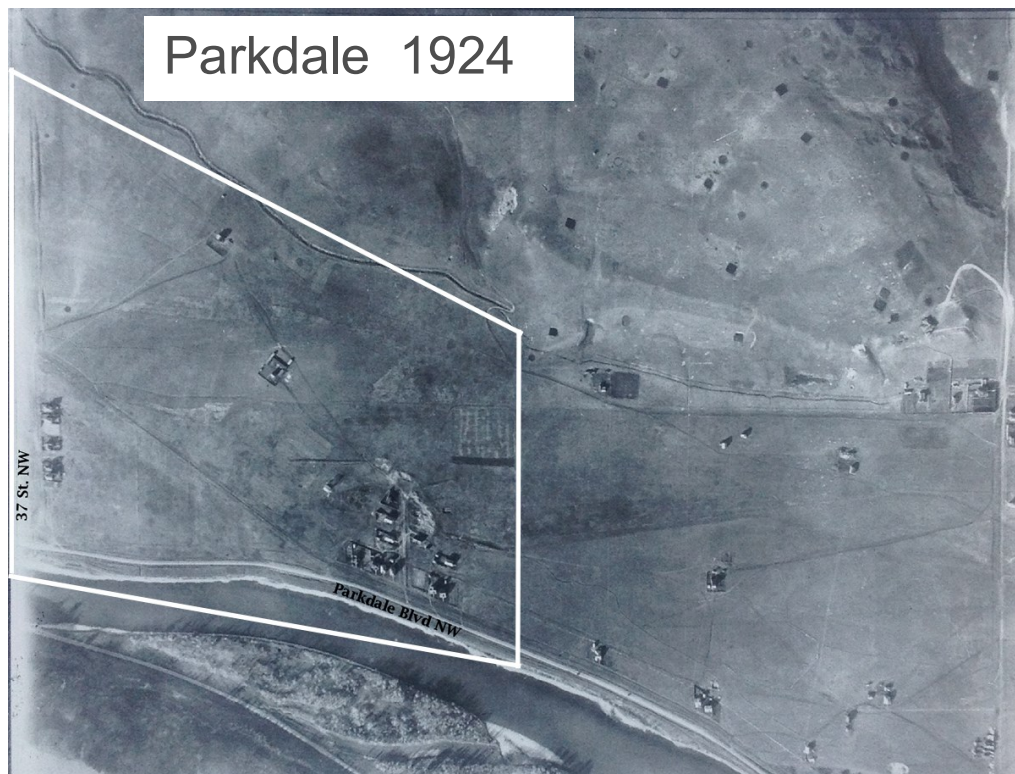


PARKDALE & AREA WALKING TOUR

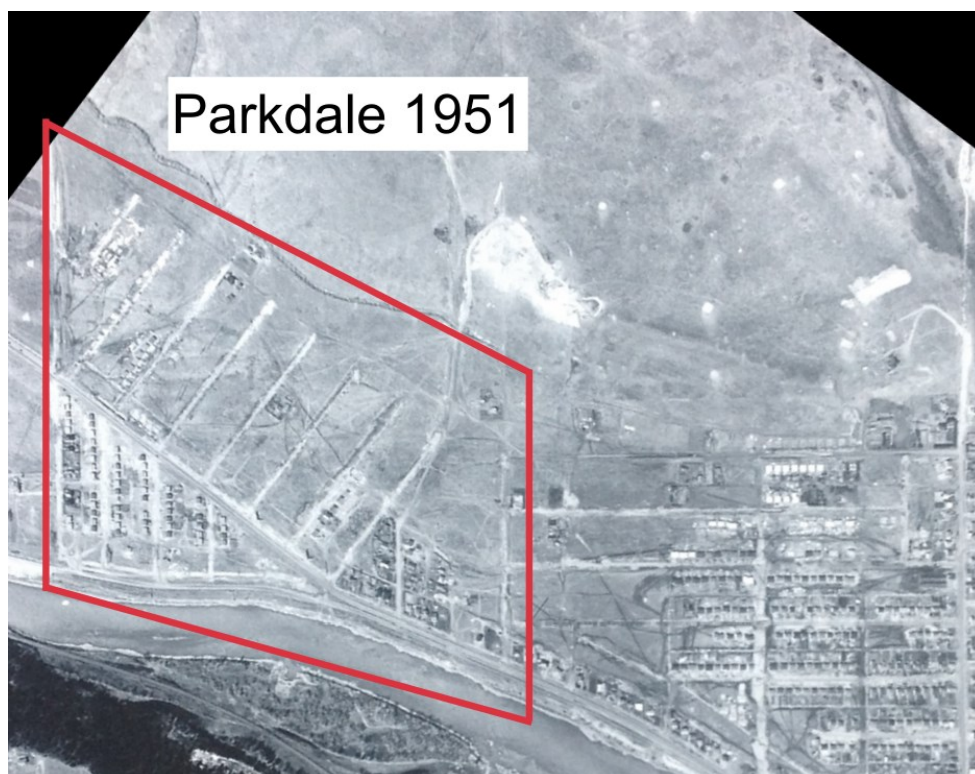
Parkdale over the years.....

