



1338 WOLSELEY AVENUE

SALTER HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



1338 WOLSELEY AVENUE SALTER HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1894

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This is a fine brick farm home, built in the later years of the 19th century for a well-established and successful family of market gardeners.

The building has two main facades, north facing Wolseley Avenue and west looking towards Omands Creek. They are distinguished by the open veranda with unfluted wood columns that run the entire length of both façades. The second storey is clad in ornamental shingles and the gambrel roof increased the useable space on the second floor. There is a bay window on the east side.



West and south façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The Salter family had been market gardeners in St. James as early as the 1880s. Operating under a variety of names including F. Salter, F. Salter and Sons and Salter Brothers,¹ the family was well-known throughout Winnipeg. F.W. Salter appears to have been the patriarch, with son Thomas F. and grandson Frederick also in the business.² Records for this area are incomplete; it is believed at this time that Frederick Salter built this fine home on his property at the confluence of the Assiniboine River and Omands Creek. Much of the acreage was divided early in the 20th century as modern streets were surveyed and developed. Raglan Road was originally the Salter's private lane. At one time, there were 26 greenhouses on the Salter property, supplying food for the Canadian Pacific Railway.³



East and north façades, 2009

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- one of the oldest residential structures in the St. James area;
- its associations- its long-term connections to the Salter family, an early and influential farming family;
- its design- an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century farmhouse built by a well-to-do family;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



West and north façades, 2009

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Manitoba Free Press, April 7, 1892, p. 3 and May 11, 1893, p. 6. In 1892, Salter Brothers were selling off all its bedding plants because they were going to be “devoting themselves exclusively to raising early vegetables.”
- ² Manitoba Free Press, February 26, 1895, p. 6. F.W. Salter owned an orange plantation in southern California.
- ³ Information from <http://www.mrta.mb.ca/Trails/wta/maps/OmandsCreekTrails.pdf> (no date).