



494 WARDLAW AVENUE

DR. R.G. MONTGOMERY HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



494 WARDLAW AVENUE DR. R.G. MONTGOMERY HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1906

Building Permit: 2390/1906

Architect: Oldershaw, Charles R.

Contractor: Oldershaw, Charles R.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

Another fine single-family dwelling built in Fort Rouge in the early 20th century.

This solid brick home sits on a stone foundation and measures approximately 7.9 x 10.4 metres and cost \$5,000 to construct in 1906.¹

The front (north) façade is distinguished by its off-centre entrance protected from the elements by curved hood with oversized brackets. A curved wall holds three rectangular windows on the first and second floors; this area is finished by a front-facing gable that matches the slope of the main roof. The west side features a two-storey curved bay window topped by a gable end, the east elevation is plain with numerous windows and a side-facing gable. All windows include stone lug sills; the front windows include head stone heads with the side openings feature radiating brick heads with stone accents.



Front (north) and east façades, 2009

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. Other than the painting of the exterior, there does not appear to be any major alteration completed on the exterior of this structure.

Stylistically, this house is a good example of the Queen Anne Revival style that borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15th century, blending classical and medieval motifs into a picturesque form.² 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.³

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.

Little is known about the architect/contractor of this building, Charles R. Oldershaw. His name is only found in the City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Books from 1904-1906 when he appears to have left the city. He also designed the Bexley Court Apartments, 448-454 Sargent Avenue (1906 – demolished) and a two-storey addition to the Kilgour-Rimer Block, 87 Princess Street (1906).



Front (north) and west façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

Dr. R.G. Montgomery was the original owner/occupant of this home, living there until approximately 1912. The next owner was Samuel Rosner, a former farmer and mayor in Plum Coulee, Manitoba. Samuel Marantz is listed as the owner/occupant in 1925 and 1935.⁴

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- an older Fort Rouge single-family dwelling dating to the early stages of this area's modern development in the pre-World War I era;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- a good example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- C.R. Oldershaw was a known practitioner;
- its location- contributes to the historic streetscape of its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (north) façade, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- 1 City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #2390/1906.
- 2 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.
- 3 L. Maitland et al., op. cit., p. 98.
- 4 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12021683000, 1900-1940; and Henderson's Directory, 1900-1940.