



23 TOD DRIVE
ALEXANDER TOD HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



23 TOD DRIVE ALEXANDER TOD HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1910

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This large, frame house has sat on the banks of the Red River for nearly 100 years, the land occupied by the same family for over 125 years.

The most unique feature of the house is its placement on the lot. The building actually faces north, towards the river rather than south towards the street, underlining the fact that the home predates the 'modern' subdivision development of the area. In fact, much of this area was owned and used by the Tod family for their market gardening business well into the 20th century.

Resting on a raised foundation, this house is clad in horizontal wood siding and is covered by a truncated hip roof with several small window dormers with hipped gable roofs. The front (north) façade features a glazed porch; the southeast corner holds a unique two-storey



South and west façades, 2009

area with entrance on the ground floor and open deck with wood balustrade on the second floor. The west elevation includes a bay window.

The building does not include elements of any discernable architectural style; it was built as a sturdy farmhouse to provide modern living and working space for a growing family.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The Tod family (also found as Todd) is reported to be the first English speaking family to settle in what is now St. Vital. Captain Peter Tod moved his family from Ayton, Scotland, to Canada in 1878 and settled in the Red River Settlement on the banks of the Red River. He built a two-storey log house just east of present #23 Tod Drive.¹ In 1910, his son Alexander Tod, a market gardener by trade, built this frame house. Alexander Tod (1869-?) had 12 children with wife Mary (1878-?). Tod helped found the St. Vital Agricultural Society and was reeve of St. Vital from 1918-1920. He died and left the home to his son, Alexander Junior, who remained in the residence with his wife Joyce Tod until his death in 1996.² Mrs. Tod continues to live in the house.



South façade, 2009

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

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

- its historical importance- one of the older single-family houses in St. Vital;
- its associations- its long-term connections to early and influential St. Vital family the Tods;
- its design- N/A;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



South and east façades, 1997

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ “Tod House, a testament to our history,” in The Times, October 17, 2007; and Lillian Gibbons, “Early Red River Homes,” in Manitoba Historical Society Transactions, Series 3, 1945-1946 season.
- ² City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 08002892200, 1920-1990.