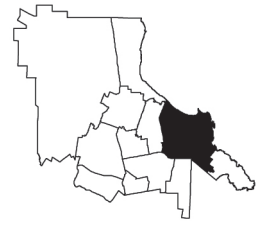
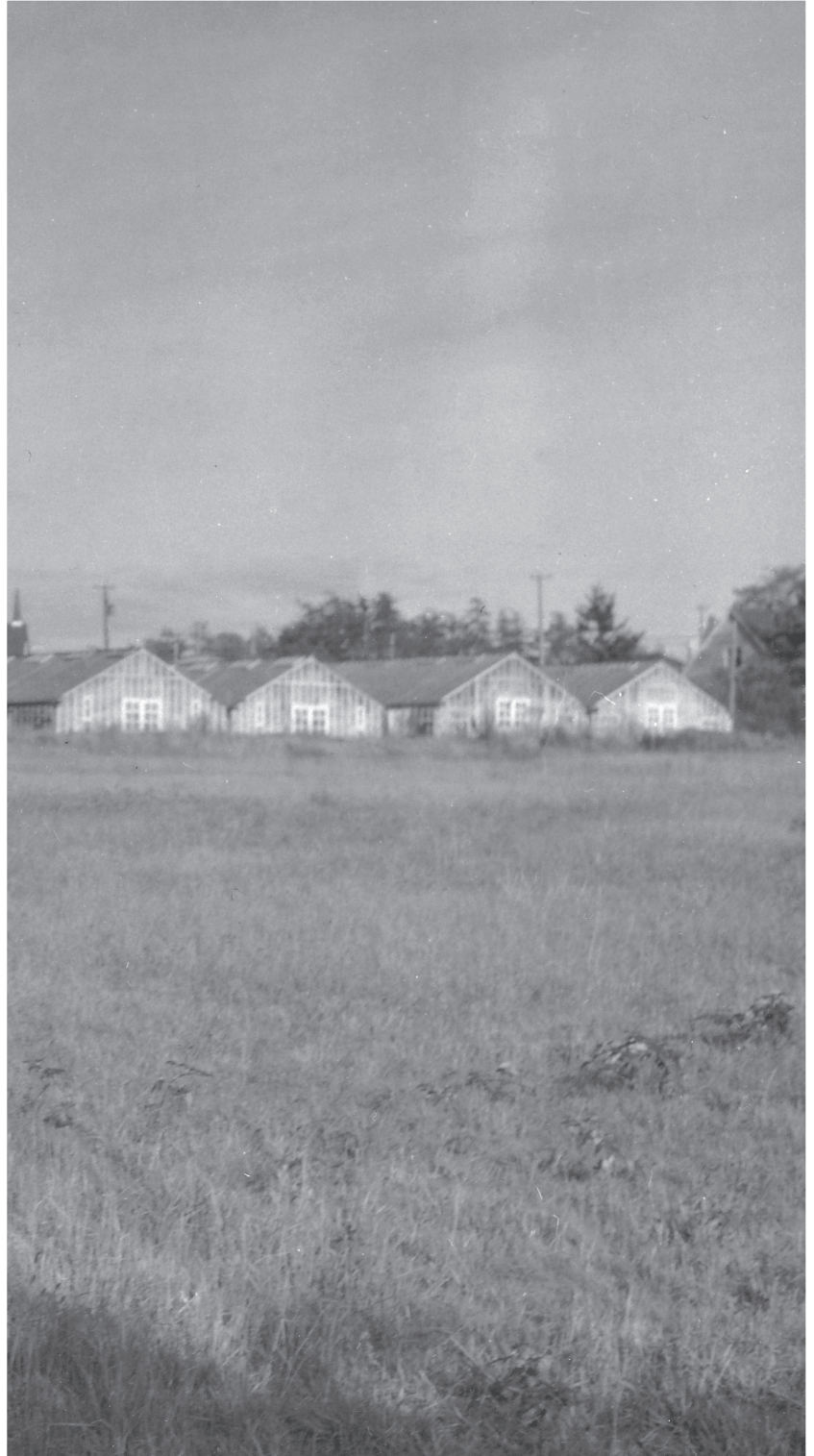


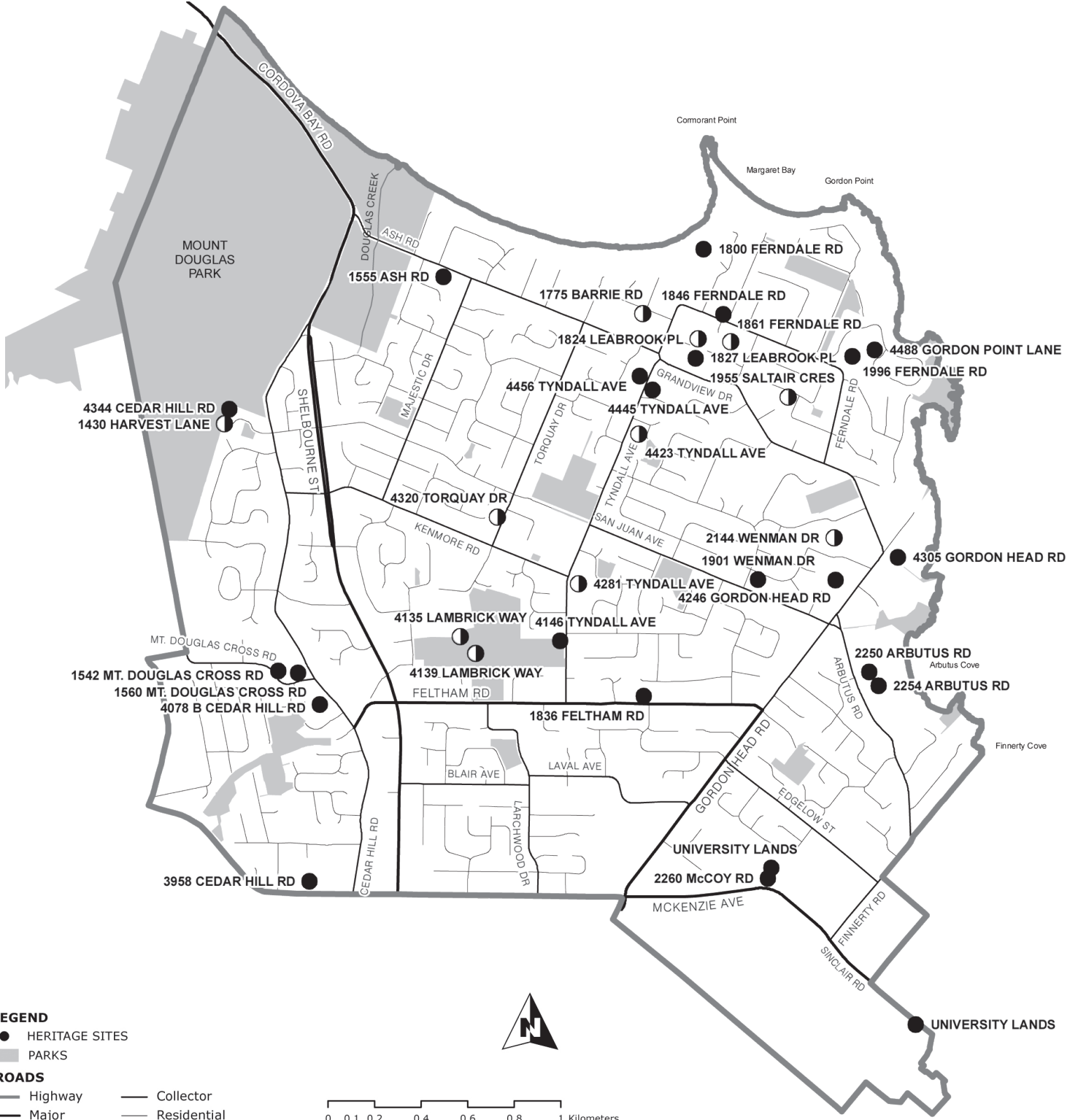
# Gordon Head



Gordon Head is bordered on the north and east by Haro Strait, on the west by Blenkinsop Valley and Mount Douglas, and on the south by McKenzie Avenue. It was a heavily forested wilderness when it was first settled by farmers, starting with James Tod in 1852. By 1860, thirteen men, including Charles Dodd, Michael Finnerty and John Work, owned all of the land identified as Gordon Head. The area became famous for its strawberries, which sold for high prices until 1914; the dropping value of the crop led to the formation of the Saanich Fruit Growers' Association, which worked to stabilize prices. By 1945 the strawberry crop was declining in importance, partly due to wartime shortages of sugar and cans. William Travelick Edwards introduced the cultivation of daffodils, which also became an important cash crop. Arbutus Cove was favoured as an area of summer homes for prominent Victoria-area families starting in 1902. The large arbutus trees along Arbutus Road were planted as part of the subdivision of the Finnerty holdings into estate properties. In 1921, city water service was brought to Gordon Head, leading to a proliferation of greenhouses and vegetable farming. During the Second World War, an army camp was established on the site of what later became the University of Victoria. Since the 1950s, the area has gradually been developed with single-family housing, facilitated through the introduction of sewers in the late 1960s.