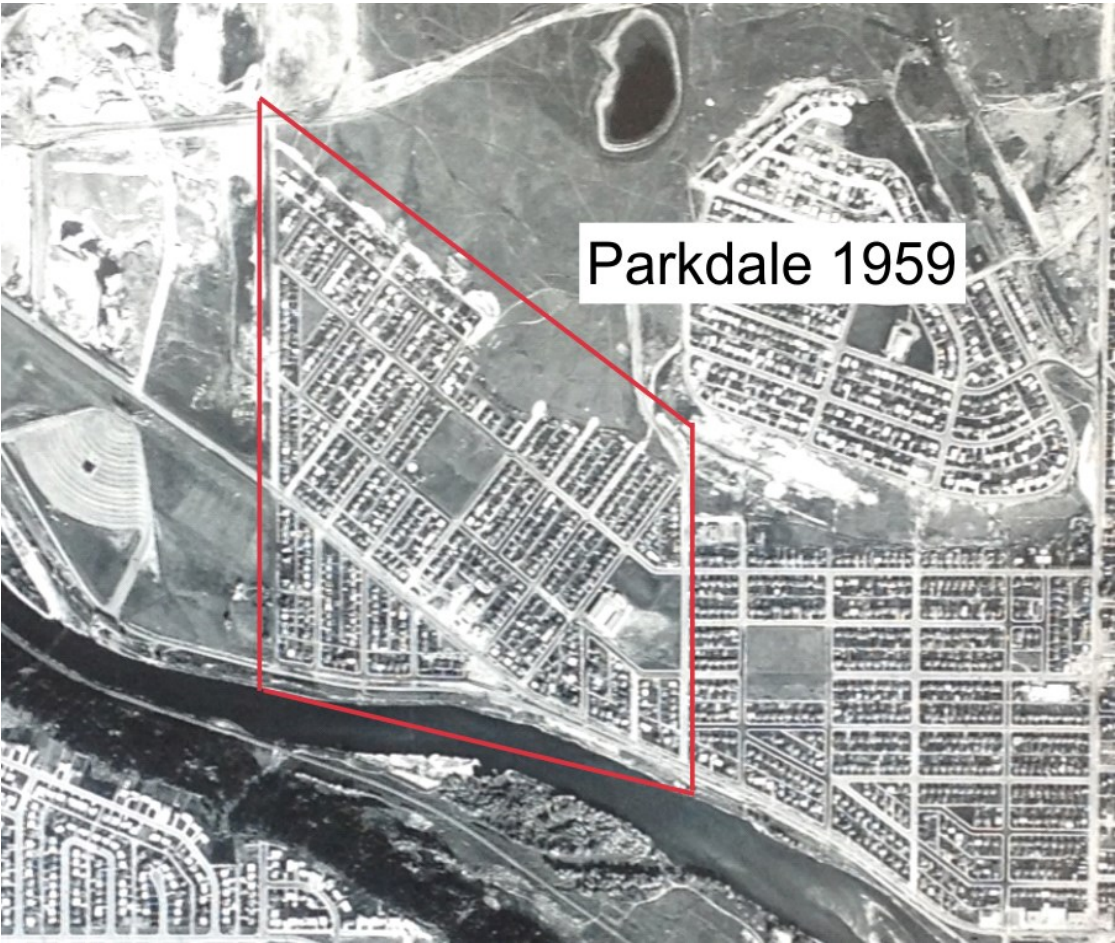


Photos by Marcel Hebert unless otherwise noted.

*Aerials from
University of Calgary
Spatial and Numeric Data Ser-
vices*

*Comments can be
directed to
Marcel Hebert
hebertm@shaw.ca*





Parkdale history

(The Calgary Daily Herald, 6 April 1912)

Home Builder, Contractor and Investor
THE GREAT BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN

Parkdale Addition

has only commenced. A number of Magnificent Homes have recently been built, costing from \$3000.00 to \$4000.00 each.

WATCH

the Great Building Development commencing this month. We are assured of the erection of from 30 to 50 New Homes this season, costing from \$3,000 to \$5,000 each.

The Building Restrictions insure every Home ample street frontage and grounds and only High Class Residences will be built.

Parkdale Addition

is close in, having a Street Car Service now in operation within fifteen minutes' ride of the center of the city

City Water Assured This Season

CONSIDER this Great Development, the Many Improvements, the Ideal Location, and you will at once be convinced that Parkdale Addition Lots are the best buying in the city today.

Call at Our Office

We will show you 200 of the choicest lots in Parkdale Addition, 100 of which are in the Street Car and Boulevard Blocks, and this is the first time they have been placed on sale.

Don't miss this chance to buy lots near the Boulevard, River and Street Car Line.

Call and compare our prices. Exceptionally easy terms.

FOR SALE BY THE OWNERS

Scott & Hartrout, Ltd.

Phone 3939. P.O. Box 1367 202 GRAIN EXCHANGE BUILDING
Calgary, Alberta

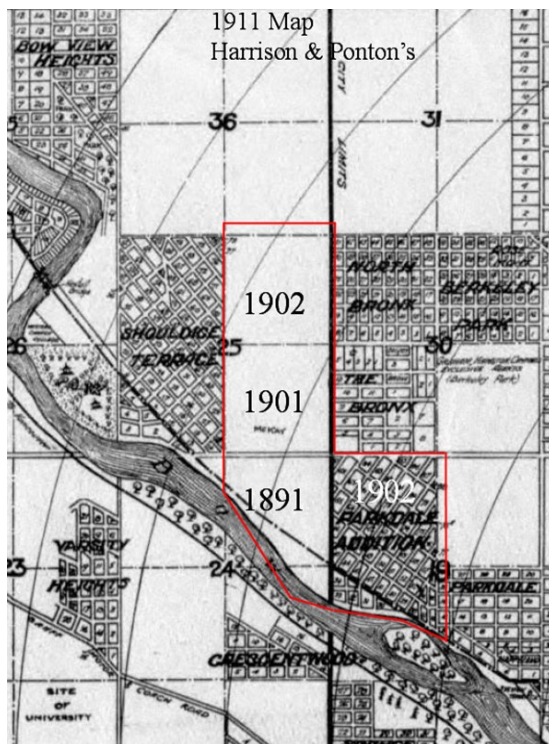
This ad ran in the Calgary Herald on April 6, 1912. To put this into perspective, \$3000 is the equivalent of \$80,000 in today's dollars. It was a bargain indeed for those brave souls willing to believe Calgary was set to expand into the prairie farmland west of the downtown.

Let's step back for a moment to see what brought Parkdale to this moment in history. In the late 1800's and early 1900's several crucial events took place, opening up the west to future development.

In July 1886, the first TransCanada Canadian Pacific Railway train ran through Calgary winding its way along the Bow river beside what would become the future Community of Parkdale.

In 1872, the government of Canada introduced the Canada Homestead Act, which was in use until 1918. They hoped to encourage settlement by European and American pioneers and settlers from Eastern Canada. The Act gave 160 acres (a quarter section) to any male farmer who agreed to farm at least 40 acres, and to build a permanent house within three years. The only cost to the farmer was a \$10 administration fee. This condition of building a homestead was created to prevent unscrupulous speculators from gaining control of the land. The Act also allowed farmers to buy up the neighboring 160 acres for an additional \$10.00.

By 1911, Alfred McKay had 4 quarter sections including 37 St. which had future prime lots on Memorial Drive. At that time, the desirable lots were along the tram line from Bowness to Calgary. The lots near the river were considered too far away for convenience. McKay and Developers "Scott & Hartrout" attempted to sell the lots for \$325 each with an 8% interest rate mortgage. Sales were slow. Alfred's homestead home is located at what is now the end of first Avenue east of 37 street.

