



324 MARYLAND STREET

THOROLD H. JOHNSON HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



324 MARYLAND STREET THOROLD H. JOHNSON HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1908

Building Permit: UNKNOWN

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This 2½-storey brick house features a lively front (east) façade that includes a full-width open porch with second storey deck, supported by both unfluted and attached wood columns with modest bases and capitals, wood balustrade and complete entablature and overhanging eaves. The original wood balustrade of the second storey deck has been removed. A bay window is set in the porch and exposed rafters highlight the overhanging eaves of the hip roof. A front-facing gable dormer is accented with wood detailing.

The building is a good 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



Front (east) façade, 2004

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 home stands on its original site and appears to be in fair structural condition. The front porch, the structure's most visually conspicuous element, has seen some alteration over time.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

John Dolmer, contractor, is listed as the original owner but it appears he built this property as an investment and quickly sold the home. In 1911, George Herbert Chadwick, Manitoba Cartage Company clerk is listed as the resident and by 1915, jeweller Thorold H. Johnson resides in the home. He occupied the house until at least 1925.³



Front (east) façade, 1978

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 residential development occurring in Winnipeg's West End in the pre-World War I era;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- an 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 some 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. 13-040960000, 1920-1990.