

**Scott Collegiate Institute, Regina:  
Architectural Heritage Significance  
of the (1923) Façade**



An Assessment for Regina Public Schools

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**Cover Photo:** Scott Collegiate Institute, Regina, c1930, looking northeast (Saskatchewan Archives Board: R-A33582)

## **Scott Collegiate Institute, Regina:**

### **The Architectural Heritage Significance of the (1923) Façade**

The façade of the original (1923)<sup>1</sup> Scott Collegiate Institute building exhibits elements of the Stripped Classical architectural style. This style was common throughout Saskatchewan from the early 1900s until the early 1930s and was typical of the institutional work of the prominent Regina architectural firm of Storey & Van Egmond.<sup>2</sup> The use of this style for Scott Collegiate represents one of the earliest examples of this type of work by the firm.<sup>3</sup>

The Stripped Classical style was an economical and conservative architectural form which provided dignity to modest structures, such as small public buildings. These structures were often constructed of, or faced with, brick, with stone trim accents being common. Other elements of this style include symmetry, rectangular massing, and restrained pilasters. These pilasters often appear as flat panels which provide an overall vertical grid effect. An unadorned cornice<sup>4</sup> adds to the conservative appearance.

Scott Collegiate exhibits all of these stylistic elements. The pilasters are capped by Tyndall stone. The Tyndall stone belt course which extends across the entire front of the building and connects the upper window lintels, and the Tyndall stone just above ground level, convey an overall grid pattern to this design and helps to integrate the seven façade panels.

However, what sets the design of Scott Collegiate Institute apart from other Regina buildings of this period are the unusual round-head, multi-pane window in each stairwell, and the intricate decorative tapestry brick panels on each side of the front façade and above the cornice over each front door.

The round-head windows with brick surrounds are reminiscent of the Georgian Revival style of architecture. This design element is unusual for Regina<sup>5</sup> and contributes to the elegance of the overall façade. These large windows also help to define the two main entrance doors which have simple Tyndall stone surrounds and small corner medallions and, by themselves, are unremarkable and appear relatively insignificant in scale. The prominent keystone in each window opening highlights the circular arch and provides added interest.

Other distinctive design elements include the central “Scott Collegiate Institute” carved Tyndall stone panel, the intricate crest centered on a Tyndall stone background, and the dedicated cornerstone.

The stylistic crest was designed for the Regina Collegiate Institute Board after it was formed in 1907.<sup>6</sup> The crest includes the Collegiate Board’s motto, “alite flammam”, which translates into “Feed the Flame”. The wording on the banner at the base of the

crest had several variations over time. For example, the wording on the Central Collegiate crest is “Regina Collegiate Institute” whereas Scott’s crest includes the words “Regina Collegiate Institute Board”. The crest from Central Collegiate is now prominently displayed over the main entrance to Winston Knoll Collegiate. Central’s crest is carved from marble whereas Scott’s appears to be carved from either Bedford limestone or possibly sandstone. The selection of material might reflect the different pre-war and post-war economic circumstances. Balfour Technical School (Collegiate), which was designed in 1929, also has a Collegiate Board crest but without words on the banner. The Regina Collegiate Institute Board apparently had decided to discontinue the use of this crest on future high schools, including Sheldon-Williams Collegiate (1956), Campbell Collegiate (1962), and Thom Collegiate (1963).

## Summary

While much of the original facade of Scott Collegiate remains largely intact, the integrity of Storey & Van Egmond’s original design has been compromised over the years. This includes replacement of the main entrance doors with serviceable doors that are insensitive to the architectural character of the building, closing in several of the large windows on the main level, and removal of the original paired exterior entrance lights.

In spite of these changes, however, there are several character-defining elements<sup>7</sup> that remain and need to be preserved since they are essential to defining the overall heritage value of the building. These include the round-head, multi-pane window in each stairwell, the remaining large front windows, the decorative tapestry brick panels, and the central Tyndall stone “Scott Collegiate Institute” panel and distinctive “Regina Collegiate Institute Board” crest. The crest at Scott Collegiate is of significant historical value since it recalls the existence of the Regina Collegiate Institute Board from 1907 and until the current Board of Education was established on January 1, 1966 with the amalgamation of the Collegiate Institute Board and the Public School Board.

Architectural Standards and Guidelines have been developed by Parks Canada in collaboration with provincial heritage departments. This document provides sound advice on heritage conservation standards of buildings.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The construction permit for this \$100 000 building on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Blocks 153 and 154) was taken out on June 12, 1923. The successful contractor was Smith Brothers and Wilson. Other contractors tendering included Poole Construction, Waterman-Waterbury, Wilson & Wilson, and A.W. Cassidy & Co.

<sup>2</sup> The selection of the firm of Storey & Van Egmond as the collegiate architect was not without controversy (Collegiate Institute Board Minutes: Dec. 11, 1922; Jan. 8, 1923; Jan. 29, 1923). The Board proposed that

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the competition be open to all Regina architects with plans to be assessed by Prof. Greig of the University of Saskatchewan with the cooperation of the local Architects' Association. For unknown reasons, the Board abandoned the competition and appointed Storey & Van Egmond. At least one Board member recommended the firm of Clemesha & Portnall; it is not known what other firms might have submitted plans.

<sup>3</sup> Blueprints are on file at the City of Regina Archives, file CRP-01-2215; the original architectural drawings have not been located.

<sup>4</sup> Storey & Van Egmond's original design specified galvanized iron coping but this was replaced during construction with the current Tyndall stone (Regina Collegiate Institute Board Minutes: Sept. 12, 1923).

<sup>5</sup> Storey & Van Egmond designed Regina's first Collegiate Institute, Central Collegiate, in 1908. The design incorporated similar windows over the main entrance as well as over two rear entrances, but these were on a much smaller scale. These design elements may have represented a collegiate 'signature' for this firm. Their design for a coal-fired power house in Regina in 1913 (now the Saskatchewan Science Centre) also has somewhat similar large round-head windows, as does their 1910 design for the Land Titles Office in Saskatoon.

<sup>6</sup> In June 1907, the Executive Council approved the City of Regina By-Law to establish a high school within the city. The "Regina High School Board" was formed that same month. The name was formally changed to the Regina Collegiate Institute Board in late December, 1907. The Board used this crest on their letterheads at least as early as February, 1908.

<sup>7</sup> Defined by Parks Canada's Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada as "the materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the *heritage value* of a *his toric place*, which must be retained in order to preserve its *heritage value*."

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/nldclpc-sgchpc/preface\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/nldclpc-sgchpc/preface_e.asp)