

216 PRINCESS STREET

THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL

City of Winnipeg
Historical Buildings & Resources Committee
Researcher: M. Peterson
September 2015

This building embodies the following heritage values as described in the *Historical Resources By-law*, 55/2014 (consolidated update July 13, 2016):

(a) Its date-of-construction, 1902, makes it an excellent example of an early 20th century mixed use structure;

(b) Its original and long-term owner, the Orange Order, was an important fraternal organization;

(c) It was designed by architect Samuel Hooper, one of the city's most prominent early 20th century designers;

(d) It is an excellent example of a Classical Revival style building with unique stone cladding;

(e) It is an integral part of its north Princess Street streetscape; and

(f) Most of the design features and materials of the main (east) façade are intact.

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL

Winnipeg in the early 1890s was on the verge of a spectacular era of growth, development and maturity that would almost completely change the City by World War I. But this comprehensive growth followed patterns established a decade earlier and resulted in specific districts within city boundaries even after this frenzied period of growth.

The real estate and construction boom of the early 1880s was intimately connected to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) around Winnipeg and onto the western prairies. Land prices in the small capital city skyrocketed, the population soared and solid brick structures began replacing the small wooden shacks that dotted the mud streets and avenues. Perhaps more important, however, was the beginning of the segregation of the various sectors of the city – residential, commercial and industrial – and their specific buildings.[1] The huge advance in land prices along Main Street north of Portage Avenue necessitated the replacement of the earlier residential development (Plate 1) with large commercial structures. Investors chose to locate near one of the most important buildings, City Hall, from which would come assistance in advancing both singular business interests and those of the community at large.

Commercial interests, both local and from Eastern Canada, were quick to locate in this area. The city rapidly assumed the role of wholesale hub for all of Western Canada. Companies like R.J. Whitla, Stobart, Eden and Company, George D. Wood and J.H. Ashdown were all organized and carrying on business prior to the CPR boom. The bust of 1882, while it seriously affected some parts of the local economy, did not have a devastating effect on the wholesale sector. This was mainly as a result of the expanding regional base of the wholesalers as settlement increased on the prairies and demand for goods grew. The areas east and west of Main Street, however, were undeniably developing as the warehouse district, slowly through the 1880s and 1890s and then rapidly after 1900 (Plate 2). And Princess Street, located just west of the City Hall/Market complex, developed as one of the city's premier thoroughfares (Plate 3).

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1 R.R. Rostecki, "The Growth of Winnipeg, 1870-1886," unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Manitoba, 1980, pp. 112-114.

But the growing warehouse district was not solely occupied by wholesale businesses and their storage facilities. Theatres – both live and movies, hotels, stables and later automobile garages, modern retail space, offices and even residential suites were developed. One of Winnipeg's numerous social institutions, the Orange Order, chose to build its new headquarters on Princess Street, officially opening the structure at 216 Princess Street in March 1903 (Plate 4).[2]

STYLE

The design of the Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall is firmly based in the Neo-Classical or Classical Revival style, which as the name suggests, was a redefinition and revisiting of classical architecture form and ornamentation. Popular from 1900 into the 1930s in North America, its designs included columns, capitals, pediments and Greek or Roman embellishments.[3] Main façades were normally symmetrical, cladding smooth and rooflines flat. Windows and doors were placed in both lintelled and arched openings; the latter was especially prevalent in the most ornamentally complex variant of the style, Beaux-Arts Classicism.

Examples in Winnipeg and Manitoba are numerous, including the Bank of Montreal, 335 Main Street (completed 1913), Legislative Building, 450 Broadway (completed 1920) and the Bank of Nova Scotia, 254 Portage Avenue (completed 1910). While much smaller in scale, the Orange Hall does include many fine classical features and is similar to the Masonic Temple, 335 Donald Street, built in 1895 (Plate 5).

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2 MFP, March 6, 1903, p. 7.

3 Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), pp. 18-19; E. Kisiow and L. Murphy, "Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216-218 Princess Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba," report for the Historic Resources Branch, Province of Manitoba, 1985, (below as Kisiow/Murphy), p. 2.

CONSTRUCTION

The construction of this building was officially announced in August 1899[4] and its cornerstone laid in a ceremony on July 12, 1900.[5] The original design (Plate 6) was considerably more elaborate than the finished product, for which the actual City of Winnipeg Building Permit was taken out in 1902.

