

Grain Exchange Building (Chapples)
701 Victoria Avenue East



Year Built: 1913

Architect: Carl Wirth

Added to Heritage Register: December 7, 2010

Description:

In 1913, Fort William was designated the headquarters of the Grain Commission. Intense competition with Winnipeg later resulted in the move west, but not until after a prominent building was constructed in the community with the facilities to handle and inspect grain. The structure that was built housed offices on the third floor and the bottom two stories were rented to the Chapples Company who used the space as a department store. Chapples sold everything from “lady-ready-to-wear” to “hardware” and upon its opening in this building boasted a staff of 100.

The façade of the building features Classical detailing. Some of the more notable architectural features include large scale dentils located on the metal projecting cornice as well as brick piers with stone relief capitals creating seven bays. The building has a recessed entrance with Doric columns.