



213 KINGSWAY AVENUE

WILLIAM COOK RUSSELL HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



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Date of Construction: 1908

Building Permit: 185/1908

Architect: Atchison, John Danley

Contractor: Cross, W.W.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This 2½-storey single-family home was built in the early stages of development of Crescentwood, one of Winnipeg's early exclusive neighbourhoods.

The home has several outstanding design features including the full width front (south) porch with its heavy columns and shingle cladding and its gambrel roof with small gable dormers on the front slope.

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

J.D. Atchison, designer of this home, was born in Monmouth, Illinois in 1870. Educated in Chicago, he studied architecture at the Chicago Art Institute and the Chicago Manual Training



West façade, 2009

School.¹ In 1895, he opened his own practice in Chicago that continued until the early 1900s. He worked on the staff of the World's Columbian Exposition and for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. His commissions brought him to Winnipeg and by 1905 the city's prosperity and future prospects prompted him to relocate his business there.²

A list of some of the more prominent local buildings designed by J.D. Atchison over his career includes: Wardlow Apartments, 544 Wardlaw Avenue (1905, Grade II), Kennedy Building (Mitchell-Copp), 315 Portage Avenue (1906, Grade II), Dennistoun House, 166 Roslyn Road (1908, Grade III), N.W.C.T.A. Building, 291 Garry Street (1908, Grade III), Paterson Block, 54 Donald Street (1909, Grade II), Oldfield, Kirby and Gardner Building, 234 Portage Avenue (1909, Grade II), Canada Permanent Building, 296-98 Garry Street (1909, Grade II), Maltese Cross Building, 66 King Street (1909, Grade III), Chamber of Commerce Building (Great-West Life Building), 177 Lombard Avenue (1911, Grade II) Carlton Building, 354 Portage Avenue (1912, Grade III), Boyd Building, 388 Portage Avenue (1912, Grade III), Union Tower, 191 Lombard Avenue (1912-13, Grade II), Merchants' Bank Branch, 1386 Main Street (1913, Grade III), Curry Building, 233 Portage Avenue (1915, Grade II) and the Bank of Hamilton Building, 395 Main Street (1916-18, Grade I).³

Atchison also designed structures in other western provinces. He won the design competition for the Moose Jaw City Hall, c.1912-13 (not built) and planned the Moose Jaw Collegiate (1908-10), Saskatchewan Presbyterian Boys' College and Principal's Residence (1911-12), and Hammond Building, Main St., Moose Jaw (1912). In 1923, Atchison left Winnipeg for Pasadena, California, and continued to practice there, adopting the Spanish Colonial style for his residential work. He died in 1959.⁴ He has been given 20 points by the Historical Buildings Committee.



Rear (north) and west façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

William Cook Russell and his wife Annie were the original owners of this house. In 1911, they are listed as sharing the home with their two daughters, Helen and Hester, and two domestics.⁵ Cook was a real estate agent/broker in the employ of C.H. Enderton and Company. He died ca.1935 and his widow remained in the home into the 1940s.⁶

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- illustrative of the type of expensive home built in an exclusive Winnipeg neighbourhood in the pre-World War I era;
- its associations- its long-term connection to businessman W.C. Russell;
- its design- N/A;
- its architect- J.D. Atchison was a respected and important practitioner;
- its location- contributes to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (south) façade, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- 1 Winnipeg Telegram, September 18, 1906, p. 55; and F.H. Schofield, The Story of Manitoba (Winnipeg: S.J. Clarke, 1913), Vol. II, p. 374.
- 2 F.H. Schofield, op. cit., p. 374.
- 3 Compiled from City of Winnipeg Historical Buildings Files; J. Wade, Manitoba Architecture to 1940 (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1976); Winnipeg Telegram, September 18, 1906, p. 55; Winnipeg Tribune, December 21, 1907; and F.H. Schofield, op. cit., pp. 374-75.
- 4 The Emerson Court House and Town Hall Building (Winnipeg: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, Historic Resources Branch, 1985), pp. 8-11.
- 5 Canada Census, 1911.
- 6 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12-040384100, 1920-1990.