

Heritage Officer's Statement of Significance

The 1913 two-storey Munroe Residence is a modified Foursquare design in wood frame construction. There is horizontal wood siding on the lower level, and wood shingle siding on the upper level. It has a medium-pitch hip roof, with projecting eaves with original wood soffits, fascia, and purlins. Open verandahs are found on both the lower and upper levels. The Munroe Residence is located on a single mid-block lot on a residential street in the Westmount neighbourhood.

Heritage Value

The 1913 Munroe Residence is significant as an early example of wood frame construction, and for its modified Foursquare design. This residence is one of many similar modified Foursquare residences built in the west end of Edmonton during the first quarter of the 20th century.

The Munroe Residence is located in the Groat Estates area, part of the broader Westmount neighbourhood. Groat Estates was named for Malcolm Groat, a Hudson's Bay Company employee who once owned the lands in this area after settling in Edmonton. The community's land was annexed to Edmonton in two parts, in 1904 and 1910. During the economic boom prior to the First World War, parts of the Westmount neighbourhood developed rapidly, particularly after the streetcar from central Edmonton was extended to serve the area in 1911. As a result, there is a large concentration of pre-First World War houses in this part of Westmount.

The two-story Munroe Residence is valued aesthetically as an early example of the Foursquare design in Edmonton. Design elements include the horizontal wood siding on the lower level, and the wood shingle siding on the upper level of the building. The roof is a medium-pitch hip, and features a hip gable. The gable has projecting eaves with wood soffits, fascia, and purlins, and is clad in wood shingles. The single window in the gable has multiple panes with decorative pointed ends. Eaves on the building are projecting, and feature original wood soffits, fascia, and purlins. There are two single windows on the upper level of the façade. Each window is in a 1 over 1 format, with the upper panel having multiple panes with decorative pointed ends. A large window on the lower level to the left of the main entrance is in a 1 over 1 format, with the upper panel having multiple panes with decorative pointed ends. It has a six-paned storm window. All windows on the façade and the north and south elevations have moulded wood lintels and plain slip sills. The building has open verandahs on both the lower and upper levels. The lower level verandah has a straight staircase, three slightly-tapered pillars, and open railings. The upper level verandah is open and

has an open railing. Railings on both verandahs may be original. There is a brick chimney located centrally on the roofline.

William Munroe, a cheese factory proprietor who moved to Alberta in his late 70s, was the first recorded occupant of this house (1029 - 26th Street) in 1915. Munroe and his wife, Janet McEwen, moved to Edmonton to be near their son, William Angus Munroe. Munroe's children also included Dr. Hugh Edwin Munroe, a physician and the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, and Dr. Margaret Ann Munroe, one of the first female dentists in Canada. Another daughter, Catherine Munroe (Mrs. Meadows) was an optometrist who practiced in Edmonton, and George Albert Munroe, another son, was a captain in the Canadian Army during the First World War and later a dentist in Saskatoon. Munroe and his wife lived out the rest of their lives in Edmonton. Other residents occupied the home over the years, including Joseph O. Eggen, the proprietor of the Glenora Grocery, Edward Bruce Wilkins of the Provincial New Company, and Rose Kramer, an accountant with the Blowery Henry Furniture Company.

Character-defining Elements

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

- Wood frame construction, modified Foursquare design
- Horizontal wood siding on lower level; wood shingle siding on upper level and on façade gable
- Medium-pitch hip roof
- Projecting eaves with wood soffits, fascia, and purlins
- Hip gable with projecting eaves with wood soffits, fascia, and purlins
- Single window in hip gable with multiple panes with decorative pointed ends
- Two single windows on upper level of façade, each in a 1 over 1 format, with the upper panel having multiple panes with decorative pointed ends
- Large window on lower level to left of main entrance in a 1 over 1 format, with the upper panel having multiple panes with decorative pointed ends
- Windows on façade and north and south elevations with moulded wood lintels and plain slip sills
- Lower level verandah with a straight staircase, three slightly-tapered pillars and open railings
- Upper level open verandah with open railing
- Brick chimney