



CONCERT HALL HBC HISTORY FOUNDATION VAULT

- Original main entrance of Winnipeg Auditorium was on St. Mary Avenue. Concert Hall was at back of building, with its own entrance and lobby off York. Exterior appearance has been preserved.
- Concert Hall and Main Auditorium shared stage, situated between them.
- On February 12, 1958 so many people wanted to hear Prime Minister John Diefenbaker that they filled both the Auditorium and the Concert Hall.
- The Hall had a seating capacity of 800. It was used by local amateur groups, solo performers, anyone who did not need the Auditorium, which sat 4, 075.
- Planning for the renovation began in 1995. Demolition of the interior features of the hall was completed in January 1998. Construction of the vault was completed in August 1998. After fine-tuning of the environmental system, records were moved to the new vault from the old in January 1999.
- The architects and contractors were both Manitoba businesses – GBR Architects Ltd. (Art Martin, architect) and Man-Shield Construction Ltd.
- The colour scheme, both inside and outside the vault, is based on the four colours of the HBC multi-stripe blankets.
- The banner over the door into the archival vault has the coat of arms of the Hudson's Bay Company with the motto *Pro Pelle Cutem*. This is translated as 'A Skin for a Skin' and is understood to mean that the HBC gives fair value in trade – 'A skin's worth of trade goods for each fur skin.'
- The archival vault is a three-storey box within a box. Features of the Concert Hall meant that each floor is a different size. The ground floor is the smallest because of the stage and the sloping floor of the Concert Hall. The second floor is the largest. The third floor is not as large as the second because of the proscenium arch over the stage.
- The space around the vault is like a buffer stabilizing the interior climate of the vault against the extremes of the Manitoba climate. It provides protection against leaks, fire and pests, and allows for exterior inspection.
- The black covering of the vault is an air/vapour barrier [A/V barrier] to prevent migration of moisture into and out of the vault.
- The temperature within the storage areas is kept at 14° Celsius and the relative humidity at 45%. These are continuously monitored by hygro-thermographs.
- Renovation of the Hall as new vault space for the textual records of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives was made possible by the HBC History Foundation. Established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1994, with capital arising from the donation of the HBC Archives to the Province of Manitoba, the Foundation supports the HBC Archives, the HBC Museum Collection at The Manitoba Museum, and Canada's National History Society.