

99 GEORGE AVENUE – JAMES BURRIDGE HOUSE
MARGARET SCOTT NURSING STATION
Charles H. Wheeler, 1893



Located on George Avenue, near the original site of the Selkirk Settler's settlement, this two-storey home has had a varied history and is one of the last remaining examples of a large residential neighbourhood that developed along the river in the 1880-1910 period. In 1893, this large house was built for prominent businessman James Burridge, British-born founder of Gurney Stove and Range Company and later the Burridge-Cooper Company, who also spent 1883 as a Winnipeg City councillor. The family sold the house in 1899 and in 1906, it was purchased and converted into the Margaret Scott Nursing Station.

Scott (1855-1931), came to Winnipeg in 1886, a widow in poor health, became one of the City's best stenographers before taking on the job of working with immigrant families in the North End. The Nursing Station on George Avenue was used as the nurses' residence and headquarters, the

actual delivery of health care was done in the patient's homes. Surviving on grants from the three levels of government and companies and private donors, the organization was instrumental in advancing public health among the poor, in the development of social assistance programs and saving thousands of lives. The Mission continued after Scott's death in 1931 until its disbanding in 1943. After decades of use as a boarding house, the structure now functions as a single family dwelling.

As originally built, the house was an excellent example of the Queen Anne Style of architecture, with its wood siding, carved wooden accenting around eaves and window openings, complex roof, ornamental shingle work, bay windows and, most prominent, a full-width, wrap around open porch with ornamental wood detailing. All of these features have either been removed or covered, the only remaining original exterior elements are the two-storey oriel window on the building's east façade and a ground storey window on the west side.

The interior of the building, because of its changing role, has also seen extensive alteration over the years. The basic layout of the interior has remained since 1906 – entrance foyer, main and service staircases, multi-roomed second storey and some of the original elements also remain: hardwood floors, wide wooden baseboards, a dark wood and glass foyer with ornamental tin ceilings, an ornate staircase with newel post and lamp, fireplaces in the living room, rear office and central office and stained glass in front and west windows. Many of the original radiators are still present; one also includes a rare cover. The large stained glass window in the main staircase is the finest interior element and has recently been completely refurbished.

The second floor features a number of small rooms, some of the doors featuring room numbers from its boarding house use as well as some of the original doorknobs with carved birds. Some of the original wood framing around doors and windows and original wood doors are still present on the upper level, as are some of the original built-in cupboards.

Although the building lacks exterior originality, there are many original elements on the interior and the building's contextual history makes it an important heritage structure.

Elements of the building that would require approval if alterations were planned are:

Exterior:

- The south facing structure located at the west end of George Avenue
- The east façade's oriel window with ornamental wood cladding, brackets and window framing

Interior:

- Main entrance with tin ceiling and wood and glass vestibule
- Main floor original hardwood floors and baseboards and original radiators and covers
- Main staircase with wood newel post and balustrade, Wanda Koop painting on the east wall and stained glass window
- Rear staircase from kitchen to second floor
- Second floor original built-in cabinetry, door and window frames, doors and doorknobs