which in part, stated that a young person convicted of a crime must be considered “a misdirected and misguided child, and one needing aid, encouragement, help and assistance.”\(^2\) The intent was to direct these children out of their present situation to a nurturing environment where they could be cared for and rehabilitated, or as one paper viewed it, “a re-socialization process that consisted of surveillance and discipline.”\(^3\)

The federal act allowed for each province to create its own juvenile court and Manitoba’s Attorney General Colin H. Campbell, who had been receiving considerable advice and numerous requests to relieve the growing problem of youth crime in Winnipeg, moved quickly. The province passed enabling legislation to create Canada’s first juvenile court in Winnipeg on January 22, 1909.\(^4\) For its first judge, he appointed Winnipeg police magistrate Thomas Mayne Daly (Plate 1), who had been championing the establishment of the court since the early 1900s.

Daly was a perfect choice for the position, his own philosophy matched that of the new legislation and he went to work establishing the necessary support systems to ensure the children coming before him had a place to go. The court was first held in a house at 226 Simcoe Street owned by the Salvation Army\(^5\) but within a year, moved into a three-storey building at the Grace Hospital site in

---


\(^4\) Ibid. The system was limited to Winnipeg only; it was not extended to the rest of Manitoba until 1925.

Wolseley (189 Evanson Street). The new building boasted a court room (furnished as a dining room), a school room and living accommodations for 22 children and staff. Girls occupied the second storey of the building and boys the third floor.

In the infancy of the juvenile court/rehabilitation system, Judge Daly sought the assistance of local church groups to deal with the children brought before him – groups that had a long history of providing social programs in Winnipeg. In April of 1911, just months before his sudden and untimely death, Daly asked the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (Soeurs du Bon Pasteur) from Montreal to organize a House for girls in Winnipeg. This order had been involved in social work with girls since being founded in Montreal in 1844 and whose original founding dates to France in the 1640s. The five Francophone Sisters that arrived from the east and moved into a home at 373 William Avenue in April 1911. But it was not long before this facility was strained to the point where larger quarters were needed. On September 29th, the new facility at 442 Scotia Street was blessed by Father Cherrier with “a debt of $60,000 and no water or lighting, except for five lamps.” Choosing such an isolated site was “significant and symbolic. Removing the girls from the city, which was generally considered to be a hub of western “wickedness,” to a pastoral setting was regarded as greatly assisting in correcting the deviant behaviour acquired in the city.”

The new home for the Sisters was the old Leacock Estate, a large piece of property in West Kildonan that included the mansion of Edward Philip “E.P.” Leacock (1853-ca.1925), built in 1878. Over the next 100 years, the site would change greatly, with property being sold and new structures being built as the institution grew and evolved.

Winnipeg Fire Atlas, Vol. 1, Sheet 167 (February 1918).
R. St. George Stubbs, op. cit.
Ibid.
City of Winnipeg Assessment Records, Roll No. 10480, PC 96 (below as AR).
Today, the site includes the following structures, which have been numbered for reference in this report:

1. Leacock House
2. St. Agnes Priory School
3. Marymound School
4. Powerhouse
5. “White House”
STYLE

1. LEACOCK HOUSE-
This house (Plate 2) is a modest example of the Queen Anne Revival style, one of the most popular of all the residential architectural styles from the 1880s until World War I. At its best, the style was known for its picturesqueness; a seemingly unconnected, unbalance attempt to fill or cover all flat surfaces on every façade. Bay windows, towers, wrap-around porches, irregular rooflines, dormers, cross gables, ornamented chimneystacks, projecting wings, balconies and varied materials and colours were applied in combination to animate the structures.

It was used in most districts of Winnipeg on both small and large dwellings. The Leacock House is one of the oldest Queen Anne Revival dwellings evaluated by the Historical Buildings Committee. The oldest designated dwelling is the Kelly House, 88 Adelaide Street, built in 1882.

2. ST. AGNES PRIORY SCHOOL-
This large, three storey brick building was constructed in 1924 and 1925 (Plate 3) and features elements of the Italianate Style, popular throughout Canada in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Primarily used in residential architecture, the style utilized elements of classical architecture and featured low-pitched or flat roofs, symmetrical, rectangular plans and towers. Pronounced mouldings, round or segmental arched heads and extended eaves are other common elements of the style.

