

Taylor House

Address: 1872 10th Avenue

Date of Construction: 1920

Other Names: n/a

Adopted by the Heritage Commission: November 23, 2017

Last Updated: December 14, 2017



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2017)

Description

The building is a 1-1/2 storey Eastern Cottage style house constructed in the Crescents area of Prince George, British Columbia in 1920. This historic place includes a basement, main floor, 3 bedrooms on the half floor above, a garage, and a sun room. The lot is landscaped, with nominal shrubbery and seeded areas. Although the address is on 10th Avenue, it is an immediate adjunct to the Crescents area of the city.

Heritage Value

Heritage value of the address alone places the site in the prestigious residential area of the city during early development, and that distinction is retained today.

Socially, the heritage value of this place lies in the role it has played while occupied by two prominent Prince George citizens in the 1920s through to the 1940s.

Fred D. Taylor was the first occupant of the house, was a businessman in Prince George, first served as an Alderman from 1922 to 1925, and became Mayor in 1926. He continued in public service as Alderman in 1930, and again during the War years of the 1940s.

The highlight in heritage value lies in succeeding years when the house was owned by Harry G. Perry, a business man who arrived in Fort George in 1912 and by 1914 was chairing a boundary incorporation committee for Fort George. In 1917-1918, Perry served as Mayor of Prince George, and again in 1920. Also in 1920 he was elected MLA for Fort George and served for eight years in the Liberal government. His political career was highlighted again from 1933-1946, when his last position was that of Minister of Education. The second occupation of notoriety for Harry G. Perry was when he became editor of the Leader newspaper in 1922, which in 1924 became the Prince George Citizen newspaper. He retained his newspaper interests as editor for the Citizen until retirement in 1948.

Character-Defining Elements

- The architectural form of the building has been retained since construction in 1920. The garage and sun room were included in the original building program.
- A roof line with chamfered gables provides the soft appearance of Cottage Style architecture, a common trait in vernacular building of the day.
- A bell-shaped roof over the Entry provides a soft, curved relief to the front elevation gabled section of the roof.
- The original beveled cedar siding, with a narrow 4-inch face to the weather, is typical to finishes of the period, and is well maintained on the Taylor House.
- An attractive feature, complementing the spacious interior, is the original sun room positioned on the east side of the house. French doors from the living room provide access to the sun room.
- The traffic circulation system of the floor plan reflects the needs of early owners desiring prestigious housing accommodation in the community. Only minor interior partition changes have been made to the original. The floor finishes, edge grain fir on the main floor, and flat grain fir on the upper floor, are as originally installed and have been re-finished.

Images

Chamfered Gables, Sun Porch below



Bell-shaped roof at Entry



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Sources:

Gilles, V. M.E. *Remembering...* CNC Press, Prince George, B.C., 2014.