



**200 COLONY STREET**

**JOHN C. SCOTT HOUSE**

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2008



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## 200 COLONY STREET JOHN C. SCOTT HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1904

**Building Permit:** 205/1904

**Architect:** Melville, Alexander R. and William

**Contractor:** Soucessie, H.

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This is another of the fine turn-of-the-century homes located in the West Broadway neighbourhood. Restoration has brought this 2½-storey frame residence back to its original magnificence.

The front (east) façade features a two-storey open porch with a wealth of wood accents including paired, unfluted columns, wood banisters and dentils below the eaves. The pedimented gable end is embellished with sunburst motifs and all windows are set in modest wood frames. An oval window is located beside the first floor entrance door and a door gives access to the second storey deck. The north and south façades are continuations of the cladding and basic design. On the rear of the home has been added a large, two-storey brick structure that was originally home to the Marr Star Home Bakery.<sup>1</sup> This



Front (east) and south façades, 2007

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addition includes quoin-like brick elements and numerous window openings on all elevations and floors.

The house is a fine example of the Queen Anne Revival style as applied to a residential structure.<sup>2</sup> The style borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, blending classical and medieval motifs into a picturesque form. Asymmetry was achieved through 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, however, accomplished designers were still able to create balance in the structures, offsetting busy surfaces by placing calmer elements nearby.<sup>3</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.

The home stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. Alterations to the exterior have been minor and have not negatively affected the quality or quantity of original elements. In fact, since the late 1970s, much of the original splendour of this home's exterior has been brought back through careful restoration.

This home was the design of brothers Alexander R. and William Melville. A.R. was born in 1873 in Fraserburgh, Scotland and received his architectural and civil engineering degrees in Aberdeen. He came to Winnipeg early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and began a practice with his





North façade (left) and detail of front (east) façade (right), 2007

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brother William Melville. For many years A.R. Melville was a member of the Manitoba Association of Architects and one of its early council members (1919-20).<sup>4</sup> He was also a provincial government draftsman for a short period prior to his retirement. He died in 1949.<sup>5</sup>

The brothers were responsible for designing over 10 fire halls across the city. In the 1913 list, the two brothers appear to have dissolved the partnership. By 1915, William Melville is no longer listed in the directory.<sup>6</sup>

An incomplete list of Melville brother designs includes Fire Hall No. 3, 56 Maple Street (1904, Grade II), Fire Hall No. 8, 325 Talbot Avenue (1906, Grade III), G.A. Glines House (Tremblay Apartments), 55 Hargrave Street (1906, Grade III), Broadway Court Apartments, 251 Broadway (1906, demolished), Fire Hall No. 7, 180 Sinclair Avenue (1910, Grade III), Fire Hall No. 12, 1055 Dorchester Street (1911, Grade III), Coliseum Dance Hall, 225 Fort Street (1912, demolished), Colonial Theatre, 634 Main Street (1912, demolished), Rex (Epic) Moving Picture Theatre, 646 Main Street (1912-13, Grade II), St. Vital Fire Hall, 596 St. Mary's Road (1914, Grade III), Manitoba Telephone System Building, 166 Portage Avenue East (1930-1931) and Telephone Exchange Building, Elkhorn, Manitoba, 1932. The brothers have been given 10 points by the Historical Buildings Committee.



North and west façades of the former bakery, 2007

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HISTORICAL INTEREST:

John C. Scott, clerk, is the original owner of this house, living at the address until the 1910s. But Richard J. Marr, secretary-treasurer of Marr's Star Home Bakery, purchased the home and built the bakery addition to stock his store at 367 Portage Avenue. Margaret Marr (relationship unknown), is listed as the owner/resident from 1916-1921 and R.A. Gillespie, manufacturer, owner/non-resident from 1929-1936. Morris Fineberg was the owner/resident in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.<sup>7</sup>



South and west façades of the former bakery, 2007

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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- one of the finer turn-of-the-century single-family dwellings in Winnipeg's West Broadway area;
- its associations- its long-term connections to the Marr family;
- its design- an excellent example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- A.R. and W. Melville were a respected and important practitioners;
- its location- contributes greatly to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.





Front (east) façade, 1978

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ENDNOTES:

- 1 Built in 1913, the structure cost \$6,000 to complete and rests on a concrete foundation. City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #2480/1913.
- 2 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.
- 3 L. Maitland et al., op. cit., p. 98.
- 4 "Alexander Melville" file at the office of the Manitoba Association of Architects.
- 5 M. Peterson, "56 Maple Street - Fire Hall No. 3 (Fire Hall No. 2)," report for the City of Winnipeg Historical Buildings Committee, October 1990, Appendix I.
- 6 City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Books, 1900-1915.
- 7 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 610000-12-2, 1905-1990; and Henderson's Directory, 1905-1990.