

Fort Au'Appelle, the old Hudson's Bay Company store built in 1897.

Report from Saskatchewan

By Frank Korvemaker

Publications

The Saskatchewan Association of Architects recently published a coffee table book entitled "Historic Architecture of Saskatchewan." This hard cover, 184 page book includes 288 illustrations, 210 of which are in full colour. The book looks at the variety of Saskatchewan's formal and vernacular architecture, discusses some of the historical developments in the built environment, and includes an illustrated glossary of architectural styles found in the province. "Historic Architecture in Saskatchewan" was released just before Christmas 1986, and most of the 3200 copies printed were sold by the end of January, necessitating a second printing. Profits from the book will go toward establishment of a fund to study architecture in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Museums Association has published "Saskatchewan Museums - A Traveller's Discovery Guide." The 110 page book includes information on Saskatchewan's more than 200 museums, many of which are accommodated in historic buildings. Hence, a visit to these museums also permits the visitor an opportunity to experience some of Saskatchewan's historic architecture. The size of these structures varies from a small one room log cabin to large railway stations and former banks and post offices. The book is available from the Saskatchewan Museums Association, 1870 Lorne Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 2L7 (Cost: \$4.00).

Heritage Designations

Municipalities continue to designate a variety of heritage buildings under the Heritage Property Act. This enabling legislation was passed in late 1980, and since then approximately 400 sites and structures have been formally recognized and protected throughout the province as Municipal Heritage Property. While this list includes a number of prehistoric sites and a small number of engineering structures, the vast majority of designations have been of historic buildings.

In light of municipalities now having their own authority to designate heritage sites, the provincial government has been able to concentrate

on only selecting sites of major provincial significance for designation as Provincial Heritage Property. To date, 22 such structures have been recognized at the provincial level, with another five buildings slated for designation later this year. These new designations are all court houses, four of which were designed by Saskatchewan architect, Maurice Sharon, the Provincial Architect from 1916-30. Under his direction, many of Saskatchewan's most impressive public buildings were erected. That a significant number of those buildings are still extant today can be credited to both his architectural talents and to the high quality of workmanship which went into those buildings during his 15 year tenure. A detailed biography of Maurice Sharon is not yet available, and any information on this architect could be forwarded to Frank Korvemaker, Heritage Resources Branch, Saskatchewan Culture and Recreation, 1942 Hamilton Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7 (tel. [306] 787-5875).

Restoration News

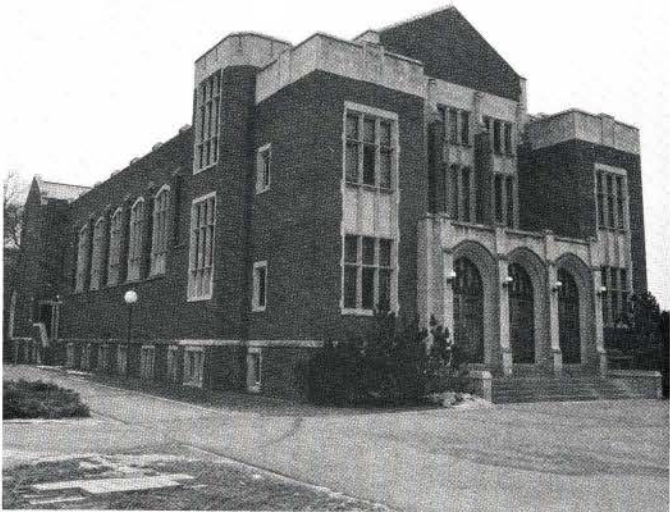
Stanley Mission - Holy Trinity Anglican Church, built over a six year period from 1854 to 1860, stands today as the oldest extant building in Saskatchewan. Over the past 70 years, the Red River frame structure, covered with wood siding, has been subjected to several restoration phases, the latest of which occurred during the past three years, when a joint federal-provincial restoration program injected over \$200,000 into replacing the foundation and rotting sills. Further work on the building, one of the largest frame churches in Saskatchewan, will eventually also see restoration of the wood shingle roof and reconstruction of the original spire which was removed sometime between 1923 and 1940.

Regina - The provincial government assisted the University of Regina during 1986 in restoring and rehabilitating Darke Hall for Music and Art. Built in 1929, the brick building suffered from extreme foundation deterioration and has undergone a total foundation restoration, new roof, interior restoration and utility upgrading.