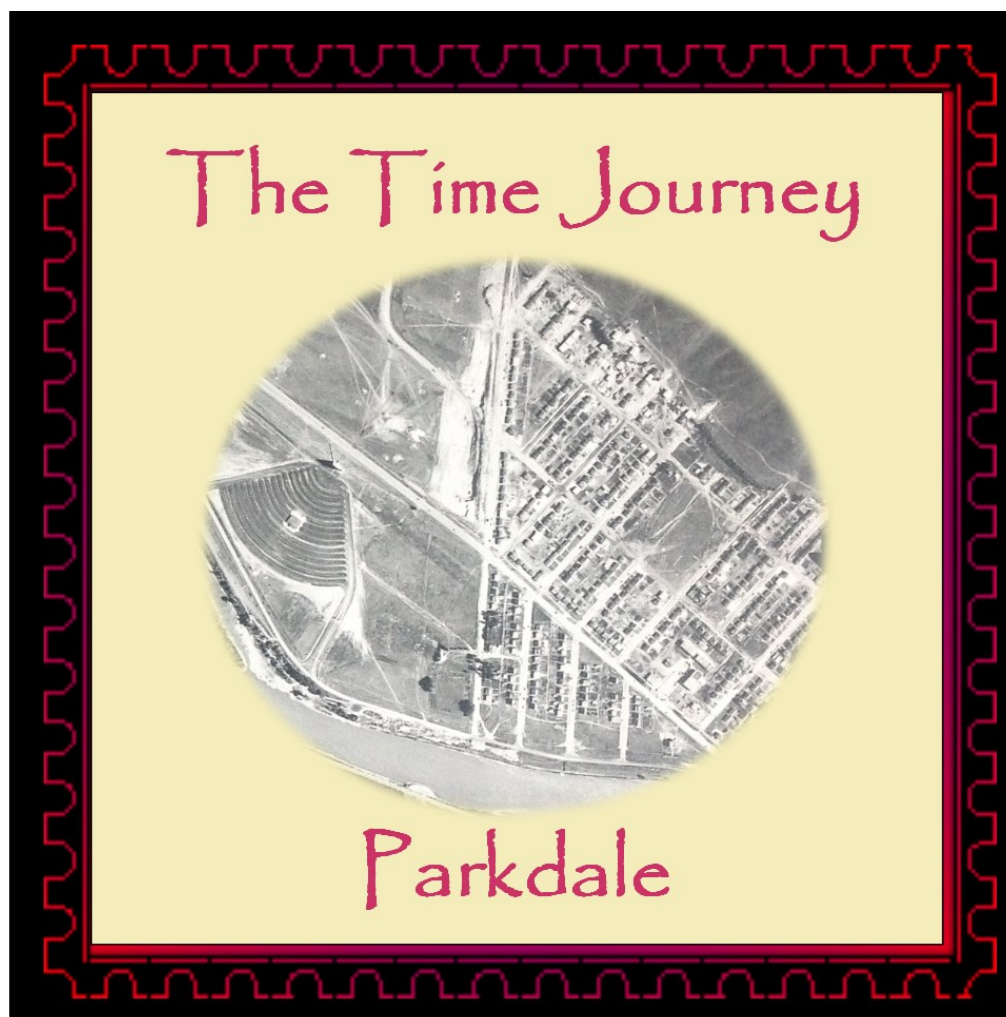


The five brick houses on 37 St. (of which only 4 remain), were also built in 1911. By 1924, although there were a few houses scattered throughout Parkdale, development remained slow.

On Tuesday, June 4, 1929 Calgary experienced a major flood not unlike the flood of 2013. Headlines in the papers of the day described the devastation both throughout Calgary and in the High River area. One could almost be reading headlines describing the June 2013 flood. The Depression (1929 to 1939) and World War II (1939 – 1945) kept a lid on development until after the war. Once the war ended, the economy began growing again, and interest in developing Parkdale revived.

For reference and information on Parkdale and area please see the following:

- 1.) - <https://www.calgary.ca/content/dam/www/pda/pd/documents/heritage-planning/heritage-resources/heritage-parkdale-community-inventory.pdf>
- 2.) - oldcalgary.ca
- 3.) - *"Early Days in Edworthy Park and Neighboring areas of Brickburn and Lowery Gardens"* by Edworthy Park Heritage Society (1991).
- 4.) - (1988) Source: File DES1341, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
Historic Resources Management Branch



Parkdale & Area Walking Tour Map



List

Parkdale

- 1. 134 - 37 Street, 1912 McKay Sons' Residence**
- 2. 140 - 37 Street, Grant Residence**
- 3. 35 Point Dr. Alfred S McKay Home**
- 4. 210 - 37 Street, King Residence**
- 5. 214 - 37 Street, Tregillus Residence**
- 6. 740 - 35 Street, Grant (Jones) Residence**
- 7. 3512 – 5th Avenue, Parkdale Gardens**
- 8. 3220 Parkdale Blvd, Betz Residence**
- 9. 3210 Parkdale Blvd, Withrow Residence**
- 10. 3208 Parkdale Blvd, Hill Residence**
- 11. 3204 Parkdale Blvd, Birtch Residence**
- 12. 3110 Parkdale Blvd, Willis Residence**
- 13. 3106 Parkdale Blvd, Grey Residence**
- 14. Lowrey Gardens—South Side of Bow River**
- 15. 843 - 27 Street, Riley Residence**

*"History helps us see the
future"*

-Gedeon Jolicour

Map # 1

134 - 37 Street, 1912 McKay Sons' Residence

Architectural Style: Arts and Crafts

Alfred S. McKay, builder and rancher, partnered with the real estate company Scott and Hartrnft to develop the Parkdale subdivision. Early development included a MacKay Residence along with four additional homes built by the Johnston Brothers Contracting company along 37th Street NW. This desirable location was near the Bow River and provided convenient access to the newly built streetcar line.

Alfred S. McKay lived across the street from this new development at 119 - 37th Street. The 1912 McKay residence at 134 - 37th Street was built specifically for his family members. His son, Alfred E. McKay worked as a salesman for the Calgary wholesale grocer Louis Petrie. He

was listed as the first owner and lived in the house for nine years. At this time his brother Herbert McKay moved in and lived there for ten years.



