

**NAME:** WATSON, John Alexander **PLACE OF BIRTH:** Vancouver, BC **ENTERED SERVICE:** 11 Apr. 1938<sup>o</sup> **DATES:** b. 2 Nov. 1910

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Appointments & Service

Outfit Year\*: Position: Post: District: HBCA Reference:

\*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May

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11 Apr. 1938-1 Feb. 1940•	Architect	Winnipeg	Fur Trade Department	RG3/41A/38
1 Feb.-1 Oct. 1940	Architect	Edmonton	Fur Trade Department	RG3/41A/38
1 Oct. 1940- 1 Sept. 1941	Architect	Winnipeg	Fur Trade Department	RG3/41A/38
1 Sept. 1941-1 Feb. 1946•	Ass't. Supt. of Buildings	Winnipeg	Fur Trade Department	RG3/41A/38



- “Approved recommendation that John A. Watson, son of the Manager of the Victoria Store, a qualified architect, be appointed to the office of the Superintendent of Buildings for a period of training, with a view to his subsequent specialisation on Fur Trade buildings construction” (extract from Minutes of Canadian Committee, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1938 (in personnel dossier: RG3/41A/38).
- Watson’s work during this period entailed making numerous post inspection trips (e.g. “The plans now proposed for him are that he should return to Winnipeg about the time Mr. Chesshire come down; then move back to Edmonton for at least a year, this to be spent in the country and to include two or three months of winter at an Arctic Post” [extract from Confidential Notes made by Mr. Chester at Edmonton 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1939; RG3/41A/38]), though it is unclear from the contents of his personnel dossier where specifically he travelled.
- Resigned to join Sydney Roofing Co. (RG3/41A/38).
- *Staff Record of Service* indicates that J.A. Watson was married in 1939 [to Audrey Head, who was head fashion artist in the Winnipeg Store until 1940; ref. Search File], and while in the service of the HBC, had three sons (b. 7/9/40, 29/12/41, and ?) (RG3/41A/38).

Search File: “Watson Family”

Articles: *The Beaver* (September 1938, June 1941) and *The Moccasin Telegraph* (Winter 1970, Summer 1973, Winter 1973); John Watson wrote a memoir of his family at the Gower Point cabin in BC, which was published by *Raincoast Chronicles*, 1991 (ref. Search File)

Photographs: John A. Watson Photograph Collection 1987/363-W-425