WINNIPEG AUDITORIUM
EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING

- The Winnipeg Auditorium fits well with traditional ideas associated with public architecture: a gathering place for 'citizens', monumental in size, a reflection of state authority and civic pride.

- Art Deco in style: simple and elegant design, geometric and curvilinear forms, vertical emphasis, parallel straight lines, flat roofs, octagonal shapes.

- Simple style seems appropriate and practical in the context of the Depression.

- Decorative motifs were pre-cast, not hand carved.

- The surface of the building is Manitoba limestone in shades of blue and buff.

- The size of the building and its stone surface evokes solidity and strength for a monumental effect.

- The east and west sides of the building emphasize the vertical: parallel lines of the arched windows, pairs of smaller windows above them, long narrow windows, and pillars lead the eye upwards. The vertical effect on the north wall is less apparent given the 1970s remodeling.

- Octagonal lights are the original fixtures, refurbished in 2002.

- Shallow pre-cast carvings decorate the top and bottom of the pillars with bundles of corn cobs and scroll patterns.

- On either side of the main entrance on St. Mary Avenue are designs which incorporate the original crest of the City of Winnipeg with the motto "Commerce, Industry, Prudence."

- Decorative motifs within octagonal panels at entrances include a female figure holding a horn of plenty and an Aboriginal hunter: possibly representing European and Aboriginal cultures, the old world and the new, agriculture and hunting. On the east and west sides, doves with olive branches on either side of the Provincial crest may represent peaceful existence between the two.

- "Winnipeg Auditorium" was carved over the main entrance. Renovations have covered the original name of the building but many residents of the city still remember it as the old auditorium.

- At its completion in 1932, the Winnipeg Auditorium was praised as "a source of pride to the people of Winnipeg." It still is.