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## 145 BANNERMAN AVENUE RUPERT F. INKSTER HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1912

**Building Permit:** 1538/1912 (Permit for 2 houses, 145 and 147 Bannerman Avenue)

**Architect:** Horner, William

**Contractor:** Horner, William

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This solid brick single-family dwelling, and the house to the west, #147 Bannerman Avenue, were built under the same City of Winnipeg Building Permit in 1912 and are mirror images of each other.<sup>1</sup>

Ornamental elements of the home include an enclosed entrance porch at the east end of the front (south) façade with half-timber details, stone accenting around windows and a steeply pitched gable roof with front-facing gable dormer as well as a curved pedimented dormer interrupting the eaves.

The home is a reduced example of the Tudor Style, popular throughout Winnipeg and North American from the 1890s until World War II, although the decades of the 1920s and 1930s saw an explosion in Tudor-style house construction on this continent. The style is loosely



Front (south) and east façades, 2009

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based on a number of late Medieval English structures ranging from thatch-roofed cottages to grand mansions. In North America, the style developed several distinctive elements - ornamental half-timbering, steeply pitched roofs, front-facing gables, and stucco, masonry or masonry-veneered walls.<sup>2</sup>

The most common feature of Tudor homes is a steeply pitched central roof with cross gables. Tall, narrow windows in multiple groups, and massive chimneys crowned by chimney pots, are other common elements. About half of all examples of the style contain decorative (non-structural) half-timbering with stucco or brick infill.<sup>3</sup>

The 1912 City of Winnipeg Building Permit names William Horner of Winnipeg as the architect and contractor of the house. Horner was born in Newby, Wiske, Yorkshire, England in 1860, coming to Canada after learning the bricklaying and mason trade. He arrived in Winnipeg in 1881 and began a long and distinguished career which included the presidency of the Bricklayers' Union.<sup>4</sup>

Although the scope of his early work is not known, the list of his work after 1900 highlights his success. Horner worked for most of the most influential architects in the city including J.H.G. Russell, J.D. Atchison, C.S. Bridgman, A. & W. Melville, Jordan & Over and M. Blankstein. He also designed and built a number of structures during his career.<sup>5</sup> His major work included a retail/apartment block on Main Street (1908), G.F. Galt House, Wellington Crescent (1910), and a Union Bank of Canada branch, Sherbrook Street (1911). Horner also had a long-standing relationship with E.L. Drewery, designing and building several major structures at his Redwood Avenue brewery.<sup>6</sup> In fact, Horner was discussing details of work at the Brewery when he suffered a fatal stroke on October 22, 1916.<sup>7</sup>



Rear (north) and east façades, 2009

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HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The original owners of the two houses built were A.E. and W.D. White. The pair sold #145 Bannerman Avenue and A.E. White was a long-time resident of #147. Argue M. Willis of Argue Brothers Limited, was listed as the occupant in 1915 and during the 1920s, Rupert F. Inkster, his wife Nellie and sons Harold and John lived in the home. Inkster was listed as a deputy sheriff at the Law Courts Building. Reuben Diamond, real estate agent, was listed as the occupant in 1943.<sup>8</sup>

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- a good example of a single-family dwelling built in one of the growing residential districts of pre-World War I Winnipeg;
- its associations- its connection to R.F. Inkster;
- its design- a reduced example of a Tudor Style single-family dwelling;
- its architect- W. Horner was a respected and important practitioner;
- its location- contributes greatly to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (south) façade, 1978

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ENDNOTES:

- 1 City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #1538/1912. Each home cost \$7,000 to build.
- 2 V. and L. McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York-1984), p. 358.
- 3 Ibid., pp. 355-356.
- 4 Winnipeg Telegram, October 23, 1916, p. 5.
- 5 City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Books, 1900-1916.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Winnipeg Telegram, October 23, 1916, p. 5.
- 8 Henderson's Directory, 1910-1950; and Canada Census, 1901-1911.