

9 **Sandwick Manor** **276 Sandwick Road, Courtenay, B.C.**

Description

Sandwick Manor is a tall, two-storey, residential structure situated on its original lot. The house features notable landscaping which includes several mature trees and a decorative gazebo.

Value

Sandwick Manor is significant for its historic and aesthetic value, particularly for its association with the initial occupants of the house, its architecture, and its setting.

The primary value of Sandwick Manor lies in its association with Eric Duncan (1858-1944), who constructed the substantial residence for his wife Anna in 1910-1911, making the house the oldest residential structure east of the Courtenay River. A respected farmer, store owner, and post master, Eric Duncan was perhaps most renowned for his poetry and writings, and whose recollections and memoirs have helped tell the story of Courtenay's early history. Regarded as the "philosopher of Vancouver Island," Duncan was known for his columns about life on Vancouver Island which appeared in both the *Vancouver Province* and *Sun*, as well as local newspapers. It is significant that Duncan was the author of two influential recollections including *Fifty-Seven Years in the Comox Valley* and *Shetland to Vancouver Island*, a book which received praise from the *London Times* and was re-published several times.

Sandwick Manor is a good local example of Edwardian era architecture seen in its overall building form and in the extensive use of faux stone, laid by prominent contractor Samuel Cotton, as well as in decorative flourishes such as elaborate gingerbread scrollwork under the central projecting gable and horizontal banding. While Sandwick Manor features utilitarian influences including the concrete bricks from Vancouver and use of timber milled on site, no expense was spared in the construction of the house which is highlighted by the manor's slate roof derived from Duncan's native Scotland.

Situated in a predominantly commercial area, the manor is a prominent landmark which evokes a time when the house was the family home in a sparsely populated agricultural district.

Sandwick Manor is additionally valued for its notable landscaped elements, including manicured gardens, several species of mature fruit trees dating from the 1920's, shrubbery, substantial evergreen hedges bordering the property and a decorative gazebo that is sympathetically designed with the architectural character of the manor.

Character Defining Elements

Siting

- prominent situation in a historically agricultural area that is now predominantly commercial
- substantial setback from street
- location of the house on its original site

Architectural Features

- square form, residential scale and massing
- asymmetrical façade and verandah, edifice of concrete bricks
- detailed gingerbread scrollwork under central projecting gable, medium pitched gable roofs, second storey sleeping porch and double hung wooden sash one-over-one windows
- slate roof

Landscape Features

- decorative gazebo
- mature shrubbery, fruit trees and evergreen hedges