Lee Lock Greenhouses, Tyndall Avenue, 1969 (detail)  
[Saanich Archives 1984-003-020]





Entrance Side

This magnificent property, with many mature trees and views of Haro Strait, contains two original structures, a grand residence and a coach house. The one-storey-plus-basement house is an eclectic Period Revival design with Tudor Revival-style features. The central

## GUDEWILL ESTATE 2250 Arbutus Road

George & Beatrice Gudewill, Owners; 1928

highlight of the design is a whimsical door and window assembly with French doors set into an oversized ogee-shaped Tudor arch. A large porch and staircase provide an unobstructed view of the ocean. Double-hung windows with thick mullions are located on either side of the main entrance. The accompanying coach house/gardener's quarters is a simply-designed, two-storey, side-gabled structure.

The property was virgin forest in the late 1920s when it was acquired by George and Beatrice Gudewill, who hired an architect from California to design the house as a grand summer abode. George Gudewill (born in Montreal in 1895; died in North Vancouver, 1980) was a prominent businessman and president of George E. Gudewill & Company Limited, a stocks, bonds and insurance business started in 1931. Beatrice Gudewill (née Rodgers, born in Dundee, Scotland in 1893; died in North Vancouver in 1975) was a homemaker; they had three sons.



Waterfront side, c.1930s [Gudewill Family Album]

## JUPP ESTATE

### 2254 Arbutus Road

Helen Ball, Owner; circa 1922; (original house / stable)

Frank & Ursula Jupp, Owners; Ron Clack, Architect; Mr. Gwilt, Contractor; circa 1941 (main house)

John & Mary Klymak, Owners; original circa 1890-1920, moved and expanded mid-1980s (small centre house)

There are three early buildings on this large property. The one on the east was originally a brown-stained stable, and was likely already there when Helen Ball hooked up the property to the Saanich water system in 1922. About 1936-37, widower Frank Jupp, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1885, purchased the property from Bertie and Madge Hall. A marine engineer and seaman, Frank moved to Seattle for a position as chief engineer on the international cable ship *Restorer* and married there in 1918. In 1923 Frank and his wife moved to Victoria. His first wife, Lillian Margaret died in 1931, before he bought the Arbutus Road property. Frank Jupp died in 1950.

Meanwhile, Ursula Edwards (1902-1988) was born in the Isles of Scilly and immigrated with her family to Sedgewick, Alberta, enticed there by the CPR, which advertised in Britain for new settlers. The area was not to their liking so they moved to Saanich and settled on Ferndale Road in 1912. Her father was the first to grow daffodils in Gordon Head. Ursula trained at the new Normal School on Lansdowne Road, and taught at Cedar Hill School until her marriage in 1923 to William Henry Cole Ley (1898-1954). They lived on Seaview on Ten Mile Point in Cadboro Bay until 1931, but then the Leys divorced and Ursula took her two small daughters back to live with her father and her sister Pomona in Gordon Head. For the next ten years, Ursula supported her family through office work for her father's daffodil farm, substitute teaching, and making dresses for her daughters and friends' daughters. Francis "Frank" McLean Jupp (1885-1950) met Ursula while visiting friends on Ferndale Road, and they were married in 1941. A young Rod Clack designed a new, larger house for the property, which was built by Mr. Gwilt. In 1944, Frank Jupp suffered a stroke while on board the *Restorer*. Ursula nursed him until his death in 1950, then moved into the house in the old stable, and rented out the main house. She became well known for her historical articles in newspapers, and her books on the history of Gordon Head and Cadboro Bay.

The main house, built in 1941, is a cozy steep-sloped front-gabled structure influenced by the seaside cottages of Cape Cod. It features wide lapped wooden siding, front-gabled dormers and eight-over-eight double-hung windows. Vertical siding with scalloped edges provide a visual accent in the gable peaks. The earlier house/stable is a low-pitched, side-gabled rectangular plan, with multi-paned casement windows.

The property was later owned by John and Mary Ann Klymak, who apparently moved a small shed in the mid 1980s from the historic Michael Finnerty farm on what is now University of Victoria grounds to the Arbutus Road property, and renovated it as a tiny cottage. They ran the property as a bed-and-breakfast for many years.



Top to bottom:  
Main House, c.1941  
Original House, c.1922  
Small House, c.1890-1920, moved from Finnerty Farm in 1980s





## DAY RESIDENCE

### 1555 Ash Road

George & Bertha Day, Owners; 1922

George Walter Day (1881-1970) was born in Kent, England, came to Canada in 1905 and resided in Saskatchewan and Alberta before retiring in Victoria. George was a florist and orchardist. His remains were interred in Moose Jaw, and his wife Bertha (née Muggeridge, born circa 1886) likely moved back to Saskatchewan. Charley Edwin (1886-1955) and Ruth Strom (née Jonson, 1889-1943) purchased the property in 1930; they lived and farmed here until 1956.

Brick houses are rare in the Saanich area. This Craftsman-influenced example has a concrete foundation, brick over frame on the main floor, and decorative half-timbering in the gables. The front porch has been enclosed with glazing.



## JERSEY HALL (later THRUMS)

### 1775 Barrie Road

Dr. John Ash, Owner; circa 1885

George & Elizabeth Watson, Owners;

Alex Stewart, Contractor; circa 1910

This property consists of two structures. The first, owned by Dr. John Ash (circa 1821-1886) was built circa 1885 as Dr. Ash's cottage retreat and hunting lodge, *Jersey Hall*. He was an English oculist, who came to Victoria in 1862 and in 1865 became a member of the Vancouver Island House of Assembly. After Confederation, he was a part of the Legislative Assembly until 1876, and then served as British Columbia's Provincial Secretary from 1872 to 1874. Dr. Ash's first wife, Dorothy Agar died in Victoria in 1874. In 1875 he married Adelaide Anne Amelia De Veulle, daughter of Sir John De Veulle, High Bailiff of the Island of Jersey. Ash's cottage was later turned into a barn and is now used as a garage.

George and Elizabeth Brodie Grant Watson built the second house at the front of the property circa 1910. It is a wood frame house, clad in dressed stone at the basement level and cedar shingles on the main floor and upper storey. This is one of the few stone houses in the area. The foundation level, front wall and garage utilized granite quarried from the property, which was dressed by George Watson as random-cut ashlar and laid with red mortar pointing. Alex

Stewart built the house, using lumber from trees felled on the property, and Isaac Somers did the finishing carpentry. The house features a front-gabled roof with hipped roof side dormers and a side entrance porch. The interior is finished in Douglas fir woodwork, including two hand-turned pillars, made from a single tree trunk, dividing the living room from the hall.

