



**1940 HENDERSON HIGHWAY**

**DONALD A. ROSS HOUSE**

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



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## 1940 HENDERSON HIGHWAY DONALD A. ROSS HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1922

**Building Permit:** N/A

**Architect:** Unknown

**Contractor:** Unknown

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This solid stone bungalow was built for an important political figure and his family shortly after World War I.

The front (east) façade is symmetrically designed with a central entrance atop a short flight of stairs. Sets of three square headed windows flank the entrance; the hipped roof holds hipped gable dormer windows on all four slopes. The rear (west) façade includes an enclosed entrance porch with an open deck on its roof.

The building stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. The major alteration to the building has been the replacement of the front door with an unsympathetic modern unit with composite siding. It detracts from the appearance of the front façade although the other three elevations have not suffered major alteration.



Front (east) and north façades, 2009

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HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The original owners of the home were Donald A. Ross and his wife Margaret (nee. McIvor).<sup>1</sup> Ross was born in Nairn, in Middlesex County, Upper Canada (present-day Ontario) in 1856, coming to Manitoba in 1874, working on the region's first telegraph line. In 1877 he founded D.A. Ross and Company, real estate, and also farmed near Springfield, Manitoba. He served on the Winnipeg City Council for eight years, the Winnipeg School Board for twenty-three years and the Winnipeg Public Parks Board for eleven years. He served in the Legislative Assembly from 1907 to 1920 and again from 1922 to 1927. He died on January 23, 1938.<sup>2</sup>

Annie McIvor is listed as the next owner of the property, Michael J. and Margaret E. Freeman from the mid-1940s to the early 1950s, and the Cordiner family, David, Williamina and Margaret, in the 1960s and 1970s.<sup>3</sup>

In 1978, the house was donated to SPIKE Incorporated (Special People in Kildonan East), a non-profit organization working with special needs adults.<sup>4</sup> In 1985 a large shelter was built west of the house which was used as the director's residence.



Front (east) and north façades, 1978

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RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- an older stone residence built during an era when this area of East Kildonan was nearly completely rural and agricultural;
- its associations- its long-term connections to influential politician D.A. Ross;
- its design- an example of a well-built stone bungalow;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes to its streetscape, although more modern commercial development has detracted from this view; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (east) and north façades, 1978

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ENDNOTES:

- 1 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 04002335100 (below as ARo), 1925.
- 2 Winnipeg Free Press, January 24, 1938; C.W. Parker, ed., Who's Who in Western Canada: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Men and Women of Western Canada, Volume 1 (Vancouver, B.C.: Canadian Press Association, 1911); and F.H. Schofield, The Story of Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913).
- 3 ARo, 1930-1980.
- 4 The Herald, January 25, 2007.