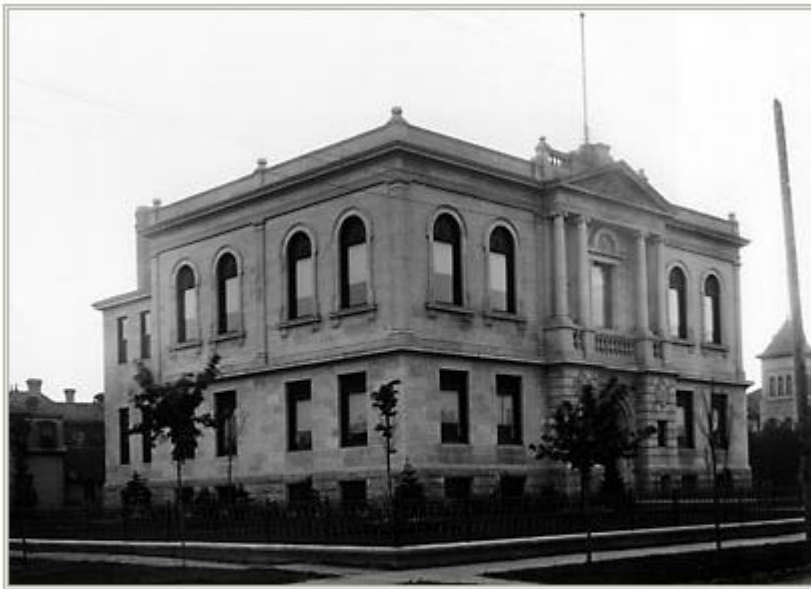


City of Winnipeg Archives Timeline

1874: City Council instructed the City Clerk to “obtain a cupboard to contain the Corporation papers.”

1875: Council authorizes the City Clerk to get “two or more tin or steel iron boxes to hold papers and documents for the year 1874.”

1905: The Carnegie building, located at 380 William Avenue, was funded by the Carnegie Foundation, designed by Samuel Hooper and erected as Winnipeg’s first public library building. The original two story structure had a 7,650 sq.ft. footprint, was constructed in 1905 as the Carnegie Library.



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Carnegie Library, 380 William Avenue, 1905.
Archives of Manitoba, Winnipeg Buildings-Municipal-Public Library, Image 1.

http://www.virtual.heritagewinnipeg.com/vignettes/vignettes_149W.htm#

1908: an addition of 3,740 S.F., also two stories in height and of similar construction, was constructed on the south side of the original building.

1948: Concrete piles added.

1959-1963: Mezzanine floor added. Building redecorated and re-wired.

1977: Centennial Library opened on Donald St (now the Millennium Library). William Ave branch closed.

1978: William Avenue Branch library opened in Carnegie building. A pilot project was undertaken in which municipal records were moved out of civic buildings and consolidated in the basement of the Carnegie Library building at 380 William Ave.

1984: Heritage status

1988: Heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems of the building extensively reworked.

1994: The entire Carnegie Library building is dedicated to the City of Winnipeg Archives.

1999: *In the Public Trust: A Strategic Plan for the Archives and Records Management Services in the City of Winnipeg.* A report by Terry Cook published in 1999 and adopted in principle by City Council on January 26, 2000 (Minute No. 239).

2005: Crosier Kilgour & Partners complete a detailed structural and engineering analysis of the William Ave building. Two priorities: upgrade the foundation and repair the façade.

2008: Barrier-free washrooms upgrade on the main floor toward barrier-free access.

2009: Repairs to foundation.



<http://www.virtual.heritagewinnipeg.com/vignettes/window/thenNow/149now.htm>

2010: Cibinel Architects Ltd create a 100-page Facility Renewal and Redevelopment strategy report to outline the renovation plans for the Archives building over a period of 6 years. Focus on creating a climate-controlled archival vault and enhancing the building's functionality.

2011: Repairs to masonry façade completed.

2013: Renovations begin to transform the historic Carnegie Library building into a state-of-the-art archival facility. Upgrading the roof was the first step. From the request for proposal for the roof:

“NOTE: It is imperative that the facility remain open and operational throughout the roof upgrade project. Therefore the proposed roof reconstruction methodology and sequencing must make the prevention of water damage, to the building and/ or building contents, of utmost priority.”

2013, June 10: Severe rainstorm forced the Archives and its staff to evacuate the entire holdings of the William Ave Carnegie Library building and move archival services to 50 Myrtle Street.



“This immense project – the removal of circa 20,000 boxes/volumes/artifacts under duress conditions – was managed hands-on by a small complement of Branch staff who coordinated the identification of materials displaced by the disaster and managed moving crews under contract with Planning, Property and Development. The move was accomplished without benefit of a useable loading dock or staging area. In effect, every item removed from the building had to be carried out by hand.”

2015: “Requests for tours and class orientations have declined given that there is no room to accommodate groups in the space available. Warehouse space used to house the primary research collection onsite is full.” <https://winnipeg.ca/clerks/pdfs/2015RecordsReport.pdf>

2016: City report says too expensive to move back into William Ave.

2018: National Trust of Canada included the now empty Carnegie Library building on their list of the top ten most Endangered Heritage Buildings in Canada due to neglect and lack of funding.

2018-2021: Advocacy campaign for a new municipal archive. See below for highlights.



2016-21: conducted media interviews with: CBC radio (twice), CJOB, CTV (twice), Winnipeg Free Press (twice), La Liberté newspaper, The Uniter, and the One Great History podcast. Three letters to the editor published in Winnipeg Free Press.

2018: wrote letter to all mayoral and council candidates in the municipal election.

2019-21: met in person or online with Mayor Bowman and Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Cunningham, Eadie, Gilroy, Jukes, Klein, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, and Rollins; also Dave Wardrop (for the then City CAO, Mike Ruta), City Clerk Marc Lemoine, and then City Archivist Jody Baltessen.

2021: appeared twice before City Council's Standing Policy Committee on Property Development, Heritage, and Downtown Development.