The three-storey building is constructed of brick with a stone-clad front façade, measuring 15.3 metres wide and 27.5 metres deep (see Appendix I for more construction information). Cost of construction was $21,000.[6]

DESIGN

The front (east) façade is symmetrically designed; the ground floor features windows in four tall, thin rectilinear openings with transoms flanked on either side by arched entrances (Plate 7). A stone cornice with ornamental brackets at each end visually separates this level from the upper floors. The second storey window openings match those of the ground floor, the outer openings are rectilinear and slightly larger and the central area projects slightly (Plate 8). Another stone cornice finishes this level, acanthus leaves embellishing the end brackets which are topped by semi-circular elements (Plate 9).

The most ornamentally complex level is the top floor. The projecting central area holds a large window in arched opening, flanked by windows in rectilinear openings. The arched opening is embellished with attached Corinthian order columns and an acanthus leaf keystone (Plate 10). Four larger, flat, unfluted Ionic order attached columns are placed between the central windows and are topped by a flat stone panel carved with the words “SCOTT MEMORIAL HALL”. Two

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4 Manitoba Free Press, August 9, 1899, p. 6, November 18, 1899, p. 5.

5 Manitoba Free Press, July 13, 1900, p. 8. The ceremony coincided with “The Twelfth” or “Orangemen’s Day,” an annual celebration that has been observed by Irish Protestants – Orangemen – since the 18th century.

6 City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #611/1902.

circular stone elements below this signage include the letters “AD” (southern) and “1902” (northern). The outer portions of the third floor hold windows in arched openings.

The flat roof is highlighted by raised ends with acanthus leaf detailing and in the centre with a large pediment with semi-circular window and wood flag pole (Plate 11). The south wall is completely covered by the neighbouring building; the north elevation was also covered until the demolition of a building. It is an uninterrupted brick wall with painted signage of various dates (Plate 12). The rear (west) façade features a number of doors and windows in arched openings (many of which are now boarded up) and a metal fire escape (Plate 13).

INTERIOR

As originally built, the basement and ground floor were used as showroom/warehouse space, rented out over the years to a variety of tenants including M.B. Steele Company and the J.H. Heinz Company of Canada.[7]

The second floor was used as the Orange Order’s meeting hall and included symbols of the Order. The third floor was used for many years as a dance hall.

A serious fire in the building in 1943 (Plate 14) and subsequent renovations have left little evidence of the original layout and finishes on the interior. A caretaker’s suite was added to the rebuilt third floor in 1957.

Today, there is still evidence of the grandeur of the meeting hall, including ornamental tin ceiling and paintings on the hall’s walls (Plates 15 and 16). The remainder of the building, used as an antiques shop, has seen little change (Plates 17 and 18).

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[7] Kisiow/Murphy, op. cit., p. 3; and City of Winnipeg Assessment Department Field Form, Roll No. 714820-12-2.

INTEGRITY

The building stands on its original site, appears to be in good structural condition for its age and does not appear to have suffered major alterations to the design or finishes of its main exterior façade.

STREETSCAPE

This structure, located just outside the official boundaries of the Exchange District National Historic Site, is located at the west termination of Rupert Avenue. This heightens the visibility of the building and it is an important contributor to its historic downtown streetscape (Plates 19 and 20).

ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS

The original design for the Hall has been attributed to local contractor/architect James McDiarmid (1855-1934). But the actual design was furnished by Samuel Hooper, well-known local stonemason and architect.[8] Hooper was born and educated in England, moved to Ontario in 1869 and to Winnipeg in 1881 (see Appendix II for biographical information). He has been given 20 points by the Historical Buildings and Resources Committee.

Local contractors Thomas Sharpe and Company and J.H. Neil are listed as the builders.[9]

PERSON/INSTITUTION

The Orange Order was founded in Ireland in 1795, a Protestant fraternal organization supporting Protestantism and the British monarchy that now has lodges throughout the world. In Canada, it was established in what would become Ontario in the early 1800s and became an important

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8 Ibid., p. 6.

