



The Andy Johnson House 'Glenedward' is a valued representation of a prominent upper middle-class family dwelling from the pre-First World War era. Andrew M. Johnson (1861-1934), an early Vancouver pioneer, and his wife Margaret built this house in 1912, in an imposing style favoured by the newly wealthy of the prewar boom period.



Born in Norway, Andrew Johnson arrived in Vancouver just months after the Great Fire of 1886 and went into partnership with J. (Ollie) Atkins in a transportation company that became the Mainland Transfer Company, eventually the largest of its kind in Vancouver. In 1910 he purchased Burnaby's Royal Oak Hotel and soon acquired the property on the opposite corner to build his home 'Glenedward'. The mansion was constructed in the Arts & Crafts style and cost in excess of \$35,000.00.



All of the granite blocks used in the construction of the home's walls, chimneys, and fences were reputedly obtained from two large boulders on the property that were remnants of ancient glacial activity. The house was built with beautiful oak and walnut millwork and stained glass windows. Two tons of red clay tile were imported from Holland to clad the unusual roof with its oriental styled pagoda turret. Andy Johnson died in this home in 1934 and his wife remained here until 1943 when she sold the estate. It was purchased in 1946 by Charles Aitchison who remodelled the home as the Royal Oak Funeral Home which operated until 1981. The house became part of the Burlington Square Development and was preserved along with three sequoia trees and the granite walls and gates with a heritage land title covenant approved by the City of Burnaby in 1981.



The old Royal Oak Funeral Home had relocated closer to the corner to make way for a commercial development in Burnaby - exactly 25 paces to the site. Photograph of a group of Burnaby residents watching from across the street as the Royal Oak Funeral Chapel is moved 25 paces. It's address has been renumbered 5152 Kingsway.



Photograph of the Royal Oak Funeral Chapel being dragged 50 paces by a Nickel Bros. semi-trailer truck.