

Place Description

The Gurr House is a Mid-War vernacular cottage bungalow built in 1920 and located at 815 Lawrence Avenue in Kelowna's North Central Neighbourhood.

Heritage Value

This home's architecture is based on the local needs and construction materials of the time and reflects the local traditions. Defined by the gabled roof with a covered front porch spanning the width of the home and large multi-paned front windows. This welcoming entrance and cozy porch setting reminds us of years gone by, when friends and neighbours would find time to share a cool drink or warm tea in the afternoon, and discuss current happenings around town.

Charles James Gurr was born in Brighton, England on January 28, 1892. Charles and his wife Mary Ellen (nee Smith – born in Dublin, Ireland May 23, 1890) came to Kelowna around 1935. They Resided in this home at 1016 Lawrence Avenue (then called Glenn Avenue). They lived there until their Deaths in 1972.

Charles Gurr was a Policeman for over 40 years until his retirement around the mid to late 1950's. In Kelowna, the British Columbian Provincial Police were under contract from the BC Government. The BCPP ceased to exist in 1950 when policing was taken over by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Their son Patrick C. Gurr was noted as one of the 96 men rescued when the Trentonian was torpedoed and sunk on February 22, 1945 in the English Channel off Falmouth. Patrick returned to Kelowna and in 1947 was working as an attendant at Victory Motors Ltd. He later married Faye Stewart (daughter of a pioneer family that came to the Okanagan in 1905) and at some point moved his family to Trail B.C., where they owned and operated a hotel.

Their daughter, Tessie Hilda Gurr (born February 1 1918) married Ivan Emslie Murray "Jock", who was the Manager of O.L.Jones Furniture at 513 Bernard Avenue. Tessie passed away in Kelowna June 4, 1993 at the age of 75.

Character Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Gurr House include its:

- covered front porch spanning the width of the home
- square columns and gabled roof
- concrete block foundation and wood-frame construction;
- Craftsman details such as its shingle cladding, triangular eave brackets and exposed rafter tails;
- internal red brick chimney;
- large multi-paned front windows
- associated landscape features such as the early garage, front lawn and mature trees and grape vine.