George Watson (1867-1930), a stonemason, born in the Scottish village of Kirriemuir, Forfashire, was a cousin of famous Scottish author, James Matthew (J.M.) Barrie who wrote *A Window in Thrums* and *Peter Pan*. George named his house after his cousin's 1889 fictional village of Thrums, modelled after his home village of Kirriemuir; the name *Thrums* is carved into the front gate post. George Watson was active in the Saanich municipality, serving as reeve, councillor, school trustee and police commissioner. During his time as Reeve of Saanich from 1920 to 1923, George fought for a water system to be installed in Gordon Head (his campaign slogan was 'Watson and Water'). His refined stonemasonry skills were demonstrated in his work on the Provincial Legislature and the Victoria Post Office. His wife Elizabeth Watson (1864-1947), a sister of William C. Grant (see 4320 Torquay Drive), bought this property in 1898 with the savings she had 'squirreled away' from her housekeeping allotment. Elizabeth was well known in the community and ran the Gordon Head Post Office from a room in her house from 1910 to 1920. She was also the president of the Women's Institute. *Thrums* was the second house built by the Watsons on their larger property. The first house was sold when *Thrums* was completed in about 1910. Descendents of the Watsons continue to own and occupy the house.

## MOUNT THULE

3960 (also 3958) Cedar Hill Road

John & Alice Irvine, Owners, circa 1913



## ROCKHURST

4078B Cedar Hill Road

Samuel & Janet Fetherston, Owners; circa 1912  
Douglas & Ethel Walker, Owners, addition; circa 1930s



## TODD RESIDENCE

4344 Cedar Hill Road

Albert Henry & Anna Todd\*, Owners; circa 1914



In 1851, John Irvine's parents, John Irvine Senior and Jessie Irvine, arrived on *The Tory* as servants of the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1862, they acquired about 300 acres in the Cedar Hill area that they called *Rose Bank Farm*. John Irvine Junior (1861-1948), known as "Long Gun Jack," was born just before his family moved to Cedar Hill. At 16 he went to work in a grocery store/saloon and married Alice Whitaker (1863-1939) in 1883 when he had earned enough money to support a family. In the late 1880s, they rented *Braefoot Farm* from the Tolmies and ran a dairy for 20 years. Then for 21 years, he was a road foreman at \$3 a day for the District of Saanich's Ward Three, until injuring his back in a fall. During this time he supervised the building of Shelbourne Street in 1916. After Alice's death in 1939, John moved to Cordova Bay where he died in 1948. When he was 80, John completed his memoir, *Early Victoria: Reminiscences of Jack "Long Gun" Irvine*, an invaluable resource for researchers.

An Italian stonemason built *Mount Thule* for John and Alice using random ashlar masonry. A landmark on its hilltop above McKenzie Avenue and Cedar Hill Road, this house was derelict for a number of years until it was turned into condominium units in 1980. The building has new window units and wrought iron balcony railings.

Like 3601 Cedar Hill Road, this stone house, known as *Rockhurst*, was built on a solid granite foundation. The stark beauty of this house is captured by uncomplicated architectural design, which showcases the rock walls and casement wooden windows. The walls and internal chimneys of this impressive two-storey, front-gabled house are random rubble fieldstone, likely of the same lithic origin as the foundation. The upper part of the front and back gable ends are shingled, and feature exposed eave brackets that demonstrate the influence of the Craftsman style. Stone lintels and keystones subtly accent the window openings. Janet Wilson Fetherston (née Smith 1868-1928), born in Ayrshire, Scotland, and her husband, rancher Samuel George Fetherston (circa 1866-1929) were the first owners, and built the first storey of the house circa 1912. Samuel Fetherston moved to Hamilton, New Zealand, shortly after his wife's death, and died one year later, in 1929. Retired farmer Douglas Walker (1888-1977) and his wife Ethel Kate Walker (née Wright, 1879-1958) added the second storey in the 1930s.

Albert Henry "Harry" Todd's father, James Tod (1818-1904), was the first European settler in Gordon Head. In 1852, he established *Spring Farm*, in the shadow of Mount Douglas. James Tod was the son of John Tod, the first European settler in Oak Bay, whose house at 2564 Heron Street was built in 1851 and is reputedly the oldest house in western Canada. James Tod was married to Flora Tod (1841-1919). Their son, Harry, was born in 1881. He worked as a steam engineer with logging and threshing outfits, and inherited this land from his father's estate in 1915, on which he had an orchard and sold fruit from a stall. He married Anna Matilda Henderson (1886-1969), daughter of Anton and Ellen Henderson (see 7-3993 Columbine Way) in 1914. Their daughter, June Ellen, married John Norrington, son of the founder of Norrington's Bakery in Port Angeles, Washington in 1938. Until recently, they owned this property and lived in her grandfather's house.

Mail order plans were used to build this Craftsman-style hipped-roof bungalow for the Todds around 1914. It is a modest house with a low-pitched hipped roof, shed-roofer dormer and fancy brackets. Standing behind the house is a front-gabled log cabin, built as a playhouse for June and her sister in the 1920s. A windmill, that no longer functions, also stands on the property. Albert moved it from 2009 Ferndale Road in the late 1930s. The windmill was originally built before 1910 for A.E. Ormond (see 2851 Seaview Road).

\*NOTE: The spelling of Tod and Todd for different members of the family is correct, as the extra "d" was added at some point.

## **NORMAN / BLIZARD RESIDENCE**

### **1836 Feltham Road**

Stephen & Lizzie Norman, Owners; 1893  
George Blizard, Owner & Architect,  
addition; 1903



## **STRANGWOOD**

### **1800 Ferndale Road**

Eleanor Fleming, Owner; circa 1921  
Lois & Seneca McMullen, Owners;  
circa 1930s



## **STAVELY RESIDENCE**

### **1846 Ferndale Road**

Leonie Stavely, Owner; circa 1922-24



**S**tephen Norman (1861-1925), a carpenter and caretaker for the Parliament Buildings, likely built the right-hand portion of this house. The original farmhouse is a vernacular one-and-one-half-storey structure, clad with wooden drop siding and fish-scale shingles in the gable. Stephen was married to Lizzie (née Burns, 1859-1914) in 1891. A later owner, George Blizard, a fruit farmer and British-trained architect, added the hipped-roof portion of the house in 1903. The addition is symmetrical, with wooden drop siding and a shallow hipped roof over the front verandah.

**T**he first house on this property, which burned down about 1918, belonged to W.C. Grant (see 4320 Torquay Drive). Mrs. Eleanor Fleming (1862-1942) with the help of her brother Alec, and sister, Libby MacDonald, built the original portion of the extant house. Alec was later associated with the Holsum Packing Company, Limited located at 3940 Quadra Street.

From 1927 to 1970, Seneca Lent McMullen (1873-1941) and his wife Lois McMullen (née McClintock, 1882-1969) owned this property, which they called *Strangewood*. Over time, the McMullens, who had coal-mining interests in Drumheller, Alberta, made additions to the house and also added a picturesque garden beautified with a number of ornamental structures. One section of the garden contains petrified wood from Drumheller. Luther Holling and his company, The Ironcraft Artmetal Products, made the wrought iron front gates in 1933. During and after the Second World War, Lois held many garden parties to raise funds for the Red Cross and, later, St. Luke's Anglican Church. The house, enlarged in the 1980s, recalls the British Arts and Crafts movement, while its wide low gables show the influence of the Chalet style. It has front-gabled roof with shed-roofed dormers on each side. The main walls of the house are clad in stucco and feature multi-paned, double assembly wooden casement windows and French doors. The large Palladian window is a post 1990 modification.

**L**eonie Sophia Stavely (1863-1934), a Dublin barrister's widow, was left a private income and came to Saanich in 1920 to live on Tyndall Avenue with her married daughter, Ethel Darcus. Leonie Stavely had 1846 Ferndale built for herself and her two unmarried daughters, Leonie Jane (1881-1975) and Olive Alexandria (1889-1983). For about ten years, the Stavelys ran a tearoom in the sunroom and in the garden. Their business, run by appointment only, ceased when Leonie Sophia died in 1934. Leonie Jane and Olive remained in the house until 1950.

This side-gabled Craftsman house has a full-width partially enclosed front verandah, partially enclosed as a sunroom, and a central gabled front dormer. On each side of the house are semi-octagonal cantilevered bays.

