

Attachment #5

Statement of Significance

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208 Fifth Avenue Calbicks House

Description of Historic Place

This historic place, Calbicks House, is an Edwardian-era one and a half storey wood-frame cottage with bevelled and combed horizontal wood siding and a concrete foundation. It has a hipped roof and centred-hipped dormer with a slight bell-cast flare to its eaves. Its partial-width porch is set under the main roof and supported by classical columns, with its front door placed in the middle. The house is located in the northeast quadrant of the Queen's Park neighbourhood on Fifth Avenue near Second Street.

Heritage Values

house is among the many varied surviving examples represented in the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area, which boasts a range of ages, styles and scales. This one section of Fifth Avenue in fact has an example from almost every decade dating back to the 1890s, with this house as one of the few surviving smaller scale examples from the 1910s. It also boasts a rather unique mid-century bevelled and combed cedar siding that is not often surviving to today. This uniqueness in the landscape contributes to the place's significance.

Designed and built in 1910 by Robert Lane, the building has historic value for being representative of the Edwardian-era building boom that took place in New Westminster. It also connects to the final stages of developing the Queen's Park neighbourhood, being largely contemporaneous with the inputting of modern amenities such as the paved street and concrete sidewalks that went in in 1906, the sewer system and landscaped boulevards in 1912 and the street curbs in 1913; making it the first fully serviced neighbourhood in New Westminster. The Calbicks House also has further significance for its association with the Calbick Family; a family connected to New Westminster dating back to the 19th century. The first and longest staying resident of 208 Fifth Avenue was Charles Calbick, an electrician, who lived in the house from 1910 to 1955. His son, Garth Calbick, a janitor, continued to live in the house from 1956 to 1965.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Calbicks House at 208 Fifth Avenue include:

- Its location in the Queen's Park neighbourhood.
- Its setting in a well-tended and manicured lot.
- Its residential form, scale and massing as expressed by its one and a half storey height.
- Its boxy quality, its hipped roof and hipped dormer with bell-cast flare to its eaves, its partial-width porch with classical columns and its centred front door.
- Its bevelled and combed cedar siding.
- Its double-hung horned wood windows featured on the sides and front of the house, including its prominent front window that boasts the decorative upper sashes that are lozenge pattern lights with textured/coloured glass. Its square, frosted glass, wood-framed windows on its western side and its square wood-framed windows on its eastern side.
- Its simple brick chimney placement and design (particularly its traditional cap).
- Its overall minimal ornamentation.