The 1912 McKay residence is one of only about a dozen houses in Parkdale that represent the major economic and development boom in Calgary from 1910-13. Scott and Hartrnft subdivided the area in 1910-11 into 'Parkdale' and 'Parkdale Addition,' where they envisioned the development of a professional-class streetcar suburb. During this period many homes in Calgary were built on a speculative basis including these houses in Parkdale. Though Parkdale gained streetcar service in 1911, presumably assuring its continued growth, a major economic downturn in 1913, followed by the First World War, halted community development until the early 1950s.

The 1912 McKay residence is one of five distinctive, historic red-brick houses developed 1911-12 that line the east side of 37 Street NW. This "1912 Arts and Crafts style architecture" is a two-storey red-brick house with sandstone detailing. Other distinctive features of the house include its spacious, two-storey plan and full-width front veranda with second storey sleeping porch. Characteristic of the style are the mock-half-timbered gables and clipped-gable roof. Brick and sandstone for the home's construction were obtained locally, with brick from the Crandell Pressed Brick and Sandstone Co. across the Bow River.

Map # 2

140 - 37 Street, Grant Residence

Architectural Style: Arts and Crafts

The 1912 Grant Residence is significant for its contribution to the earliest residential, suburban development to occur in Parkdale. It is one of five, distinctive, red-brick houses developed 1911-12 on the east side of 37 St. N.W. by Calgary pioneer Alfred S. McKay. This assembly of houses, along with six others concentrated within the 3100 - 3300 blocks of Parkdale Boulevard constitute two original groupings of development that defined Parkdale until the end of the Second World War.

The Grant Residence is one of only a small number of houses (about one dozen) in Parkdale to represent the major economic and development boom to

occur in Calgary from 1910-13. During this period, the city grew at an incredible pace and annexed much of what would become Parkdale in 1910. The area was subdivided in 1910-11 into 'Parkdale' and 'Parkdale Addition' by the real-estate development firm Scott and Hartrnft who envisioned the development of a professional-class streetcar suburb. During this period many homes in Calgary were being built on a speculative basis including these houses in Parkdale. Though Parkdale gained streetcar service in 1911, presumably assuring it continued growth, a major economic downturn occurred in 1913, followed by the First World War, halting development of the community until the early 1950s. As such, the Grant Residence recalls an important period in Calgary's history of economic optimism, expansion and initial suburban development.

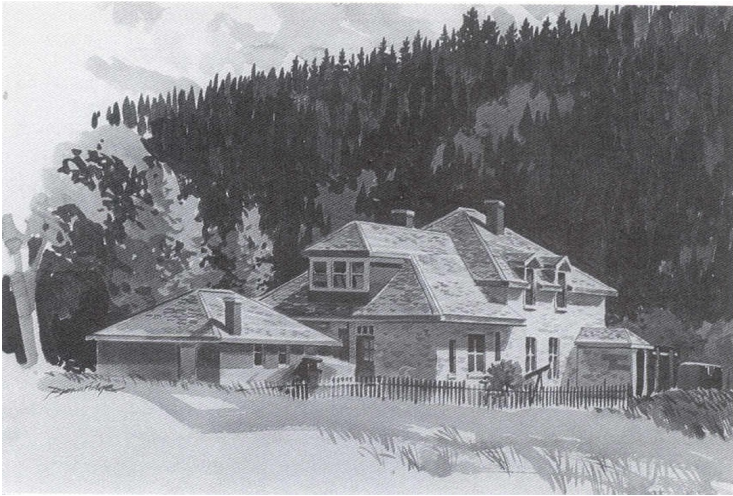
The Grant Residence is notable for its close association with its developer, Alfred S. McKay, one of Calgary's earliest and most prominent pioneers. McKay was a well-known rancher and farmer who homesteaded across 37 St. N.W. at Point McKay in the 1880s. McKay is remembered as a member of the original survey party that chartered the route of the C.P.R. across the prairies and Rocky Mountains, and as a ferry operator on the Bow River from 1882-87. Originally, McKay owned several quarter sections adjoining his homestead, including the property between 37 and 29 Streets N.W. that was subdivided as Parkdale Addition by Scott and Hartrnft. McKay had planned to develop numerous houses in Parkdale Addition for speculative purposes yet only five houses were ever built, including the Grant Residence. McKay retained all of the houses until his death in 1940 despite his original intentions.

The house was owned by McKay's granddaughter until 1954 but had been occupied by the Grant family since 1936 when William H. Grant, a steamfitter - who lived elsewhere in Parkdale from the early 1910s - first rented the house. Members of the Grant family occupied and owned the house until 2005, likely making the Grant's family's tenure in Parkdale unequalled.

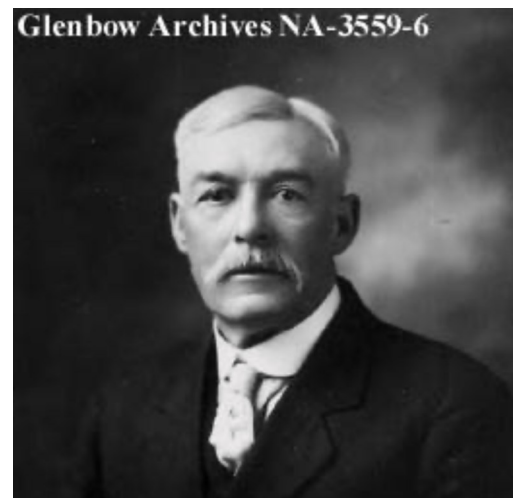
The Grant Residence is also valued for its Arts and Crafts architecture, and is one of the few examples of this style in Parkdale. Characteristic of the style are the mock half-timbered gables and clipped-gable roof. Significant is the use of brick and sandstone for the home's construction which was obtained locally, with brick from the Crandell Pressed Brick and Sandstone Co. at Brickburn. These high-quality materials set the house apart from many of other houses constructed in Calgary at the time, which were mostly of wood construction. Other distinctive features of the house, built by Johnson Bros. contractors, include its spacious, two-storey plan and full-width front veranda with second-storey sleeping porch. These attractive features served to give the Grant Residence and the four others a 'show-home' quality that was surely intended to attract professional-class buyers to the new subdivision and set the tone for development.

