

Statement of Significance - St. Andrew's Lodge – Qualicum Beach

Description

St. Andrew's Lodge, constructed on the waterfront along the Old Island Hwy, is a modest, vernacular Arts & Crafts building. Initially a one and one half storey home for Sam Little and his family, it grew to serve as a public accommodation for the middle class tourists interested in exploring the Qualicum Beach area. The designation of this historic building is limited to the building footprint.



Heritage Value

The Lodge has value as an early example of the kind of tourist accommodation that made Qualicum Beach a vacation destination. The building is reflective of the essence of simple, old-style hospitality that offered comfort to vacationers and travellers alike. It was also a popular stopping place for members of the armed forces during World War II who would often outnumber the beds and sleep on the couches, cots, and floor. Following the death of her parents, daughter Elizabeth continued to run the Lodge on her own, offering the same simple, clean accommodations at reasonable rates. The Lodge and Glen Cottages, later additions to the property, became an annual holiday destination for hundreds of families, some of them returning over the generations for more than 70 years. This longstanding service to the community emits a sense of time and place establishing Qualicum Beach as an early and ongoing popular vacation destination.

St. Andrew's Lodge is also significant for its association with the Little family. Simon (aka Sam) was a naval architect who designed many public buildings and homes in the area. His design for the Baptist church (now located adjacent to the Qualicum Beach railway station) became the template for small churches all over Canada. He was also responsible for the creation of the town crest of Qualicum Beach, the community hall, the original firehall, the theatre, and many other building designs that endure to this day. Elizabeth herself became a revered citizen of Qualicum Beach, responsible, among other things, for the founding of the Qualicum Beach Historical Society. She was named Citizen of the Year in 1983 and was honoured as the first Freeman of the town in 1998. When Elizabeth passed away in 2011, the town's flags flew at half-mast.

Through its architectural form and style, St. Andrew's Lodge is a good example of the roadside home and tourist accommodation from the mid to late 1900's. The 1 1/2 storey form, gabled roof and twin dormers, offset entry, and open eaves with exposed rafter tails all point towards the Arts & Crafts influence and provide the building with its distinctive, historic appearance. The interior wood trim, wainscotting and flooring along with the river rock fireplace and hand-hewn wood beams further reflect the Arts & Crafts character of the home. The more classical detailing of the roof pitch and leaded glass glazing along with the dovescotes reflect back to a hint of English Tudor influence.

Character Defining Elements

The key elements that define the character of this historic building and support its heritage values are:

- roadside location
- form and scale
- pitched, wood shingle clad, gabled roof with twin dormers, exposed rafter tails, and decorative dovescote openings in the front gables.
- multi-lite wood frame windows and doors
- large interior wood beams and posts, cedar wainscotting panelling and trim, and d.Fir flooring
- river rock fireplace with timber mantel