



## 100 NIAGARA STREET

**RICHARD A. SARA HOUSE**

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



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## 100 NIAGARA STREET RICHARD A. SARA HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1915

**Building Permit:** 1042/1915

**Architect:** Sara, Richard A. (owner)

**Contractor:** Sara, Richard A. (owner)

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

One of the more unique single-family homes in River Heights is the R.A. Sara House, its design and cladding making it a conspicuous structure on its block north of Academy Road.

The most dominant feature of the front (west) façade is the full-width open porch, clad in field stone and capped in concrete. This deep element offers ample sitting area. Windows and door are plain. The steeply pitched gable roof flares at the heavy overhanging eaves and is interrupted on the front slope by a handsome dormer window with similarly designed roof and many windows. A chimney with field stone cladding is also part of the design.

Its construction, reinforced concrete, is another of the unusual features of this home that cost \$7,000 to complete in 1915.<sup>1</sup>



Front (west) and north façades, 2009

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

This house is an example of the Prairie School style. As the name suggests, the style grew out of the wide spaces and vast horizons of the American Midwest, making it essentially a North American phenomenon. It developed in the 1910s and remained popular until the 1930s.<sup>2</sup>

The most noticeable feature of the style is its horizontal emphasis: low-pitched roofs, windows grouped to form horizontal bands, flat wall surfaces with little projecting embellishments and very wide eaves all combine to give the style its unique characteristics. The buildings can be clad in stucco, stone or brick, and historical ornamentation is rejected in favour of clean lines and simple designs. Much of its use in Canada came through the use of house plans in magazines and journals and the rise in popularity of the bungalow also grew from this style.<sup>3</sup>



Front (west) and south façades, 2009

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HISTORICAL INTEREST:

R.A. “Dick” Sara came to Winnipeg from his native Toronto, Ontario in 1911 to take up a position as engineer in the City’s Light and Power Department. He resigned in 1917 and moved to Maryland before returning to Winnipeg in 1921. He was a school trustee and city alderman in the 1930s and 1940s. Other owners and residents of this house included Captain T.F. Smellie, Hudson’s Bay Company (1935), Robson Armitage, RCMP inspector (1945), W. Earle (business manager for the Winnipeg Clinic) and Margaret Moffatt (1955-1965) and Leslie (executive director of the Young Men's Hebrew Association) and Paula A. Marks (1975-1995).<sup>4</sup>

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- an example of a modest single-family dwelling built in the 1910s in one of Winnipeg’s established middle-income residential neighbourhoods;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- an example of the Prairie School 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.



Front (west) façade, 1978

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ENDNOTES:

- 1 City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #1042/1915.
- 2 L. Maitland, et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1992), p. 172; and Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, Historic Resources Branch, 1991), pp. 24-5.
- 3 L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 172; and Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba, op. cit., p. 24.
- 4 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12060937000, 1920-1990; and Henderson's Directory, 1920-2000.