

HERITAGE SURVEY AND EVALUATION FORM

Municipal Address	245 Sylvan Avenue	Building or Property Name	042280039 042280261	
Legal Description	PLAN 92 PT BLK 13 HEMLOCK;LAKE PLAN 260 N PT LOT 2 &;LOT 3	Lot	Block	Plan
Date of Original Lot Development		Date of current structure	c.1909	
Additions		Original owner	Dr. Peter Mellon	



Main Building

Garden / Landscape / Environment	Prepared by: Lashia Jones / Heather Perrault
	Month/Year: June 2011
Heritage Conservation District name	Rockcliffe Park
Character of Existing Streetscape	
<p>Sylvan Avenue is a short north-south street running between Fairview Avenue and Mariposa Avenue. Only two houses face onto Sylvan Avenue: 245 and 250, the remainder of the streetscape is composed of side and rear yards of properties fronting on Mariposa and Fairview. The lots on Sylvan Avenue back onto the former Lansdowne Road, now a public pathway. The property at 245 Sylvan was built when Lansdowne Road was an operational road and as such, the orientation and layout of the residence is designed with its main façade facing Lansdowne Road and MacKay Lake. This is the property's traditional, front entrance. The houses have lake-front dock properties east of the path. The lots on Sylvan Avenue are mostly shielded from view by a variety of mature trees, cedar hedges and other shrubs. Both houses are of a similar date of construction, massing and style, and lend to a coherent, yet brief, streetscape. The lots and the residences on Sylvan Avenue blend in well with the surrounding properties and suit the context of this portion of Rockcliffe Park. There are a few streetlamps and overhead wiring on Sylvan Avenue.</p>	
Character of Existing Property	
<p>Typical of the properties situated along the western shoreline of MacKay Lake, 245 Sylvan overlooks the lake. It is prominently situated on a quiet corner lot and is visible from both the Sylvan and Fairview streetscapes, as well as from Lansdowne Road and from across the Lake. The property is sheltered from the Sylvan and Fairview streetscapes by several loosely planted trees which line the perimeter of the property. The property is bounded on the north by Fairview and on the south by mature coniferous trees. There is a small garage situated close to the south edge of the property; a straight driveway spans from the road to the garage. A straight walkway extends from Sylvan to the current primary entrance of the residence, facing Sylvan Road. Aside from the trees which line the perimeter, the Sylvan street frontage and side yards consist primarily of open lawn, however there are several low-lying flowering species throughout. The yard which abuts Lansdowne is very steep and features an open lawn, some landscaping elements such as stone stairs, as well as several trees of varying species.</p>	
Contribution of Property to Heritage Environs	
<p>Landscape / Open Space: The sheltered nature of this property from the perspective of the street in addition to the open character of the frontage facing the MacKay Lake creates a coherent character of the properties which surround the lake's western shoreline.</p> <p>Architecture / Built Space: The early 20th character of this residence, including architectural features such as the half timbering and fieldstone construction contributes to the rural and village-like nature of Rockcliffe. The scale of this residence is modest compared to the large lot size and helps to maintain coherency across a range of styles and designs present in this area.</p>	

Landmark Status	
This property is situated on a corner lot on two quiet streets. It is overlooking the water and is relatively unobstructed from any direction except by from the north.	
Summary / Comments on Environmental Significance	
This property helps to establish the early 20 th century rural village-like character of Rockcliffe Park.	
History	Prepared by: Lashia Jones / Heather Perrault
	Month/Year: June 2011 (Updated: L. Collins, August 2019)
Date of Current Building(s)	c.1909
Trends	
<p>The Village of Rockcliffe Park was a planned residential community first laid out in 1864 created by a partial subdivision of the large estate belonging to Thomas McKay. Development occurred slowly but a Police Village was established in 1908, and the Village of Rockcliffe Park was incorporated in 1926. The Village was established according to an estate layout approach and landscape design adapted from the 18th century English precedents based upon picturesque qualities of the scenery, the importance of curving roads, extensive planting, and naturalistic settings.</p> <p>In the early to mid 20th century, there was an influx of families to Rockcliffe Park as a result of higher-density development and crowding in downtown Ottawa. With its scenic location and relative isolation from the city, the Village of Rockcliffe Park became a fashionable neighbourhood, perceived to be a more healthy and peaceful residential environment. These properties commanded scenic views and were ideal for residential development. Transportation to these houses was provided by means of the electric streetcar, which extended to the Rockcliffe Rifle Range.</p> <p>The rural character of the area, and the dramatic features of the earlier natural landscape have been of particular interest to local residents whose conservation activities have been continuous since the 1920s. A conservation approach has guided local improvements which have been carefully planned to interfere as little as possible with the existing trees and landscape. Rockcliffe's challenge in recent decades has been to maintain a reasonable balance between the interests of the developers and the preservation of the natural landscape.</p>	
Events	
Dr. Graham Rowley was profiled in the Ottawa Citizen Sunday April 19, 1998 (B3) "The Last of the old time Arctic explorers"	
Persons / Institutions	

1909-1927: Dr. Peter Mellon: This residence was constructed for Dr. Peter Mellon and was previously listed as being on Lansdowne. Although possessing a medical degree, Dr. Mellon worked for the Ottawa Citizen and had a column "just between ourselves" which was very popular. He lived there until 1927.