3. MARYMOUND SCHOOL-
The one-storey school was opened in 1956 and is an example of the International Style (Plate 4). Although the style dates to the early 1930s, its widespread popularity throughout Europe and North America did not occur until after 1950. The style is seen as a reaction to the historically based styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The age of machines created a desire for a

---

new aesthetic, one that fully utilized the new construction materials and technologies, especially steel framing and reinforced concrete.\textsuperscript{14} Architects could design buildings without the need for load-bearing exterior walls – these elements became “curtains” covering the steel/concrete structural system and could be constructed almost entirely of glass if desired. Through its use of hard, angular edges, severely plain surfaces, large areas of glass and square or rectangular modules, the style stressed material and proportionality over ornamentation.

There are a number of excellent examples of the style in Winnipeg, office structures in the downtown and a handful of public schools found throughout the City. Leading local firms at the time included: Waisman-Ross and Associates; Smith-Carter; Libling, Michener and Associates; Green, Blankstein, Russell and Associates; and Blankstein, Coop, Gillmor and Hanna.

4. POWERHOUSE & LAUNDRY-
This 1924-1925 industrial structure is built of brick with concrete and because of its function; architectural elements were kept to a minimum (Plate 5).

5. WHITE HOUSE-
This 1½-storey single-family dwelling was built in 1907 (Plate 6) and was used as a modest private residence before being purchased and used by the Sisters as part of the Marymound Complex in the 1960s.\textsuperscript{15}

CONSTRUCTION

1. LEACOCK HOUSE-
This frame and brick veneer,\textsuperscript{16} 2½-storey house rests on a 45.7 cm. stone foundation. The main structure measures 14.3 x 15.3 x 9.9 metres and in total, the building offers nearly 2,300 cubic


\textsuperscript{15} “History of the Province of English-Canada”, op. cit., n.p.

metres of space. Ceiling heights are 2.1 metres in the basement and 3.1 metres on the ground and second floors.¹⁷

2. ST. AGNES PRIORY SCHOOL-
This clay brick building measures 46.1 metres in length (north to south), with a width of 17.2 metres and a height of 14.6 metres. The basement is built of reinforced concrete and ceilings throughout are 3.4 metres high. Extensive renovations were carried out on the building in 1974-1975.¹⁸

3. MARYMOUND SCHOOL-
Constructed of concrete block with a brick veneer, the Marymound School is a one storey structure with almost 8,000 cubic feet of interior space resting on piles and 22.9 cm. reinforced concrete basement walls. Reinforced concrete beams and posts are used throughout. There is a above-ground 45-metre link between the new school and the Priory School (Plate 7).

4. POWERHOUSE & LAUNDRY-
The two storey Powerhouse & Laundry Building, built in 1925, measures 10.4 x 18.1 x 8.2 metres and features brick on tile walls and reinforced concrete beams. A 2.7 x 2.7 metre chimney¹⁹ was included in the original design but later demolished.

5. WHITE HOUSE-
This frame house measures approximately 9.5 x 11.1 x 7.2 metres and rests on a foundation of concrete block. Ceiling heights measure 2.1, 2.7 and 2.3 metres in the basement, first floor and second floor respectively.²⁰

¹⁷ AR.
¹⁸ Ibid.
¹⁹ Architect’s plans, “Powerhouse and Laundry, St. Agnes Priory School,” dated 1924, courtesy of Marymound.
²⁰ Ibid.
DESIGN

1. LEACOCK HOUSE-
The west façade of the home is covered by the Priory School (Plate 8). The south elevation features an entrance covered by a newer roof beside a squared bay window. The openings are square headed as are the windows on the second floor. Wrapping around the south and east façades is a large, one-storey porch originally an open structure (Plate 9), but now enclosed with brick, glass block, windows and wood siding (Plate 10). The curve of the porch in the southeast corner is repeated in an unusual curved corner window on the second floor. This element is interrupted by a large brick chimney, which was adorned with a mosaic in the 1950s, designed by Norman Bruce (Plate 11).21

The east facade, facing the Red River, includes the ground floor porch and numerous windows on the second floor. The north elevation includes a newer carport and an open fire escape from the roof (Plate 12). The roof is complex and features several windowed dormers.

