



**309 INKSTER BOULEVARD**

**REVEREND W. IVENS HOUSE**

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



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## 309 INKSTER BOULEVARD REVEREND W. IVENS HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1913

**Building Permit:** 1401/1913

**Architect:** Chishvin, B. (owner) – five houses

**Contractor:** Chishvin, B. (owner) – five houses

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This 2½-storey brick single-family dwelling was one of five built by a developer just before World War I in West Kildonan.

The front (south) façade features a raised entrance atop a set of open concrete steps. A one-storey bay window is also located on this elevation. A shallow overhang divides the front façade, the second storey window above are square headed and set in plain wood frames. The bellcast hip roof features a front facing gable with small windows. The side elevations are plain, a second entrance and a bay window are found on the east side. The rear (north) features a two-storey projecting area. A brick garage is located at the rear of the lot at the back lane.



Front (south) and east façades, 2009

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The building stands on its original site, appears to be in good structural condition and does not appear to have suffered major exterior alteration.

This home is a good example of a Foursquare style structure, one of the most popular styles used for residential architecture in North America from the late 1880s until the 1930s. Its square massing and boxiness made it affordable to build and perfect for small urban lots where space was at a premium. The roofline was usually pyramidal or hipped and a front porch and small dormer on the second floor were familiar details. Usually built without the benefit of an architect, the foursquare was often detailed by the owner and could be highly ornamental or very plain. On the interior, the foursquare featured a second floor with four square rooms above three square rooms and an entrance hall with stairs tucked unobtrusively to the side on the first floor.<sup>1</sup>

B. Chishvin is listed as the owner/architect/contractor on the original City of Winnipeg Building Permit. This permit was taken out for 5 dwellings at a cost of \$20,000, \$4,000 per house.<sup>2</sup> The only other permits from 1899-1926 with Chishvin's name on them are for three houses in the 200-block of Lansdowne Avenue (\$4,000 per house) and a single house on Garfield Street south of Portage Avenue.<sup>3</sup>



Front (south) and west façades, 2009

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HISTORICAL INTEREST:

After a brief time, this house was occupied by Reverend William “Bill” Ivens (1878-1958). Rev. Ivens was one of seven men arrested, charged and jailed for their participation as labour leaders in the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike (Ivens address to the jury lasted 14 hours). Ivens was elected to the provincial legislature while in jail as a labour candidate and was re-elected twice more. He lived in the home until his death and the property was sold to John (blacksmith for Bridge and Tank Western) and Nadia Wengier who lived in the home into the late 1990s.<sup>4</sup>



Rear (north) and west façades, 2009

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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- a comfortable single-family home built in one of Winnipeg's older residential neighbourhoods in the pre-World War I era;
- its associations- its long-term connections to influential labour leader and politician Rev. W. Ivens;
- its design- a good example of the Foursquare style;
- its architect- B. Chishvin was a known practitioner;
- its location- contributes to its historic neighbourhood streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (south) façade, 1994

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ENDNOTES:

- 1 Information from <http://www.realviews.com/homes/forsq.html>.
- 2 City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #1401/1913.
- 3 BP #1400/1913 (Lansdowne Avenue) and #967/1926 (Garfield Street).
- 4 City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 14070625000, 1920-1990; and Henderson's Directory, 1920-2000.