

# Gorge Road West

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### The Hamilton residence

The Hamilton residence was built in 1923 for Richard "Eric" Hamilton and his wife, Alice Stewart Hamilton. The house was designed by distinguished local architect Samuel Maclure and represents Craftman styling, a departure from his usual Arts and Crafts buildings. Although originally intended as a family home, a strong connection between the house and the Gorge Waterway was established early on.

Eric and Alice Hamilton sold their property to a wine shipper who came to Victoria in 1924. Richard Gilman Lyster Rodd and his wife, Mabel Winnifred, had five sons who were boat builders and cabinet makers. The Rodds' five sons set up a boat building business on the adjacent property.



**RODD BROTHERS**  
LAUNCH AND BOAT BUILDERS  
DESIGNERS AND ENGINEERS

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The historic Hamilton residence is now home to the Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club

The heritage designated Horspool home is located next to the open field in Gorge Waterway Park.

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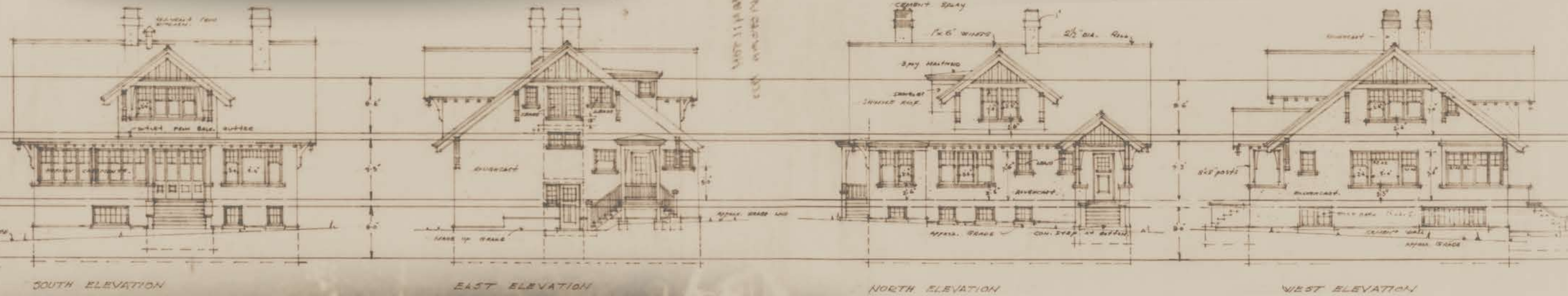
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### The Horspool residence

The Horspool residence was built on the north shore of the Gorge Waterway in 1933. The traditional Craftsman style brick-clad house was built for Matilda Horspool by her son Caleb Henry "Jack". Jack was a bricklayer and a contractor and is attributed with the construction of this house after his father, the elder Caleb, passed away.

The Horspool home featured a formal garden with landscaping that went down to the water's edge. A paved patio, a concrete pool structure and a low brick retaining wall were located close to the house. A concrete pool with a low stone wall and flanking stairs are all that remain from the original design.

In early 2015 the Horspool dwelling and landscape features were designated a Municipal Heritage Property. This heritage designation protects the residence as an important example of one of the finely crafted homes that lined the Gorge Waterway in the mid twentieth century era.



University of Victoria, Special Collections and University Archives, Samuel Maclure fonds, SC075



The Horspool garden looking towards Gorge Waterway (2016). Camossung public art installed in park.



Matilda Horspool with son Henry Caleb "Jack" who built the house (after 1933)  
Saanich Archives 2007-179-003



The Hamilton house in 2015

The historic boat-related use of the house continues with the Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club. They have rented the building from the District of Saanich since 1982 and provide recreational use of the Gorge Waterway.

