

# Downtown Regina

## Historic Map Guide



### The City of Regina

Heritage acts to preserve the history of our diverse communities, and offers a way to meaningfully evolve these traditions and identities into the future. The City of Regina believes that heritage is a timeless resource held in trust for the benefit of present and future generations. The City publishes a self-guided walking tour booklet that includes eight historic areas, a copy of which can be downloaded from **Regina.ca**.

For further information on the City of Regina programs and services related to the conservation of historic places, contact:

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This publication is presented by the City of Regina.



Points of interest related to the Regina Tornado of 1912

## DOWNTOWN REGINA HISTORIC MAP GUIDE: POINTS OF INTEREST RELATED TO THE REGINA TORNADO OF 1912

**O**n a stiflingly hot Sunday afternoon on June 30, 1912, a tornado approached Regina from the south. It passed over the Legislative Building and Wascana Lake, and then damaged or destroyed most of the homes along Lorne and Smith Streets, three churches and a number of public buildings adjacent to Victoria Park. North of the Canadian Pacific Railway yards, it left smashed warehouses and working class homes in its wake.

The 1912 tornado caused \$1.2 million worth of property damage, claimed 28 lives, left hundreds injured, and rendered 2,500 Reginans temporarily homeless at a time when the city's population was some 30,000.

Victoria Park dates back to the founding of Regina. Originally known as Victoria Square, the park was set aside as an open space on the original 1884 Townsite Plan. Early on, the park was used for a variety of purposes including fairs, horse and livestock shows, sporting events and military parades. In 1903, the City of Regina was finally incorporated as a city. In 1905, Victoria Park was the site of the ceremonial inauguration of the province of Saskatchewan, and in 1906, Regina was proclaimed the capital of the province of Saskatchewan. Victoria Park remained in a largely undeveloped state until 1907 when Frederick Todd of Montreal prepared a formal landscape plan from which the current layout has evolved.

CREDIT: CORA-RPL-A-272 Victoria Park May 28, 1916



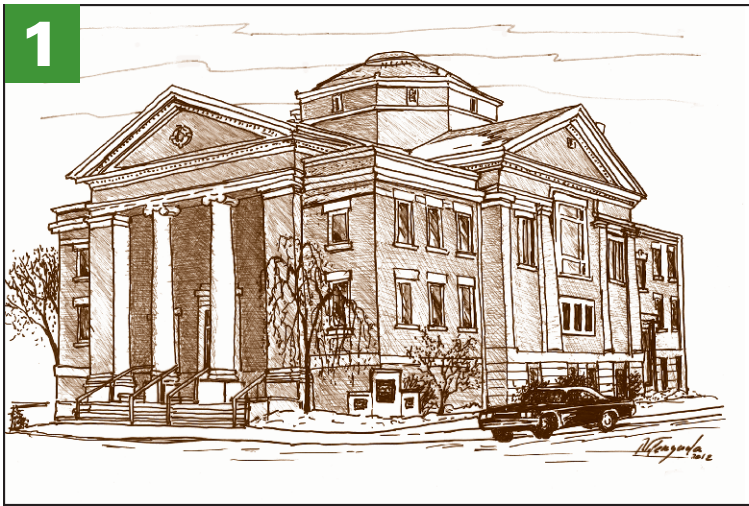
**I**n 1909, a fountain was placed at the centre of the park, which was later associated with Nicholas Flood Davin. The fountain was replaced with the present Stanstead granite cenotaph in 1926. The cenotaph was designed by R. Heughan of the Montreal firm of Ross & MacDonald, in collaboration with local architect Francis Portnall, and erected at a cost of \$23,000. The cenotaph was erected in memory of the Regina soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War. Subsequent to its unveiling in 1926 the cenotaph was further inscribed to honour the war dead in the Second World War and the Korean War. Victoria Park is also known as a gathering place for the 'trekkers' associated with the Regina Riot in 1935. The Park is of value for its association with many important events and for its evolved design as a civic gathering space.

A Municipal Heritage Award in the Open Space category was awarded for the Victoria Park Conceptual Master Plan, which was the basis for a \$1 million park-upgrading project that was undertaken during the 1990s. The project included the addition of a promenade extending south and around the cenotaph. The perimeter of the park was re-landscaped to create a more open environment and the park entrances were enhanced to provide a greater sense of entry.



