



480 POWERS STREET

WILLIAM J. TAYLOR HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



480 POWERS STREET WILLIAM J. TAYLOR HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1913

Building Permit: 392/1913

Architect: Lang, William (owner)

Contractor: Lang, William (owner)

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This single-family dwelling, along with its similarly designed and built neighbour to the north are considerably more ornamented structures than most of the other homes in the neighbourhood.

The front (east) façade features a raised foundation wall and a full-width glazed porch with open space underneath. On the second floor, a unique arched recessed deck is located in the front-facing gable end. A tower with conical roof graces the south side of the building and is topped by metal cresting (as is the peak of the roof). The rear (west) and north roof slopes include dormer windows.

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



Front (east) and north façades, 2009

The structure is an example of the Queen Anne style which borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15th century, blending classical and medieval motifs into a picturesque form.¹ The desired asymmetry was achieved through a number of 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 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.

Nothing is known at present about William Lang, listed as the owner, architect and contractor of the building, who also designed and built the neighbouring building, #480 Powers Street, also in 1913.



Front (east) and south façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Winnipeg Electric Streetcar conductor and driver William J. Taylor and his wife Myrtle M. Taylor were long-time owners/residents of this house, living there from ca.1925 into the 1950s. Mrs. Taylor remained in the home after husband's death ca.1960.³

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 modest single-family dwelling with a number of unique ornamental features built just prior to World War I in Winnipeg's North End;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- an example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- W. Lang is the named architect and contractor;
- its location- contributes, along with its similarly designed neighbour, greatly to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (east) façade, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 17; and L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1992), p. 102.
- ² L. Maitland et al., *op. cit.*, p. 98.
- ³ City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 14043365000, 1920-1990.