9 BP #611/1902.

social institution, organizing community and benevolent activities, attracting not only Irish immigrants but Scots and English as well.[10]

The group organized in Manitoba in 1870, coming west with the Ontario settlers of the Wolseley Expedition. Growth was steady, as more and more Irish Protestants and others joined the Order and by the early 1900s a permanent structure was deemed necessary. It was named for Thomas Scott (ca.1842-1870), Irish-born Orangeman who was killed by Riel's men during the Red River Rebellion of 1869-1870. This execution because a rallying cry for Orangemen in Ontario, an April resolution by a Toronto Lodge, published in the Globe stated Scott was "…cruelly murdered by the enemies of our Queen, country and religion…" and calling on the Canadian government to "…avenge his death."[11]

The building was owned by the Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of Manitoba into the 1990s and beginning in the 1980s, the Winnipeg Irish Association Organization also occupied space in the building (Plate 21).[12]

EVENT

There is no known significant historic event connected with this building, although the 1900 cornerstone laying ceremony attended by an estimated 5,000 people and followed by a 2,200 "Orange" parade from Princess Street to Fort Garry Park on Main Street.[13]

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10 Kisiow/Murphy, op. cit., pp. 8-9.

11 J.E. Rea, "SCOTT, THOMAS (d. 1870)," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. 9, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed May 12, 2015, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/scott_thomas_1870_9E.html.

12 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 13-071482000, 1920-1990.

13 Manitoba Free Press, July 13, 1900, p. 8.

CONTEXT

This institutional structure was built at the very beginning of Winnipeg's major 20th century growth phase, one which saw its population, fuelled by immigration, increase dramatically. One of the results of this growth was the organization of immigrant societies and institutions as beliefs and practices were brought and transplanted to their new home. Immigration from the British Isles was steady throughout this period as was the influx of British-born Ontarians that moved west. Modestly built Orange Halls sprang up throughout the province in the late 1890s in places like Cartwright, Hartney, Portage la Prairie and Moore Park (Justice).[14] This structure was built to serve the province's premier city and was, therefore, suitably ornate.

LANDMARK

More ornamentally complex than any of its neighbours and located at a busy intersection, the Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall is conspicuous in the neighbourhood.

[14] Kisiow/Murphy, op. cit., no page.

Historical Buildings & Resources Committee
THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

APPENDIX I

CITY OF WINNIPEG - Preliminary Report

Building Address: 216 Princess Street

Building Name: Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall

Original Use: meeting hall

Current Use: retail/storage

Roll No. (Old): 13071482000 (---)

R.S.N.: 7817

Municipality: 12 Ward: 2

Property or Occupancy Code: ---

Legal Description: 9/11 St. John, Plan 32037, Lot 71

Location: west side between Pacific and Ross avenues

Date of Construction: 1902

Storeys: 3

Construction Type: Brick and stone and stone foundation

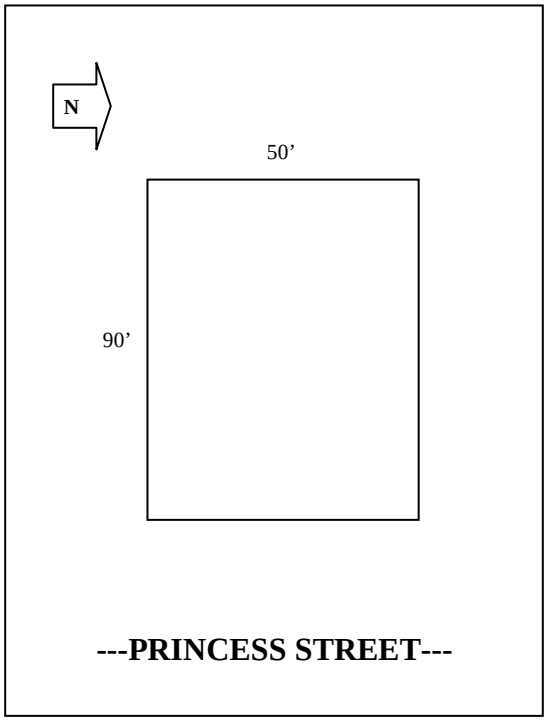
Heritage Status: ON NOMINATED LIST

Building Permits (Plans available: **[CS]** City Storage; **[M]** Microfilm):
- 611/1902 $21,000 (original); 1817/1978 **[CS]** (interior alterations)

Information:

- 50 x 90’

- caretakers’ suite added in 1957



ARCHITECT: SAMUEL HOOPER

CONTRACTOR: THOMAS SHARPE & CO. & J.H. NEIL

APPENDIX II

Samuel Hooper

One of Manitoba's most prolific and well-known architects, Samuel Hooper, was born in Hatherleigh, County Devon, England, in 1851. After attending school, he became an apprentice architect for his uncle. In 1869 the Hooper family immigrated to Canada, settling in London, Ontario. After nine years, the entire family returned to their native England but the 27-year old Samuel came back to Canada the next year, choosing Emerson, Manitoba, as his new home. The lure of opportunities in the big city prompted his move in 1881 to Winnipeg.