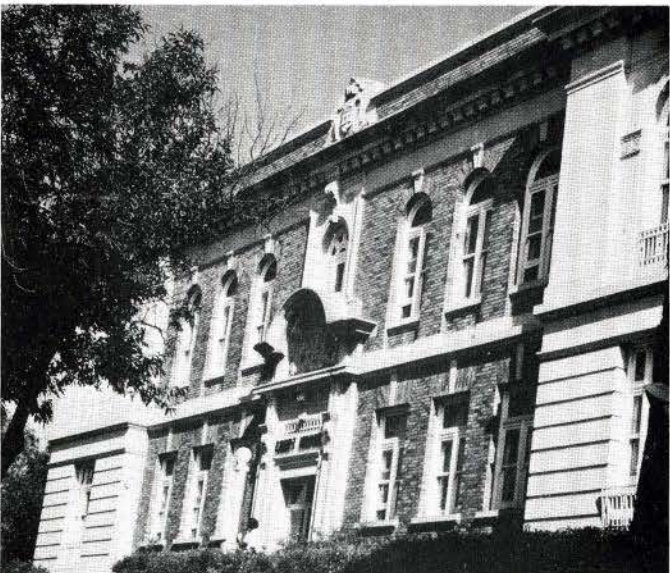
Yorkton - The provincial government spent just over \$1 million to restore the old Yorkton Court House in 1985, and the building is now in the final stages of being designated as a Provincial Heritage Property.



Stanley Mission - Holy Trinity Anglican Church



Regina's Darke Hall for Music and Art restored in 1986.



Yorkton Court House a restoration bill of over \$1,000,000.00.

ty. This building is one of many public buildings in Saskatchewan designed by provincial architect Maurice Sharon. It dates to 1926, and its restoration by the province is part of a program to rehabilitate Saskatchewan's court houses. Where appropriate, historic restoration is integrated into this program. As a result, the Yorkton Court House stands as a benchmark standard for future public restoration work in this province, and is the first major government restoration project here since the completion of Government House in 1980.

Fort Qu'Appelle - The old Hudson's Bay Company Store, built in 1897, marks the transition of the Hudson's Bay Company from a fur trade enterprise to a retail marketing business. This is the oldest such store extant in Saskatchewan, and was acquired by the provincial government and partly restored in the 1970's. Designated a Provincial Heritage Property in 1983, it was sold to a private developer in 1985 and rehabilitated for use as a mini-mall. The building now accommodates six new businesses in the community. The exterior has been restored to its c. 1910 appearance, while the interior is renovated with an historic flavour.

New Society

The Saskatchewan Architectural Heritage Society was established on May 2, 1986, with its primary objectives including the identification, preservation and development of sites and structures of heritage significance. The society will look at structures from a broad "architectural" perspective, including formal and vernacular architecture, engineering structures, monuments and other features, such as stone walls, historic trails, shrines, tunnels, bombing targets relating to the World War II air training programs, etc. Many of the objectives and activities of this society will complement those of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada on a provincial level. Information on membership, program and related data will be published in future reports.

Preservation of Railway Stations

The Town of Unity is presently negotiating an agreement with VIA Rail for on-site preservation of their former CNR Station. The proposed agreement will see the Town take over responsibility for maintenance of the station, with VIA Rail as a partial tenant. The remainder of the building will be made available to the community for its use. If this agreement is ratified, it will be a first in this province, and perhaps lead to similar joint use of railway stations elsewhere in Saskatchewan.

Agreements have been struck with CN Rail over the past seven years for the on-site preservation of about 20 railway stations, provided those structures were located on Branch Lines, and that the community took over total responsibility for use, maintenance, and public liability. A number of those stations now serve their communities as libraries, community halls, town offices, or museums.

Losses

The prominent architectural firm of Storey and VanEgmond, from Regina, designed seven major public schools between 1907 and 1909, as well as numerous such structures after that time. Three of those early schools (Lemberg - 1907, Albert School, Regina - 1907, and Vonda - 1909) were demolished during the past two years. Others have gone down before in Elbow (1909) and Hanley (1909). The loss of historic school buildings is a major concern for those who appreciate Saskatchewan's architectural heritage. To date, no clear resolution to the conflict between the need for "modern" school facilities and the need for redevelopment of historic schools into the life of the community has been achieved.

