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## 198 SPENCE STREET ERNEST N. PAGE HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1902

**Building Permit:** 423/1902

**Architect:** Page, E.N. (owner)

**Contractor:** Johnson and Oleson

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This 2½-storey frame house rests on a stone foundation and cost \$3,500 to complete in 1902.<sup>1</sup>

The front (east) façade features a wealth of ornamentation including the full-width open porch with its wood columns, balustrade and dentilled eaves, the pair of square headed windows set in wood frames on the second floor and the front-facing gable end with its rounded window with unusual sill. The south façade includes a bracketed bay window and cross-gable roof.

The home is a reduced example of a Queen Anne style structure.<sup>2</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



Front (east) façade, 1978

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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.<sup>3</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.

#### HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Ernest N. Page, an accountant, lived in the home until after World War I. He worked for Buchanan and Gordon in 1906 and Hiram Walker and Sons in 1915. In 1943, William H. Qualtrough, Eaton's employee, is listed in the home.<sup>4</sup>

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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- 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 excellent 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> City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #423/1902.

<sup>2</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>3</sup> L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 98.

<sup>4</sup> City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12-091333000, 1905-1920; Henderson's Directory, 1900-1950.