

## WOODHAVEN BOULEVARD AT PORTAGE AVENUE – GATE

*Unknown, ca.1961*



The residential subdivision of Woodhaven, in St. James, was initially registered in 1900 by realtors Herman B. Harrison and Christopher O’Kelly. The initial scheme saw the creation of 22 agricultural lots and the damming of Sturgeon Creek to create a large lake. The plan creating Woodhaven Boulevard was registered in 1913 but the grand scheme, along with most other in the city, were dashed by the beginning of World War I and the downturn in the world economy.

One of the keys to the development of the subdivision was a bridge across the creek, which the St. James Municipal Council agreed to build in 1920. Woodhaven Park was also set aside at this time and a pair of pillars was built at the Portage Avenue entrance to the development.

These pillars stood until the widening of Portage Avenue in 1953 caused their demolition. They were replaced by the present gate, which was completed ca.1961. The red brick structure

features stone accenting with a low planter section and the taller section with stylized metal lettering on the east and west sides with the neighbourhood's name.

Woodhaven developed slowly, 11 modest bungalows were completed in 1919. The development took on a resort-like quality with small homes built along Sturgeon Creek and the Assiniboine River. Some of these early "cottages" are still standing while some have been replaced by newer structures.

The gate stands in its original location and does not appear to have suffered extensive alteration.

Any alteration or repairs to the gate would require design approval and a heritage permit.