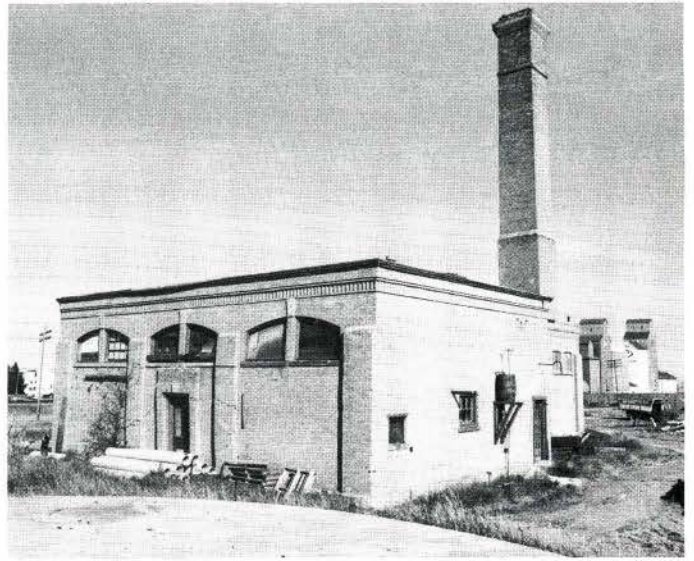
Maple Creek - The Parsons Block, constructed in 1903, was one of two buildings in Saskatchewan that was faced with pressed metal and cast iron columns supplied by Mesker Brothers out of St. Louis, Missouri. Standing at the main intersection of Maple Creek, it was identical to the Cypress Hotel, across the street. The Parsons Block burned down in 1986, a major loss to the architectural heritage of this province.

Indian Head - This community, situated along the CPR main line and Trans Canada Highway, lost two important heritage buildings in 1986. The old Power Plant, the oldest such structure standing in Saskatchewan, partly collapsed in 1985, and all of the building except the free standing smoke stack was subsequently deemed to be structurally unsound and demolished. During 1986 negotiations with CP Rail over the future of the CP Station at Indian Head became academic when a local wrecking crew dismantled the building for salvage. The brick station was of a unique design, and was one of only a few stations left along the main line of the CPR in Saskatchewan.

Weyburn - The 1911 brick Post Office, with its prominent mansard roof and four-storey clock tower was demolished in 1986 after almost a year of discussions failed to find an economically viable way of rehabilitating the structure. This major landmark in Weyburn was one of five such structures designed by Dominion Architect David Ewart and built in Saskatchewan between 1911 and 1914. Today three remain:



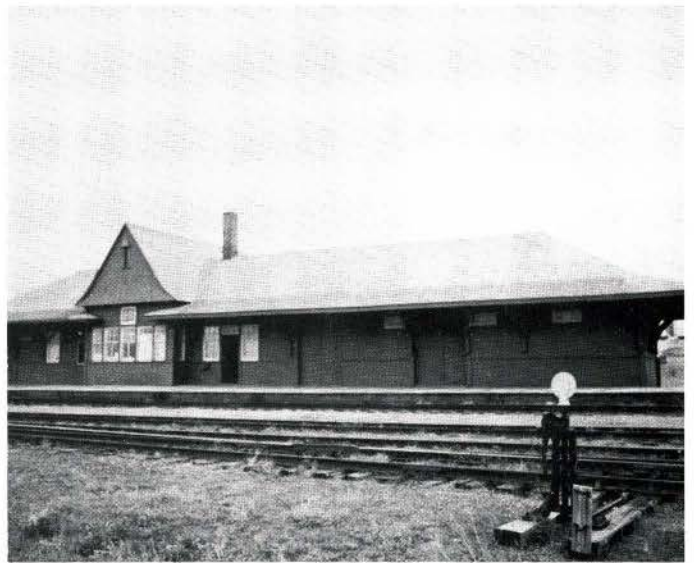
Maple Creek's Parsons Block constructed in 1903 burned down in 1986.



The Power Plant, the oldest such structure in Saskatchewan was one of two heritage buildings lost to Indian Head in 1986.



Indian Head's CPR Station was dismantled for salvage even as negotiations were underway to save the building.