## **LANTERN LANE FULLERTON / McCLUNG RESIDENCE**

**1861 Ferndale Road**

John Fullerton, Owner;  
E.J. Merrett, Designer/Builder; 1914

Contractor and carpenter Edward James Merrett likely designed and built this house for John Fullerton (1852-1939). Fullerton served as second engineer on the Hudson's Bay Company paddle wheel steamer the *S.S. Beaver* from 1877 to 1878. He was also the owner of a boot and shoe manufacturing and import establishment at 103 Government Street from 1884 to 1910. He and Annie Fullerton (née Reid, circa 1857-1913) married in 1886. At the age of 60, after the death of his wife, he retired to Gordon Head and became a strawberry farmer.

Colonel Albert William and Henrietta Marion Woods, who were likely the first to grow tulips commercially in Gordon Head, later acquired the property. Then, in 1935, Robert Wesley McClung (1871-1958) and his wife, famous teacher, author, suffragist, social reformer, lecturer, and legislator, Nellie Letitia McClung (née Mooney, 1873-1951), born in Grey County, Ontario, bought the property. Nellie McClung was a champion for the causes of women's rights, prohibition, and the Liberal party. It was as a result of her efforts that in 1916 Manitoba became the first province to give women the right to vote and to run for public office. McClung and four fellow campaigners—"The Famous Five"—successfully petitioned the Supreme Court of Canada for clarification of the interpretation of the word 'Person' in the British North America Act, thereby making women eligible for appointment to the Senate of Canada. From 1921 to 1926, she served as a member of the Alberta Legislature and in 1939 represented Canada at the League of Nations in Geneva. She was the first woman member to sit on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Board of Governors and the first woman elder in the United Church of Canada. In 1973, the Canadian Government issued a stamp in her honour.

Nellie was also a successful author, and her books typically celebrated the country ideal over city life. This house became nationally famous as the *Lantern Lane* in her books *Leaves from Lantern Lane* and *More Leaves from Lantern Lane*, penned in her upstairs study. These collections of her newspaper columns, many of which chronicle the lives and times of early residents of Gordon Head, as well as her own joy in her house and garden, are a valuable contribution to an understanding of the lives of Saanich pioneers.



The house (top), which was stuccoed by the McClungs, is a one-and-one-half-storey Craftsman bungalow with the brackets, bargeboards and exposed rafter tails that are typical of the style. Behind the house, a converted coach house (center), which became Nellie McClung's study, retains its shingle siding and wooden details. The house and the lane leading up to it comprise the *Lantern Lane* of McClung's writing; the name was coined by McClung who hung a ship's lantern on the coach house door to throw a "welcoming beam of light on a dark night, down the lane... and gave us the name *Lantern Lane*." A ship's lantern still hangs on the former coach house.



This modern house reflects a Japanese sensibility; the gable-on-hip roof has a pronounced Asian flare. The deep overhangs shelter the body of the house and provide an overall horizontal emphasis, reinforced

## **MOORE RESIDENCE**

**1996 Ferndale Road**

Stan & Meg Moore, Owners

Bob Punderson of Siddall Dennis Warner, Architect;  
Jimmy Chow and Roy Quan, Contractors; 1963-64

by the banded cladding of dark wood siding and stucco. The house is partially cantilevered on brick-clad foundation columns, reminiscent of the appearance of a raised Japanese temple. The serene, Northwest Coast rainforest landscaping provides an appropriate period setting. Walter Stanley Moore (1904-1982) married Myrtle Morton Pegrum "Meg" in 1928. Stan was the son of William Moore, co-founder in 1893 of Moore & Whittington, prominent local contractors and lumber company owners. Stan was company president until the mid-1970s. He and son Richard ran Stanrick Group development company for many years, and developed the property around this house. The Moore family still owns the house.





**GORDON HEAD ARMY CAMP**  
**3800 Finnerty Road (located off Gabriola Road at University of Victoria)**  
 Department of National Defence; 1940

these units, including officers' huts, sleeping quarters and mess halls. Permanent staff numbered 200, under the camp commandant Lieutenant Colonel T.B. Monk. The camp could accommodate 1,000 men at a time, for 30 days of intensive training. Later the camp housed a variety of military functions including casualty retraining and rehabilitation of prisoners of war returning from Japan. During the acute housing crisis that followed the Second World War, the Department of Veterans' Affairs accommodated soldiers and their families in the camp's huts (1946-1950); and later, during the Korean War (1950-1953) the camp reverted to its original use for soldiers.

In 1959 the site was purchased by Victoria College (which became the University of Victoria in 1963) and the huts have since been used for a variety of administrative and academic purposes. A number of these temporary wartime huts have survived. Most of the buildings have undergone a number of alterations; however, they generally retain their wooden drop siding, wooden windows and detailing, and have been kept in serviceable condition.

Canada entered the Second World War in August 1939. Across the country the government quickly established training camps for recruits; conscription did not come into effect until 1944. The training camps in British Columbia were at Gordon Head and Vernon. Over a period of about one month, in September 1940, more than 50 building units were erected on the Gordon Head property now occupied by the University of Victoria. Approximately 400 members of the Royal Canadian Engineers constructed



**MARITIME NAVAL / COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE**  
**3800 Finnerty Road (located off McCoy Road)**  
 His Majesty the King in Right of the Dominion of Canada, Owner; 1939-40

Finnerty Road). The basement contained power-generating equipment, and the wireless equipment, located on the first floor, was connected to a radio mast some distance away. During the war, the building and tower were surrounded by a high barbed-wire fence and guarded by sentries. The complex was off-limits to all military trainees at the camp.

Architecturally, the building is of significant value as a fine example of the Streamline Moderne style. Designed to suit functional requirements, it followed a pure expression of the style, based on geometric form rather than detailing. Horizontality is emphasized by the curved steel-sash windows. The construction was exceptionally robust, for maximum protection of the equipment; the walls are triple-parged hollow red clay blocks one foot thick, and the basements walls, main floor and roof are one foot thick concrete on ribbed steel lath and joists. The building was designed to look like a house, with a circular formal drive in front to act as camouflage from the air. The building is now on the property of the University of Victoria.

At the beginning of the Second World War, District Superintendent of Radio, W.J. Bowerman, supervised the construction of this building for use as a wireless radio and communications centre for the federal Department of Transportation. Part of a network of stations used for defence purposes, this installation was near the Gordon Head Army Camp (see 3800

**HAMSTERLEY FARM  
(later DRUMMADOON,  
then UPPER DRUMMADOON)  
3800 Finnerty Road  
(located at 2489 Sinclair Road,  
was 3815 Haro Road)  
Letitia & Algernon Pease, Owners  
James & James, Architects; circa 1910**



This water tower is one of the last remaining in Saanich, and is a valuable reminder of the importance of market gardening in the municipality's early development. Until the Saanich Waterworks reached rural areas, many farmers had gravity-fed water tanks. Architect P.L. James reportedly designed this tower just after the formation of a partnership with his brother Douglas James, along with the Pease's house (part of which was moved and serves as the University of Victoria's Student Health Services Centre). The tower originally had a tank on a raised platform.

Letitia Jean Pease (née Brydges, 1878-1965) who was born in Londonderry, Nova Scotia, and her husband Algernon Henry Pease (1882-1955), born in County Durham, England, named their property *Hamsterley Farm*, after Algernon's birthplace. Algernon came to Canada in 1907 and lived in Winnipeg briefly, where he married Letitia. Upon his arrival to Victoria, Algernon established a chicken farm at Strawberry Vale, which he sold soon after to engage in real estate. He bought this property and operated a strawberry jam factory on it. Strawberries flourished in Saanich and are an important local food product; a Strawberry Festival is still held annually in mid-July. The Peases were entrepreneurial, and in addition to their successful jam-making enterprise they made chocolates and candy, sold produce, owned a chicken farm and made home-made wine, which they marketed during Prohibition. After they sold this property, they opened the *Hamsterley Tea Room* on the Malahat, then *Hamsterley Lakeside* and later the *Toby Jug* at Elk Lake. Algernon was appointed

an M.B.E. for his work in establishing the B.C. Salvage Corps in the Second World War. During the War, Letitia Pease was instrumental in starting 'Bundles for Britain,' which sent new and used clothing to those who had been bombed out in Britain. She also opened the Superfluties Shop, on Government Street in Victoria, where donations of valuables, to be sold for the war effort, were accepted. Pease Lake in Central Saanich was named after Algernon.

