

**6 ROSLYN ROAD – LILLY APARTMENTS
(W.R. ALLAN HOUSE)
*H. Holman, 1914***



Although this building designed by architect Hugh Holman in 1914 contained nearly twenty suites in 1983, it was originally built as a duplex. The Roslyn Road area was, at the time, home for the upper middle class.

The original family dwelling was built for the adult son and daughter, and their families, of Mrs. W.R. Allan. Her husband, the son of the founder of Allan Steamship Lines, came west in the 1880s to establish a financial and insurance firm. Allan, Killam and McKay negotiated mortgages, dealt in real estate and development, and represented many international insurance companies. Mrs. Allan's son, George Killam, who lived in the duplex, was a partner in the firm. Herbert Pennock, owner of a local wholesale commission brokerage firm, lived in the other half of the duplex with his wife, who was George Killam's sister. Both families occupied the house until 1928.

One section of the duplex was then taken over by David Finkelstein, the principal developer of the suburb of Tuxedo. In order to control development in that area, Finkelstein ran for and was elected Mayor of Tuxedo for thirty-six of the first thirty-nine years of the suburb's incorporation. The other part of the duplex was occupied by Edward H. Macklin, who was the general manager of the Winnipeg Free Press. Unwilling to accept the monopoly that the Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph had over news rates sent through telegraph wires, Macklin organized an independent new service. It was originally operated on a mutual basis by Winnipeg's three newspapers. By 1917, Macklin had put together a national network called Canadian Press, which was Canada's largest wire news agency.

Locally trained under architects George Browne, J.H.G. Russell and S. Hooper, little is known about architect Hugh Holman, for the majority of his documented commissions were in rural Manitoba. Despite the extensive interior alterations, the façade of the building is nearly original. Constructed of dark brown brick, with rich red highlights, numerous geometric designs were detailed into the coursework as relief. Large brackets supported the roof of the entranceway which with its low-lying composition stressing the horizontal line showed the influence of the "Prairie School" style of Frank Lloyd Wright.

The original interior belonged to an era of line-in servants, back staircases and gracious living. Both parts of the duplex included formal libraries, maid's rooms and open sleeping porches for hot weather. Interior finishes in the public areas were quarter-cut oak with mahogany paneling. One suite occupied the whole main floor while the second took up the second floor and attic storey.

By the 1950s Roslyn Road had evolved from its past era of sumptuous homes to higher density housing. This duplex was subdivided and renamed the Lilly Apartments. It remained as one of the few large family homes in this district and was of historical significance by virtue of its notable inhabitants.