2. ST. AGNES PRIORY SCHOOL-
The school’s main entrance, accessed by a set of double stairs, is located on the south end of the building (Plate 13). The projecting entrance doors are set in an arched opening framed by delicate unfluted stone columns with ornate heads and bases. The arch is accented by brick drip moulding and a stone statue is located in a recessed area above. The use of arched openings and stone columns is repeated on the upper floors as well as the east and west façades. The west façade includes the main entrance, centrally placed and highlighted by a projecting section that rises to above the flat roofline and finishes in a tower (Plate 14). Both the east and west façades also feature brick buttresses with stone heads and bases. The roofline includes arches and corbelled brick at the south end and patterned brick and brick corbelling in the centre section (Plate 15). The north façade was originally partially hidden by a 2 storey frame building known as the Detention Home (Plate 16). This was removed via City of Winnipeg Building Permit #9241/1973 and replaced by a three-storey concrete block staircase (Plate 17).22

21 Information courtesy of M. Yager, Marymound.
22 AR.
3. MARYMOUND SCHOOL-
The modern school is clad in light brown brick and features little ornamentation. Its squared detailing, flat roof, square openings and straight, angular lines are all elements of the more modern architectural language of the post World War II period. The school features a lower, main entrance area on the structure’s east side (Plate 18) with a stone carving and the school name located on the south wall nearby (Plate 19). The remainder of the building continues these design elements (Plate 20).

4. POWERHOUSE & LAUNDRY-
This structure was designed with a one-storey section at the west end and a larger two-storey section to the east (Plate 21), an area that also hold the garage. There is little ornamentation on the structure save for some modest corbelling at the roof. A metal staircase leads to a second storey entrance on the north side (Plate 22).

5. WHITE HOUSE-
This modest single-family home is clad in horizontal wood siding and includes an enclosed entrance porch on the west side, an open entrance porch on the south side and a glazed porch on the east side overlooking the Red River (Plate 23).

INTERIOR

1. LEACOCK HOUSE-
Like the rest of the buildings within the complex, the Leacock House features some original areas as well as some renovated space. Much of the ground floor has been left in its original state, including the main staircase, tin ceilings, front parlours and south side entrance (Plates 24-27). Original light fixtures and hardware, dark wood accents, ornamental plasterwork and other interior finishes are all found on this level. The second floor has been heavily renovated into living space for the Sisters, the small third floor appears to have been only slightly altered – the layout of small bedrooms and a bathroom and the ornamental tin ceiling appear to be original (Plates 28 and 29). The basement is used for storage.
2. ST. AGNES PRIORY SCHOOL-
According to the original plans, the basement of the Priory School held a large kitchen, several walk-in refrigerators, washrooms and then dining rooms (“refectories”) for Junior Girls, Men and for the Sisters. The ground floor held a one-bedroom suite in the southeast corner, parlours for Senior Girls and the Sisters and four classrooms in the north portion of the space (Plate 30). The second floor held the large chapel in the south end and classrooms, infirmaries and Sisters’ rooms. The third floor included a large dormitory in the south end, banks of toilets and bathtubs in the centre and a smaller dormitory and sewing rooms for the girls.

Today, the basement still holds kitchen, eating and storage space (including a walk-in vault). The ground floor was renovated in 1974-1975\textsuperscript{23} into meeting rooms and offices (Plate 31). The chapel on the second floor has seen little alteration and much of the original finish and ornamentation is evident (Plates 32 and 33). The north portion of this floor was heavily renovated in the 1970s into living space for girls, as was the third floor.\textsuperscript{24}

3. MARYMOUND SCHOOL-
As originally built in the 1950s, the modern school featured offices in the east portion, a 16.2 x 29.6 metre\textsuperscript{25} auditorium to the west and then along the front (west), were classrooms and a dormitory (Plate 34). The main alteration to the space was the conversion of the dormitories into more classroom space (Plates 35 and 36).

4. POWERHOUSE & LAUNDRY-
As originally designed, the two-storey portion (east end) of this structure included a large basement with ceilings to the bottom of the second floor, coal room and an office.\textsuperscript{26} Only a small part of the ground floor was useable and the second floor was taken up by laundry space,

\textsuperscript{23} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{25} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{26} Architect’s Plans dated August 1924, “Powerhouse and Laundry, St. Agnes Priory School,” courtesy of Marymound. Although not drawn on the plans, there were several barred holding cells in the basement.
including washing machines, a packing room and dryers. Today, the basement still holds the heating machinery (Plate 37) and a tunnel still runs to the Priory School (Plate 38).

