

Heritage Planner's Statement of Significance

Description of Historic Place:

The 1913 Barto Residence is a wood frame residence built in the Foursquare design, popular in Edmonton at that time. Its former address was 349 Sinclair Street. It has horizontal wood siding on both the lower and upper levels on all four elevations, as well as on the verandah on the west elevation. The hip roof features three dormers located on the west, north and south elevations. The eaves are projecting, with original wood soffits and fascia, and with no ornamentation. There is an open verandah on the lower level. The Barto Residence is located adjacent to a public park on a residential street in the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood.

Heritage Value:

The two-storey Barto Residence is valued aesthetically as an early example of the Foursquare design in Edmonton. The Foursquare design was popular due its simple form and layout, and its efficient use of space on smaller parcels of land. While Foursquare homes were often embellished with a range of design details, the Barto Residence is fairly simple, with few adornments.

Design elements include the original horizontal wood siding with cornerboards on both the lower and upper levels of the building, on all four elevations. The roof is a medium pitch hip with straight eaves. Dominant features of the residence are the three hipped gable dormers on the west, north and south elevations. The window opening in each dormer has been slightly increased in size and a new window installed in each case. Eaves on the building are projecting, and have original wood soffits and fascia. There are two windows on the upper level of the façade; the window openings are original, but the windows themselves have been replaced. A window opening on the lower level of the façade has been altered, likely to make the opening more horizontal than vertical, and the window has been replaced. Windows on the north, east and south elevations are located in original window openings, but all windows have been replaced. In most cases, window openings also have original wood lintels and plain wood sills. An open verandah with a low-pitch hip roof, horizontal wood siding and a closed balustrade is found on the lower level. The verandah has three plain columns,

and features dentillation along the eave line. There is a brick chimney at the rear of the building. The main entrance has a moulded wood lintel, but the original door has been replaced.

The Barto Residence is among some of the first houses built in the Alberta Avenue/Norwood neighbourhood. The house was part of the initial neighborhood development boom that started in 1913 with growth of 2500 people. The current owners have reason to believe the house was delivered as a kit by horse and carriage to the address to be constructed. Based on the price of catalog houses that the house greatly resembles, the owners believe the house would have cost approximately \$2,000 to purchase, while the land prices in this area ranged from \$40-\$150 per lot at that time.

The residence was originally owned by Harmon Barto, a building superintendent with Nesbitt and Miller. Harmon Barto lived in the home with his brother, Donald, a labourer with Nesbitt and Miller, until 1915. In 1916, the property is listed as vacant in the Henderson Directory; in 1917, Richard McKenzie, on active service, is the listed resident. From 1919 to 1923, Alfred Murray, a doctor resided in the home. In 1924, Joseph Price, a painter, moved in, and lived in the house until 1934. Other residents included Oscar Bond, a clerk at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, from 1935 to 1941; Mary Blasius, from 1942 to 1947; and Mildred Jones, a widow, from 1948 to 1953.

Military records, however, show that sapper Nason Royal Costley used the address 11425 – 95A Street in Edmonton as well, possibly as a tenant. Costley, born in Granville, Nova Scotia in 1890, moved to Edmonton to work as a surveyor, and was married to Cora Alice Costley. The Costley's had a daughter, Olive Jean. He enlisted in the Edmonton Sportsman 202 Battalion in February 1916, and was transferred to the Canadian Army Service Corps (Canadian Railway Troops). He is believed to have been gassed while serving in France, and eventually died from Lobnar pneumonia in August 1918, at the age of 27. Cora remarried, and moved to Seattle, Washington.

Character Defining Elements:

The character defining elements as expressed in the form, massing, and materials of the 1913 two-storey Barto Residence include:

- Wood frame construction, two-storey Foursquare
- Horizontal siding on lower and upper levels and verandah
- Medium pitch hip roof
- Original wood soffits and fascia
- Three hip gable dormers with original horizontal wood siding on west, north and south elevations
- Original fenestration pattern, apart from the large window on the lower level of the façade
- Wood lintels and plain sills on most windows
- Open verandah with low-pitch hip roof, horizontal wood siding and closed balustrade
- Plain pillars and dentillation along the eaves of the verandah
- Moulded wood lintel over main entrance
- Brick chimney