Together with Winnipegger David Ede he set up the Hooper Marble and Granite Company that created many statues and monuments. Hooper remained as president of the company for many years (Ede left in 1883), while his son, John S. Hooper, managed the business. Works designed and carved by the firm included the decorative Tyndall stone ornaments on the Merchants' Bank (1903), since demolished; a bust of Queen Victoria for the 1898 Jubilee Fountain in Assiniboine Park; and a commemorative monument of the Hon. John Norquay in St. John's Cemetery. Probably the most famous work was a monument to the fallen soldiers of the 1885 Riel Rebellion. This piece was originally placed in front of City Hall but later moved.[1]

In 1893 Hooper became an architect in the public works department of the provincial government. Together with this employment and the presidency of the granite company, he began a private architectural practice in ca.1905 with Albert Lee Houkes (Hooper and Houkes). Shortly after, this partnership was dissolved and Samuel created his most successful partnership – that of Hooper and Walker (Charles H.). Hooper's final partnership was with his son, Samuel Lawrence Hooper (Hooper and Hooper). S.L. Hooper was born in Winnipeg in 1888. After his father's death, Samuel L. became president of the granite company and formed the architectural firm of Hooper and Davis (William T.).[2] He died during the influenza epidemic in January 1919.[3]

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1 Manitoba Free Press, October 20, 1911; and Winnipeg Tribune, June 10, 1967.

2 Henderson's Directory.

3 Manitoba Free Press, January 9, 1919, pp. 5 and 12.

In 1904 the provincial government created the office of provincial architect to oversee design of numerous public buildings being planned in the province. Samuel Hooper was appointed to this position and held it until his death of bronchitis and asthma in England in 1911.

A list of work completed by Hooper and his various partnerships includes:[4]

Samuel Hooper-

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, new front façade, 353 St. Mary Avenue (1896)
Grain Exchange Building II, 156 Princess Street (1898) – Grade II
Isbister School, 310 Vaughan Street (1898) – Grade II
Provincial Deaf and Dumb Institute, Portage Avenue (1900) – demolished
Western Building (Schmidt Foundry), 90 Albert Street (1901) – Grade III
Provincial Gaol, 444 York Avenue (1901)
M. McMannus House, Edmonton Street (1902)
Icelandic Lutheran Church, Sargent Avenue (1902)
Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street (1902)
St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent (1902)
Holman Meat Company Abattoir, Logan Avenue (1903) – demolished
St. Mary's Roman Catholic School, St. Mary Avenue (1903) – demolished
Carnegie Library, 380 William Avenue (1903-1905) – Grade II
Knox Presbyterian Church, Selkirk, MB (1904)
Avoca Apartments, 329 Sargent Avenue (1905) – demolished

[4] Building list compiled from the following sources. Photo Archives at Manitoba Archives; Manitoba Free Press, November 14, 1903; Winnipeg Telegram September 12, 1906, p. 55; Manitoba Free Press, September 12, 1906; Construction, III (December 1909), p. 68; F.H. Schofield, The Story of Manitoba, (Winnipeg, MB: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913), pp. 601-602; D. Spector, Apartment House Architecture in Winnipeg to 1915, report for the City of Winnipeg's Historical Buildings Committee, 1980, p. 52; and HBC and author's files.

Hooper and Walker-

Winnipeg General Hospital, Bannatyne Avenue, veranda addition (1905)
R.C. McDonald House, 26 Amherst (now Avonherst) Street (1905)[5]
Marshall-Wells Warehouse, 136 Market Avenue (1905-1906) – Grade III
Icelandic Good Templars Lodge, 635 McGee Street (1906)
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Portage Avenue (1906) – demolished
Sherwin-Williams Warehouse, Catharine Avenue (1906)
Central Police Station, Rupert Avenue (1906) – demolished
St. Jude's Church, Wellington Avenue (1906) – demolished
Adelaide Block, 107 Osborne Street (1906)
Black Warehouse addition, 80 Lombard Avenue (1907)
George Maxwell House, McMillan Avenue (1908)
Carnegie Library addition, 380 William Avenue (1908) – Grade II
Hon. Robert Rogers House, 197 Roslyn Road (1908) – demolished