It is unclear when the one-storey portion was added to the west end of the building, but City of Winnipeg records suggest that it was also in 1925 (although building plans do not show it). In 1973, however, this space was renovated into bedrooms (Plate 39).

In sum, the much of the ground floor of the Leacock House remains in its original layout with its original finishes; the upper floors have been renovated over time. Only some basement space and the second floor chapel are in their original state in the Priory School. Much of the 1950s Marymound School has remained in its original state, the Powerhouse and Laundry Building has only the boiler area in its original layout and use and it is unknown what the present condition of the interior of the 1907 White House is.

**INTEGRITY**
All buildings stand on their original sites and appear to be in good structural condition. Alterations to the exteriors have been minimal, mostly repairs. The original Powerhouse included a tall chimney and cupola, both of which have been removed (Plate 40).

**STREETSCAPE**
The Leacock House originally stood on a large piece of property, stretching north and south from the house and from the banks of the Red River all the way to Main Street (Plate 41). The Sisters farmed much of the land (Plate 42) but because of rising debt in the early 1930s, some of the land was taken by the Municipality in lieu of taxes.\(^{27}\) This streetscape has changed significantly as the property was sold off, subdivided and single-family dwellings built on the land.

ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS

1. LEACOCK HOUSE-
It is unknown at this time who designed the Leacock House.

2. ST. AGNES PRIORY SCHOOL & 4. POWERHOUSE & LAUNDRY-
George W. Northwood designed both these structures.\(^{28}\) Northwood was a well-known local practitioner who career spanned several decades (see Appendix II for biographical information). He has received 20 points from the Historical Buildings Committee. P. Burke-Gaffney is listed as the engineer for this project and Bowyer-Boag Limited was the plumbing and heating contractors.\(^{29}\)

3. MARYMOUND SCHOOL-
The well-known local firm Green Blankstein Russell Associates (later GBR Architects) was responsible for the design of the modern school in 1954.\(^{30}\) Founded in 1932, this firm became one of the most influential of its time (see Appendix III for biographical information). This is the first GBR Architects building evaluated by the Committee.

5. WHITE HOUSE-
It is unknown at this time who designed the White House.

PERSON/INSTITUTION
Leacock House was built in 1878 by Edward Philip “E.P.” Leacock (1853-ca.1925), uncle of famed Canadian writer Stephen Leacock (Plate 43). The magnificent brick home on Scotia Street was the scene of the finest parties where “the champagne was always cooled to a temperature of 38°” and the “roaring hospitality never stopped.” Described by many as a “quaint

\(^{28}\) Architectural plans, dated 1924 for “St. Agnes Priory School, Home of the Good Shepherd” and “Powerhouse and Laundry, St. Agnes Priory School”, courtesy of M. Yager, Marymound.

\(^{29}\) Ibid., and “Agreement” for plumbing and heating services, dated September 18, 1924, courtesy of Marymound.

\(^{30}\) Information courtesy of Marymound.
character,” it was solely E.P.’s charm that allowed him to live the high life without seemingly ever paying for it – one of his most famous scams was to claim he was the owner of a railroad, the Winnipeg, Hudson Bay and Arctic Ocean Railway, to receive free passage on operating lines all across North America. He ran up considerable debt and borrowed heavily from acquaintance and skipped town in the late 1890s.

Prior to his departure, however, Leacock had sold the Kildonan property to Nathaniel Francis Hagel (1846-1915). Hagel (also spelt Hagle), was a lawyer who came to Winnipeg in 1881 and was called to the Manitoba Bar the following year (Plate 44). A defense lawyer known for his excellent cross-examinations and his ability to move a jury, only 1 of the 76 murderers on trials that he defended was hung.31 Hagel was also an avid amateur horticulturalist and among many things he planted on the property was a row of trees along the driveway of his home. The driveway eventually became Forrest Avenue. Hagel left the City for Vancouver, B.C. in 1898.

