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# Class, ethnicity and residential structure: the social geography of Winnipeg, 1901â€“1921

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### Abstract

Relations between class and ethnic groups in Winnipeg are examined, especially as they were manifest in the residential landscape of the city. The spatial sorting of these groups is documented using a five per cent sample of households drawn from the 1901 and 1921 city directories. Findings indicate that while the segregation of ethnic groups increased dramatically, the degree of class-based residential segregation remained virtually constant. Yet relations between classes became exceedingly strained during this period, particularly between 1914 and 1919. Thus there was no simple correspondence between segregation by class and class consciousness in Winnipeg (unless one believes in an inverse relationship between the two!). However, I argue that ethnic identification and class consciousness evolved simultaneously in Winnipeg, although ethnic attachments were more readily transferred to the residential landscape. Further, many immigrants believed that their ethnic and class interests were inseparable, and therefore

the growing trend toward ethnic residential segregation did not impede” and may in fact have accelerated” the emergence of class consciousness.



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