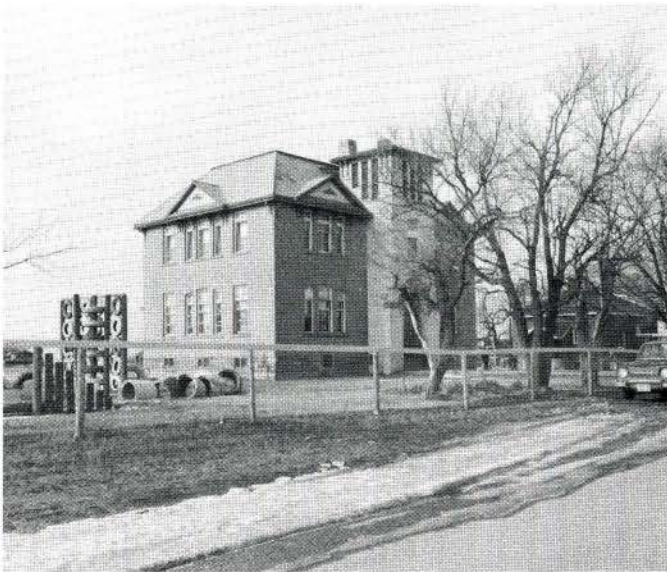
A preservation agreement concerning the CPR Station at Kerrobert was established.



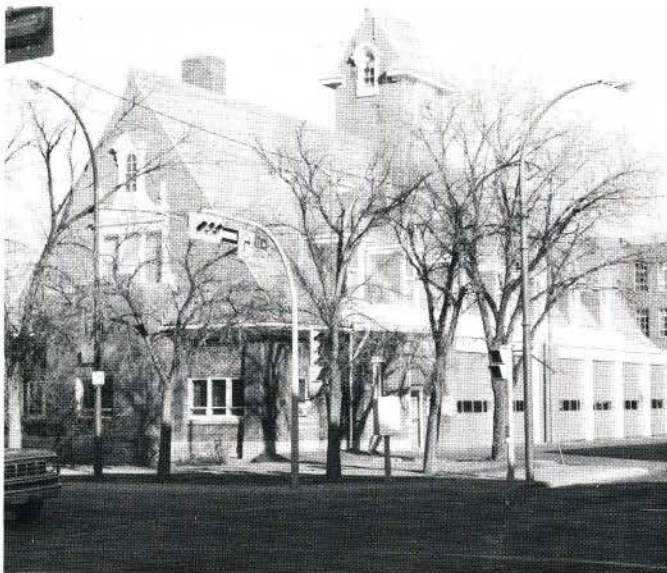
Herbert - CPR Station.



CN Station Woldheim (1912) is now a library.



Lemberg School



New fire hall for the City of Regina in incorporates some historic elements.



East facade Weyburn Post Office Building lost in 1986.

at Battleford, Melfort and Humboldt. The Battleford building has been restored by Public Works Canada and both it and the Melfort structure are still in use as local post offices. The Humboldt building has been designated a Municipal Heritage Property and houses the community museum.

Successes

While school preservation is a major problem in many Saskatchewan communities, three success stories have recently emerged. In Swift Current, the old Central School (1914) has been designated a Municipal Heritage Property by the City, and it continues in use as a public school. Meanwhile, an unusual turn of events in North Battleford saw the abandonment of the Cairns High School (1912) by the public board, and its subsequent rehabilitation by the separate school board and reuse as a fully modernized high school for the Roman Catholic School system in that community. A similar rehabilitation of the Sacred Heart Separate School (1928) in Regina may indicate that the educational system in Saskatchewan is considering the economic benefits of revitalization of older schools instead of undertaking new construction and demolition costs.

Kerrobert and Herbert - While CP Rail won a legal battle with the province and communities regarding the designation of railway stations as heritage property, the company did enter into two preservation agreements with local communities to preserve their stations on the right-of-way property. At Kerrobert, the station remains on its original location, though fenced off from the track. At Herbert, the building was moved nearer the road, parallel to the tracks, thereby removing the structure from proximity to trains travelling the main line at speeds of about 85 km per hour.

New Construction

Regina - The City of Regina commissioned the construction of a new fire hall, to replace the historic No. 1 Fire Hall in the downtown area. (The historic building has been designated a Municipal Heritage Property, and alternate use proposals are now being solicited.) The new building, situated along one of Regina's main traffic routes - Albert Street - was designed by the local architectural firm of Stone-Croft Architects Ltd. The brown brick structure is highlighted with a red metal roof, various dormers and a prominent clock tower, reminiscent of the old Fire Hall. This new building is situated within the transition area, where downtown and the old residential areas blend. Its design is unquestionably modern, but incorporates some of the detailing and human scale which are so appealing in historic structures.