CREDIT: RPL-A-426 Victoria Park 1927

1



### **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 2241 VICTORIA AVENUE**

This 1911 building was built for the Baptist Church, whose presence in Regina dates back to 1891. It was significantly damaged by the 1912 tornado but quickly repaired. William Hilton designed this building in the Classical Revival style. Constructed by general contractors Smith Bros. & Wilson, it features a three-part entrance portico with two Ionic columns. The gable ends on the east and west sides of the building are also detailed with pediments. The building is topped with a centred cupola on an octagonal base. A \$1.3 million restoration and renovation project was completed in 1992. This church was designated as a Municipal Heritage Property in 1992, and was the recipient of a 1993 Municipal Heritage Award in both the Exterior and Interior Restoration categories.

3



### **TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BUILDING 1870 LORNE STREET**

This 1912/13 building was built to replace the previous telephone exchange office then located at 1761 Lorne Street, and destroyed by the 1912 tornado. From 1914 to 1955, it housed the first automatic dial telephone system in the province. The Regina Public School Board purchased the building in 1967, and it was subsequently acquired by Saskatchewan Sport Inc. in 1983. The firm of Storey & Van Egmond designed the property in a Beaux Arts style. Snyder Brothers from Manitoba built it.

Its Neo-Classical proportions, fenestration and decoration are reminiscent of the urban palaces built during the Italian Renaissance. The building is constructed of steel, concrete and pressed brick with Bedford stone trim. Notable features include the prominent cornice, the elaborately carved entrance and the circular windows. The single storey addition on the west side was built in 1929. This property was designated as a Provincial Heritage Property in 1999. *See the commemorative plaque.*

2



### **BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH 2049 SCARTH STREET**

This 1905 church was built as the second home of the St. Mary's Roman Catholic parish. It was given the name of Blessed Sacrament Church in 1933. Samuel Hooper designed this brick church in a Gothic Revival style. The transepts and chancel were added in 1913. Born in Winnipeg, Hooper served as Manitoba's first provincial architect, from 1904 to 1911. This property has been on the Regina Heritage Holding Bylaw List since 1989. Blessed Sacrament was not damaged by the 1912 tornado, but it remains one of four churches in the downtown that still stands today.

#### **OTHER SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS**

Knox Presbyterian Church at the northeast corner of Lorne Street and 12th Avenue was the third church in the downtown that was damaged by the Tornado. The building was repaired at a cost of \$20,000. To illustrate how quickly it was repaired, the congregation was back in the church by early fall. The building was demolished in 1952 to make way for the current building. A plaque has been erected on the building that now occupies this site.

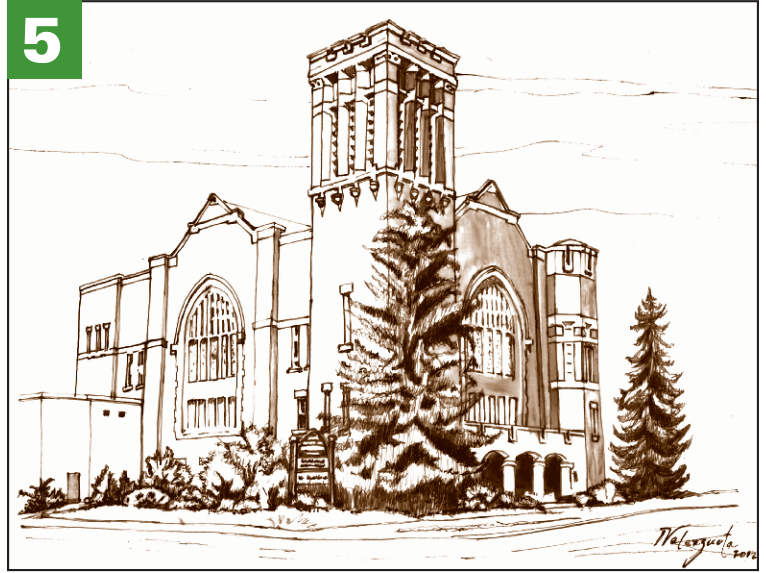
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### ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH/CATHEDRAL 1861 McINTYRE STREET

