





---

## 178 SPENCE STREET HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1903

**Building Permit:** UNKNOWN

**Architect:** Unknown

**Contractor:** Unknown

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

One of the more unique façades in the downtown is this small, three-storey brick building

The front (east) façade includes a wrap around open porch that wraps around the home's northeast corner and part way along the north façade. The porch is supported by unfluted wood columns with modest bases and capitals; a pediment is located on the roof above the stairs. The hip roof features bracketed eaves, a front-facing gable with ornamental shingles and plain wood bargeboard.

The building is a good example of a Queen Anne style structure.<sup>1</sup> The style borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15<sup>th</sup> 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



Rear (west) and north façades, 2009

---

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.<sup>2</sup>

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, appears to be in good structural condition and does not appear to have seen major exterior alteration.

#### HISTORICAL INTEREST:

This home has seen numerous short-term owners and occupants during its history, including: Charles Brown, real estate agent (1905); Edward Cahill, manager of Gray-Campbell Limited, Leo A., Vincent D. and Lorena M. Cahill, students (1910-1915); Robert J. Parker, secretary-treasurer of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Auto Underwriters Association (1925); and Mrs. M. MacFadyen (no employment listed – 1943).<sup>3</sup>



Front (east) and north façades, 1978

---

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- a turn-of-the-century modest single-family home built in one of Winnipeg's growing residential neighbourhoods on the outskirts of the downtown;
- 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 many of their original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 98.
- <sup>3</sup> City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12-091337000, 1910-1930; and Henderson's Directory, 1910-1943.