The house was taken over by the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in 1911 among the Institution’s early benefactors were Parish of St. Boniface, St. Mary’s Cathedral, the Knights of Columbus and hundreds of individuals across Canada. In 1912, the Province of Manitoba granted the Sisters $10,000 and the City of Winnipeg added $1,000.32 The Sisters kept detailed records of all the girls under their care – these early wards came from all over Manitoba, from many different cultures and social standings, sentenced from a few months to several years for vagrancy, theft, fraud, prostitution and even for being “incorrigible.”33

The early years were extremely difficult; money was always in short supply. Donations of food (the Hotel Fort Garry donated bread each day) and livestock allowed the Good Shepherd Home to continue (Plate 45). A large frame addition was made to the north end of the Leacock House to alleviate some the overcrowding being experienced.

31 “Hagel, Nathaniel Francis,” in Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online (University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2000).


33 “Entrance Ledgers,” 1911, courtesy of Marymound.
In 1925, with the house and addition being strained because of the number of orphaned girls being sent to the Home, St. Agnes Priory was built west of the house (Plate 46) as well as a powerhouse with laundry facilities on the second floor – an increasingly important activity of the Home and operated as St. Joseph’s Laundry (Plate 47). Now the Home saw younger children (referred to as “Priory Lambs”) as orphanages closed or tried to alleviate overcrowding (Plate 48).

The Home continued to grow and evolve and with the rise in foster homes, the Priory was converted into a treatment centre for emotionally disturbed girls in the 1940s and renamed St. Agnes School. In the 1950s, Marymound School was created from a formal separation between the social service and educational functions of the Order (this arrangement lasted for 19 years, at which time the two entities were reunited as Marymound). The new school building was completed in 1958, while the Leacock House became (and remains today) the residence of the Sisters (Plates 49 and 50). The White House was purchased by Marymound in the 1960s and used for many years as a group home for older girls. In 1975, the institution was incorporated as Marymound, Inc.

Today, Marymound has evolved into a diverse social agency serving over 3,000 young people (both boys and girls) and their families annually. The agency provides 24-hour residential care, a crisis stabilization unit, community group homes, and treatment foster care on the Scotia campus. As well, the agency delivers community-based sexual abuse treatment services and school-based youth emergency education services throughout the City of Winnipeg. At the school, grades 1 through 10 are taught following Manitoba curriculum. The agency now also has facilities in Thompson, Manitoba, where similar programming is delivered under the auspices of Marymound North.

35 Information supplied by Marymound.
EVENT
There is no known event connected with this building.

CONTEXT
This complex speaks to a number of important historical themes in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada. The construction of the late 1870s mansion was early for Western Canada and it took its place in the high society of the area – parties, galas and other events were well documented.

Its conversion to a girls’ home in the early 1910s and the subsequent expansion in the mid-1920s was an important illustration of the growth of this type of social activity in 20th century Canada, an acknowledgement of the need to work with juveniles and the increasing numbers of children being brought into this system over time.

Finally, the construction of the modern school and the alteration of many interior spaces in the older buildings is evidence of the maturation of Marymound as an institution and its changing role within the system.

LANDMARK
Although the complex is relatively hidden on its still large piece of property in West Kildonan, it is a well known institution within the City.
APPENDIX I

CITY OF WINNIPEG - Preliminary Report

Assessment Record

Building Address: 442 Scotia Street
Building Name: Marymound School Complex

Original Use: Girls’ Home & School
Current Use: School and treatment centre

Roll No.: 11001048000
R.S.N.: 125682

Property or Occupancy Code: 96

Legal Description: 5/6 St. John, Plan 26139, Parcel A

Location: east of Ord Street between Forrest and Leila avenues

Date of Construction: 1878 (house), 1925 (Priory School and Powerhouse/Laundry Building), 1954 (Marymound School)

Heritage Status: ON INVENTORY
Construction Type: Various

Red River

N
George W. Northwood

Major George W. Northwood was born in 1876 and came to Winnipeg in 1905 as a graduate of McGill University. At the time, he was affiliated with Werner E. Noffke of Ottawa, under the name Northwood and Noffke. For several years, this firm was the corporate architect for the Winnipeg-based Northern (later Northern Crown) Bank and, as such, was responsible for the design of the company's banks prior to 1912.¹

Shortly after his arrival in the city, Northwood formed a short-lived partnership with William Blair, an Irish-born designer 24 years his elder. Blair and Northwood were responsible for the design of four local buildings, all completed in 1906: the Thomas Ryan Warehouse, 44 Princess Street (Grade III), the Henderson Directory Building, 279 Garry Street, a retail/residential block on Lydia Street and a warehouse for the Beckett Care Company on Henry Avenue.² By 1907, the pair was working individually according to the City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledgers.

