



120 JUNO STREET
GEORGE ASHDOWN HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



120 JUNO STREET GEORGE ASHDOWN HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1882

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This is one of the older single-family homes built on the outskirts of downtown Winnipeg's at a time when much of the surrounding area would have been bare prairie.

Built of brick on a stone foundation, this 2½-storey house includes a small open entrance deck in a recessed part of the front (east) façade. In all likelihood, this deck has been built to replace an original glazed or open porch. The projecting area of the front elevation includes a bay window topped by a pair of square headed window openings, a round-headed opening and a gable end with bargeboard embellishing the apex. The brick at the corners of this elevation are laid to mimic quoins. Another bay window is found on the north façade.



Front (east) façade, 1978

The building is a reduced example of a Queen Anne style structure.¹ The style borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15th century, blending classical and medieval motifs into a picturesque form. Asymmetry was achieved through 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.

The building stands on its original location and appears to be in fair structural condition. The entrance appears to be the only major alteration to the exterior of the front façade.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

George Ashdown was an M.L.A. for the Morden area and also its mayor who occupied this home until ca.1887. Although he continued to own the home until at least 1898, he rented it out to a variety of tenants, including William Halpenny, fuel dealer (1891) and Angus J.

McNaughton, labourer (1898-1901). Walter H. Smith, contractor, is listed in the home in 1911.³

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 residential structures built just to the west of Winnipeg's growing downtown;
- its associations- its connection to politician G. Ashdown;
- its design- a good example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- N/A;
- 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 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, op. cit., p. 98.

³ City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 13-061382000, 1880-1910; and Henderson's Directory, 1880-1930.