Map # 3

35 Point Drive, Alfred S McKay Home

Architectural Style: Sandstone Homestead

Alfred S. McKay's experiences in the west are a classic pioneer story. He came to the Calgary area from Ontario in 1880 as part of the C.P.R. survey team. He returned to Calgary in 1886 and lived in a log cabin as a squatter on land under lease to the Cochrane Ranch Company. McKay received clear title to his land in 1891. McKay designed and built this structure as his home in 1905.



He quarried sandstone for his house himself and hauled it across the frozen Bow River to his building site. He donated fifty acres of his homestead to the city, which is now part of Shouldice Park. McKay's sons retained possession of the house and land until 1953.

This pioneer house appears to have been built in several sections. The southern part began with a single storey and a partial second floor. An addition to the north side was completed with a small second storey. Later the main building was enlarged and a full second storey completed. This growth pattern resulted in an interior sandstone wall approximately 16 inches thick. After being abandoned for several years and vandalized, it was restored in 1982.

McKay is remembered as a member of the original survey party that chartered the route of the C.P.R. across the prairies and Rocky Mountains, and as a ferry operator on the Bow River from 1882-87. Originally, McKay owned several quarter sections adjoining his homestead, including the property between 37 and 29 Streets N.W. that was subdivided as Parkdale Addition by Scott and Hartrnft. McKay had planned to develop numerous houses in Parkdale Addition for speculative purposes yet only five houses were ever built, including the McKay Son's Residence. McKay retained all of the houses until his death in 1940 despite his original in-



Map # 4

210 - 37 Street, King Residence

Architectural Style: Queen Anne Revival

From 1915-35 this was the home of one of Calgary's most significant pioneers George C. King. King was a major figure in Calgary's history and was known as Calgary's 'First Citizen'. He was widely acknowledged as being the first member of the original North West Mounted Police contingent to set foot on the Calgary site in 1875 and remained a citizen of Calgary until his death in 1935.

King contributed to Calgary's development in a number of ways. From 1877-83 he was the manager of the I.G. Baker store – an important commercial enterprise in early Calgary - before opening a well-known store himself. King became Calgary's second postmaster, an important government appointment that he held from 1885-1921.

He also served as Calgary's second mayor from 1885-87 and a Town Councilor from 1889-90 and 1891-93. In 1934 King was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his service in the development of the district.

The 1911 King Residence is significant for its contribution to the earliest residential, suburban development in Parkdale. It is one of five distinctive, red-brick houses developed in 1911-12 on the east side of 37 St. by another Calgary pioneer Alfred S. McKay. The King Residence is one of a small number of houses (about one dozen) in Parkdale that represent the major economic and development boom in Calgary from 1910-13. During this period, the city grew at an incredible pace and annexed much of what would become Parkdale in 1910. The area was subdivided in 1910-11 into Parkdale and Parkdale Addition by the real-estate development firm Scott and Hartrnft, who envisioned the development of a professional-class suburb accessible by streetcar.

During this period many homes in Calgary were built on a speculative basis including these houses in Parkdale. Parkdale gained streetcar service in 1911 – a move expected to support the community's continued growth. However, a major economic downturn in 1913, followed by the First World War halted community development until the early 1950s.

The King Residence is also notable for its close association with its developer, Alfred S. McKay, one of Calgary's most prominent pioneers. Originally, McKay owned the property between 37 and 29 Streets that was subdivided as Parkdale Addition. He planned to develop numerous houses there for speculative purposes however only five houses were built, including the King Residence.

The King Residence is valued for its understated Queen Anne Revival style architecture and is one of only four examples of this style in Parkdale. A characteristic of this style is the hipped roof with lower cross gables that contain ornamental half-timbering. Brick and sandstone were used for the home's construction and these were obtained locally from the Crandell Pressed Brick and Sandstone Company across the Bow River. Front verandas as well as the high-quality materials set the house apart from the large number of wood-construction houses built in Calgary at the time. These attractive features served to give the King Residence and the four other houses a show-home quality that was intended to attract professional-class buyers to the new subdivision as well as set the tone for development.

The King Residence is an integral component of the collection of historic houses that line 37 Street. This striking and historic streetscape reflects Parkdale's initial development as an urban community and serves as an important aesthetic asset to the community.

Map # 5

214 - 37 Street, Tregillus Residence

Architectural Style: Queen Anne Revival

The 1911 Tregillus Residence is significant for its contribution to the earliest residential, suburban development to occur in Parkdale. It is one of five, distinctive, red-brick houses developed 1911-12 on the east side of 37 St. N.W. by Calgary pioneer Alfred S. McKay. This assembly of houses, along with six others concentrated within the 3100 - 3300 blocks of Parkdale Boulevard constitute two original development groupings that defined Parkdale until the end of the Second World War.

The Tregillus Residence is notable for its close association with its developer, Alfred S. McKay, one of Calgary's most prominent pioneers. Originally, McKay owned the property between 37 and 29 Streets NW that was subdivided as Parkdale Addition. He planned to develop houses

there for speculative purposes, but only five houses were built, including the Tregillus Residence. The house was rented out by McKay (until his death in 1940) and then by his son Gordon until it was sold in 1963. The first occupant to rent from McKay, from 1913-15, was William McKee, a superintendent with Western Builders, Investments and Loans. After several other vacancies and occupants Sydney Tregillus became a long-time resident from 1936-55. Tregillus was a fur farmer and the brother of well-known Rosscarrock area rancher and brickmaker, William J. Tregillus.

The Tregillus Residence is valued for its understated Queen Anne Revival style architecture and is one of only four examples of this style in Parkdale. Characteristic of the style is the hipped roof with lower cross gable that contains ornamental half-timbering. Brick and sandstone for the home's construction was obtained locally, with brick from the Crandell Pressed Brick and Sandstone Co. across the Bow River. These high-quality materials set the house apart from the large number of other mostly wood construction houses in Calgary at the time. Other distinctive features of the house, built by Johnson Bros. contractors, included its front verandas (since replaced) and integral, rear sleeping porch.

Map # 6

740 - 35 Street, Grant (Jones) Residence

Architectural Style: Craftsman

W. Hope Grant, an Irish immigrant and one of the early homesteaders on the then outskirts of the city built this home. By 1910-11 with the need for housing to accommodate newly arrived residents, the land was annexed by the City of Calgary. The area was originally known as the Parkdale Addition (west of 28 ST NW), with suburban development envisioned by real estate developers Scott and Hartrouff Ltd. along with partner Alfred S. McKay. Due in part to the city's real estate boom, as well as the expansion of the streetcar line in 1911 into Parkdale, the area continued to flourish up until onset of the first World War. It wasn't until the late 1940s -early 1950s that development was reignited in the community and the city at large.