Provincial Architect's Department-

Provincial Land Titles Building, 433 Broadway (1903-1904)
Neepawa Land Titles Office, 329 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, MB (1905)
Manitoba Agricultural College (1905-1907), 139 Tuxedo Avenue
Provincial Normal School, 442 William Avenue (1906) – Grade II
Provincial Telephone Building (Freed Building), 474 Hargrave Street (1907-1909)
Brandon Court House, 1104 Princess Avenue, Brandon, MB (1908-1911)
Minnedosa Court House, Minnedosa, MB (1909)
St. John's Telephone Exchange, 405 Burrows Avenue (1910)
Provincial Law Courts Building (with V.W. Horwood), 411 Broadway (1911-1916)
University of Manitoba, Administration Building (1911-1913)
University of Manitoba, Taché Hall Men's Residence (1911-1913)

Hooper and Hooper-

McClary Building, 185 Bannatyne Avenue, addition (1909) – Grade III
St. Vital Municipal Hall, St. Mary's Road (1911) – demolished
Assiniboia Municipal Hall, 3180 Portage Avenue (1911)
Cycel Court Apartments, 195 Furby Street (1911)
Stores, 837-847½ Main Street (1911)
Winnipeg Garage Company Garage, 253 Edmonton Street (1912)
Panama Court Apartments, 785 Dorchester Avenue (1912)
Pasadena Apartments, 220 Hugo Street North (1912) – Grade III
Canada Paint Co. Warehouse, Sutherland Avenue, southwest corner May Street (1912)
Carman Apartments, 423 Burrows Avenue (1913)

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[5] R.R. Rostecki, Crescentwood. A History (Winnipeg: Crescentwood Home Owners Association, 1993), p. 113. Considered to be the first house built in the new subdivision of Crescentwood.

Hooper and Davis-

Midtown Building, 267 Edmonton Street (1912)
Garrick Hotel addition, 287 Garry Street (1913)
H. Hirsch House, Manitoba Avenue (1913)
Apartment Block, Corydon Avenue (1914)
Rivera Court, 161 Cathedral Avenue (1914)
Maple Leaf Apartments, 915 Corydon Avenue (1914)
St. George's Hall Building, 1575 Alexander Avenue (1914)
Stores, 161-169 Lilac Street (1914)
Public Press Building addition, 275 Sherbrook Street (1914)
Empress Hotel, Winnipeg Beach

