

Dogwood & Elm Street Trees

Address: Between 15th Avenue and 17th Avenue in Millar Addition, City of Prince George

Date of Installation: circa 1950s

Adopted by the Heritage Commission: October 26, 2017

Last Updated: December 14, 2017



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2015)

Description

The area of the City known as the Millar Addition lies from Connaught Hill eastward to the Fraser River, and is part of the City survey done in 1913 by land surveyor Fred Burden. The two streets honoured with a tree plantation lie about three blocks from the Fraser River. To settle a land dispute, 200 acres of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway land was given to Charles Millar, owner of the B.C. Express Company, which he then sold as building lots. These lots remained part of the City as surveyed by Burden. The area is known locally as the Millar Addition.

Heritage Value

Heritage values of developed landscapes are found contextually with events surrounding conservation or installation events. The phenomena in the Dogwood/ Elm streetscapes lies with the 70-year growth of the elm trees, the housing styles built by Central Mortgage & Housing Corporation, and the initial habitation in 1948 by veterans of World War II.

The heritage value of the tree plantation on the boulevards lies in relation to honouring the veterans with a federal 50-house program launched in 1947. American Elm, a very hardy species, was chosen for this particular landscape installation commencing in the 1950s.

The trees have provided a setting of grandeur in a valued neighbourhood which has maintained these values in the past 70 years. Such a distinct heritage connection with the soldier settlement offers a uniqueness in the Prince George street-scape.

Such a heritage landscape attachment, offered with the uniformity of the tree plantations, provides a strong sense of solidarity in the neighbourhood, a heritage value of considerable merit. In addition, the Dogwood/ Elm Street plantation provides an aesthetically pleasing environment which could serve as a future model for selected city streets.

Character-Defining Elements

- The landscape form of the tall Elm trees, with a juncture of branches forming an arch over the street, provides an aesthetic environment in the neighbourhood.
- Uniform spacing of the trees on the boulevard gives a sense of firm intent by the original landscape team to provide an orderly streetscape.
- The relatively small scale of all the Central Mortgage & Housing Corporation veteran housing allows the tall Elms to give an enhanced sense of neighbourhood dominance.
- Pruning of the tree trunks over the years has allowed a full view of the veteran housing units on each side of the streets, thus alleviating any sense street enclosure.
- The Elm trees provide an on-going change of colour and pattern with the change of season, certainly an attribute that relieves any sense of monotony in the neighbourhood.

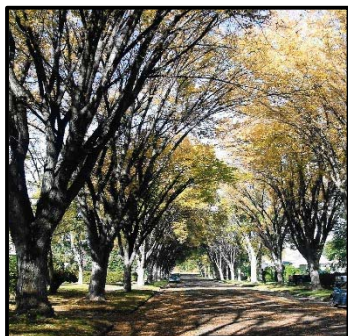
Images



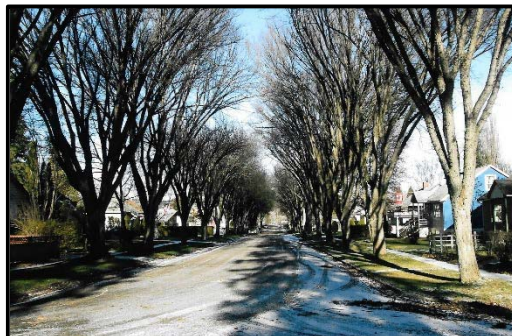
Autumn Approaches



Autumn Colours



Winter Approaches



Douglas Street Winter

Photos Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2015)

Sources:

Morrow, T. 2015. Living Legacies: 100 Years of Prince George Architecture