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## 111 SPENCE STREET GEORGE J. MAULSON HOUSE

**Date of Construction:** 1910

**Building Permit:** 1447/1910

**Architect:** Clemens, Paul M.

**Contractor:** McCrea and McKenzie

### ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This was one of two homes built on the same City of Winnipeg Building Permit in 1910, 2½-storey frame structures on stone foundations, each costing \$4,500 to complete.<sup>1</sup>

The building's front (west) façade is symmetrical, with a central entrance located at the top of a short flight of concrete steps. A modest overhang runs the entire width of the building above the ground floor windows. The home is clad in horizontal wood siding and windows are set in plain wood frames. The bellcast hip roof features overhanging eaves and pedimented gable dormers on the front and side slopes.

This home is an excellent example of the Foursquare style, 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



Front (west) façade, 1978

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were 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>2</sup>

The architect of this house was Icelander Paul M. Clemens. Little is known about Clemens who was a busy designer in Winnipeg in the pre-World War I period. Other major work based on Clemens' design include:<sup>3</sup> Argyle Block, 224 Notre Dame Avenue (1908); Victoria Court Apartments, 471 William Avenue (1910); Kilgour, Rimer Company Warehouse, Princess Street (1910); and the J. Moyse House, 838 Wolseley Avenue (1913 – Grade III).

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

### HISTORICAL INTEREST:

George J. Maulson was the original owner/resident of this property. He worked in the Provincial Game Guardians Office and lived in the home until the early 1920s. Also in the house in 1920 were Lillian E. Maulson, a stenographer for Canada Permanent Mortgage and Edwin E. Maulson, a clerk at City Light.<sup>4</sup>

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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- another well-built single-family dwelling completed in one of Winnipeg's fast growing residential neighbourhoods in the pre-World War I era;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- an excellent example of the Foursquare style;
- its architect- P.M. Clemens 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.

## ENDNOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #1447/1910.
- <sup>2</sup> Information from <http://www.realviews.com/homes/forsq.html>.
- <sup>3</sup> City of Winnipeg Building Permit Ledger Book, 1899-1914.
- <sup>4</sup> City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12-091448000, 1910-1930; Henderson's Directory, 1910-1930.