From 1933 to 1946, Alice Maud Robertson of "The Spode Shop" (née Ferguson, 1877-1957), born in Glasgow, Scotland owned the property. She called the property *Drummadoon*, changed to *Upper Drummadoon* when her daughter's house, *Lower Drummadoon*, was built lower down the hill (see 2511 Sinclair Road). Alice, an antique dealer and her husband Frederick Norman Douglas Robertson (1876-1947), born in Douglas, Scotland were also the managers of The Spode Shop. Alice and her daughter, Margo, were horsewomen, and in 1933 they had the water tower enclosed as a stable, with a hayloft and tackroom in the tank section. Windows were added, it was shingled, given a shingle roof, and the tank portion was covered in rough weatherboards. The property is now part of the University of Victoria. In 2003, the water tower suffered a fire, but was restored two years later.

**BERRYBANK  
4246 Gordon Head Road  
Andrew Strachan, Owner; circa 1907**



Andrew Henderson Strachan (1841-1921) was born in Kinrosshire, Scotland and immigrated to New York when he was 18. He engaged in mining and prospecting across the USA, eventually arriving on the Pacific Coast. He prospected in the Omineca district for some years. After coming to Victoria in 1881, he established a grocery business on Johnson Street and then in 1882, opened a broom factory in Victoria West. His Victoria home, which he built circa 1892 at 215 Wilson Street, is now a designated heritage structure. About 1898, he moved the broom business to Gordon Head and built his first house here, now demolished. He was one of the first local farmers to grow strawberries. Strachan was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1900. In 1906, he performed the swearing in of the first Saanich Council, continuing this duty until his death in 1921. He was also a long-time president of the Saanich Liberal Association. His wife, Isabella Strachan (circa 1842-1903), whom he married in 1882, died of typhoid fever.

This vernacular Edwardian bungalow was Strachan's second house in Gordon Head. It displays typical features of Edwardian era houses, including a hipped roof with dormers on three sides, a hipped-roof verandah across the front, and a shed-roofed addition at the back. Original columns and brackets still exist behind the solid panels of glazing that enclose the verandah. The Welchman family has owned the house since 1936.



**TIGARA (later NETHERBY)**

**4305 Gordon Head Road**

Frederick & Katherine Appleton, Owners; circa 1915  
 Rose & Peter Rowe, Owners; additions circa 1925-28  
 Wilfred Melhuish, Contractor; additions circa 1925-1928

Frederick Appleton (1850-1935) and Katherine Appleton (née Crosson, 1866-1935) purchased this property in 1900. This house was the second of two Appleton houses; the first small cottage is now at 4345 Gordon Head Road. In 1910, Frederick, who was in the real estate business, subdivided his property into residential lots, with the smallest lot at two acres. This was the first Gordon Head subdivision not intended for farming.

In 1925 the house was moved about one hundred yards. A local builder, Wilfred Melhuish, renovated it for later owners Peter Trimble Rowe (1856-1942) and Rose Rowe (née Fullerton, 1881-1971). Melhuish added the large porch to the house. Born in 1856, near Toronto, Peter Rowe trained for the ministry at Trinity College, University of Toronto. While working with loggers and trappers near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, he was asked by the American Episcopal Church to establish a mission at Sitka, Alaska. He agreed, and in 1898 was elected the first

Episcopal Bishop of Alaska. Thereafter, his family moved to Seattle and, in 1926, to Saanich. The Rowes bought the Appleton house and ten acres of land for \$16,500. They called it Tigara, an Inuit word meaning "the point." Rowe remained in Alaska most of the year, returning home to his family three or four times a year, for a week at a time.

The third owners, the Reids, named the house Netherby. Duroid shingles were applied over the original lapped wooden siding. The current owners, Pat and Susanne Bulmer, have removed the duroid shingles and much of the 1920s renovation, to restore the house to its earlier appearance. The Bulmers added a new entrance porch with pergola. It retains its wooden windows, hipped roof, cantilevered bays and a jerkin-headed gable. The Bulmers also moved a summer house to this site from the Queenswood estate on Arbutus Road, now owned by the Sisters of St. Ann. The summer house was designed by Hubert Savage about 1928.



Summer House 2007 [Suzanne Bulmer Photo]

**PATERSON RESIDENCE**

**4488 Gordon Point Lane**

Walter & Christina Paterson, Owners  
 Samuel Maclure, Architect (attributed);  
 1921



The design of this dignified British Arts and Crafts house is attributed to renowned architect Samuel Maclure, who designed it for original owner, Campbell Paterson. Campbell Paterson gained title to the property in 1918 and construction of the house was completed in 1921. Upon its completion, Campbell gifted this house to his brother Walter Paterson (1860-1938) and his wife Christina Paterson (nee Noble, 1864-1938). Walter was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland and lived in Duncan for many years before moving into the Gordon Head area. He worked for the Cowichan Creamery for a number of years. His wife, Christina, was born in Glasgow, Scotland. Walter and Christina had five daughters and three sons.

A broad hipped roof is used to unify the design, enlivened with projecting gables, eyebrow dormers and internal brick chimneys. Half-timbering in the peak of the prominent front gable dormer, eave brackets and triple-paned casement windows add a note of elegance. Plans by Maclure exist for a separate garage and stable, dated 1919-25; the stable still stands. A gardener's shed and a gardener's cottage also existed on the property at one time. While expressed in a traditional, British idiom, the overall horizontality of the design show a familiarity with the latest architectural trends, such as the work of Frank Lloyd Wright whose Prairie style houses were based on horizontal planes. Maclure corresponded with Wright and was familiar with his work, and although he never adopted Wright's stylistic approach, his work demonstrates that he was exploring similar concepts of rationalized interior layouts and integration with the landscape.

## MADDOCK RESIDENCE

1430 Harvest Lane

Frederick & Kathleen Maddock, Owners;  
circa 1922



## PITHER / LAMBRICK RESIDENCE

4135 Lambrick Way

Rowland Machin / Luke & Margaret Pither, Owners; circa 1908

**P**rior to the First World War, Frederick Stanley Maddock (1883-1963) was in the contracting business in Medicine Hat, Alberta. His wife was Kathleen Elizabeth Maddock (née Lord, 1887-1974). After the war, the family moved to Saanich and Stanley designed and built this home. In 1921, he built a small shed and they used it as a cottage while he was building the main house. Maddock taught building trades at Oak Bay High School for many years.

This is a cross-gabled Craftsman house with double-coursed cedar shingle siding, half-timbered gables and casement windows. It demonstrates the resurgence of the Craftsman style in the 1920s, when residential construction started up again after the end of the First World War. The Maddock's son lived here until after 2000.

**R**owland Machin (1848-1907) planted berries, peaches and apples on this property, and then sold it to Luke Pither in 1909; it is possible that the house had been built by the time it was sold. Pither's company, Pither & Leiser, Limited, was a major British Columbia importer of wines, liquors and cigars. In 1906-07 they built their new headquarters at the corner of Wharf and Fort Streets, now known as the Dogwood Building. Luke Pither (1856-1932) and his wife Margaret "Madge" Sparkes Pither (née Thomson, 1854-1915) bought this farm to use initially as a summer home. They later converted it into a 52-acre model poultry farm. About 1924, Arthur Graham Lambrick (1892-1967), Reeve of Saanich (1939-1940 & 1946) and Clara Eaton Lambrick (née, Sedgman, 1887-1973) bought ten of Pither's acres and started a dairy business. They gradually acquired all the land from Pither's second wife, Elizabeth Jane, and moved into the main house about 1944. Lambrick was a

well-respected farmer and eventually became chairman of the Vancouver Island Milk Producers' Association. He was also well-known for his service to the community, and served two terms as Reeve. In 1966, Lambrick sold the farm to the District of Saanich, which created the park that is now named after Lambrick. The association of the house and land with farming is valuable as a demonstration of the role of agriculture in the fabric of the social and economic history of Saanich. The house is now used for integrated recreation for the disabled.

