

27 Crescent Avenue
The Croft

Municipal Address:
27 Crescent Avenue

Legal Description of Property:

The Croft, located at 27 Crescent Avenue in Lynhurst, was constructed in 1923. It was designed by the notable St. Thomas architect, John T. Findlay, for his family. Findlay lived in the home until his passing in 1947. The home was built in the Arts and Crafts style with a small, compact design, close to the ground with a front stoop rather than the more common front verandah. The structure was finished with stucco and shutters. The house, in its current condition retains many of the characteristics of the house as originally built. Arts and Craft became a favoured residential design for Findlay.

John T. Findlay was born in Inverness, Scotland. After working in an architecture office in Toronto for a couple of years, Findlay assumed the office of architect Neil Darrach in St. Thomas in 1911 when Darrach relocated to Regina. Findlay had briefly worked in Darrach's office in 1908. Findlay designed numerous homes, primarily in Lynhurst and St. Thomas although Findlay designed homes can be found throughout Elgin County. In addition to residential design, Findlay was the primary or resident architect on some noteworthy buildings in Central Elgin, St. Thomas and the rest of Elgin County, including:

- Arthur Voaden Secondary School,
- Former Port Stanley Village Hall,
- S.S.#7 Yarmouth (Sparta Continuation School),
- S.S. #18 Yarmouth, (Locke's School)
- St. Thomas Golf and Country Club,
- King George VI Lift Bridge master tower;
- Dutton Memorial Hall;
- Horton Market,
- YWCA, 16 Mary Street, St. Thomas;
- St John's (now St Thomas) Anglican Church Parish Hall, and
- Imperial Bank, Sparta.

The Croft, 27 Crescent Avenue, is considered to be a property of cultural heritage value and interest by the Municipal Heritage Committee, Heritage Central Elgin, as it is fine example of a residence in the arts and crafts style, and its personal connection to the architect John T. Findlay who had a profound impact on building design St Thomas and Elgin County in the first half of the 20th century.



The Croft, 27 Crescent Avenue, 2023



The Croft, 27 Crescent Avenue, c. 1930.

Source: J.T. Findlay: Architect, Paul Baldwin, Elgin County Museum, 2013.



Anne and John Findlay

Source: J.T. Findlay: Architect, Paul Baldwin, Elgin County Museum, 2013.