

215 - 12th Street - Maple Leaf School - Western School Division



Municipally Designated Heritage Building
Designation Date: September 13, 1988
Designation Authority: The Town of Morden
Present Owner: Western School Division No. 47

Around the turn of the twentieth century, and for about twenty years thereafter, big schools in urban areas were typically impressive brick buildings that were two or three storeys in height and decorated with Victorian details. Concerns about evacuating children from these kinds of schools in fire emergencies eventually led to the creation of one-storey designs which proved to be much safer. They were also deemed to be "friendlier" buildings, more in keeping with educational theories of the day.

The low profile of Maple Leaf School is an excellent example of the bungalow schools developed in Manitoba after WW I. These squat, horizontal structures, which departed from the previous two- and three- storey designs, were economical and capable of quick emergency evacuation. Maple Leaf School, with its basic art deco styling, retains its original function on a site that has been continuously occupied by a school since 1894.