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL

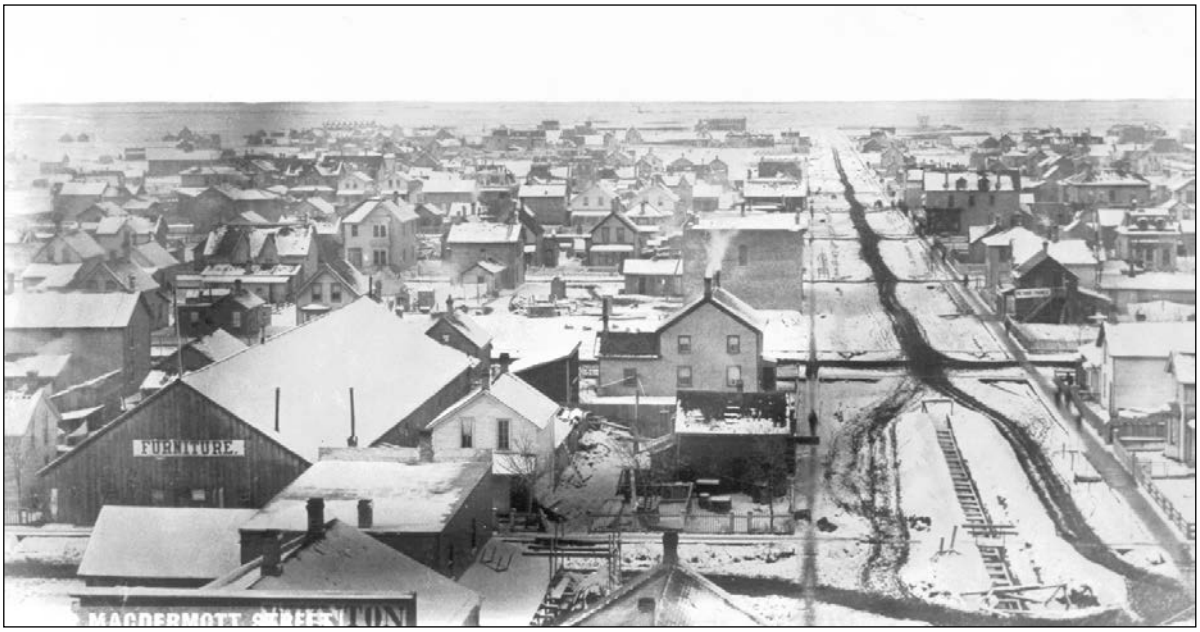

Plate 1 – McDermot Avenue looking west from Main Street, ca.1883. (Courtesy of the Archives of Manitoba.)



Plate 2 – Warehouse District, ca.1905, showing the scale of development over the previous 20 years. (Courtesy of the Archives of Manitoba.)



Plate 3 – Princess Street looking south from Ross Avenue, ca.1903, the street filled with horse-drawn vehicles. (M. Peterson Collection.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL



Plate 4 – Newly completed Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, Princess Street, ca.1903. (Reproduced from William A. Martel and Sons, Illustrated Souvenir of Winnipeg [Winnipeg, MB: Authors, ca.1903], p. 102.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL



Plate 5 – Masonic Temple, 335 Donald Street, 2002; built in 1895, designed by George Browne of Winnipeg, contractors Rourke and Cass. (M. Peterson, 2002.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL

