



375 ELGIN AVENUE
CHRISTINA McDOUGALL HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2008



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CHRISTINA McDOUGALL HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1884

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

Designed and built similar to a home just west of this single-family dwelling (#383 Elgin Avenue), this solid brick or brick-veneered home has retained much of its ornamental detailing unlike its neighbour.

The front (south) façade of the brick building features an arched hood covering the raised entrance topped by an arched transom. It appears that the front façade is painted red and that the actual brick used throughout the building is common clay. A one-storey bay window also graces this elevation. The second storey windows, paired above the bay and single above the entrance, all include brick drip moulding. The brick at the corners of the façade are laid to mimic quoins and the front-facing gable roof is unadorned.



Front (south) and west façades, 2007

The west façade is completely blank; the east holds only one thin window opening. The rear (north) elevation is also plain, with one door on the ground floor and two windows on the second floor. Evidence on the brick suggests that a small porch originally protected this entrance.

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in fair structural condition. Alterations and aging have removed some of the original ornamental elements.

This home is a good 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 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.

It is unknown at present who designed and built this home.



Front (south) and east façades, 2007

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Loftus J. Green, carpenter, is listed as the home's original owner, David Saul, contractor, as owner from ca.1889-ca.1894, stable keeper Thomas Early from ca.1898-ca.1902 and Christina McDougall, widow of John McDougall, from ca.1905-ca.1924. Other members of the McDougall family (J.T. and Maggie A.) were listed as non-resident owners until the late 1930s. Mrs. Jean Morrissette, wife of Jack G. Morrissette, carpenter, owned and lived in this home from 1955 into the 1990s.³



Rear (north) façade, 2007

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 older single-family dwelling located in one of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods near the downtown and warehouse districts;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- a good example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display some of their original elements and design.



Front (south) façade, 1978

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 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 13-071870000, 1885-1990; and Henderson's Directory, 1885-1990.