



193 FURBY STREET

CYCEL COURT

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



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Date of Construction: 1912

Building Permit: 1478/1912 (Plans at City Storage)

Architect: Simmons, A.

Contractor: Simmons, A.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

Another of the three-storey, brick and stone apartment blocks built throughout the City in the pre-World War I era.

The front (west) façade is symmetrically designed, the dark brick walls accented with limestone. The main entrance located in the centre of the elevation and set in a stone pedimented surround. On both sides are bay windows that rise to the top floor and projecting glazed porches are located at either end on all floors. Stone is used around windows, as belt courses and as shields and other carved elements on this façade. The flat roof is embellished with a complete entablature, heavy cornice and stone capped parapet.



Detail of front (west) entrance, 2009

The building originally had only six residential suites, making it one of the more expensive blocks per unit built during the construction year 1912. The block measures approximately 10.1 x 24.2 metres and cost \$20,000 to complete.¹

This building stands as an example of the Classical Revival style that rose to popularity in the early 1900s as a reaction to the picturesqueness of the designs of the late 19th century. Common elements include columns, pediments, capitals and other Greek- and Roman-based detailing. Designs were usually symmetrical, surfaces were smooth and rooflines were often flat. Door and window openings were square headed rather than arched.²

The building stands on its original location, appears to be in good structural condition and does not appear to have suffered major exterior alteration.

Little is known about A. Simmons. He is listed in City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Books from the 1904 to 1913 as a contractor and architect. He designed modest single-family homes almost exclusively.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The original owner of the block is listed as R.H. Lear, but by 1915, the block was owned by Charles A. Gerrie, Department of Public Works inspector and his wife Emma (who also worked in the department). The couple would own and reside in the block into the 1940s.³



Front (west) façade, 1978

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 luxury apartment built in a growing of the pre-World War I era;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- an excellent example of the Classical Revival style;
- its architect- A. Simmons was a known practitioner;
- its location- contributes greatly to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #1478/1912.
- ² Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg: Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 18.
- ³ City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12-090727100, 1920-1960; and Henderson's Directory, 1920-1960.