



214 SPENCE STREET FREDERICK C.N. KENNEDY HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1904

Building Permit: UNKNOWN

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This 2½-storey frame home features many fine ornamental details that set it apart from its neighbours. The front (east) façade includes an open porch that wraps around the northeast corner of the building and runs a distance along the north façade. Paired, unfluted wood columns connected by wood balustrades support the porch and the eaves are dentiled. A bay window is located on the east façade in the porch. The horizontal wood siding is interrupted by square headed window openings set in wide wood frames. The complex hip roof includes a small dormer on the east slope with an arched window as well as a front-facing gable end that originally included a balustrade (now removed) and ornamental shingles.

The building is a good example of a Queen Anne style structure.¹ The style borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15th century, blending classical and medieval motifs



Front (east) façade, 1978

into a picturesque form. Asymmetry was achieved through 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.

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

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

John M. Wiley of Wiley and Company Limited is listed as the occupant of the home in 1911. From ca.1919 to ca.1924, Frederick C.N. Kennedy was the owner/resident. Kennedy was the son of two-time mayor William N. Kennedy and deputy District Registrar for the Land Titles Office in Winnipeg. Kennedy and his brother organized the holding company that controlled all of the property that became Victoria Beach. Also in the house

were his wife, Rose, and their two sons and two daughters. Kennedy died ca.1924 and his widow remained in the home until 1942.³

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- one of many modest single-family homes built throughout Winnipeg at the turn-of-the-century;
- its associations- its connections to real estate developer F.C.N. Kennedy;
- its design- a good example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

- 1 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.
- 2 L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 98.
- 3 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12-091329000, 1905-1950; Canada Census, 1911; and Henderson's Directory, 1905-1950.