

HERITAGE:

Saanich Star Tribune

"Thrums" - Unique in Canada

On April 11, Saanich's Heritage Advisory Committee presented its report on houses in the municipality with heritage value.

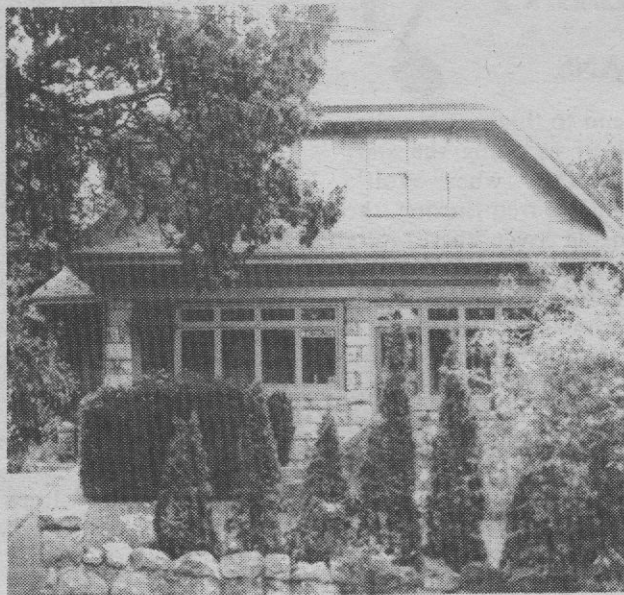
When legal questions regarding compensation to heritage house owners are sorted out, the report will form a major base for deciding on designations.

In the next few weeks, the Star-Tribune will be looking at some of these houses.

The Heritage Advisory and Archival Committee's registry describes "Thrums" as "unique not only to Saanich, but also to Canada."

"The builder and original owner, George Watson (an early reeve of Saanich), was a Scottish stonemason and cousin to ("Peter Pan" author) J.M. Barrie. Upon moving to Gordon Head Watson named Barrie Road after his illustrious cousin and named his substantial new house after "A Window in Thrums."

"The house is a splendid two-storey building



Thrums at 1775 Barrie Road Dates from 1910.

with walls of coursed, random-cut ashlar masonry," the report continues.

"It features a built-in sun porch facing east and a projecting bay window to the south."

Watson's daughter still lives in the house her father built.

"I certainly would like to see the house preserved - it will be as long as I'm alive, and as long as my son is alive, because he's just as interested in

terested when I tell them it's listed.

"You can do anything you want inside, and this type of house is hard to change outside. We wanted to put on a patio at one time, but it was too expensive to take out blocks of stone and so on.

"I don't think designation would make that much difference."

the history of the place as I am."

Asked what she thought of possible designation, she said she couldn't get too involved until details were decided. She thought including only accessible houses a good idea.

"I don't see why it (a possible future designation) should affect the value of the house. Anytime anyone asks - though it's not for sale - they seem even more in-