Northwood continued working alone for over a decade, designing a number of large and small structures: Western Glove Works, 321 McDermot Avenue, 1912 (Grade III); R.J. Whitla House, Yale Avenue, 1912; A. Bernard House, Assiniboine Avenue, 1912; Robinson and Black Building, Portage Avenue, 1912; addition and alteration to the Bank of Ottawa, 363 Main Street, 1912; and Ralph Connor House, 54 West Gate, 1913 (Grade II).

In 1919, Northwood formed a four-year partnership with local architect Raymond Carey. The firm’s list of projects³ includes: alterations to Dominion Bank, Portage Avenue (southeast corner of Sherbrook Street), 1919, alterations to Winnipeg Paint and Glass Co. warehouse, Notre Dame Avenue East, 1919, J.K.L. Ross garage, Lombard Avenue (southeast corner of Rorie Street), 1919, B.M. Armstrong House, Kingsway (southeast corner of Guelph Street), 1920, alterations to the

² City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Book, 1906.
³ Compiled from BP, 1918-1926.
Hudson's Bay Co. offices, 208 Main Street, 1920, alterations to bank, 363 Main Street, 1922, and alterations to the Dominion Bank, Redwood Avenue (southwest corner of Main Street), 1922. Their most important work was the design of the Union Tower Annex, 500 Main Street, in 1921 (Grade II).

Northwood worked alone after 1922 until ca.1928 when he joined with fellow World War I veteran, Brigadier Major Cyril W. U. Chivers (1879-1969). This pair designed many notable public buildings throughout Winnipeg including: St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Jessie Avenue (1928); the Canadian Wheat Board Building, 423 Main Street (1929); the Assiniboine Park Pavilion, Grade II (1929); the Canadian General Electric Building, 265 Notre Dame Avenue, Grade III (1930); the Women's Tribute Memorial Lodge, 200 Woodlawn Street, Grade II (1931); the Academy Road branch of the Bank of Toronto (1934); the Federal Building, 269 Main Street (1935); and an addition to the St. John's Telephone Exchange, 405 Burrows Avenue (1946).4

Northwood's career also included a seat on the Board of the Manitoba Association of Architects, membership in the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and the presidency of the Manitoba Club. He died in 1959.5

---


Green Blankstein Russell Associates

This firm was founded in 1932 by Lawrence J. Green (1899-1969), Cecil N. Blankstein (1908-1989) and G. Leslie Russell (1901-1977).

Lawrence John Green was born in Winnipeg in 1899 and received his architectural degree from the University of Manitoba in 1926 and formed a partnership with C.N. Blankstein in 1931. He served as President of the Manitoba Association of Architects in 1934 and 1937, and was made a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in 1957.¹

G.L. Russell was also born in Winnipeg, the nephew of well-known architect J.H.G. Russell. He received his architecture degree from the University of Manitoba and then worked for his uncle before moving to Chicago. He returned to Winnipeg in 1927 and again worked for his uncle until the Great Depression forced him to take other jobs.

Cecil Nathan Blankstein was born into an architectural family, the son of Canada’s first Jewish architect, Max Blankstein. C.N. Blankstein was born in Winnipeg in 1908 and received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Manitoba in 1929. He worked after graduation in the Manitoba Department of Public Works for two years.² He was also a President of the Manitoba Association of Architects (1955) and a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.³

In 1932 Green and Blankstein were joined by Russell and Ralph C. Ham to create Green Blankstein Russell and Ham. The firm struggled to find work and Ham died suddenly in 1942. Green Blankstein Russell did secure the contract for the Wildwood Park housing development in

¹ Winnipeg Free Press, May 9, 1969, p. 29.
³ Winnipeg Free Press, July 7, 1989, p. 35.
1946 – their major breakthrough. The firm designed not only homes for the development but the site – an innovative group of loops around common greenspaces.

