

Melissa Park Lodge
2175 Mary Hill Road
Port Coquitlam, BC



Description:

Melissa Park Lodge is located in the Downtown area of Port Coquitlam at 2175 Mary Hill Road and sits in the centre of its site with two tall mature cedar trees on either side of the main entry stairs and a paved driveway at the south edge of the lot that leads to a detached garage. It is an impressive two-and-a-half storey wood-frame house covered with simulated-wood shingle siding, with a projecting gable covered front porch, a multi-level hip roof and small front, hipped-roof dormer. The rear of the building has a multi-storey deck that leads to a small grass lawn and two mature trees, one deciduous and one evergreen.

Heritage Value:

Constructed in 1910, the house now known as Melissa Park Lodge is important for its historic, aesthetic and cultural significance.

The Lodge has **historic significance** for its age, and for its association with early Port Coquitlam pioneers and the institution Essondale (Riverview Hospital).

In addition to being one hundred years old at the writing of this statement, the building and site have strong ties to Port Coquitlam's past. Development of the property took place prior to the City of Port Coquitlam being incorporated in 1913. Prior to that, the house was a part of the City of Coquitlam.

Originally a single-family home, the house has valued associations with a number of important Port Coquitlam families. The house was built as the home for Mr. Wallace Fraser, contractor (1874-1955) and his wife Maud Jane (nee McLean 1906-1969). This creates a link to the first European pioneer family that settled in the region. Maud's father, Donald McLean, was three years old when his family sailed up the Pitt River with fifty head of cattle to begin life anew. Mr. McLean is also known for being one of 157 property owners who signed the petition for Port Coquitlam's incorporation and for deeding some of his land to the Presbyterian Church in the early 1900s.

The Frasers lived in the house until approximately 1945, after which there were a number of different short-term owners. The property was purchased by Kenneth and Dorothy Scovil in 1950. The Scovils appear to have owned the property until 1965, when they sold it to Harold and Eunice Salway.

A further association of the historic property is to Charles Davies, local well-known building contractor, who was hired to build the house and who is valued for having constructed the Commercial Hotel (1912) and City Hall (1914). He is also known for being City Alderman for 20 years (1926-1946) before becoming the City's seventh mayor for 10 years (1956-1966). [Need to confirm dates served]

The Lodge has **cultural significance** for its strong ties to the community.

Beginning in 1960, Harold and Eunice Salway converted the house into an outpatient facility that held up to twenty aged persons who were former Essondale patients. It then became known as 'Melissa House' and later as 'Melissa Park Lodge'. The house therefore has an interesting connection to the regionally significant Riverview Hospital, known locally as Essondale. Many Port Coquitlam residents had connections to this mental health facility through direct employment or support businesses.

The Melissa Park Lodge has **aesthetic significance** for its style, design and setting.

The house is valued for being an early example of a Craftsman Classic Box or 'foursquare' style. Similar to the Eastbourne designs, it shows an overall square plan massing, pyramidal hipped roof with dormer window, outer wood window trims, and classic turned columns on the projecting gable-covered front porch that are reminiscent of when the porch was a wrap-around open porch. Although altered over time, it is still possible to see the original solid and dignified design that offered the Frasers an image of stability.

Later additions of a projecting two-storey wing to the north-east side of the house, vinyl-cased windows, and simulated wood shingle siding, while covering original design and material elements, are legitimate changes to the house that have been largely the result of a change in use from residential to institutional. In most cases, the original architectural elements are still visible, as in the pyramidal hip roof and the front porch, which was closed in at some point and converted into interior space.

The setting of the Lodge is valued for its landmark status, due to the size and design of the house and to the large mature cedar trees flanking the front entrance. The location on Mary Hill Road in a context of single family and multi-family residential, as well as being adjacent to a school, is also key. The views from the site are equally important, in particular that of the school yard immediately to the west of the property and the mountains to the north.

Character-defining Elements:

Siting, Context and Landscape Qualities

- site on Mary Hill Road, two blocks south of the commercial core

- context within a mix of single-family and multi-family residential properties and is adjacent to a school
- view of adjacent school and mountains to the north
- relatively flat lot

Landscape Elements

- 2 mature cedar trees in the front yard
- 1 mature deciduous tree in the back yard
- 1 mature evergreen tree in the back yard

Exterior Architectural Qualities

- overall square plan and massing of the Craftsman style
- distinction between old and new additions through massing

Exterior Architectural Elements

- pyramidal hipped roof with dormer window
- implied cornice with dentils on west, east and south elevations
- classic turned columns on the projecting, gable-covered front porch
- fish-scale shingles within gable of front porch
- wood trim around front door
- wood trim around windows

Interior Architectural Elements

- wood doorway trims
- wood floor moldings
- metal floor grill in hallway near front entry
- original wood doors
- elements of original porch visible inside (window openings, location of original exterior wall and door, size of porch)