

## **Fairfield, 601 Trutch Street**

### **Statement of Significance**

#### **Description of Historic Place**

Fairfield is a two-storey wood frame Italianate Villa style residence on a raised rock outcropping on Trutch Street in the Fairfield neighbourhood of Victoria, B.C. It is elevated above a formally landscaped front yard of large Garry Oak trees, mature hedges and shrubs.

#### **Heritage Value**

This large dwelling, built in 1861 and is of significant historical value as one of the oldest homes in Victoria, and through its association with Sir Joseph Trutch, a civil engineer, and the first Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia in 1861. Throughout his political career, Trutch was noted for his hostility to land claims by First Nations people, and demonstrated contempt for their concerns. Following his tenure as Lieutenant-Governor, he was appointed “Dominion Agent for British Columbia” and helped oversee the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The subdivision of the Trutch estate in 1906 spearheaded the development of Fairfield as major residential community in Victoria. The house is of value as an illustration of the transition of Victoria from pioneer farms to the first suburbs, through its association with the subdivision of the original ten acre estate. Through its association with Sir Joseph Trutch, it also illustrates the importance of Victoria as the capital city of British Columbia and its role as a centre of government.

The house also has value as an example of the Italianate Villa style of architecture, *designed* by the noted Victoria architects, Wright and Sanders. The elements of this style are well illustrated in this house through the prominent front facing gable roof wing with wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, bay windows, and tall windows with hooded wood trim. The restoration of the house in the early 1980s demonstrates the commitment of many Victoria residents to the heritage conservation of the City’s residential heritage.

The well preserved character of the house contributes to the integrity of the streetscape of heritage homes along Trutch Street.

#### **Character-Defining Elements**

Key elements that define the heritage character of Fairfield include:

- Prominent elevated location at the top of a rock outcrop with mature landscaping in the large front yard and a substantial setback from the street.

- All elements of the Italianate Villa style including: the gable roof forms, bay windows, wide overhanging roof eaves, decorative brackets, tall wood multi lite windows, wood shingles on the main level and stucco on the second storey, original wood front door, porch overhangs, brick chimneys