

Attachment 3
Statement of Significance

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Description of the Historic Place

The Johnston House was constructed in 1905 at 125 Third Street, New Westminster, BC. The house has two storeys and a basement, with a raised first floor, a large asymmetrical porch, and a two-storey tower. The house and detached garage are situated on an 807 square metres (8,686 square feet) lot. Part of the Queen's Park Neighbourhood, the property is on the east side of Third Street, across from Tipperary Park, and between Queen's Avenue and Manitoba Street.

Heritage Values of the Historic Place

The Johnston House has historic value as well as aesthetic value.

Historical Value

The house has historic value due to its association with John Joseph Johnston.

John Joseph Johnston. John Joseph Johnston, affectionately called 'J.J.' and also known as 'Mr. May Day' was the first resident of this house. He worked at a number of places in New Westminster, including F.S. Hart Insurance and Real Estate, prior to establishing his own firm J.J. Johnston Insurance and Real Estate, in the Westminster Trust building on Columbia Street. Along with his business interests, J.J. Johnston was also involved in civic affairs. He was elected to City Council in 1907 and served as an Alderman for 13 years before serving as Mayor of New Westminster for three terms. J.J. Johnston was a prominent figure in the City of New Westminster and had many community affiliations.

Aesthetic Value

The house has aesthetic value for its design as well as its connection with *Charles Henry Clow and Daniel Welsh*, Gardiner & Mercer, Henry and James Bloomfield.

The house is a blend of styles, which is associated with Charles Clow, with Victorian, Queen Anne, Edwardian and Craftsman influences. With early Edwardian influences, the design of the house would have been forward looking when constructed. The house is relatively unaltered and valued for the integrity of its design.

The house was designed by well-known architect Charles Henry Clow and his partner Daniel Welsh. Mr. Clow was active in New Westminster and Mr. Welsh was native to New Westminster who joined Mr. Clow for five years (1899-1904) to assist during the busy period after the great fire of September 1898.

A four-room addition to the house and alterations to the front porch were completed in 1912 by the prominent local architectural firm of Gardiner & Mercer, the partnership of Francis George Gardiner (1878-1966) and Andrew Lamb Mercer (1878-1959). This was one of the more enduring and prolific architectural partnerships in the province.

The firm of 'H. Bloomfield, Stained and Leaded Glass Manufacturer', led by Henry Bloomfield and his son James, was established in New Westminster in 1891 and gained prominence as the leading art-glass supplier in the Vancouver/Victoria region. They supplied the stained glass windows at 125 Third Street.

Character-Defining Elements

- Low pitched hip roof with deep overhangs
- 2-storey tower on front elevation
- Asymmetrical, deep front porch wrapping around one edge
- Wood frame windows
- Stained glass windows
- Narrow horizontal wood siding
- Shingle siding in different colour with saw tooth detail between first and second storeys and below dripline of house
- Dimensional lumber trim at windows, doors, and corners
- Cedar shake roof
- Brick chimney on south façade