At the time of the home's construction in 1913, Mr. Grant worked as a steamfitter and Vice President of the family-owned company Grant Brothers Ltd. general contractors. At the time of the home's construction in 1913, Henderson's Directories lists the home as the only one on the street (then 37 Street NW) and notes the owner Mr. Grant's phone number as a rural phone. The home has symbolic value as one of the first homes built in this area, and one of a very few still remaining.



Members of the Grant family continued to live in the Parkdale area, at one point renting and then owning a distinct Art & Crafts style residence at 140 37 Street NW (extant), a home also associated with Alfred S. McKay and Parkdale's early development.

The Grant (Jones) Residence is an example of a Craftsman style bungalow, which is reflected in design elements such as the dominant full width covered front verandah supported by square columns, with the original sweeping curved cut out. It has a double gabled roof with extended eaves and exposed rafter ends, and a (now enclosed) upper balcony. The distinctive curved cut out of the front verandah is repeated on the side of the house adding to its decorative quality. There are a variety of wooden framed one over one windows throughout the house, some of which have the original glass panes.

A community heritage advocate, Elizabeth (Ann) Jones who lived in the home from 1972 to 2018 researched and kept documents pertaining to the history of the house. She has helped promote the importance of the history of Parkdale and the value of its original houses.

Map # 07

3512 – 5th Avenue, Parkdale Gardens

The gardens are at the north side of the Community Association site. They were created in 2013 by many volunteers, donors, and hard work. Under the leadership of Audrey Smith (See corner stone on north side of garden shed) it is a place to rest and enjoy the peaceful setting. Have a seat on the porch of the shed, its gives you some shade and time to reflect.



Map # 08

3220 Parkdale Blvd, Betz Residence

Architectural Style: Craftsman

The Betz Residence is a one-and-one-half-storey, wood-frame, Craftsman style bungalow built in 1913. The bungalow is dominated by its varied roof-line with double front gables and wrap-around veranda. It is located at 3220 Parkdale Boulevard N.W. on two city lots in the residential Calgary community of Parkdale. It is one of six historic houses, in Parkdale, that line the north side of Parkdale Blvd. and that form a historic streetscape.

The Betz Residence is of historical value as a representative example of the housing that was constructed in Calgary at the time for Calgary's professional class. However, the first owner and longtime resident of the house was William Betz, a carpenter for Scott and Hartrnft. It is likely that Betz had constructed the house on a speculative basis but was unable to sell it due to the drastic downturn in the economy. It seems that Betz was involved in this type of development previously, having some involvement in the development of another Parkdale house that was built a year earlier at 3110 Parkdale Boulevard (Willis/Shields Residence). Speculative development by individual builders was a typical during the period, with the development of the Betz residence exemplifying this practice. Betz owned the house from 1915-29, but occupied it from 1914-31.

The Betz Residence exemplifies a Craftsman style bungalow, and is one of only a small number of examples (about a half-dozen) of this style in Parkdale. The complex roofline of this house makes it a noteworthy example of its type with paired cross gables. More characteristic Craftsman features include the mock half-timbering of the gables, shingle cladding and the exposed purlins and rafter tails. The wraparound veranda serves to further distinguish the house.

The Betz Residence is an integral component to the collection of historic houses that line the north side of Parkdale Boulevard, forming a valuable historic streetscape. This streetscape symbolizes Parkdale's initial development as an urban community and serves as an important aesthetic asset to the Parkdale community.



Map # 09

3210 Parkdale Blvd, Withrow Residence

Architectural Style: Craftsman

The Withrow Residence is of historical value as a representative example of the housing that was constructed in Calgary at the time for the city's professional class. The first owner of the house was Edwin P. Withrow, a branch manager of the Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accidental Insurance Company. Withrow occupied the house from about 1912 or 1913 until 1918.

The Withrow Residence is valuable for its Craftsman style architecture, and is one of only about a half-dozen examples of this style in Parkdale. The house is distinctive for its picturesque roofline which is an uncommon gable-on-hip form, complemented by broad, bracketed eaves. Atypical also are the piers which extend above the roofline.

Ornamenting the exterior further is mock half-timbering in the gables. During the period that the house was completed, such bungalows were frequently referred to as displaying 'artistic' design. The builder of the house was a Mr. McKenzie.

The Withrow Residence is an integral component of the collection of historic houses that line the north side of Parkdale Boulevard forming a valuable historic streetscape. This streetscape symbolizes Parkdale's initial development as an urban community and serves as an important aesthetic asset to the Parkdale community.



Map # 10

3208 Parkdale Blvd, Hill Residence

Architectural Style: Queen Anne Revival

The Hill Residence is of historical value as a representative example of the housing that was constructed in Calgary at the time for Calgary's professional class. The first owner of the house was Harmon E. Birtch, a real estate broker, and after 1914 an executive with the Dakota Sands Oil Company. It appears that the house was designed and built specifically for Birtch who also commissioned a nearly identical house next door at 3204, suggesting that at least one of these houses was built for speculative purposes. Birtch retained 3208 until 1918 but never lived here. From 1925-39 the house was occupied by J. Frank Hill, an insurance agent, and his family. The Hill family, who had purchased the property in 1937 lived here for a total of 14 years, making their residency longer than any other early residents.

It's valuable for the Queen Anne Revival style architecture, and is one of only four examples of this style in Parkdale. The house is characterized by its hipped roof with lower cross gable form, bay window and its full-width front verandah and second-storey balcony.



The Hill Residence is an integral component to the collection of historic houses that line the north side of Parkdale Boulevard forming a valuable historic streetscape. This streetscape symbolizes Parkdale's initial development as an urban community and serves as an important aesthetic asset to the Parkdale community.

Map # 11

3204 Parkdale Blvd NW, Birtch Residence

Architectural Style: Queen Anne Revival

The Birtch Residence is of historical value as a representative example of the housing that was constructed in Calgary at the time for the city's professional class. The first owner of the house was Harmon E. Birtch, a real estate broker, and after 1914 an executive with the Dakota Sands Oil Company. It appears that the house was designed and built specifically for Birtch who also commissioned a nearly identical house next door at 3208, suggesting that at least one of these houses was built for speculative purposes. Birtch retained 3204 until 1920 and occupied the house for most of seven years after its construction.

