

Heritage Planner's Statement of Significance

Description of Historic Place

The 1911-1912 two-storey Burns Residence is a brick Foursquare dwelling with an open front verandah. The Burns Residence is an early example of the large number of two-storey brick Foursquare dwellings built in the first quarter of the 20th century, and demonstrates the popularity of this style in the early days of Alberta Avenue. It is located on a quiet residential street in Alberta Avenue, which was a working class neighbourhood in the early 1900s that is now being revitalized.

Heritage Value

The Burns Residence is significant as an early example of a Foursquare dwelling with brick veneer, and for its association with an early owner/builder.

Design elements include an open verandah that runs the front width of the house, with wooden fascia and pillars. The main structure has a pyramidal roof, with projecting eaves over the verandah. There is a front-facing dormer with a hipped roof. The offset front window is vertical and rectangular, in a 2 over 2 over 2 format, set in a shallow bay, and is flanked by a vertical rectangular window angled toward the front door, in a 1 over 1 over 1 format. An oval stained-glass window is located at the southeast corner of the verandah, enclosed by a decorative brick surround. Two windows are located at either side of the second floor façade, as well as a window in the front dormer.

The Burns Residence was constructed following an application for a building permit to build a "shack" at the site on August 31, 1910. However, the fire insurance map for 1913 indicates a brick house appropriate to the existing footprint at this location. While the first occupant at this address in 1911 was John Cheatam, a driver for Norwood Bakery, William Webster, a bricklayer, lived here from 1912 to 1914. Webster may have built the brick house, although no building permit confirms this. James N. Burns, a real estate agent, lived here from 1917 until 1927.

Character Defining Elements

The character defining elements as expressed in the form, massing, and materials of the 1911-1912 two-storey Burns Residence include:

- Brick veneer on all elevations

- Pyramidal roof with front- and rear-facing dormers with hipped roofs
- Front-facing verandah with supporting beams and three pillars
- Oval stained-glass window located at the southeast corner of the verandah, enclosed by a decorative brick surround
- Offset front window, in a 2 over 2 over 2 format, set in a shallow bay
- Original fenestration pattern, including several original windows, with the exception of the two interior piano windows on the north elevation, one window on the upper level on the west elevation, and the windows in the dormers on the east and west elevations
- Window openings with concrete slip sills and some brick voussoirs