

364 STELLA AVENUE

JOSEPH S. SHAW HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



364 STELLA AVENUE JOSEPH S. SHAW HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1904

Building Permit: 940/1904

Architect: Shaw, Joseph S. (owner)

Contractor: Shaw, Joseph S. (owner)

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This is a modestly ornamented, turn-of-the-century single-family dwelling built in Winnipeg's North End.

The front (north) façade includes the home's most ornamental feature, the wrap around open veranda running the full width of the front façade and partially along the east side. Decorative elements include round wood columns with plain heads and bases connected at the top by delicate wood elements and at the bottom by a solid railing. Originally, the end of the front-facing gable held a sunrise motif but that has been removed or covered by newer stucco cladding. The cross gable roof is unadorned.



Front (north) and west façades, 2009

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. The stuccoing of the upper storey of this structure has negatively affected its appearance and covered original ornamental elements in the gable end and the original horizontal wood siding.

As originally built, this home was 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 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.



Front (north) and east façades, 2009

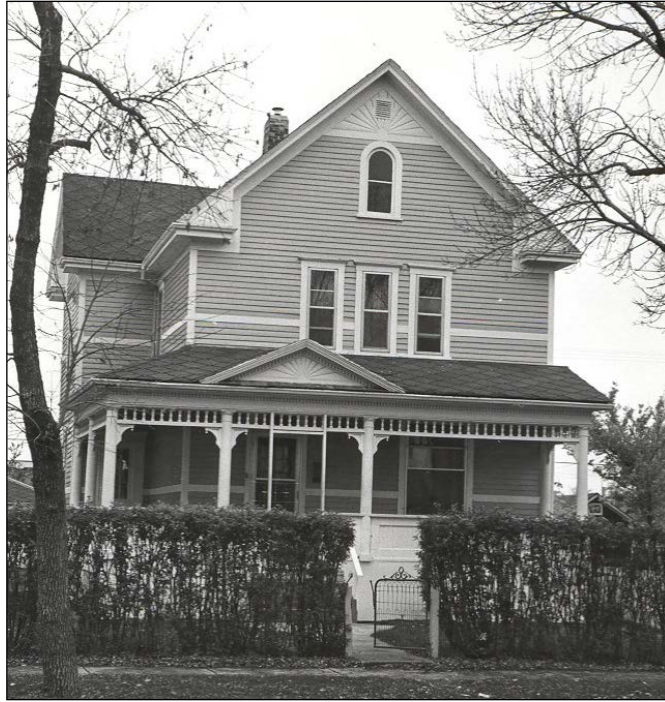
HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Canadian Pacific Railway machinist Joseph S. Shaw was the original owner of the house, living there with wife Ellen, sons Joseph Jr. and Charles E. and daughter Margaret Shaw (her twin sister Ellen M. Shaw had moved out prior to 1911).³ In the early 1930s, Charles E. Shaw, then a machinist with the Canadian National Railways, took over ownership and occupancy of the home. He was still the owner in 1945.⁴

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 the type of modest, single-family dwelling built shortly after the turn-of-the-century in all parts of Winnipeg;
- its associations- its long-term connections to early the Shaw family;
- its design- a reduced example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- C.H. Wheeler was a respected and important practitioner;
- its location- contributes to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display some of their original elements and design.



Front (north) façade, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- 1 Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 17; L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1992), p. 102; and L. Maitland, The Queen Anne Revival Style in Canadian Architecture (Ottawa, ON: Environment Canada, 1990), p. 64.
- 2 L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 98.
- 3 Census of Canada, 1901, 1906 and 1911.
- 4 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 14001647000, 1910-1950; and Henderson's Directory, 1910-1950.