



**91 KINGSWAY AVENUE**

**JOHN GRAHAM/ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL PRITCHARD MATHESON HOUSE**

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



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**91 KINGSWAY AVENUE  
JOHN GRAHAM/ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL PRITCHARD MATHESON HOUSE**

**Date of Construction:** 1905

**Building Permit:** 2704/1905

**Architect:** Graham, J. (owner)

**Contractor:** Graham, J. (owner)

**ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:**

One of the more oldest homes in Crescentwood, in 1905 one of Winnipeg's newest residential developments.

This frame, 2½-storey home rests on a stone foundation and cost \$6,000 to complete.<sup>1</sup> Its most distinguishing feature is the unusually designed front porch with its angles sides classically-inspired pedimented entrance, wood balustrade and second storey deck with matching balustrade. Large windows set in plain wood frames are located on both levels and the simple truncated hip roof includes a front-facing broken pediment dormer.

The home stands on its original site, appears to be in good structural condition and has not suffered major exterior alteration.



Front (south) and west façades, 2009

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This home is a good example of a foursquare style structure, one of the most popular styles used for residential architecture in North America from the late 1880s until the 1930s. Its square massing and boxiness made it affordable to build and perfect for small urban lots where space was at a premium. The roofline was usually pyramidal or hipped and a front porch and small dormer on the second floor were familiar details. Usually built without the benefit of an architect, the foursquare was often detailed by the owner and could be highly ornamental or very plain. On the interior, the foursquare featured a second floor with four square rooms above three square rooms and an entrance hall with stairs tucked unobtrusively to the side on the first floor.<sup>2</sup>

Original owner J. Graham is listed as the architect and contractor for this house.

#### HISTORICAL INTEREST:

John Graham of the legal firm Graham and Graham (son John Holmes), his wife Florance and their sons John H. and George McG. (a law student) were the original owners/residents of this house. In the early 1930s, Archbishop Samuel Pritchard Matheson (1852-1942) and his wife took over the home. Reverend Matheson was Anglican Archbishop of Rupert's Land and Primate of all Canada (1909-1930) and his window remained in the home after he died.<sup>3</sup>



Rear (north) east façades, 2009

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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 connections to lawyer J. Graham and his family and to Archbishop S.P. Matheson;
- its design- an excellent example of the foursquare style;
- its architect- N/A;
- 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

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ENDNOTES:

- 1 #2704/1905.
- 2 Information from <http://www.realviews.com/homes/forsq.html>.
- 3 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12-040436200, 1900-1950; and Canada Census, 1911.