

Munro/Moffat House

Address: 153 North Moffat Street

Date of Construction: 1914

Other Names: n/a

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Adopted by the Heritage Commission: Dec. 22, 2016

Last Updated: Feb. 23, 2017



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2014)

Description

This prestigious log house was constructed at the corner of Moffat Street and Hammond Avenue, 1914, in Prince George. At the time, this site was located in Central Fort George, a town site developed by George Hammond in 1910, three miles from South Fort George. The Munro family resided here until 1921, when the residence was purchased by Alex B. Moffat and family, well-known members of the community, who occupied the house until 1958.

Heritage Value

The Munro/Moffat residence is valued as the home of John Munro and Alex B. Moffat, two prominent and competing bankers in the community. The house was constructed by Mr. John Munro who had travelled to South Fort George in 1910 to open the Bank of British North America. The Munro family resided here until 1921, when the residence was purchased by Alex B. Moffat and family, well-known members of the community, who occupied the house until 1958.

The Munro/Moffat residence also has significant architectural value, since John Munro was a competing banker in the community, he apparently chose to make the interior of the house rich with wood detailing and décor, much beyond vernacular architecture of the day. The material culture exhibited in the Munro/Moffat house informs us which construction features constituted priorities in the mind of the original owner for making a particular social statement at the time. The log house has exterior characteristics of "Prairie Style" architecture, prominent in residential work in the 1910-1930 period both in Canada and the United States, with Frank Lloyd Wright being the main progenitor. With the exception of a wood frame extension that has been constructed at the rear of the log house, the original log frame construction has remained intact with only a minor change to the rear entrance.

Character-Defining Elements

Character-defining elements include the following exterior design features of "Prairie Style" architecture and interior features beyond the vernacular architecture of the time:

- Strong horizontal lines;
- Unornamented wall surfaces;
- Large overhangs;
- Windows grouped into bands (notably on the second floor);
- Diamond-shaped glazing units set in the original wood muntins;
- A large veranda, which was common in Prairie Style houses;
- Inlay on original oak flooring; and
- Coffered ceilings and wood wainscoting on the main floor.

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Images

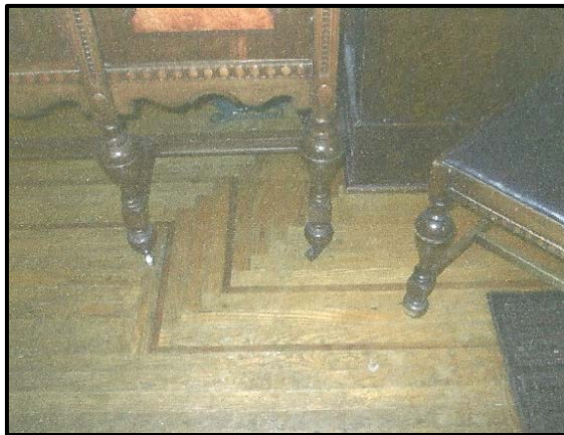


Photo 1: The original oak flooring with feature inlay on the main floor, edge grain fir on the upper floor.



Photo 2: Coffered ceilings on main floor, wallpaper finishes, wood wainscot. Diamond-shaped windows with wood muntins



Photo 3: Diamond shaped glazing, large overhangs and upper windows grouped into bands.



Photo 4: Handcrafted wood and glass lampshade, taken from a Charles Limbert design, Arts and Crafts Movement late 19th C.

Sources

- Researched and prepared by Trelle Morrow (2016)
- Photos 1, 2 and 4 courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2014) and Photo 3 courtesy of Elmer Giesbrecht (1995)