1927-1956: Brigadier Charles and Christine Topp: Brigadier Topp served with the 42nd Battalion of the Royal Highlanders of Canada in the Great War where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross. After the War he served on various government boards, joining the Canadian Pension Commission in 1930. During the Second World War he was appointed brigadier and commanded the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade, serving overseas until 1942.

Graham Rowley and Diana Rowley moved to 245 Sylvan Avenue in 1956.

Graham Rowley, a veteran of WWII, first came to Canada in 1935 as the archaeologist for the British-Canadian Arctic Expedition, one of the last groups to explore the Arctic by conventional methods before airplanes were used for aerial reconnaissance. During his stay in the North, he excavated the first pure Dorset Culture site near Igloodik and helped to complete mapping the coastline of Baffin Island first begun by Martin Frobisher 400 years earlier; he added two new islands to the map of Canada. In 1946 he joined the Defence Research Board of Canada and, in 1953, moved to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Northern Development. In his retirement he helped to form the Northern and Native Studies program at Carleton University. Graham Rowley was awarded the Massey Medal in 1963 by the Royal Geographical Society for his work in the north and was called "one of the last great explorers." Rowley also published a memoir of his work in the north in 1996 entitled Cold Comfort: My Love Affair with the Arctic in 1996. Rowley was awarded the Order of Canada in 1980. Graham Rowley died in 2003 at age 91.

Diana Rowley immigrated to Canada in 1946 from England after studying Geography at Oxford University. She was one of few women in the field in the time. In 1947, Diana and Graham along with friends founded the Arctic Circle Club, and Diana edited the Club's journal, "Circular" which gave an unequalled glimpse into Arctic research and development. The Journal was published until 1998 and the Arctic Circle Club still exists today. Diana Rowley died in 2018 at age 101.

Summary / Comments on Historical Significance

The historical significance of this property is due to its age, constructed in c.1909, its role in the early residential development of this area, and its close association to Brigadier Topp and Graham Rowley.

Historical Sources

City of Ottawa File
Rockcliffe LACAC file
Edmond, Martha. *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village*. Ottawa : The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation, 2005.
Village of Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Study, 1997.
Village of Rockcliffe Park LACAC Survey of Houses, 1988
Carver, Humphrey. *The Cultural Landscape of Rockcliffe Park Village*. Village of Rockcliffe Park, 1985.
Might's Directory of the City of Ottawa

“Topp Ends Service” *The Windsor Star*. December 6, 1963.
<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=S2RAAAAIBAJ&sjid=wlAMAAAAIBAJ&pg=3147,4526870&dq=charles+beresford+topp&hl=en>

“Massey Medal, 1963 Winner- Graham Westbrook Rowley”
http://www.rcgs.org/awards/massey_medal/winner_massey1963.asp

“Graham Westbrook Rowley (1912-2003). Artic, Vol. 47, No. 2 (June 2004) p.223-224
<http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic57-2-223.pdf>

“Mr. Graham Westbrook Rowley.” Order of Canada Website.
<https://www.gc.ca/en/honours/recipient/146-13332>

“Diana Rowley, Obituary.” <https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/diana-rowley-1070279313>

Architecture	Prepared by: Lashia Jones / Heather Perrault
	Month/Year: June 2011
Architectural Design (plan, storeys, roof, windows, style, material, details, etc)	
<p>This residence is a two and one-half storey residence clad in fieldstone on the lower portions and stucco finishes with half-timbering above and decorative wood windows. It consists of a masonry foundation supporting masonry and wood frame walls. It is capped by a gambrel roof and features multiple towers, including a three-storey Italianate corner tower on the façade overlooking the water on the north side, and a two-storey tower on the south side. The simple design features of the southern elevation indicate how this was the original rear of the building: the entrance door and porch is small, the front gambrel roof transitions to a mansard roof with dormers and half-dormers, the windows are smaller, and the fieldstone base rises higher on the façade.</p>	
Architectural Style	
Blend of Arts and Crafts tradition, fieldstone construction (unusual in Rockcliffe) and Italianate style tower.	
Designer / Builder / Architect / Landscape Architect	
Architectural Integrity	
1978 Porch reconstructed	

Outbuildings
There is a garage situated on the south portion of the property. It is a simple wood frame building with a front gabled roof.
Other
Summary / Comments on Architectural Significance
This early Rockcliffe residence provides an interesting variation on the Arts and Crafts tradition and is a rare example of fieldstone construction in the Village.

PHASE TWO EVALUATION					
ENVIRONMENT CATEGORY	E	G	F	P	SCORE
1. Character of Existing Streetscape	X				30/30
2. Character of Existing Property	X				30/30
3. Contribution to Heritage Environs	X				30/30
4. Landmark Status		X			7/10
Environment total					97 /100
HISTORY	E	G	F	P	SCORE
1. Construction Date		X			23/35
2. Trends			X		11/35
3. Events/ Persons/Institutions		X			20/30
History total					54/100
ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY	E	G	F	P	SCORE
1. Design	X				50/50
2. Style	X				30/30
3. Designer/Builder				X	0/10
4. Architectural Integrity	X				10/10
Architecture total					90/100

RANGES	EXCELLENT	GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
	Pre-1908	1908 to 1925	1926 to 1948	1949 to 1972	After 1972

Category	Phase Two Score, Heritage District
Environment	97x 45% =43.65
History	54x 20% =10.8
Architecture	90x 35% =31.5
Phase Two Total Score	85.95/100 =86

PHASE TWO EVALUATION SUMMARY				
Phase Two Score	Above	to	to	Below
Group				