This 1894 church is one of the oldest buildings remaining in Regina, the oldest building in the downtown area, and the oldest church in continuous use in Regina. St. Paul's was built as a parish church and was never intended to be a cathedral. In anticipation of the construction of a larger edifice on the Diocese of Qu'Appelle property, the church was named pro cathedral in 1944, succeeding St. Peter's Church in the town of Qu'Appelle. However, the proposed cathedral never materialized, and St. Paul's was elevated to full cathedral status in 1973. The present building replaced the first St. Paul's Church that was built on this site in 1883. The original portion of the church, now the nave, was designed by Winnipeg architect Frank Peters in a Gothic Revival style. William Reilly designed the transepts and chancel that were added in 1905/06. Notable features include the distinctive corner tower, the yellow Pilot Butte brick walls above the fieldstone foundation, and the stained-glass windows, particularly the rose window. It was designated as a Municipal Heritage Property in 1982 and was the recipient of a 1994 Municipal Heritage Award in the Adaptive Re-use category. See *the commemorative plaque*. In the aftermath of the 1912 tornado, many people were taken to St. Paul's Parish Hall.

5



### KNOX-METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH 1978 LORNE STREET

Regina's First Methodist Church was a simple frame building. The second church, dedicated in 1889, was a more substantial brick structure. A third church was designed in 1906/07 by the Toronto firm of Darling & Pearson. It was named the Metropolitan Methodist Church and built on this site at a cost of \$60,000. It was damaged by the 1912 tornado but rebuilt eleven months later. When the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches merged in 1925 to form the United Church of Canada, it became the Metropolitan United Church. In 1951, Knox Presbyterian Church joined with Metropolitan United Church and became Knox-Metropolitan United Church.

The firm of Portnall & Puntin designed the partially rebuilt church. Its exterior design is a blend of the Norman and Gothic Revival styles, a popular choice for ecclesiastical architecture at that time. Notable exterior features include the prominent and subordinate towers on either side of the front entry arcade, and the large stained-glass windows on three sides of the building. The property was designated as a Municipal Heritage Property in 1986. See *the commemorative plaque*.

### Damage from the 1912 tornado on the west side of Victoria Park.



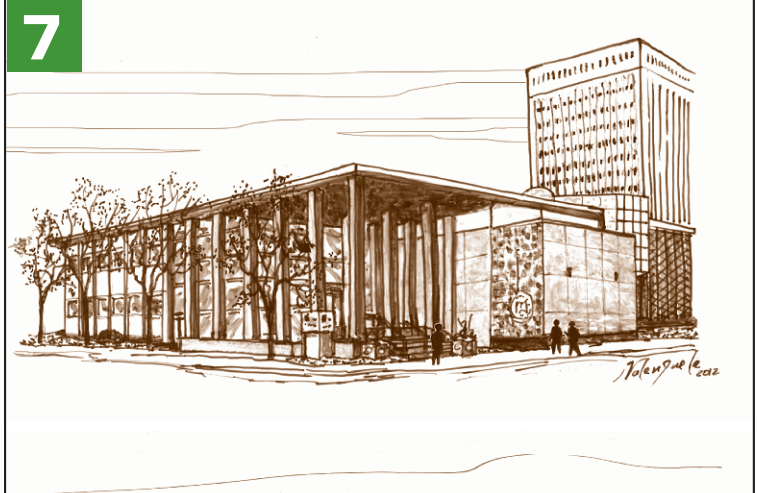
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**DONAHUE BUILDING**  
**2300 - 11th AVENUE (2314 - 11TH AVENUE)**

This 1911 building was originally occupied by the Child & Gower Furniture Co. Upper floors contained residential apartments for a number of years. This location is reputed to be the site of the first house in Regina, the Selby Residence. The firm of Maurice Sharon & Neil Darrach designed the building. It was built by Thomas Barnard. Constructed of steel and reinforced concrete, it was one of the few buildings to withstand the direct force of the 1912 tornado. This property was designated as a Municipal Heritage Property in 2006.

