

Tillicum Area

2803 Adelaide Street
(750 Gorge Road West)

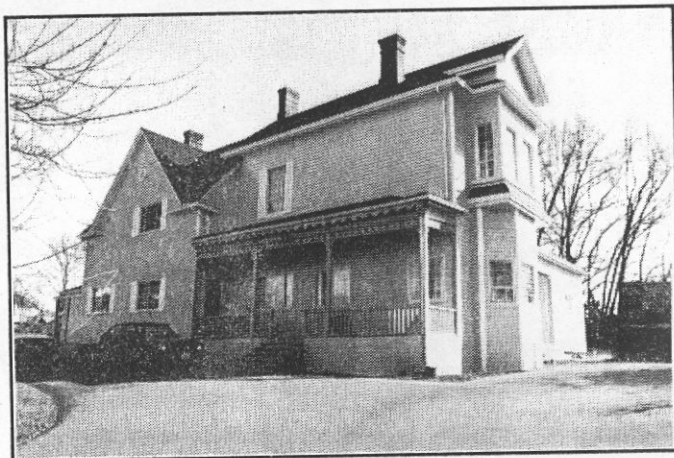
ca. 1878

Daniel Fowler and Adelaide Eliza McKiel Adams

Adams was born in New Brunswick in 1830. He went to San Francisco in 1852, where he became a member of one of the first Vigilante groups, in 1856. He reached Victoria in 1858 and became a builder and contractor. In 1862 he joined the Cariboo Gold Rush and spent four years in the fields. Adams nearly lost his life in 1866 in Death's Rapids near Big Bend on the Columbia River. A Hudson's Bay Company boat overturned and only four of the twenty men were pulled out alive. He returned to Victoria and resumed his contracting business. Adams constructed many buildings and bridges, both privately and publicly owned, in Victoria and around the province. He built a bridge over the Gorge. He owned and operated the Craigflower Grain Mill and the Columbia Sawmills on David Street. Daniel Adams died in 1905 and Adelaide in 1919. The family retained the property until 1945, when it was subdivided and Adelaide Street was developed.

In 1878 when their son John Benbow Adams was two, the Adams moved to ten acres on the Gorge. John, his three brothers and one sister went to Craigflower School (see 2755 Admirals Road). John trained as an assayer and worked in Dawson City during the Yukon Gold Rush. He later became Provincial Assayer and built 758 Gorge Road West on his family's property.

This Queen Anne house has lost much of its original detail, but is still an imposing structure, and is one of the oldest houses remaining in Saanich. Recently it was clad in vinyl siding. The original two-over-two double-hung sashes have been replaced with multi-pane Colonial-style windows and shutters. However, the unusual fretwork frieze on the side (now front) verandah has been retained.



2803 Adelaide Street. Middle: South facade. ca. 1910-1945. (BCARS HP36024) Bottom: view from Gorge Bridge looking west. Photo by Maynard (detail). House in centre is the Adams house. Pre-1900. (BCARS HP36025)

