

Appendix D

Statement of Significance

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2021-11-23

203 Pembina Street, New Westminster

Description of Historic Place

The subject property was purchased by Gino and Patricia Clarot in 1964 just after their marriage. They began construction of their new home in 1966 and it was completed in 1968. The home was constructed on weekends with the help of the local Italian Community, which were very prevalent within the Queensborough Neighborhood at that time. In that same year the Clarot's planted an English Oak tree on the southwest corner of their property, which remains today. The oak tree was 6 years old at the time of planting. The historic place consists of the 59-year-old English Oak tree.



Image 01: Mr. Gino Claret forming a sidewalk with English Oak tree in the background

Heritage Value of The Historic Place

The Clarot Property is recognized for its social and landscape significance.

The essential heritage value of this historic place lies in the specimen English Oak tree located on the southwest corner of the property. The tree was planted at a time when Pembina Street had very few homes and those that did exist were occupied by members of the Italian community, including Gino's family. Mr. and Mrs. Clarot recounted how their neighbours enjoyed the fall colours of the tree and how every neighbour from their property north to the old Spanos' grocery store would have to rake the oak leaves the fall.



Image 02: Mr. Clarot adjacent the English Oak tree at Christmas

The Clarot's would rake the fallen leaves and pile them under the tree and the local children would run and jump in the leaves after which they would have rake again.

Directly south of the Clarot property was the firehall. The fire fighters would often bring there chairs over and sit in the shade under the tree. Mr. and Mrs. Clarot recounted how the firemen from the old firehall across the street would bring their chairs over to the property and sit under the shade of oak tree. They would trim the tree and mow the lawn and in return the Clarot's would supply them with vegetables from there garden in the rear of their property.

There have been four subsequent owners since the Clarot's and their two sons sold the property. These subsequent owners all chose to retain the stately English Oak tree. It has become a significant landmark within the neighbourhood.

Character-defining Elements

The Arborist Report considers the English Oak tree to be in excellent condition. 'The tree exhibits a healthy green canopy, good basal flare, vigorous new growth and is an excellent long term retention candidate.' The specimen tree is now 59 years old and is not only a significant specimen tree is has taken on social significance within the neighborhood.

Sources: Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Clarot

Arborists Report, Tree Mendous Arb Care
Certified Arborist: Matthew Huk, RPF, PN-8447A

Interview by: Prushothaman Palanichamy
203 Pembina Street, New Westminster, BC

Prepared by: Bernard Decosse Architect Inc.
258 East Braemar Road,
North Vancouver, BC V7N 1R1
North Vancouver, BC V7N 1R1