



114 MARKET AVE.  
(204) 615-1898  
SaddleryOnMarket.com

## OUR STORY

In 1898, the Great West Saddlery Warehouse building was constructed on the corner of Market Avenue and Bertha Street for the company's owner, Elisha F. Hutchings. In the bustling boom climate of turn-of-the-century Winnipeg, the Saddlery enjoyed success, becoming one of the world's largest manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of harnesses and saddles. Soon, more buildings were erected to house a workforce 300 strong.

While horses and saddles may be staples of an era gone by, the entrepreneurial spirit that defined early Winnipeg lives on. The Saddlery on Market offers a place for Winnipeggers to meet in style and comfort. Inspired by our city's past, we serve homey, comforting food made with ingredients that express the bounty of our region, accented with sophisticated, globally inspired touches.

## Manitoba Historical Society

(mhs.mb.ca)

Historic Sites of Manitoba: Great West Saddlery Warehouse (112-114 Market Avenue, Winnipeg)

This four-storey brick structure was designed and constructed in 1898 by James McDiarmid, at the southwest corner of Market Avenue and Bertha Street, at an estimated cost of \$40,000, for businessman Elisha F. Hutchings. The basement was devoted to his firm's major product, horse collars. Company offices were on the ground floor, along with shipping and receiving areas. The second floor was used for storage, mostly of saddles. A sample room and more storage space was on the third floor, and the top floor was used for manufacturing boots and shoes, saddles, cases, and other leather products. Additions were made to the building in 1903, 1909, and 1929. The Great West Saddlery Company continued to occupy the building until 1962. It is a municipally-designated historic site.

### Market Building (Great West Saddlery Factory)

Elisha Frederick Hutchings, an Ontarian of English descent, was the founder of Great West Saddlery Company, one of the world's largest, turn-of-the-century manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of harnesses, saddles and related goods.

Hutchings initially opened a small harness shop on Main Street in 1878. The next year, he formed a partnership with Robert Stalker, then continued on his own after Stalker's death in 1885. The firm enjoyed considerable pre-World-War-I success in both domestic and international markets. The original four-storey building erected in 1898, underwent two expansions within a decade to include a large annex and additional storey. In 1910, a second warehouse was built across the street at 113 Market.

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Between 1900 and 1911 the firm grew from a workforce of 30 to 300 and capitalization of \$250,000 to \$2 million. By 1913, sales exceeded \$3 million.

This structure was designed and built at a cost of \$40,000 by James McDiarmid, a Scot who came to Canada in 1882. The 1898 Great West Saddlery Building has solid brick walls rising from a rusticated stone foundation. Red brick contrasts with light stone detailing on the front facade, while cream coloured brick appears on the other elevations.

In McDiarmid's original symmetrical design, emphasis was placed on the mid-section of the facade. This contained the main entrance, flanked by pilasters, pairs of large windows, and doors at both ends of the building.

Above the main entrance were single, round-headed openings with substantial light brick arches and a gable at the cornice. The facade's other windows, set in pairs, were rectangular with flat heads and continuous stone sills and lintels. Patterned brickwork was applied under the sills and around the stone arches.

A row of small, round-headed openings originally ran the width of the facade under an elaborate cornice. When a fifth storey was added to the structure in 1909, these elements were replaced with corbelled brick and a modest, stone-capped parapet.

The next significant exterior change occurred in 1929, a year after Hutchings sold his interest in Great West Saddlery, when the architectural firm of Northwood and Chivers designed alterations to the ground floor. They relocated the main entrance to the northwest corner of the 1898 building. The new doorway's massive stone surrounds featured geometric patterns consistent with Art Deco styling. The entrance at the northeast corner was removed, leaving three windows with large, round stone heads and keystones to light the ground floor.

There has been extensive modernization of the building's interior; however, elements of some original offices, and warehouse space with exposed square timbers and walls, remain.