

JUNE 28 1975

Historic Henderson House is now on the open market

By VINCE LEAH

Pages from the past

By Vince Leah

One of Manitoba's most historic houses is for sale.

Located at 2112 Henderson Highway, it is the original home of Samuel Robert Henderson, whose name is perpetuated by Henderson Highway and Essar Avenue and who is remembered as the central figure of a mystery of 1864 when he just up and disappeared. Lillian Gibbons says he got up from the table to attend to his cows and never was seen again, leaving a wife and ten children. A tombstone stands in his memory in Old Kildonan churchyard.

Henderson Highway, now taking in the original Kelvin Street and running from the Disraeli Freeway through East St. Paul, and Essar Avenue (for Samuel Robert) were actually named for one of his descendants, Samuel Robert Henderson, first president of the Manitoba Good Roads association. But when Manitoba history buffs speak of the name Henderson they remember the first Samuel Robert who with his wife Flora built the original cabin on lot 39 on a grant from Lord Selkirk.

Ed Forest of Canada Permanent Trust is looking for a buyer for the house from the present owner, Mrs. Martha Anderson. City taxes on the house and 125 by 325-foot river lot have become too high.

Samuel Henderson entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1807 at the age of 19. When

his first five-year contract expired he returned to his native Edinburgh but later returned to Red River to work for the company. In 1812, his future bride, nine-year-old Flora Livingstone had come to the colony with her grandfather. After marrying Samuel they lived on the west side of the Red and then returned to the east side in 1854 to build the present house to take care of a growing family. All the ten children were christened by Archdeacon William Cochrane, there being no Presbyterian church at that time. The youngest son John was born in 1841. He is remembered by John Henderson Junior High school in East Kildonan.

Mrs. Martha Anderson is the present owner of 2112. Her father, Bertil Hoving bought the property in 1926 off the bachelor son of Sam Henderson. Mrs. Anderson has approached the City of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Historical Society as possible buyers. Some of the original furniture from the house's early days was moved to 606 Henderson Highway which was owned by Samuel Henderson, a grandson. This house was built by John Henderson in 1905 on the river bank opposite where Trent Avenue begins on the highway. This house built by John was sheltered by tall

trees as are many of the stately homes on the Red River's east bank.

John Henderson was born in 1841, the ninth child of Sam and Flora. When he was a child he would take his father's lunch to where the men were digging the foundation for Kildonan Presbyterian church, built by Rev. John Black, the first Presbyterian minister on Red River. The original furniture in 2112 came from St. Paul by ox-cart. John Henderson was a freighter for the Fort Garry merchants, making two trips a year beginning in 1868. Some of the furniture was moved to 606 and would have to be traced if 2112 is set a side as a historical site.

TAX RATE CLIMBING

The old house was known as Lord Selkirk Place. A housing development with a riverside park is planned to be built on land just north of the house and city water and sewer facilities will reach the area and the tax rate is climbing. The old house with its massive maple trees is close to the corner of Knowles Avenue named for the man who founded Knowles School for Boys which is on the eastern side of the highway. Significantly, Knowles Avenue originally was known as Henderson.

Prior to the end of the Second World War, the house was one of many farm houses

and market gardeners' residences in the small rural municipality of North Kildonan and East St. Paul. The area had a great attraction for Dutchmen who grew vegetables with great success for the market. Bert Hoving was a gardener. There is nothing in old directories to indicate anything beyond Foxgrove Avenue. Bert Hoving's neighbors were his friends from Holland, the dairymen, fur ranchers and a generous sprinkling of descendants of the original settlers. Now Henderson Highway beyond Lord Wolseley school is a bewildering road of hotels, shops and high rise apartment buildings. Where my friend Bill Tatchell grew flowers for Winnipeg florist shops and his goat herd supplied milk to be chilled for the Children's hospital, lies the shadow of the Edgewood Estates, a massive high rise in two sections, one allowing children and one keeping them out. McLeod Creek, where we sailed in Bill's home-made rowboat, still runs through the neighborhood however. The old farmhouse, where we spent many happy hours around the piano... Bill was a reasonably good violinist... was torn down to make way for the spanking new homes on streets with such names as Appleton, Tamarind and Claus.

WE ARE

Open