With a hipped roof, hipped dormers on three sides, and a hipped addition at the back, this house is an excellent example of an Edwardian era bungalow. It has a full inset front veranda, deep eaves with flat eave brackets, paired square columns and low balustrades with square balusters. The foundation is fieldstone granite, and the house is clad with cedar shingle siding.



**DODD HOUSE**  
**4139 Lambrick Way**

Captain Charles & Grace Dodd, Owners; 1859-1860

The oldest house still standing in Saanich and one of the oldest in Greater Victoria, was built on approximately 276 acres of land in Gordon Head for Captain Charles Dodd and Grace Dodd (née McTavish), as a country home. Their town residence was near St. John's Anglican Church, the Iron Church that stood on the property where the Hudson's Bay Company department store was later built. Dodd House is a simple Frontier cottage, clad in shingles, with a sitting room, two bedrooms and a lean-to kitchen. The tall, double-hung windows are arranged in pairs. The interior, with its 12-foot high ceilings, is lined in redwood tongue-and-groove boards with decorative mouldings of a quality that could not be obtained in southern Vancouver Island at the time of the house's construction. The redwood was imported from California, an indication of the dominant trading pattern of the Island prior to the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway on the coast in the 1880s as well as Dodd's ability to acquire high quality materials using his professional relationships. It is also valued as the earliest known house on Vancouver Island to have been constructed using balloon framing techniques, rather than the Hudson Bay Company's method of adzed log wall construction.

Captain Dodd, a servant of the Hudson's Bay Company, came to the coast in 1835 on the HBC's paddle wheeler *S.S. Beaver*, the first steamship to operate in the waters around Vancouver Island. He was promoted to master of the

*S.S. Beaver* in 1845, and was later master of the *S.S. Labouchere*. He eventually became HBC Chief Factor for the Northwest Coast. Charles Dodd died on June 2, 1860; he was commemorated by the naming of Dodd Narrows, between Vancouver Island and Mudge Island. A handsome tabletop monument over Dodd's grave still stands in Pioneer Square in Victoria.

Grace was born in HBC's York Factory in 1828, the daughter of Chief Factor John George McTavish, who had joined the North West Company in 1798, and was a partner by 1821 when it amalgamated with HBC. He was the second son of the Chief of Clan Tavish in Scotland and a close friend of HBC Governor George Simpson. Her mother was Nancy McKenzie, his mixed-blood "country wife" from about 1813 to 1830, when he cast her aside without making provision for her or her daughters, as was the custom, and married a Scottish woman. Grace married Charles Dodd in a Catholic ceremony in Fort Vancouver in 1842, when she was 14 years old. She then travelled with Dodd on his ships to various HBC trading posts. Their first three children were born in Fort Stikine, Fort Victoria and Fort Simpson, and the remaining four children were born in Victoria after 1849. Her sons were sent to England when old enough, to be properly schooled. When Charles died, Roderick Finlayson and William Fraser Tolmie were appointed Trustees of his estate and guardians of Grace and her children. Grace had seven children at the time of Charles' death. Grace lived in this country home in what was called at that time the Cedar Hill district, and in 1863 was charged in court for harbouring deserters from a ship. In 1864, Grace Dodd was remarried to Alfred Gorridge, also of Cedar Hill district. They had a daughter, Grace, but Alfred was rumoured to be after the Dodd money, and did make off with the Dodd property. It appears that Grace left him, and died in 1881 in Oregon. Research on Grace Dodd and Family, by Caroline Duncan.

In 1978, the house was moved to Lambrick Park from its original location at the corner of Kenmore Road and Torquay Drive, by developer Charles Van Veen to allow subdivision of the property where the house once stood. The Saanich Heritage Foundation manages this property on behalf of the municipality. The rental income supports the continuous restoration and maintenance of Dodd House.



**EVANS RESIDENCE**  
**1824 Leabrook Place**

William & Ethel Evans, Owners; circa 1913

William Edward Evans, a carpenter and farmer, likely built this house. He and wife Ethel May owned the property until 1919. The house is a hipped-roof Edwardian era bungalow with shed-roofed dormers on three sides. The verandah is inset beneath the main roof and there are six large, square verandah columns with a low balustrade. The siding is board-and-batten and the main floor windows are multi-paned casements. The Evans later won a sweepstake and used their winnings to move to New Zealand.

## **THE CROFT**

### **1827 Leabrook Place**

Lieutenant-Colonel James & Margaret Scroggie, Owners; circa 1922



*J*ames Scroggie (1859-1948) emigrated from Aberdeen, Scotland about 1875 and engaged in financial business in Winnipeg. In 1907 he joined the newly formed Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and became one of its first officers. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Following the First World War, James and his wife Margaret (née Ross, 1858-1945) moved to Gordon Head, and James's occupation was listed as "inspector of branches" with a trust company.

*The Croft* is a British Arts and Crafts-style house with stucco siding and multi-paned casement windows. The steep cross-gabled roof has one main gabled dormer and four shed-roofed dormers. Vertical emphasis is provided by two brick chimneys, the main wide one above the gabled dormer. Ivy festoons the house on all sides.



## **MEACOCK RESIDENCE**

### **1542 Mount Douglas Cross Road**

Kate & Arthur Meacock, Owners; circa 1913

*A*rthur Robert Meacock (1870-1968) and Kate Meacock (née Allan, born in Ontario in 1881) were fruit growers who lived on Tyndall Avenue before building this house. Arthur came to Canada in 1895 from his native London, England, and in 1901 he and Kate and two little daughters were living on Douglas Street by Beacon Hill Park and Arthur was working as a butcher. The Meacocks only lived in this house about two years. They divorced, and Katherine married Henry William Britten in 1922. During the 1920s, there was a pheasant farm on the property.

This two-storey Foursquare house has a bellcast hipped roof. The generous wraparound verandah, with large square columns, has been completely enclosed. The expansiveness of the house demonstrates the prosperity of the Edwardian era, when many farming families could afford to build such grand houses.



**CROSSWAYS  
CLARK RESIDENCE  
1560 Mount Douglas Cross  
Road**

Robert & Marion Clark, Owners; circa 1912



[Pat Summers Collection]

With its bellcast hipped roof and two small flat-topped towers that contain open sleeping porches, this eclectic house displays an overtly oriental influence. Other features include shed-roofed dormers with a distinctive curve on three sides of the house and three large brick chimneys, two of them placed symmetrically behind the towers. The front façade, facing Cedar Hill Road, is symmetrical; the towers sit on the roof above the bays, with a dormer between the towers. A deep verandah on the front wraps around each end, sheltering corner bay windows. Wide Tudor arches sit between the square verandah columns. The foundation and steps are constructed of brick.

The first documented owner of the house was Robert Clark (1885-1922), a real estate agent, manager at Fairalls Limited and former Saanich councillor. In 1912 he married Marion Margaret (1885-1960) of the Offerhaus family, early Saanich pioneers. It is not certain if the house was built for the Clarks, or for previous owners. The property was sold shortly after Robert's death in 1922.