It's valuable for the Queen Anne Revival style architecture, and is one of only four examples of this style in Parkdale. The house is characterized by its hipped roof with lower cross gable form, bay windows and its full-width front verandah and second-storey balcony.



The Birtch Residence is an integral component of the collection of historic houses that line the north side of Parkdale Boulevard forming a valuable historic streetscape. This streetscape symbolizes Parkdale's initial development as an urban community and serves as an important aesthetic asset to the Parkdale community.

Map # 12

3110 Parkdale Blvd, Willis Residence

Architectural Style: Craftsman

The Willis (Shields) Residence is of historical value as a representative example of the housing that was constructed in Calgary at the time for Calgary's professional class. The house was developed on a speculative basis by Wm. Betz, a carpenter for Scott and Hartfonft. It seems that Betz had some agreement with Scott and Hartronft as he never technically owned the property. The first owner-occupant of the house was Ernest Willis, a manager of the Calgary Bill Posting and Advertising Company. Willis owned the house until 1928. The house was purchased in 1936 by Peter Shields, a manager for the coal retail business, who had rented the house from about 1930. Shields had lived in Parkdale since at least the mid 1920s where he previously occupied the house at 214 - 37 Street N.W. (Tregillus Residence). The Willis (Shields) Residence remained in the Shields family until 1989, making the Shields family residency in Parkdale unique in length.



It's valuable for the Craftsman style bungalow architecture, and is one of only a small number of examples (about a half-dozen) of this style in Parkdale. Characteristic of the style, the house features a one-and-one-half-storey bungalow form, a full-width front veranda, and exposed rafter tails and purlins. The paired dormer that incorporates a balcony is an unusual variant of the bungalow form.

The Willis (Shields) Residence is an integral component of the collection of historic houses that line the north side of Parkdale Boulevard forming a valuable historic streetscape. This streetscape symbolizes Parkdale's initial development as an urban community and serves as an important aesthetic asset to the Parkdale community

Map # 13

3106 Parkdale Blvd, Grey Residence

Architectural Style: Craftsman

The Gray Residence is of historical value as a representative example of the housing that was constructed in Calgary at the time for the Calgary's professional class. The first resident of the house was Samuel Campbell Gray, a manager of the Golden West Building Company, who resided in the house for only year. While it seems that the house was constructed for Gray specifically, Gray never technically took ownership of the property from Scott and Hartrnft, reflecting the economic downturn that occurred in 1913.

It's valuable for the Craftsman style architecture, and is one of only about a half-dozen examples of this style in Parkdale. Characteristic of the style, the house features a one-and-one-half-storey bungalow form, squared and tapered verandah supports, triangular eave brackets and exposed rafter tails and purlins. The open, full-width veranda is a desirable design feature exempt from more economical bungalow designs, while the brick that comprises the piers and balustrades represents a high quality finish.

The Gray Residence is an integral component to the collection of historic houses that line the north side of Parkdale Boulevard forming a valuable historic streetscape. This streetscape symbolizes Parkdale's initial development as an urban community and serves as an important aesthetic asset to the Parkdale community.



Map # 14

Lawrey Gardens—South Side of River

The following excerpts are from the book “Early Days in Edworthy Park” pgs 25-29 used with permission from the Edworthy Park Heritage Society.

“Prior to the arrival of the C.P.R. in 1883, migration of pioneers into the Calgary district was almost exclusively from the south along the trade route from Ft. Benton, Montana. One of the few exceptions was the arrival in 1882 of John Lawrey from the west along the Bow Valley.

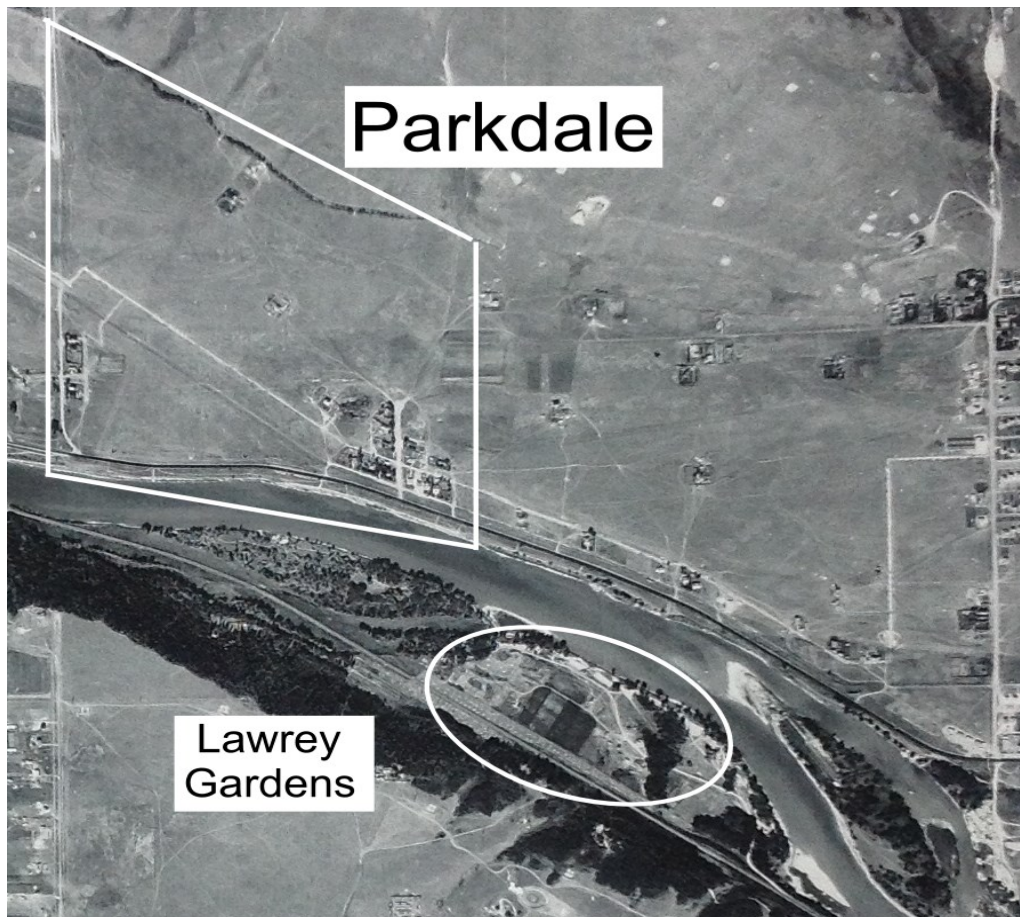
Born in 1843 in the English farming district of Cornwall and blessed with a green thumb, Lawrey had by some means found himself in the Cariboo region of British Columbia during the days of the gold rush. Lawrey, on horseback, headed east from the Rockies across the land then leased from the Dominion Government to the Cochrane Rancho. With the availability of homestead land, this was Lawrey’s opportunity to put down roots and pursue his natural talent.

