



387 WILLIAM STREET

P. MCGUIRE HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



387 WILLIAM STREET P. MCGUIRE HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1887

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

An early, solid brick single-family dwelling, built after Winnipeg's initial growth phase of the early 1880s but before the expansion of the late 1890s and early 1900s.

The front (south) façade features an asymmetrical design, with an entrance at its east end covered by an overhang supported by wood columns. A pair of arched window openings with newer window units is also found on the ground floor, also covered by an overhang, this time, supported by wood brackets. The brick at the front corners is laid to mimic quoins. Second floor windows are arched, the front facing gable of the hip roof includes ornate bargeboard.

The building is a good example of a Queen Anne style structure.¹ The style borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15th century, blending classical and medieval motifs



Front (south) and west façades, 2009

into a picturesque form. Asymmetry was achieved through combinations of porches, bay windows, projecting wings, balconies and other devices. Roofs were usually irregular and complex, with dormers, gables and ornamental chimneys. Variations in materials and colours were also used to animate the façades. Given this freedom of design, however, accomplished designers were still able to create balance in the structures, offsetting busy surfaces by placing calmer elements nearby.²

The popularity of the style in Canada began in the 1880s and lasted until World War I. On the prairies, pre-1900 examples of the style were not numerous because large-scale development occurred after the turn of the century. Post-1900, it was quickly adopted for use in the growing residential districts, especially the more affluent neighbourhoods where its showy qualities were greatly admired.

The home stands on its original site, appears to be in good structural condition and does not appear to have suffered major exterior alteration, although some of the elements are starting to show signs of failure because of aging.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

P. McGuire originally owned this home; although it appears he never lived in there. Early tenants were J.H. Chambers, founder of the Chambers Biscuit Company (1891), W.A. Walker, bookkeeper (1894), J.G. Latimer, contractor (1898), J.W. Barber, traveller for the Northern Elevator Company (1901) and John McKee (baker for Robinson and Company), wife Mary, three sons and brother Robert McKee.³



Rear (north) and west façades, 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 dwellings in the neighbourhood, illustrative of the type of modest home built during the late 1880s;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- a good example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes greatly to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (south) façade, 1978

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg: Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 17; L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1992), p. 102; and L. Maitland, The Queen Anne Revival Style in Canadian Architecture (Ottawa: Environment Canada, 1990), p. 64.
- ² L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 98.
- ³ City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 13-070160000, 1890-1920; Canada Census, 1901, 1906, 1911; and Henderson's Directory, 1890-1920.