

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 582 ST. CHARLES STREET

The house at 582 St. Charles Street known as "Riffham" is a large two-storey Tudor Revival house designed by Francis Rattenbury and located in the Rockland neighbourhood. The building is no longer visible from the street as a result of subsequent subdivisions and redevelopment.

- a. **Historical** - The house was built in 1903 as a wedding gift for Elizabeth Harvey, the granddaughter of Robert Dunsmuir, a wealthy Vancouver Island businessman who built the well-known landmark, Craigdarroch Castle. The house at 582 St. Charles was designed by Francis Rattenbury, one of Victoria's most famous architects who was also responsible for the BC Legislature (1894) and the Empress Hotel (1907-1913).
- b. **Aesthetic** - The house is a good example of a Tudor Revival style home with the typical wood half-timbering on the second storey and stucco finishes on the balance of the house. It also features extensive leaded glass wood windows and a central projecting front gable over the front entry. This style of house was typical of the mansions built in the Rockland neighbourhood for the wealthy business class in Victoria at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Character-defining Elements

The character-defining features of the house include:

- its exterior finishes of stucco
- wood half-timbering
- its leaded glass wood windows
- the tall brick chimneys on the rear elevation
- the large open porch on the front elevation
- "bell cast" roof form
- mature landscaping surrounding the house
- the original coach house behind the main residence.

Note: The front stair has been reconstructed.

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