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In 1908, the first Lord Selkirk School was built. It was named after Thomas Douglas, the fifth Earl of Selkirk who planted colonies of Scottish Highlanders in Prince Edward Island and the first body of colonists in the North West, in the Red River Valley near the site of present day Winnipeg. Along with other school buildings erected at the same time, the building showed a distinct era in school house architecture, especially with regard to the danger from fire.

It was two-storeys in height, solidly constructed on concrete foundations, stone work up to the ground floor, and brick above. The floors over the boiler room, fan room, the manual training rooms, floors of stairways and landings throughout were of reinforced concrete, and the stairs iron. Shower baths were installed for the convenience of the pupils.

The Canadian May-Oatway system of automatic alarm was installed. This system could be utilized to sound the signal for fire drill; while, if the temperature of the building in the vicinity of the detectors should suddenly rise two degrees above the normal at which the building is normally set, the alarm would ring automatically.

The cornerstone for the first Lord Selkirk school was laid on September 5, 1908 by trustee Mr. Alex Haggart. In 1912, the board reported that the Lord Selkirk School was becoming quite inadequate to meet the demands for that part of the city. Plans were prepared for the erection of a 19-roomed building on the same site as the old school.

Named Lord Selkirk No. 2, the laying of the cornerstone was performed by trustee George Grisdale and board chairman Dr. T. Glen Hamilton, also acting as the ceremony's chairman. The formal opening took place on December 18, 1913. During the program that followed, Rev. George Gunn, historian of the Lord Selkirk Association, unveiled a portrait of Lord Selkirk whose work and influence upon the life and character of the Canadian West was so marked. Additions to the school took place in 1921, 1958 and in 1965.

By the early 1970s, it was necessary to replace the old school buildings, and in 1974, the cornerstone for a new 44,790 square foot school was laid. Built at a cost of \$1,145,100.00, the new Lord Selkirk school had an enrollment capacity of 575 pupils from Early Childhood and Grades 1 to 6. The building had the classroom equivalents of 17, plus 2 Kindergartens and 1 Nursery classroom. The school was officially opened March 13, 1975.

Lord Selkirk

Thomas Douglas, fifth Earl of Selkirk (1771 - 1820), philanthropist, was born at St. Mary's Isle, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, on June 20, 1771, the seventh and youngest son of Dunbar Douglas, fourth Earl of Selkirk. He was educated at Edinburgh University; and here he was a member of a club for the discussion of social and political questions, of which Sir Walter Scott was also a member.

In 1799, on the death of his father, all his brothers having died previously, he succeeded to the Scottish earldom of Selkirk; and he immediately began to formulate plans for relieving the distress consequent upon the economic revolution then in progress in the Highlands of Scotland. He proposed emigration of the evicted "crofters" to British North America; and in 1803 he planted his first colony of Highlanders in Prince Edward Island.

At the same time, he was connected with the establishment of a similar colony near Lake St. Clair, in Upper Canada. His chief project, however, was the establishment of a settlement in the Red River valley, in what is now Manitoba. With a view to the founding of this colony, he acquired financial control of the Hudson's Bay Company, and obtained from the company in 1811, a second party. These established themselves near the site of the present City of Winnipeg - the first body of colonists in the North West.

The North West Company was hostile to Selkirk's plans for the colonization of the Red River valley.

The Nor'Westers, who were the inheritors of the French fur-trade in the west, disputed the right of the Hudson's Bay company to dispose of the territory in the Red River country. They resolved to break up the Selkirk settlement and twice drove the settlers from their homes.

On June 19, 1816, a miniature battle took place at Seven Oaks, near Fort Douglas, between the Nor'Westers and the Selkirk settlers, under Robert Semple whom the Hudson's Bay Company had sent out as governor. In this skirmish Semple and 20 of his men were killed.

