



153 MAGNUS AVENUE

CHARLES W. BROWN HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



153 MAGNUS AVENUE CHARLES W. BROWN HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1901

Building Permit: 401/1901

Architect: MacDonald, Arch

Contractor: MacDonald, Arch

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This 1½-storey single family dwelling features modest ornamentation and was built just after the turn-of-the-century in Winnipeg's North End.

Clad in horizontal wood siding and resting on a rubblestone foundation built above grade, this modest structure features a front (south) façade with an enclosed, glazed entrance porch and a gable roof with ornate bargeboard in the two front-facing gable ends. Windows throughout the house are set in plain wood frames. The home measures approximately 7.3 x 9.2 metres and cost \$1,300 to complete in 1901.¹

Little is known about the architect/contractor of this house, Arch MacDonald. It appears he arrived in the city in 1900 with his wife Helen and their five children (four sons and one daughter). By 1911 the family is listed as living at 73 Carlton Street.² He was active in the



Front (south) and east façades, 2009

building trade from 1900 until 1910, designing mainly modest dwellings throughout the city.³

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

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The original owner/resident of this home was accountant Charles W. Brown. He lived in the house until ca.1917, Israel Nitikman then owned the property until his death in ca.1929. His representatives remained owners until 1942 and Zivel Wolch is listed in the building in 1943.⁴



Front (south) and east façades, 1994

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- an older, early 20th century single family dwelling built in the rapidly expanding North End;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- N/A;
- its architect- A. MacDonald was a known local practitioner;
- its location- contributes to its neighbourhood streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

- 1 City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #401/1901.
- 2 Census of Canada, 1900-1911.
- 3 City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Book, 1899-1926.
- 4 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 14022047000, 1905-1950; and Henderson's Directory, 1905-1950.