



630 RUE DES MEURONS

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY STATION

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



630 RUE DES MEURONS CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY STATION

Date of Construction: 1913

Building Permit: 1340/1913 (St. Boniface Building Permit)

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Benoit and Company

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This one storey stone and brick structure measures approximately 23.8 metres long by 7.9 metres wide and is based on standardized designs developed by all of Canada's transcontinental railways by World War I.

The front (west) façade features overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, supported by wood brackets. The eaves are interrupted in the middle of the façade by a gable dormer with half-timbering and a pair of small windows. The overhang originally encircled the entire structure. The building sits on a raised concrete foundation and is topped by a bellcast hip roof. Windows are numerous on all elevations and are square headed and set in plain wood frames with lug stone sills. A wall has been built between the station and the railway tracks to the east, hiding this façade from view. A train car has been added to the building's southwest corner.



Street side (west) and south façades, 2009

The structure stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. Its conversion to a restaurant has caused some exterior alteration but there are still areas where the original layout and finish is exposed.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The station was built by the Canadian Northern Railway, Canada's second transcontinental line that was built between its creation in 1899 and the driving of the last spike on January 23, 1915. But high construction costs and fierce competition in the Canadian railway sector meant the line never succeeded. It was taken over by the Canadian government in 1923 and became an integral part of its Canadian National Railways.

This station continued to serve St. Boniface as a freight and passenger facility until the 1960s. It was renovated and opened as a restaurant in 1970.¹



Trackside (east) and north façades, 2009

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- an older, small-scale railway station that is illustrative of the type of facility built in a small town or city across Western Canada in the pre-World War I-era;
- its associations- its long-term connections to rail transportation in St. Boniface;
- its design- an excellent example of a modest railway station;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes greatly to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display some of their original elements and design.



Front (west) façade, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 06-061821000, 1910-1990.