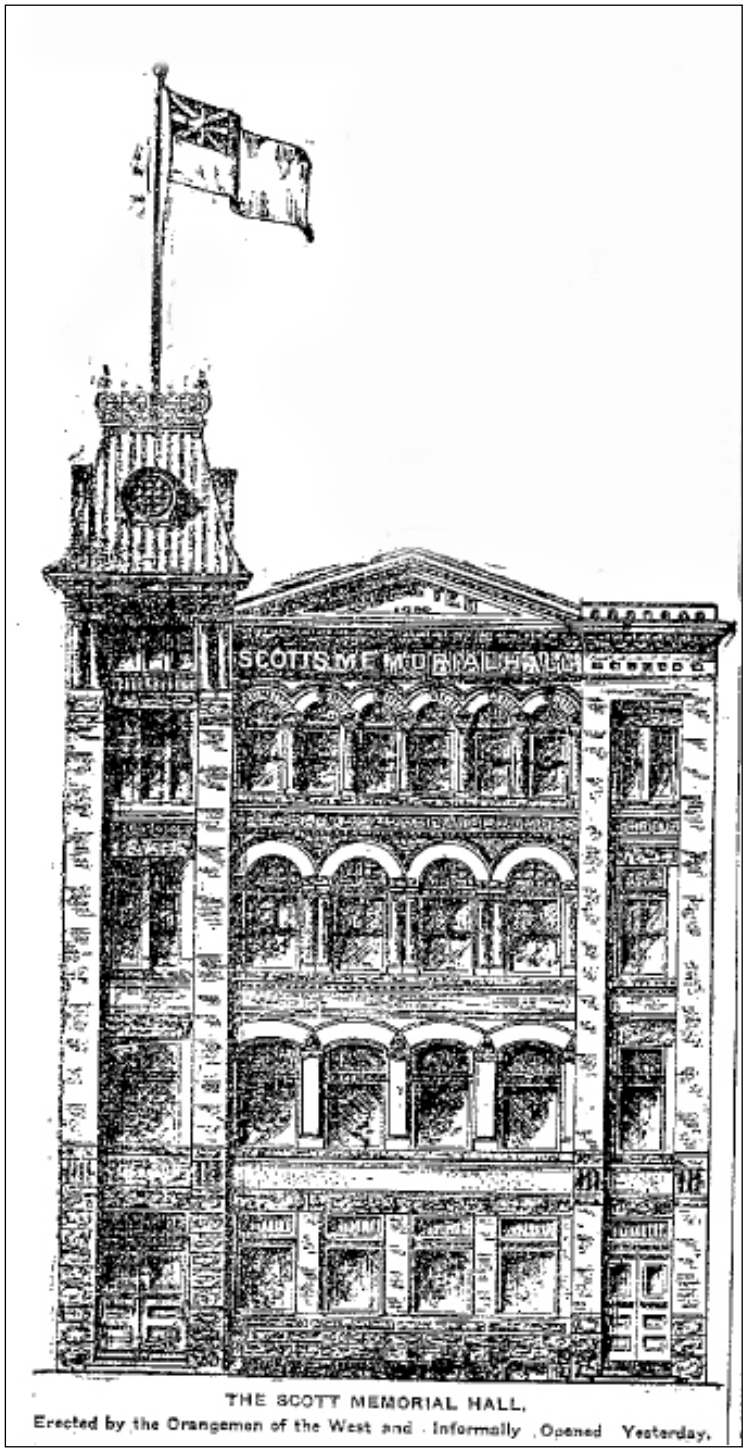

Plate 6 – Original design for the Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, Princess Street, as it appeared in a local 1903 paper. The plan shows a four storey building with ornate corner tower. (Reproduced from Manitoba Free Press, July 13, 1900, p. 7.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL



Plate 7 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, front (east) façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL



Plate 8 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, detail of upper storeys of front (east) façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)



Plate 9 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, detail of front (east) façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL



Plate 10 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, detail of third floor, front (east) façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 11 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, detail of third floor, front (east) façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 12 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, front (east) and north façades, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL



Plate 13 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, rear (west) façade, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL

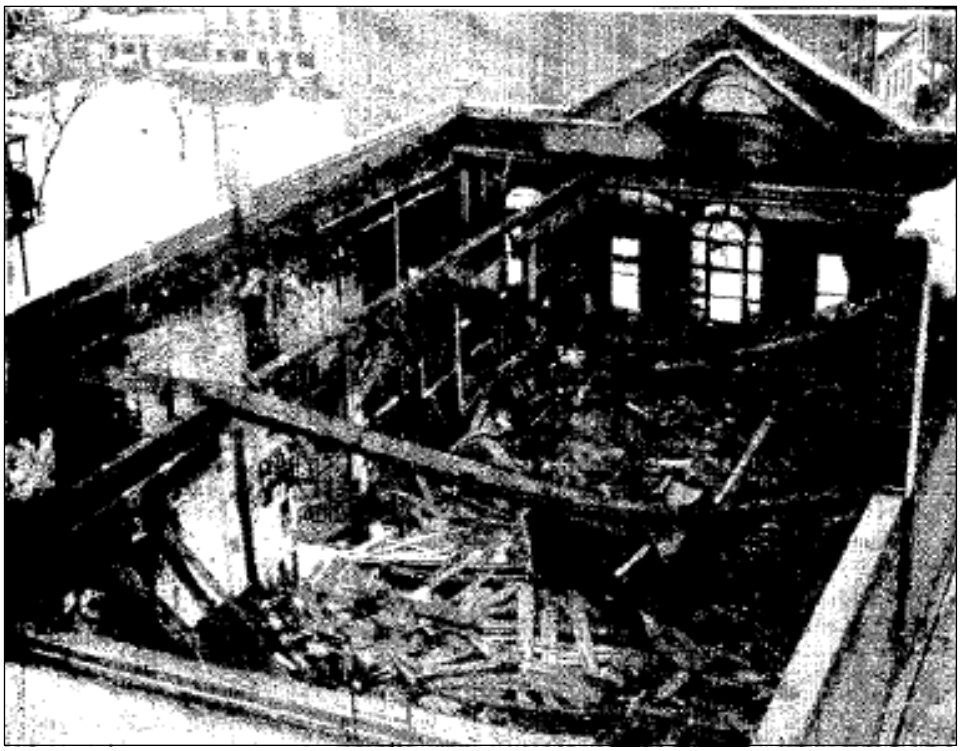

Plate 14 – View of the aftermath of the 1943 fire at the Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, with the gutted third floor. (Reproduced from Winnipeg Free Press, January 11, 1943, p. 1.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL



Plate 15 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, second floor meeting hall painting, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 16 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, second floor meeting hall, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 17 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, ground floor, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

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Plate 18 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, third floor, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)



Plate 19 –Princess Street, looking north from James Avenue, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)



Plate 20 – Princess Street looking south from Pacific Avenue, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)

216 PRINCESS STREET – THOMAS SCOTT MEMORIAL ORANGE HALL



Plate 21 – Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street, basement, 2015. (M. Peterson, 2015.)