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The Heritage Value of Fairfield

Fairfield is valued as the traditional territory of the Lekwammen people, showing evidence of 10,000 years of settlement. The Hudson's Bay Chief Factor James Douglas first landed on Clover Point in 1843. In 1858, he acquired a large property he called "Fairfield Farm" situated between present-day Cook Street, Dallas Road, Fort Street, and Arnold Avenue. To the east lay the lands of Joseph Pemberton and Isabella Ross, the first female landowner in BC.

Ross Bay Cemetery, which opened in 1873, is a National Historic Site and oldest designed landscape in BC. Several former premiers are buried there.

Known as Mee-QAN, Beacon Hill is a sacred place to indigenous people and is treasured as a public open space. Created in the 1860s, it was designed by landscape architect John Blair. Beacon Hill Park and the rugged coastline to the south boast world-class scenery of mountains, islands, and the sea.

Fairfield is a symbol of early suburban Victoria and the creation of a British colony. The area was absorbed into city boundaries in 1890, with much of it subdivided along the extension of streetcar lines from downtown in a building boom from 1907-1913.

Five Points Centre at Moss, Oxford and Fairfield was developed as a hub between 1909 and 1912 while Cook Street Village emerged during the building boom. Sir James Douglas School (1909) was built for a growing population and Fairfield United Church (1926) solidified the role of Five Points Centre as a community gathering place.

Many residents of Fairfield have valued their heritage homes with a restoration, often providing inspiration to neighbours. There are clusters of housing styles dotted around the community. Most houses north of May Street are pre-World War II, usually constructed as single-family dwellings on modest lots. Italianate, Victorian and Edwardian two-storey homes were the first to be built while California and Craftsmen bungalows appeared from the 1910s to the 1940s. British Arts and Crafts date from 1905-40 and Old English Cotswold Cottages appeared after WWII.

Statement of Significance

845 Bank Street

Built: c. 1940

Style: English Cottage



845 Bank Street is a modest example of an English Cottage. This style has its roots in the pastoral Cotswold region of England and is a significant part of the historic character of the Fairfield community.

Character-defining elements

English Cottage features such as:

- Asymmetrical design;
- Very steep cross gables;
- Prominent brick or stone chimney;
- Casement windows with small panes;
- Dormer windows;
- Small, irregularly shaped rooms.