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## 56 BANNERMAN AVENUE WILLIAM B. CHESHIRE HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1904

**Building Permit:** UNKNOWN

**Architect:** Unknown

**Contractor:** Unknown

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This sturdy, frame home features a full-width front porch that wraps around the east side of the building supported by paired wood columns. This element originally included an enclosed side porch area with second storey balcony that has now been closed off and clad in ornamental shingles. Windows throughout the home are plain and set in wood frames and the complex hipped roof includes gable dormers.

The home is a reduced example of the Queen Anne style that borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, blending classical and medieval motifs into a picturesque form.<sup>1</sup> The desired asymmetry was achieved through a number of combinations of porches, bay windows, projecting wings, balconies and other devices. Roofs were usually irregular and complex, with dormers, gables and ornamental chimneys. Variations in materials and colours were also used to animate the façades. Given this freedom of design,



Front (north) façade, 1978

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however, accomplished designers were still able to create balance in the structures, offsetting busy surfaces by placing calmer elements nearby.<sup>2</sup>

The popularity of the style in Canada began in the 1880s and lasted until World War I. On the prairies, pre-1900 examples of the style were not numerous because large-scale development occurred after the turn of the century. Post-1900, it was quickly adopted for use in the growing residential districts, especially the more affluent neighbourhoods where its showy qualities were greatly admired.

#### HISTORICAL INTEREST:

William B. Cheshire a long-time bookkeeper and City of Winnipeg comptroller, was the original owner/resident. He and his wife Isabel D. and children Frances and William Vernon are listed in Canada Census records for the period as living on Bannerman Avenue. He died ca.1945 and until the late 1950s it was occupied and owned by his daughter, who was a teacher by profession.<sup>3</sup>

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#### RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

Under the Historical Buildings By-law, this building meets a number of important criteria:

- its historical importance- an example of a turn-of-the-century single-family dwelling built in Winnipeg's North End;
- its associations- its long-term connection to accountant W.B. Cheshire;
- its design- an example of the Queen Anne Style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes to its streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades display some of their original elements and design.

#### ENDNOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg: Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 17; L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1992), p. 102; and L. Maitland, The Queen Anne Revival Style in Canadian Architecture (Ottawa: Environment Canada, 1990), p. 64.
- <sup>2</sup> L. Maitland et al., op. cit., p. 98.
- <sup>3</sup> Henderson's Directory, 1900-1970; and Canada Census, 1901 and 1911.