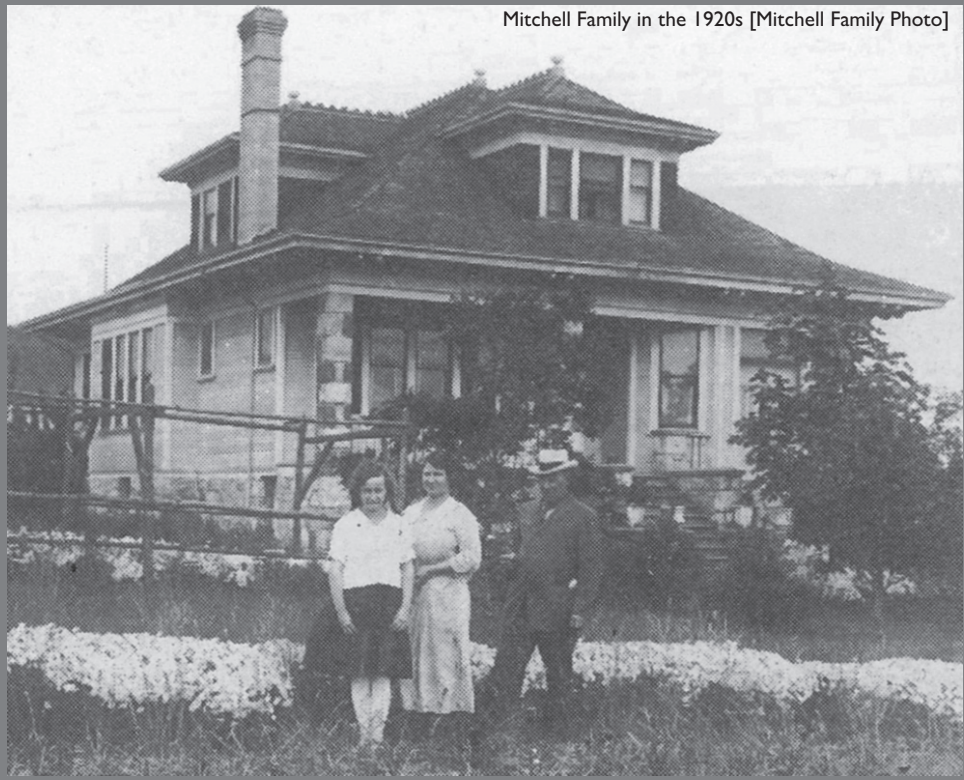
**AVALON  
1955 Saltair Crescent**

Edward & Florence Mitchell, Owners  
William F. Drysdale, Designer/Builder;  
circa 1910-12

The Mitchells came to Saanich from Toronto and like many other Gordon Head farmers, they grew strawberries and, later, daffodils. Edward Hamilton Mitchell (1874-1929) planted many of the trees on Ferndale Road. He suffered a tragic death from hornet stings in 1929. His widow, Florence Rebecca Mitchell (née McInnis, 1883-1962) lived in the house until her death, and the house remains in the Mitchell family. Their daughter Inez was assistant

provincial archivist from 1954 until 1971, and her sister Yrma married Mark, the youngest son of famous author, Nellie McClung and her husband Wesley McClung (see 1861 Ferndale Road).

Contractor William F. Drysdale probably designed and built Avalon, a vernacular Edwardian bungalow with a bellcast, hipped roof and four hipped-roof dormers with paired modillions under the soffits of the dormers and main roof. The foundation and steps are constructed of granite, most likely quarried on the property. The main floor has double-bevelled siding and the dormers are shingled. The verandah, inset on the south corner of the front façade, has distinctive granite piers with alternating light and dark stone. The balusters are flat boards with cutouts, displaying the influence of the British Arts and Crafts style.



Mitchell Family in the 1920s [Mitchell Family Photo]

**GRANT RESIDENCE**  
**4320 Torquay Drive**  
William & Isabella Grant, Owners; 1905

This was the Grants' third and last Gordon Head house. In 1888, William Charles Grant and his brother James bought land near present-day Tyndall Avenue (their sister Elizabeth married George Watson; see 1775 Barrie Road). William Grant (1862-1946) and Isabella Grant (née Eddie, 1865-1952) had two houses on that land, first *Homewood* and then, further north, *Craigellachie*, on the property that is now *Strangewood* (see 1800 Ferndale). William was the first farmer to grow strawberries in Gordon Head commercially and was a Saanich councillor in 1906 and 1907. In 1905 he bought part of the Pollock property (which had belonged to Captain Dodd; see 4139 Lambrick Way), and the Grants built this new house. In anticipation of the British Columbia Electric Company installing lines in Gordon Head, they installed wiring. Unfortunately, electricity did not reach the area until 1921, by which time the Grants had departed for the Cariboo district.

The house is another example of a vernacular hipped-roof bungalow with dormers on the bellcast roof that allow the use of attic rooms. There are



modillions under the soffits and the exterior is cedar shingled. The front porch, which had been enclosed, has now been restored as part of a major restoration project in the 1990s, which won owners Patricia Ball and John Clemens a 1998 Hallmark Society Award. The Grant family, including their son, James E. Grant, his wife Sybil and their children, have been very important in the early history of Gordon Head and Cordova Bay. This is the only house associated with the Grants that has survived in Gordon Head.

**GORDON HEAD COMMUNITY HALL**  
**4146 Tyndall Avenue**  
Gordon Head Mutual Improvement Society, Owners; 1898

In 1896, local school teacher Walter Clayton founded the Gordon Head Mutual Improvement Society for the purposes of 'music, literary exercises and social intercourse.' Two years later, a community hall was built to house the group at the top of Tyndall Hill on land donated by W.C. Grant (see 4320 Torquay Drive). Community volunteers built the hall using donated materials, and it opened on November 25, 1898. The first Trustees were W.C. Grant, I. Somers and A. Strachan (see 4246 Gordon Head Road). The hall was used for concerts, dances, meetings, bridge parties and other community events. In this farming area, families were scattered and there was a great need for social events that would bring the community together. The Society was the centre of community life for many years, but as conditions in this rural community changed, the hall fell into disrepair. The original Society was disbanded in 1929 and the hall was sold for back taxes in 1931. A.G. Lambrick (see 4135 Lambrick Way) ensured the hall's continued existence by paying to have the building relocated onto his land. In June 1932, it took contractor, builder and house-mover Ed Rainaldi ten days to move the structure down Tyndall Hill. A new kitchen and the shed-roofed addition were added to the hall, along with an



extension to the south side for carpet bowling. Lambrick leased the hall to the Gordon Head Badminton Club, then the Gordon Head Athletic Association. During the Second World War, the hall was used for community war work. In 1945 the defunct Gordon Head Mutual Improvement Society was revived and the Society purchased the building and land from Lambrick in 1946. The hall has since become a meeting place for Guides and Scouts, and the Garden Club started by Ed Renouf in 1955. Over a century after its construction, the building still fosters a sense of community in this active and expanding neighbourhood. It is now located with the boundaries of Lambrick Park.





## MACKAY RESIDENCE

4281 Tyndall Avenue

William & Belle Mackay, Owners; circa 1908

on August 13, 1908. The Mackays established a large orchard between the house and Feltham Road. However, when Belle's health did not show signs of improvement, they moved back to their house on the Red River near Winnipeg, to be closer to family and familiar surroundings. Real estate and financial agent, Senator Robert Francis Green (1861-1946) and his wife Cecelia Elizabeth Green (née McDaniel, 1864-1949) bought the property in 1912. They rented the house to William Tucker (1881-1956) a florist and gardener, and his wife Lottie Sarah Tucker (née Hicks, 1882-1964) until 1935.

This farmhouse is built in the Queen Anne style, which by this time had been superseded by more modern styles. It features a picturesque roofline of gables and gable-on-hip projections, and a hipped roof on the wraparound verandah. The verandah features fancy scroll-cut brackets, there are front and side bay windows, and coloured art glass in several of the windows. Most of the windows are double-hung sashes with window horns on the top sashes. A former water tower is still attached at the rear, now adapted as part of the living space of the house.