Although all three men were classically trained, their adoption of new methods, materials and style and their constant use of graduates from the University of Manitoba eased the firm’s move into the modern era. At one time it operated offices in Ottawa, Brandon, Regina and Winnipeg. The 35-person company, which had become GBR Architects, was bought out by Stantec of Edmonton, Alberta in 2004.4

A list of the firm’s major projects would include:5

Mall Medical Building, 300 Memorial Boulevard, 1948
Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, 561 Wellington Crescent, 1949
St. Boniface Hospital addition, Tache Avenue, 1950
Nordale School, Birchdale Avenue, 1952
Main Post Office, 266 Graham Avenue, 1954
Shaarey Zedek School, Lanark Street, 1955
Dayton Building, 323 Portage Avenue, 1955
Transcona Collegiate, 1305 Winona Street, 1955
Campbell’s Soup Plant, Portage la Prairie, 1958
St. George’s Anglican Church, 168 Wilton Street, 1958
Polo Park Shopping Centre, Portage Avenue, 1958
Assiniboia Downs, 3975 Portage Avenue, 1958
St. Paul’s College and Chapel, 70 Dysart Road (University of Manitoba), 1958
Norquay Building, 401 York Avenue, 1959
St. Pauls Hospital, Saskatoon, SA, 1960
Wheat Board Building, Main Street, 1960
Mutual Life of Canada Building, Portage Avenue (Red Cross Building), 1960
University of Manitoba (Allen Physics Laboratory Building, Parker Chemistry Laboratory Building, Armes Lecture Building), 1961
Windsor Park Collegiate, 1015 Cottonwood Road, ca.1961
Winnipeg City Hall and Administration Building, 1962-1965
St. Andrew’s College, 29 Dysart Road (University of Manitoba), 1963
University of Winnipeg (Ashdown Hall, Graham Hall and Manitoba Hall), 1960s
Winnipeg International Airport, 2000 Wellington Avenue, 1964
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 737 Bannerman Avenue, 1966
Centennial Cultural Centre, 555 Main Street (part of consortium), 1967

5 List compiled from Historical Buildings Committee files; information supplied by the Winnipeg Architectural Foundation; and University of Manitoba Libraries, Winnipeg Building Index.
Plate 1 – Thomas Mayne Daly, 1902. Daly was born in Canada West in 1852 and moved to Brandon, MB in 1881, becoming its first mayor the next year. He was also elected a Member of Parliament for Selkirk in 1887 and served as Minister of the Interior and Minister of Indian Affairs from 1892-1896. He was appointed Police Magistrate in 1904 and Judge of the Juvenile Court from 1909 until his death in 1911 (J.M. Bumsted, Dictionary of Manitoba Biography [Winnipeg, MB: University of Manitoba Press, 1999]). (Image reproduced from Representative Men of Manitoba, 1902 [Winnipeg, MB: The Tribune Publishing Company, 1902].)
Plate 2 – Leacock House, 442 Scotia Street, south and east façades, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 3 – St. Agnes Priory School, 442 Scotia Street, south and west façades, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 4 – Marymound School, 442 Scotia Street, west façade, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 5 – Powerhouse and Laundry Building, 442 Scotia Street, south and east façades, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 6 – “White House,” 442 Scotia Street, south and east façades, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 7 – Marymound School-St. Agnes Priory School link, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 8 – Leacock House and Priory School, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 9 – These images from ca.1912 (top) and the 1920s (bottom) show the open porch. (Courtesy of Marymound.)
Plate 10 - Leacock House, south and east façades, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 11 – Leacock House, detail of southeast corner chimney, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 12 - Leacock House, north façade, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 13 – St. Agnes Priory School, south façade, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 14 – St. Agnes Priory School, tower on the west façade, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 15 – St. Agnes Priory School, roofline bickwork, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 16 – The Marymound Complex in 1926 shows the Leacock House with its connection to the Priory School, the 2½-storey frame “Detention Home” built on the north end of the school and a concrete tunnel running under it to the Laundry and Powerhouse. (Courtesy of City Archives, Fire Atlas Vol. VIII, Sheet 816.)
Plate 17 – St. Agnes Priory School, north façade, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 18 – Marymound School, east façade, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 19 – Marymound School, south and east façades, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 20 – Marymound School, west façade, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 21 – Powerhouse and Laundry Building, south façade, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)

Plate 22 – Powerhouse and Laundry Building, north and west façades, 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)
Plate 23 – The “White House”, west façade (top left), south façade (top right), south and east façades (bottom left) and north façade (bottom right), 2011. (M. Peterson, 2011.)