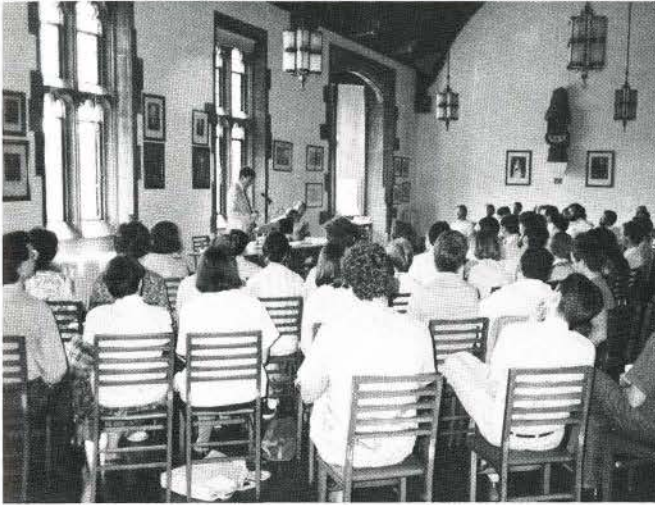
Saskatoon - A major addition has been constructed to the back of the Administration Building on the University of Saskatchewan campus. The original structure dates to 1910, and was designed by Montreal architects Brown and Valance, who were responsible for the design of many of the historic university buildings at both Saskatoon and Regina. Designated a Provincial Heritage Property in 1982, the Administration Building is too small for current administrative needs and required major structural repairs. The new addition combines the historic use of stone (prominent on other campus buildings) with cut stone, to create a sympathetic, but modern addition.

Public Relations

CBC - Wayne Zelmer Restoration, Architect with the Heritage Resources Branch of the provincial government, achieved a successful production of 12 sixty-second vignettes relating to heritage sites throughout Saskatchewan. These were produced in conjunction with the book "Historic Architecture of Saskatchewan" and help promote both the book and the architectural resources of the province. Copies of the vignettes, on a single VCR tape, are available; for details contact Wayne Zelmer, Heritage Resources Branch, Saskatchewan Culture and Recreation, 1942 Hamilton Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7 (tel. [306] 787-5874).

Department of Education - Wayne Zelmer also co-ordinated the Heritage Resources Branch's involvement in the production of three 8 minute productions relating to the restoration of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stanley Mission, the Doukhobour Prayer Home, Veregin, and the preservation of archaeological resources along the Churchill River. Copies of this tape are available from the Department of Education, which produced them as part of their educational program entitled "A Fine Science." That program is broadcast on CBC and the VCR tapes are used in the school system. Further details may be obtained from Ann Curry, Curriculum Development Division, Saskatchewan Education, 2220 College Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7.

SSAC Annual Conference 1987 Toronto



S.S.A.C. President Douglas Franklin chairs Annual General Meeting in Hart House debates room 29 May, 1987.



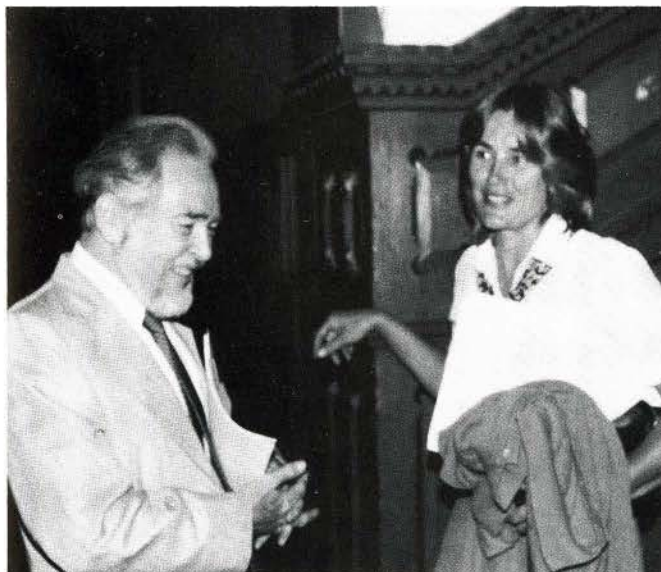
Barbara Frum chairs public symposium organized by the Bureau of Architecture and Urbanism with participants Kurt Forster, Donald McKay, Colin Vaughan, George Baird and George Kapelos.



Stephen Otto and Detlef Mertins discuss the Mechanical Engineering Building first stop of the Toronto Modern Tour.



