

The logo for the City of Halifax, featuring the word "HALIFAX" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark blue background that is part of a larger graphic design consisting of several overlapping triangles in various shades of blue.

# H00542 – 6112 Coburg Road

Request to Include Property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality

Regional Council  
April 25, 2023

# Location

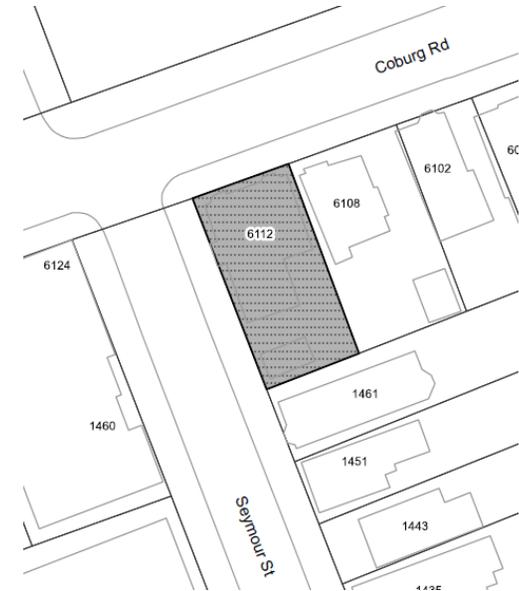


# Location



6112 Coburg Road (Nov. 4, 2022)

^Correction of the caption to Figure 1 on page 3 of the associated Staff Report



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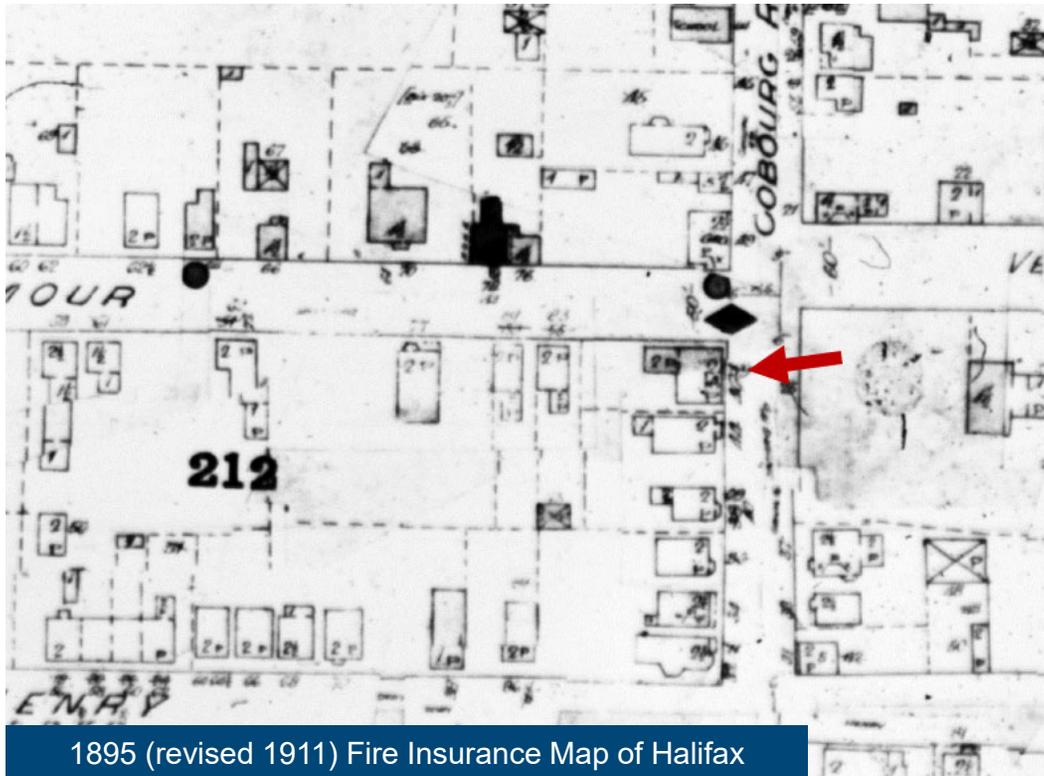
# Registration Evaluation Criteria

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Criterion	Maximum Score
1. Age	25
2.[a] Historical <u>or</u> [b] Architectural Importance	20
3. Significance of Architect / Builder	10
4. Architectural Merit: [a] Construction Type <u>and</u> [b] Style	20
5. Architectural Integrity	15
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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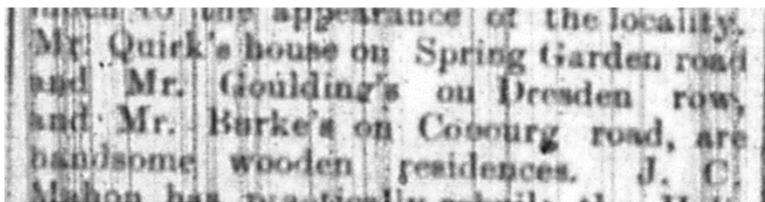
# 1. Age



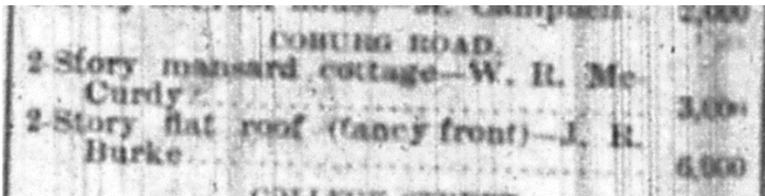
- Property was built in 1892
- A newspaper article describing all the homes built in 1892 makes note of a home on Coburg Road recently built by “Mr. Burke” [Bourke]
- Corroborated by historical maps, deed history, and Mr. Bourke taking out a mortgage on the property that same year.

