

# T.A. Corey Residence ( McWhirter Home )

211-12th Ave. S.

1901



This outstanding sample of early domestic architecture is a rarity both in terms of its design and condition.

Mr. Corey, a CPR conductor, had it built early in Cranbrook's history, and there are several references in the early newspapers to Mrs. Corey's entertaining many times "in as fine a home to be found anywhere". Faithful maintenance over the years, and with no exterior alterations have left this home in remarkable original condition. The wood shows little sign of wear, and the filigree is in first-class shape.

The facade is informally balanced with a gable to one side over the verandah. The delicate columns and parabolic arches between them, with precise ornament, make this quite a "feast for the eyes". A picture of the home when first built shows the lower verandah railing in delicate balusters like the upper railing, although it is now covered in shingles.

A most unique "gazebo", situated to the right side, is the most outstanding feature of the building. On the main floor, this seven-sided tower is entered through under an archway of finely-carved wood and supported by delicately carved fluted wood columns. On the exterior of the second floor it forms a small intimate balcony off the main bedroom. The trees have grown up significantly since the building was constructed and one must look carefully to even be aware that there is a tower.

The eaves contain precisely-cut brackets, and the windows all carry the same theme of carefully-carved moldings. Cranbrook is extremely fortunate to have this landmark, especially in the condition in which it survives.