The Mackays were both descended from original Selkirk settlers who had come out to Manitoba from Scotland in 1815. Belle's health was poor, and it was felt the more benign climate of the West Coast might improve her health. William Mackay came out to Saanich, bought land on Tyndall Avenue, and built this house with the help of William J. Williamson (1865-1938), a neighbour and a shipwright carpenter. William then sent for Belle and their children. Their last son was born in this house

[Saanich Archives 1980-010-023]



## VANTREIGHT RESIDENCE

4423 Tyndall Avenue

Winnifred & Geoffrey Vantreight, Senior, Owners; 1922

Winnifred Maude Vantreight (née Bartholomew, 1891-1940) and Geoffrey Arthur Vantreight (1880-1959) were married in 1914 and lived for eight years in a small house at 4417 Tyndall. After a successful year of fruit growing, the Vantreights, who had three children, had this grand house built just to the north, on the top of the hill. After Winnifred died in 1940, Geoffrey married his second wife, Hilda Mary Maber Rushon (circa 1898-1966). About 1915 Vantreight acquired some daffodil bulbs from a neighbour, William T. Edwards, and began to grow the crop that has made the family name famous. Geoffrey died in 1959, but his son G.A. Vantreight, Junior, and his grandsons have carried on the business. In the mid-1950s, they made a contract with the Canadian Cancer Society to supply the Society with daffodils for their April fund drive; for many years, the Vantreights were their sole suppliers of daffodils for across the country. G.A. Vantreight, father and son, were Saanich councillors for many years.

This eclectic two-storey, hipped-roof house has many features that show the influence of the Arts and Crafts style. Two prominent gables front the house, one on either side of a tall porte-cochère topped by a balcony.



A wraparound verandah stands on the south side and at the back; the back portion has been filled in for many years. Rough-cut fieldstone was used for the foundation, verandah piers and porte-cochère piers. There is a sleeping porch on top of one corner of the main verandah. Stucco was used as the main cladding, with half-timbering in the gable ends. A hexagonal cupola stands on top of the main roof, and three parged chimneys provide vertical punctuation. There are segmental arches and criss-crossed balusters on the porte-cochère, verandah and sleeping porch. The elaborate articulation of this house demonstrates the late persistence of the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement well into the years that followed the end of the First World War.

Tank house and well behind 4423 Tyndall Avenue  
[Saanich Archives 1984-012-028]



## CLARK RESIDENCE

4445 Tyndall Avenue

John & Wilhemina Clark, Owners;  
circa 1903



John (1843-1921), a farmer and a native of the Shetland Islands, bought 10 acres on Tyndall Avenue in 1901 and moved from Victoria West with his wife Wilhemina (1833-1907). They had come to Canada in 1873, and in Owen Sound, Ontario, met fellow Shetland Islander William John Williamson (1865-1938), a shipwright and carpenter, who came to Canada in 1887. They all came to Victoria in the early 1890s, and lived in Victoria West, where Williamson boarded with the Clarks until marrying their eldest daughter Wilhemina in 1894. The Williamsons moved to Gordon Head about the same time as the Clarks, and bought 10 acres south of the Clarks. The Clarks' youngest daughter, Andrina ("Ene" was listed as a dressmaker in the 1901 census, when they still lived in Victoria West) married fruit grower James William Mowat in 1911, and they lived with her widowed father in this house and looked after him until his death. Wilhelmina Williamson died two months before her father. Andrina died in 1934, James in 1938, and the house passed to their niece, Wilhemina "Minnie" (Williamson) Sargeant (1901-1970), who sold the property in 1940.

This wood-frame house is clad in brick, which has been painted. The use of masonry for residences was unusual at the time. It is side-gabled, with a shingled gabled dormer on the front, and several additions to the rear. The window openings on the brick are segmentally arched, with double-hung sashes. The carport and the wooden front entry porch are newer additions.



## OZARD RESIDENCE

4456 Tyndall Avenue

Elizabeth & William Ozard,  
Owners; circa 1908

Winnipeg Tribune, and worked here as a compositor for the Daily Colonist and later for the Victoria Times. For many years, Marguerite taught for the Saanich School Board, first at Strawberry Vale School, and from

1920 until her retirement in 1932 she was the principal of Craigflower School. Marguerite was still living here and operating part of the original family farm at the time of her death in 1954.

Elizabeth Thomasina Ozard (née Simons, 1850-1918) and William N. Ozard (circa 1849-1909), a fruit grower, both came from Alderney, one of the Channel Islands, in the early 1870s and settled in Chatham, Ontario, where their four sons and one daughter were born. They relocated to Winnipeg about 1891 and then to Victoria about 1908, when they moved into this house. Their sons, Harry MacDonald Ozard (1882-1944)—a farmer who probably built this house—and Walter John Ozard (1879-1936), and their daughter, Marguerite Jane Ozard (1876-1954), continued to farm the land after their parents' deaths. Walter also worked as a typesetter; he apprenticed with the

The house is a cross-gabled, two-storey structure with double-bevelled siding, and shingles in the gables. Archival photographs show the house under construction and after completion. These indicate that the front windows on the forward wing have been increased in size; there were originally two on the main floor and one above. The detailing of the inset corner verandah was also changed at an early date, from the original scroll-cut detailing to Edwardian-era paired square columns, a change undoubtedly undertaken to "modernize" the appearance of the house.



Ozard House, c.1905 [Saanich Archives 1980-009-002a]

## TOWNSEND RESIDENCE 1901 Wenman Drive

Barbara & James Townsend, Owners  
William F. Drysdale, Designer / Builder;  
circa 1913

[Saanich Archives 2006-015-041b]



Barbara Townsend (née Gerrie, 1860-1915) and James Townsend (1851-1941) first settled further south in Gordon Head and built 1790 Feltham Road (which has had a number of exterior changes) in approximately 1900. In 1913 they sold their property to Chinese market gardeners, Louie Fun and Louie Hing, and moved to San Juan Avenue. The Townsends lived in tents on the property while William F. Drysdale constructed their new house. It is believed that Drysdale also designed the house. After Barbara died, James married a widow from the Arbutus Road area, Annie Matilda Cullum (née Braimer; 1876-1951) in 1917. James Townsend worked as a farmer and rancher his entire life.

This one-and-a-half storey house is front-gabled, with British Arts and Crafts details. George Watson (see 1775 Barrie Road) was hired to undertake the granite masonry work for the foundation, front steps and wall. The front gable includes half-timbering and roughcast stucco along with bellcast cedar shingles above jettied second floor windows. There have been recent additions on the rear and side. The front of the property was subdivided in the 1980s for an adjacent new house.

## ACRYSE 2144 Wenman Drive

John & Alice Wenman,  
Owners  
Edward James Merrett,  
Builder; 1913



Acryse was built for John Wenman (1860-1950) and Alice Cordelia Wenman (née Hilder, 1879-1946) by contractor Edward James Merrett in 1913. Merrett's ledgers detailing the costs, time and subcontractors for the job still exist. The identity of the architect is not known, but the house displays a sophisticated understanding of the contemporary styles of the Edwardian era, and has many characteristics of the Prairie style.

The symmetrical front façade has a projecting central sleeping porch (now glazed) above a full-width verandah. The foundation and verandah piers are constructed of granite taken from the property. Richard Williams undertook the masonry work. The main floor is bullnosed bevelled wood siding and the upper storey is shingled. All the roofs are low-pitched and hipped. The wooden verandah balustrade has unusual open segmental arches. A former conservatory on the south side has now been enclosed.

John Wenman's parents homesteaded near Toronto until about 1870 and later went to

Souris, Manitoba, for better soil conditions. John and Alice were married in Manitoba in 1902, but Alice did not enjoy the cold prairie winters. They returned to England in 1906, and then immigrated to Victoria in 1912, so their children could be raised in Canada. They bought ten acres in Gordon Head at the height of the land boom, for \$2,000 an acre, and the house cost approximately \$12,000 by the time it was completed about 1920. The Wenmans were "gentleman farmers" who grew strawberries and daffodils. John and his two sons, William Reginald Gower (1903-1988) and John "Godfrey" (1907-1959), were famous local cricketers. Reg, who was also a rugby player and all-round athlete, married Evelyn Margaret Lytton (1914-1994), daughter of Claude and Ethel Lytton. Reg attended University School and then taught there from 1925 until his retirement in 1971. He, Evelyn and their family lived at University School until the early 1950s, and then moved into this house two years after his father died. The house is now owned and occupied by granddaughter Joan Wenman and her family.

Alice Wenman, c. 1920 [Joan Wenman Collection]

