



HERITAGE DESIGNATION, REGISTER AND CANDIDATES ELECTORAL AREA E – COWICHAN KOKSILAH/QUW'UTSUN XWULQW'SELU

Heritage Designation

Area E contains one designated heritage property: Fairbridge Chapel and School (Bylaw No. 599).

Candidates

The area E local plan recognizes that a significant number of cultural or natural heritage sites are present in the plan area and highlights the following for consideration in the CVRD Community Heritage Registry (CHR):

1. *Paldi Sikh Temple and Cemetery*: Provincially recognized under s. 18 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* as epitomizing the South Asian rural experience in B.C., Paldi was a small logging community on Vancouver Island. Located between Duncan and Lake Cowichan, and originally called Mayo, this town was founded by Mayo Singh and his partner Kapoor Singh in the early 1900s. The former town site included a lumber mill, company store, school, post office, Japanese temple, bunkhouses for workers and housing for families of South Asian, Japanese, Chinese and European heritage. The first *gurdwara* (Sikh temple) in Paldi was opened in 1917.
2. *Hillcrest Chinese Cemetery*: The cemetery is listed on the Heritage BC website and recognized for its historical value through its association with the extensive involvement of Chinese-Canadians in B.C.'s logging industry. It was established on land donated to Chinese-Canadian workers by the Hillcrest Logging Company to honour their contributions of talent and labour. This original donation of land emphasizes the commitment made by the company to the well-being of its workers even after their deaths and stands as a powerful symbol of the possibility of enduring relationships between Chinese-Canadians and non-Chinese in B.C. that were not marked by conflict. The cemetery exemplifies *feng shui* principles used in its design, and because of its longevity—with the last burial occurring in the 1960s—the place has heritage significance as a symbol of long-standing relationships between Chinese-Canadian forestry workers, their employers and the local community.
3. *Keating Farm*: This 13 ha farm property contains a number of heritage structures, the most significant of which is the main farmhouse. This 1880s-era house contains a unique Great Hall designed and built by architect John Tiarks in 1894. It was owned by the Land Conservancy until 2014 when it was sold to private individuals who are continuing to operate it as a working farm, with its heritage orchards.
4. *Fairburn Farm*: Established by Mary and John Jackson in 1896, the 80 ha Fairburn Farm has had a checkered career as a farm, hunting lodge, dairy farm, organic cooperative and pioneer of farm stay vacations and water buffalo farming in North America.
5. *St. Andrew's Church, Cowichan Station*: St. Andrew's Church was consecrated on February 8, 1906 and deconsecrated in 2011. It is architecturally compelling, with many features of



interest, including the incorporation of relics into the church architecture. These include the base and stem of a lectern rescued from the shelled ruins of Ypres Cathedral in Belgium, and fragments of stained glass from a bombed church in Rheims, France, which are incorporated in the windows to the north and south side of the nave. The cemetery is still intact. <https://heritagebc.ca/war-monuments-memorials/cowichan-station>

6. *Glenora Store and Café*: In operation since 1950, originally as a garage for fuelling and maintaining cars, Glenora Store and Café has since evolved through a variety of types of businesses, including incubating the very successful Community Farm Store. Now owned by the Ita Wegman Association, it sells produce and products from the Glenora Farm, as well as providing café services ... and it still sells gas!
7. *Sahtlam School House*: Now a private residence, this location at 4410 Old Cowichan Lake Road was used as a school from 1922 to 2002. There is interpretive signage outside of the property.
8. *Currie Park*: Daniel Currie arrived in Canada from Scotland in 1878, followed by his son John in 1884. Daniel lived on the property and farmed the land where Currie Park is now located. Both Daniel and John Currie were active in the Sahtlam community, sat on the Sahtlam School Board and volunteered their time with the school for many years. When Daniel died in 1918 at the age of 78 his son John took over the farm until his own passing in 1931 at the age of 57. As John Currie never married, he left the property to his sister. Both father and son were buried on the property.
9. *Carlton Stone home at 5372 Miller Road*: This was an original home to Hillcrest Lumber pioneers circa 1913.
10. *Robert McLay Jr. home at 5241 Koksilah Road*: Constructed circa 1908, this home is currently operating as the McLay Inn.