



210 OXFORD STREET

DAVID H. SPARROW HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



210 OXFORD STREET DAVID H. SPARROW HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1913

Building Permit: 3912/1913

Architect: Sparrow Brothers, David H. and Frank A. (owners)

Contractor: Sparrow Brothers, David H. and Frank A. (owners)

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

Built at a cost of \$9,000,¹ this fine, 2½-storey single-family dwelling has graced this River Heights street for nearly 100 years.

The front (west) façade is symmetrically designed with a central entrance highlighted by a shallow porch with attached and free-standing columns and a classically detailed roof. Windows on this and the upper level are plain and set in wide frames. The simple gable roof features overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and gabled and three pedimented dormer windows. The bottom two levels are stuccoed, the gable ends and dormer windows are clad in shingles. There is a two storey enclosed porch attached to the building's south end.



Front (west) and north façades, 2009

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

The building has elements of the Classic Revival style, popular in Canada from 1900 to approximately 1930. This type of building is distinguished by its use of Greek and/or Roman ornamental elements such as columns, capitals, pediments, entablatures, cornices and parapets and the structures are usually symmetrical with monumental proportions and smooth surfaces. Porticos, cupolas and other features are also common.²

The listed architects/contractors for this home were the Sparrow Brothers, David H. and Frank A., well-known and active contractors in the city beginning in 1904. Between then and 1926, they completed over \$500,000 worth of work in Winnipeg, interestingly all of it except one building was for residential structures.



Front (west) and south façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

David H. Sparrow, contractor owned and occupied this home into the late 1910s when it was taken over by Dr. J. Harley Deeks. Over its history, this home has seen a number of short-term owners including George H. Smith, assistant general freight agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway (1925), Herbert J. Anderson, president of Cotter Brothers Limited (1930), Mrs. James Houston (1940), Peter G. (secretary-treasurer of D.A. McCuaig Agency Limited) and Lorraine McCuaig (1970) and John A. (marketing consultant) and Rozalynde McKibbin (1980).³

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 well-appointed, pre-World War I era single-family home built in one of Winnipeg's finer neighbourhoods;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- an example of the Classic Revival style;
- its architect- Sparrow Brothers were respected and important practitioners;
- 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

ENDNOTES:

- 1 City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #3912/1913.
- 2 Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 32.
- 3 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12041506000, 1920-1990.