



1719 PORTAGE AVENUE

ST. JAMES HOTEL

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



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## 1719 PORTAGE AVENUE ST. JAMES HOTEL

**Date of Construction:** 1928

**Building Permit:** N/A

**Architect:** Unknown

**Contractor:** Unknown

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

One of St. James' well-known facilities is the St. James Hotel, serving western Winnipeggers for over 80 years.

The building has two public façades, south facing Portage Avenue and west facing Queen Street, the two elevations are connected by an angled corner that holds the main arched entrance. Ornamental elements on these façades include dark brick cladding on the ground floor, stone accenting, a cornice dividing the ground from the upper floors, large square-headed windows on all floors, stucco cladding on the second storey and an unusual truncated hip roof with south- and west-facing gable ends with half-timber accenting. Arched entrances similar to the one in the angled corner are also found on both of these elevations.



South and east façades, 2009

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

Stylistically, this building features elements of the Tudor style in the modest half-timbering of the gable ends and the stucco cladding of the upper floors. This was an attempt to mimic the British pubs/country inns as a means of attracting clientele and as an overall theme for the facility.

#### HISTORICAL INTEREST:

This business, located on the east side of what was then the Municipality of St. James, was originally owned by Frank S. Fowlie through his firm, the Fowlie Hotel Company.<sup>1</sup> This company would maintain its ownership into the 1970s during a major addition and interior alteration (via City of Winnipeg Building Permit #2170/1967 worth \$54,000). It was sold to Parklands Hotels Limited in ca.1985.<sup>2</sup>



North façade, 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- an example of a local business developed after prohibition, similar to other such facilities found throughout Winnipeg and in its surrounding municipalities;
- its associations- its long-term connections to the modern development of St. James;
- its design- modest local hotel with Tudor style elements;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- defines an important intersection and contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of two major arteries in St. James; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



South façade, 1978

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ENDNOTES:

- 1 Manitoba Free Press, July 21, 1928, p. 17.
- 2 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 07569034600, 1930-1990.