

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Description of Property – 2775 Rowatt Street

2775 Rowatt Street is a cross gabled two storey vernacular style residence located on the northwest corner of Rowatt Street and Kirby Road in Britannia Village, Ottawa.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

2775 Rowatt Street has design value as a representative example of Britannia's vernacular style cottage shortly before Britannia's peak as summer resort from 1900-1914. Constructed around 1890, the building exemplifies the vernacular cottage with its use of natural materials and wraparound verandah around the south and east façades, with an elaboration through its complex and picturesque massing and central second storey porch. These physical characteristics demonstrate the Late Victorian desire for functional seasonal cottages with a strong focus on transitional spaces from the exterior to the interior.

2775 Rowatt Street has associative value due to its connection to the first homeowner, Robert Burland, who significantly contributed to the cottage community at Britannia. Robert Burland was an early summer resident from the 1890s onwards. He was a highly involved member of the Britannia Boat House Club which included fundraising for the construction of the original 1896 clubhouse, today's Britannia Yacht Club that remains a central community building. Robert also assisted establishing the second church in Britannia, St. Stephen's Anglican.

2775 Rowatt Street reflects the work of locally known carpenter and builder, Charles Robinson who worked throughout Britannia and Ottawa. He is credited with constructing several cottages in Britannia including 154 Britannia Road and 95 Kirby Road, and his aesthetic and elaboration on the basic form, heavily contributed to Britannia's vernacular style cottage. Robinson's other local

projects included St. Stephen's Anglican Church and renovating Jamieson's Old Mill, both important buildings to the early cottage community.

2775 Rowatt Street contributes to the early cottage character of Britannia as a late nineteenth and early twentieth century summer resort. Built circa 1890, the architectural features of the house, retention of its original form, use of natural materials, along with the lot's mature trees, casual landscaping, and setback, contribute to supporting Britannia's early cottage stock.

2775 Rowatt Street contributes to the early historical context of Britannia's cottage community preceding its golden period from 1900 to 1914. Before the extension of the streetcars to Britannia in 1900, the summer resort was frequented by Ottawa's well-to-do citizens who could afford their house in the city in addition to cottage at Britannia and could travel between the two for work. The date of construction for 2775 Rowatt Street demonstrates this group of early residents as the first homeowners, Robert and Julia Burland, owned a house in Ottawa along with their summer cottage in Britannia, and Robert's career with the American Bank Note Company meant he could afford to travel between his two homes.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of 2775 Rowatt Street as a representative example of Britannia's vernacular cottage built prior its peak as a summer resort include:

- Two storey massing with side gable roof
- Open wooden wraparound verandah on south and east façades with arched spandrels
- Open second storey porch with cedar shingles on the gable end, simple columns, arched spandrels, and railing clad in cedar shingles
- Decorative red brick chimney

Key attributes that demonstrate 2775 Rowatt Street's contextual value are:

- The proximity and western sightline to Britannia Bay contribute to its desirable location as a cottage
- Located across the street from 95 Kirby Road, another house constructed by local builder, Charles Robinson, who developed the elaboration of the Britannia vernacular style cottage

The interior of the building and any additions or outbuildings are excluded in this designation.