Selkirk, the following spring reinstated his colonists, and restored order. The battle was then transferred to the courts. The North West Company brought action against Selkirk for having conspired with others to ruin the company's trade in the West. The trials, which took place in 1818, resulted in the defeat of Selkirk, who was ordered to pay heavy damages. Selkirk returned to England broken in health, and he died at Pau, in the south of France, on April 8, 1820.
Construction

Lord Selkirk No. 1: 1908

Contractors: Carter, Halls & Aldinger

Contract: \$72,000.00 (actual cost \$72,282.00)

Cornerstone: September 5, 1908

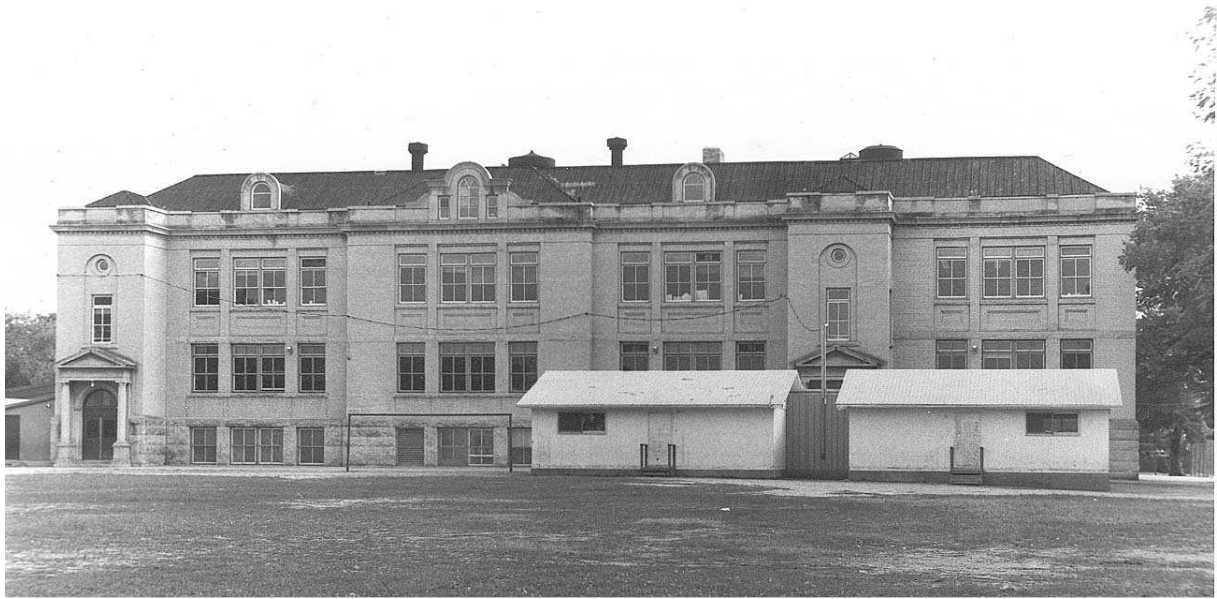
Opened: 1909

No. of rooms: 12



Lord Selkirk Building No. 1 – 1908

Front (above) and Back (below)



Lord Selkirk No. 2: 1912

Contractors: Worswick Brothers

Contract: \$138,000.00 (actual cost \$138,849.00)

Cornerstone: 1912

Opened: December 18, 1913

No. of rooms: 19 plus a library

Addition: 1921 (No. 1)

Contractors: The Claydon Co. Paragon Const. Co. Ltd.

Actual cost: \$35,395.00

No. of rooms: 6



Lord Selkirk Building No. 2 – 1912

Front (above) and Back (below)



Addition: 1958 (No. 2)

No. of rooms: 1 for visually handicapped students

Addition: 1965 (No. 1)

Contractors: H.J. Macdonald & Associates

Actual cost: \$78,000.00

No. of rooms: 1 general purpose, 2 kindergarten classrooms

From Bldg. Dept.

The school was initially established in 1908 with the construction of a two storey building and later in 1912 a second nineteen room building was constructed on the same site. The schools were then known as Lord Selkirk number one and Lord Selkirk number two. The current building was constructed in 1973/1974 to replace the two aging buildings and included the equivalent of seventeen classrooms, two kindergarten rooms, a nursery classroom, gymnasium and administrative area.

Administrators

Principals

First name	Last name	School Years
L.A.	Ferguson	1909 - 1912
	No Record	1912 - 1915
T.E.	Argue	1915 - 1916
	No Record	1916 - 1928
C.C.	Stewart	1928 - 1938
H.E.	Snyder	1938 - 1947
R.J.	Cochrane	1947 - 1955
D.S.	McIntyre	1955 - 1958
E.S.	Heys	1958 - 1969
E.M.	Maguire	1969 - 1972
Gladys M.	Marshall	1972 - 1974
Les L.	Kolt	1974 - 1990
Don J.	Soutter	1990 - 1998
Susan	Yee-Wickler	1998 - 2006
Lizbeth	Wiley	2006 - 2009
Stormie	Duchnycz	2009 - Present