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## 2a. Historical Importance *[Historical Relationships]*



...to the appearance of the locality.  
Mr. Quick's house on Spring Garden road  
and Mr. Goulding's on Dresden row,  
and Mr. Burke's on Cobourg road, are  
handsome wooden residences. J. C.



COBURG ROAD.  
2 Story mansard cottage—W. R. Mc  
Curdy 3,000  
2 Story flat roof (gancy front)—J. R.  
Burke 6,000

Newspaper clippings from Dec. 31, 1892 edition of the  
Halifax Herald.

### John Roche Bourke [also Burke] b. 1852, d. 1921

- Grandson of prominent P.E.I. merchant, shipbuilder, and landowner John Roche Bourke (1796-1882)
- Married Frances Mary Kearney in 1883 and worked as a hardware clerk in Halifax
- Purchased the lot in 1891 and commissioned the present dwelling in 1892, which was praised in the Halifax Herald as a “handsome wooden residence”
- Dalhousie foreclosed on the home in 1901 and the Bourkes relocated to 158 Spring Garden Road [now 5966 Spring Garden Road]
- Bourke subsequently worked as an inspector for the London Life Assurance Company, and later as a health inspector.

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## 2a. Historical Importance *[Historical Relationships]*



### Charles Edward Willoughby Dodwell b. 1853, d. 1930

- Worked as assistant engineer on the construction of rail lines and bridges in Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec
- In 1891, he became the District Engineer for the Dept. of Public Works of Canada
- By 1922, he was the Supervising District Engineer of the Maritimes for the Dept. of Public Works of Canada
- He was one of the founders of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers [now the Engineering Institute of Canada]
- Dodwell rented the subject property from 1902 to 1918
- Through his lawyer, he purchased the property at tax auction in 1918, residing there until his death in 1930

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Photograph showing Charles E. W. Dodwell and Edward, Prince of Wales [later King Edward VIII] touring the Studley Quoits Club

## 2a. Historical Importance *[Historical Relationships]*



Portrait of Dr. James R. Corston (1931)

### **Dr. James Robert Corston b. 1879, d. 1963**

- He earned his MD at Dalhousie in 1902
- He established a medical practice and worked at Dalhousie as a lecturer/associate professor of medicine and clinical medicine from 1913 to 1945
- He served on Dalhousie's Board of Governors for several years
- In his retirement, he worked as a medical examiner for United States Immigration at Pier 21
- Dr. Corston purchased the property in 1931, using it as both his residence and his medical practice, and residing there until his death

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### 3. Significance of Architect/Builder

- Original architect and/or builder unknown



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## 4a. Architectural Merit [*Construction Type*]

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- Light-frame [balloon frame] wooden construction
- Built atop a coursed rubblestone foundation of slate and granite
- Balloon framing was replaced by platform framing from the 1930s onwards and is growing less common

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## 4b. Architectural Merit *[Style]*



- Late-Victorian Eclectic style
- Basic form of a Halifax House [Halifax Box] with the characteristic use of two-storey bay windows
- Overhanging eaves, bracketed cornice with paired corbels, and rectangular bay window are characteristic of the Italianate style
- Pedimented front entrance is characteristic of the Queen Anne style

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## 4b. Architectural Merit *[Style]*

**Character-defining elements of 6112 Coburg Road are as listed in the Staff Report, but most notably include:**

- Symmetrically placed pair of two-storey bay windows on the northern elevation and a two-storey rectangular bay window on the western elevation;
- Large pediment above the front door supported by a pair of large, fluted corbels flanking a series of smaller brackets; and,
- Panelled wooden front door with five-light transom and sidelight arrangement featuring:
  - Fluted pilasters;
  - Fluted mull posts and mull cover;
  - Bulls-eye blocks; and,
  - Panelled detail below the sidelights.



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## 5. Architectural Integrity

- Retains its original L-shaped layout
- Nearly all character defining elements remain present
- Craftsman-style rear porch is considered character-defining and does not detract from the integrity
- Two notable changes:
  - Wooden shingle or wooden clapboard siding has been covered or replaced with aluminum siding
  - Most of the foundation has been parged with cement



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## 6. Relationship to Surrounding Area



- Part of Lot #2 of the former James B. Uniacke lands
- Dwelling dates from a period of rapid expansion of the middle classes westward
- Compatible scale with surroundings
- The unusually large size and corner location give this house greater prominence on the street
- Proximity to other registered properties on Coburg Road and many contributing [unregistered] heritage properties

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## 6. Relationship to Surrounding Area



Nearby registered properties: Hartshorne-Lownds House [left] & Toomey House [right]



Subject property [right] and surrounding [unregistered] contributing heritage

# Registration Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Score Awarded
1. Age	13
2. Historical or Architectural Importance	15
3. Significance of Architect / Builder	0
4a. Architectural Merit: Construction Type	3
4b. Architectural Merit: Style	6
5. Architectural Integrity	13
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

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# Recommendation

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That Halifax Regional Council approve the request to include 6112 Coburg Road in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1 of the February 9, 2023 staff report, as a municipal heritage property under the Heritage Property Act.

The background features a large, stylized graphic of the Halifax logo, which is a white arrow pointing to the right. The arrow is composed of several overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, creating a sense of depth and movement. The word "HALIFAX" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background that is part of the logo's design.

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**Thank You**