



HERITAGE WINNIPEG

News & Views Special 'Built Heritage' Edition

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Milner House 51 Balmoral St.

This historic home is in danger of demolition. The 2 1/2 storey Dutch Colonial revival house was built by George W. Ford in 1909 for W.E. Milner and his family. William Edwin Milner was a well-known figure in the city's grain sector. After his death in 1942 his wife owned the house until 1952. Then she sold to her son, who lived there until his death in 1990 at the age of 97. The house was then sold to Great-West Life which has demolished all other houses on the block to extend employee parking. It is a Grade III Heritage Building in Councillor Gerbasi's ward. Unfortunately, several attempts to move the home have failed. The cost to move it could be up to \$300,000, which is an increase of 25% since 2004. Great-West Life has sent a letter of intent to the City to delist the house. It may go to the Property & Development Committee as early as September.



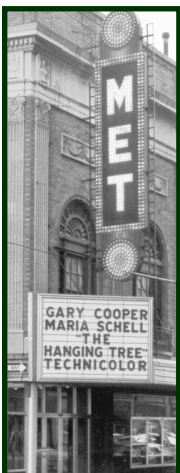
Monte Cassino Court

Built 1907-10, 639 Portage Ave. was home to a succession of merchants until the last tenant, National Typewriter. It has floor-to-ceiling windows on the main floor and lovely stone and stained glass accents. It has stood vacant since 1997. In July a proposal to demolish it for a residential unit cleared one hurdle when the city centre planning committee approved it.



Former Metropolitan Theatre

Canad Inns will revamp this 92-year-old heritage movie theatre. It is to be converted into a 1000-seat multi-purpose entertainment centre, with lounges, cabaret-style seating and a new kitchen wing. The \$16-million project will attempt to recreate the original appearance of the Met. The province and the city each intend to contribute \$1.5 million. The main hall may be used for dinner-and-a-movie nights, high school graduations, cabaret-style concerts, and for showing away-games of the Jets.



Historic Streetcar '356'

Streetcar '356', built in 1909, is currently located in the Winnipeg Railway Museum. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of space, Car 356 is in need of a new home. We are looking for free space to re-locate the car so that we can continue to work on it throughout the year. Contact us if you know of available space.

Union Bank Building - 504 Main St.

Western Canada's oldest remaining skyscraper is getting a \$26 million renovation to house the Paterson GlobalFoods Institute, Red River College's new culinary school & residences. It should be complete in 2012. The top six storeys will have 104 units of student housing, with marble-floored halls, original window panes and turn-of-the-century-style awnings. The former bank vaults have been converted into student common spaces. The lower three storeys will be classrooms and training kitchens. There will be a roof garden on the fourth floor available to the public for events. Two restaurants will reside in a new annex. The ground floor facing old Market Square will be a public space, with beautifully restored plaster mouldings and a new overhead walkway for students. This challenging and innovative project will benefit the downtown and is one of the most important heritage restorations in Winnipeg's history.



Avenue & Hample Buildings 265 & 271 Portage Ave.

Mark & Rick Hofer are converting a long-empty building into downtown dwellings. This project has required the Hofers to constantly adapt to new challenges. What started as redeveloping the Avenue building grew to take in Hample as well, and then to include a 3-storey addition. Both buildings needed a lot of structural reinforcement. Soon they will offer 75 apartments between \$800 and \$1100, with commercial space on the lower floors. Some units will have balconies overlooking Portage Avenue. Though difficult, it is a positive endeavour. It sends a message that heritage redevelopment can be viable and demolition should be a last resort.