7

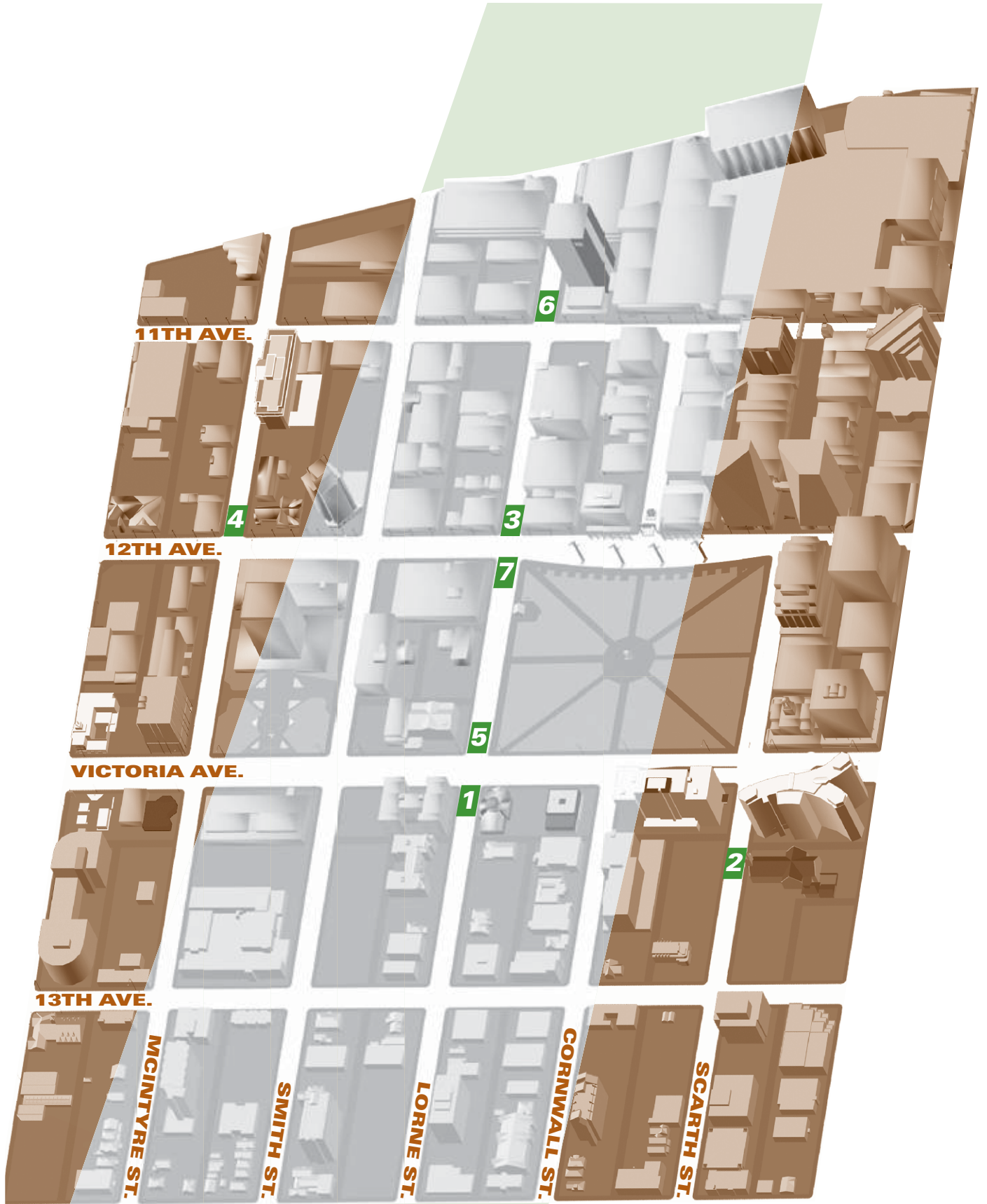


**REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**2311 - 12th AVENUE**

The original 1911 building constructed on this site was designed by the firm of Storey & Van Egmond with a \$50,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The library had been open for six weeks when it was damaged by the 1912 tornado. It was rebuilt in the same year with further assistance from the same foundation.

The firm of Izumi, Arnott & Sugyama designed the present building in an International style, and Smith Bros. & Wilson built it in 1962. Architectural details from the original building were incorporated into the new design, such as the front-entry columns scattered in the sunken courtyard below the main entrance and on the west side of the building, and the circular date stone placed at the north end of the east wall. This property was the recipient of a 1984 Municipal Heritage Award in the Education category. The property was designated as part of the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District in 1996.





## PATH OF THE TORNADO