Guide, Professor Douglas Richardson, provides the tour group a view from top of University College Tower.



Past President Christina Cameron and Conference Guest Speaker Alan Gowans.

Next Issue

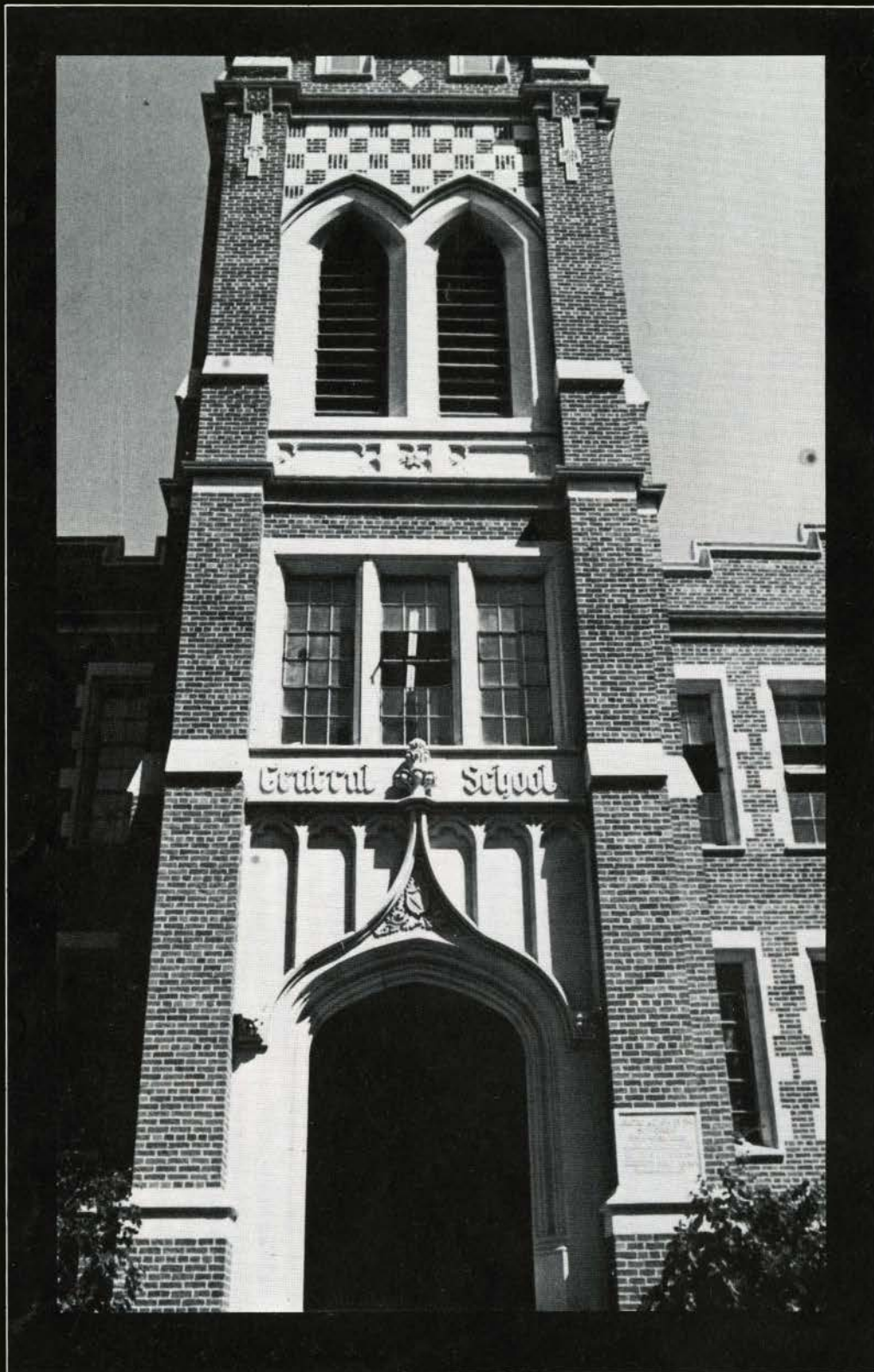
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Jean Friesen

The Heritage of the River Road -
Manitoba

Gwendolyn Dowsett

The Vernacular Architecture of Two
Ethnic Groups in Manitoba



The old Central School (1914) in Swift Current has been designated a municipal heritage property by the city.

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