



584 BROADWAY COLIN C. FERGUSON HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1908

Building Permit: 1489/1908

Architect: Foster, S.H.

Contractor: Foster, S.H.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

The 2.5-storey structure has a stone foundation, wooden beam and post superstructure, prominent gable roof, and cladding of wood siding and shingles. A full-width open porch with wooden balustrades extends across the front (north) façade. Its roof is supported by fluted wooden columns with plain bases and voluted heads. Above in the gable end is an oriel window. Other design highlights include bracketed eaves. Foster's second house at 586 Broadway is similar in appearance. However, its front porch is larger and includes an upper level deck.

The home is a reduced example of the Queen Anne style. This style borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15th century, blending classical and medieval motifs into a picturesque form.¹ The desired asymmetry was achieved through a number of combinations of porches, bay windows, projecting wings, balconies and other devices. Roofs were usually



Front (north) façade, 1978

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

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.

S.H. Foster, a small-scale local contractor, is listed as the architect and contractor of this home.³

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Actuary Colin C. Ferguson is the original occupant of this home with his wife Edith Jean and children Edith Jean Jr. and Donald Ryrie. Ferguson worked for the Great West Life Assurance Company. In 1920, Reverend Dr. O. Darwin, superintendent for the Methodist Missions of Saskatchewan and Manitoba was listed as the occupant and in 1943 W. Davidson Thomson, Great West Life Assurance Company employee was living in the home.⁴

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- a good example of a modest single-family dwelling built in Winnipeg in the pre-World War I era;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- a reduced example of the Queen Anne Style;
- its architect- S.H. Foster was a known practitioner;
- its location- contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of a major downtown traffic artery; and
- its integrity- its main façade continues to display many of its original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ 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.
- ² L. Maitland et al., op. cit., p. 98.
- ³ BP #1265/1908.
- ⁴ Canada Census, 1911. Domestic Lena Dodge is also listed at the address.