



124 HARROW STREET

CHARLES W. ROWLEY HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



124 HARROW STREET CHARLES W. ROWLEY HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1913

Building Permit: 1417/1913

Architect: Hanford, R.G.

Contractor: S.M. Waldron and Company

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This large, 2½-storey brick veneer single-family home rests on a stone foundation and has graced the northwest corner of Harrow Street and Harvard Avenue for nearly 100 years.

The front (east) façade is symmetrically designed, the red tapestry brick accented by light coloured limestone. The main entrance is centrally located and accessed by a short flight of steps. It is covered by a plain hood and features side lights and a fan transom. The original hood was supported by wood columns both free standing and connected – the free standing columns have now been replaced by brick elements. Windows on this elevation are numerous with stone sills and radiating brick heads with stone keystones. The gambrel roof is embellished with heavy overhanging dentilled eaves and unique dormer windows with arched openings and broken pediments. The south façade included a one-storey



Front (east) and north façades, 2009

glazed porch and the rear (west) façade includes a projecting section as well as a second glazed porch with second storey open balcony.

A large garage of similar design and materials was built to the west of the home in 1917.¹

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

The building is an example of the Classic Revival style, popular in Canada from 1900 to approximately 1930. This type of building is distinguished by its use of Greek and/or Roman ornamental elements such as columns, capitals, pediments, entablatures, cornices and parapets and the structures are usually symmetrical with monumental proportions and smooth surfaces. Porticos, cupolas and other features are also common.²

The house was designed by R.G. Hanford, a local architect who practiced in the city from 1900 to World War I. Much of his early work was a general contractor, building houses, churches, stores and factories. He is only listed as architect for one other building prior to 1920, a large home at 38 Balmoral Street for Dr. D.A. Anderson in 1912.³



Front (east) and south façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

This mansion was built for Charles W. Rowley and his family. The Rowley family originated in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and were influential in business and financial circles across the country.⁴ At the time of construction of this home, Rowley was the manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Winnipeg. When World War I broke out, he went overseas as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers. The house was sold in 1918 but the family remained in the city with Rowley rising to the position of western superintendent of the bank. They moved to Toronto in 1925 when he became an assistant general manager.⁵

The next owner of the home was William P. Dutton. Born in Sycamore, Illinois in 1872, Dutton came to Winnipeg with a law degree from Harvard University but chose to found the Red Deer Lumber Company. Over the years he founded or was the president of a number of businesses and was for a time the treasurer of the Winnipeg Board of Trade. He died in the Harrow Street home in 1942.⁶

The house was duplexed in 1936 and then into four suites.⁷



Rear (west) and south façade, 2009

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- another of the fine mansions built in the pre-World War I era in Crescentwood, one of Winnipeg's up-scale residential neighbourhoods;
- its associations- its connections to the Rowley and Dutton families;
- its design- an excellent example of the Classic Revival style;
- its architect- R.G. Hanford was a known practitioner;
- its location- defines an important intersection and contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (east) façade, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- 1 City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #858/1917. Cost of construction of the garage was \$4,000.
- 2 Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 32.
- 3 BP #4250/1912.
- 4 I.J. Saunders, et al, Early Building in Winnipeg (Ottawa, ON: Parks Canada), Vol. VII, Manuscript Report No. 389, p. 88.
- 5 Winnipeg Telegram, October 8, 1908 and January 3, 1925.
- 6 Winnipeg Free Press, October 19, 1942.
- 7 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12040269000, 1920-1990; and Henderson's Directory, 1920-1990.