Lawrey had the option of settling virtually anywhere east of the Rancho lease. He opted for the fertile river bottom land sheltered by the cliff with its sandstone outcroppings at Shaganappi, four miles west of the North West Mounted Police Fort. This was an area that for centuries had been used by Indians as a campsite, and in several locations, for buffalo jumps.⁽³³⁾

Lawrey acquired title to his land in part by a homestead grant from the Dominion Government and in part by purchase from the C.P.R. Although Lawrey arrived prior to the laying of the C.P.R. tracks at Shaganappi, he nevertheless had to acquire a portion of his land from the C.P.R. as it had been granted to the C.P.R. by the Dominion Government on Dec. 22, 1883. By the time the railway arrived, he had established a flourishing market garden which barely met the demands of the Police Post and tiny settlement. In

the annals of Calgary history, Lawrey was instrumental in making agriculture a bona fide industry within the district. He proved the value of the soil and climate which, only a few years before, had been dispelled by many as unsuitable for crop production.

Continued on next page



Note:
Aerials from
University of Calgary
Spatial and Numeric
Data Services

Map # 14

Lawrey Gardens—South Side of River

Continued from previous page

He was the first pioneer to farm the Bow Valley west of Calgary, although, shortly before, John Glenn and Sam Livingston had pioneered farming innovations along the trade route south of Calgary. Lawrey, however, deserves equal credit for changing the area west of town from a free-wheeling frontier to a settlement and agricultural area. With the Bow River flowing beside the land Lawrey was cultivating, he did not need to use spring water and a warming reservoir like Tom Edworthy. Instead, Lawrey could use river water provided he could transport it over the banks of the river. He succeeded in doing this by building a picturesque windmill which, presumably, lifted the water by pumping it from the river, up approximately ten feet of river bank and onto his land. The windmill, which few people saw because there were no public roads onto Lawrey's land, had his name on its vanes⁽³⁵⁾. Lawrey was probably one of the first settlers in the Bow River Valley to use a windmill.

Although the river enabled Lawrey to irrigate his land, it also created problems through the years. The Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Company owned an island immediately to the east of Lowery Gardens. Whether the Company's damming activities there were the cause of Lowery's flooding problems is uncertain.

Today, of all the land in the immediate area once owned by Lawrey at the turn-of-the-century, only the "garden" area still bears his name. In 1953, the land was acquired by the Province as flood plain. In various documents Lawrey's name was misspelled and so today the area is known as "Lowery" Gardens. The balance of the property, once encompassing all the land between 37th Street S.W. and the Shaganappi Point Golf Course, and between Bow Trail and the river, is now the residential community of Spruce Cliff.

As a result of rapid expansion and in order to control its urban development, in 1911 the City of Calgary hired Thomas H. Mawson, a world-renowned town planner. His Plan was a vision of Calgary based on the design of Vienna and other European cities. As part of his proposal, Mawson included the Shaganappi escarpment, Archers' Island (east of Lowery Gardens) and Lowery Gardens as natural areas. Mawson would have used a natural amphitheater on Lowery Gardens to stage summer theater productions. In addition, he proposed creating an ideal paddling lake at Lowery Gardens without destroying its beauty. He described Lowery Gardens as being exceptionally beautiful, a description which is still appropriate with its abundance of wildflowers and birds.⁽³⁷⁾ Unfortunately, World War I intervened and the Mawson Plan was abandoned.

Much like it was when Lawrey tilled the soil to feed the grandparents of today's Calgarians, the site is enjoyed by hikers and cyclists. Few people are aware of its contribution to the City's heritage. Still fewer are aware of a plebiscite in 1913 which, had it passed, would have implemented Mawson's Plan to acquire and make Lowery Gardens the "Crowning Jewel" of the Calgary Park System. In part, the plebiscite proposed the acquisition of Lowery Gardens but this was defeated because of an exorbitant asking price."

33. The word, Shaganappi, was a Cree word meaning "Rawhide". City of Calgary, *Op Cit.*, p.31

35. George Edworthy, 'John Lawrey' in Evelyn Buckley, ed., *Chaps and Chinooks*" Vol. 1, pp. 180-181

37. Thomas Mawson, *City of Calgary Past, Present and Future*, p 48.

Map # 15

843 - 27 Street, Riley Residence

Architectural Style: Queen Anne Revival

Alfred Riley, a member of the prominent Riley family in Calgary, had this house built in 1910. Riley was born in 1872 in Montreal, and moved with his family to a homestead northeast of Calgary in 1888. He engaged in the ranching business in partnership with his three brothers and his father from 1896 until his father's death in 1909. He then purchased land near Ardenode, where he farmed for the rest of his life. Other members of the family went on with careers in business and politics. Ezra Hounsfield Riley, Alfred's brother, created the Hillhurst subdivision in Calgary and sat as the Liberal MLA for the riding of Gleichen.

Architecturally the Riley House is an example of the Queen Anne style popular in Canada at the turn of the century. The red brick with white trim, a prominent tower, small pane of glass in the upper window and the broad wrap-around veranda are features of this home that reflect the style.



Riley Lodge is the last remaining home of a notable early Calgary family whose members were prominent in the development of the northwest part of the city. The home Alfred Riley built remained as a link with the early growth period in Calgary's history when the Rileys ranked as one of the city's leading families.

(1988) Source: File DES1341, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, Historic Resources Management Branch

In 1987, in order to clear the original site at 819 Crowchild Trail NW for widening of the Crowchild Trail, the house was sold for \$1.00 by The City of Calgary to Wayne Ellis and Lynne Ellis-Smith. The new owners had the superstructure moved to new foundations on a property at 843 27 Street NW after demolition of the verandah, interior plaster and main fireplace. Verandah columns, some brick, and the interior wood trim were salvaged at this time, to be used later in the reconstruction of the house as it now stands on the new site. The house was designated by the Province as a Registered Historic Resource in 1988.