



**1. Craigflower School - 1854-55**  
2755 Admirals Road

Craigflower School, constructed in 1855, is the oldest surviving school building in Western Canada. It was built for the education of the Craigflower Farm employees' children.

This simple, side-gabled structure has brick chimneys at both ends, and reflects the HBC's favoured Georgian Revival vernacular. The 14-inch-thick walls are composed of sawn wooden siding applied to diagonal sheathing over standard Hudson's Bay Company log construction (pièce-sur-pièce). Lumber was sawn in the farm's mill, and rafted to the site; other components of the building, including the glass, hardware, and foundation bricks --stamped Stourbridge-- were imported from England.

William and Jane Newbury arrived in Victoria in 1863, after a five-month journey by way of Panama and San Francisco. William was a saddler and harness maker with a shop on Yates Street. The Newbury family with sons John, Cowper, and four daughters lived in the Craigflower School house during a period of time while John was the teacher (1878-1883).

Today the property is owned by the Province of BC. The Land Conservancy manages the property as an interpretive site open to the public.



**2. Craigflower Bridge Store**  
(later Brookmans Grocery & Flowers and Saanich Auto Repair) 1930 / 49 / 52  
2803 Admirals Road / 998 Gorge Road West

The two-storey Craigflower Bridge Store opened February 9, 1930. The first owners were "Arthur" Brookman (1875-1951), and Annie Margaret (1901-1977). Arthur emigrated from England and settled in Saanich by 1928. The Brookmans built and ran the store and a gas pump for many years.



In 1949 the Brookman family built a two-storey apartment / commercial block and a marine shop (now used as a service station). These two structures were the first local use of the prefabricated 'Pan-Abode' log construction system. This unique interlocking log system allowed the building to be constructed without the use of nails. The Pan-Abode International business continues to operate today out of Richmond, BC.

**3. Casey Residence - 1940**  
900 Gorge Road West

Irene (1898-1955) and Joseph Casey (1894-1974) were married in 1917. In 1946 Joseph was first elected to Saanich Council and later served as Reeve of Saanich from 1950 until 1955.

Contractor Herman Rupert Brown built this Moderne-style house. The curved upper front deck projects over the entranceway to form a canopy. The walls of the house are stuccoed and the top is edged with metal coping. The decorative insignia on the upper front wall and the cascading front steps are notable modernistic features.



**4. Harris Residence - c. 1916**  
2828 Inlet Avenue

A connection to the Saanich water lines occurred in 1916, most likely the date of construction for this house by owner & carpenter George Wilfred Harris. Unusual for having been built during wartime, the house displays fine detailing in the Craftsman-style, including a broad side-gabled roof with a projecting gabled-front wing, an inset corner verandah, cedar shingle siding and half-timbering in the gable ends. The bargeboards, window casings, watertable, multi-paned casement windows and porch columns are also typical features of the style.



**5. Koblehurst - 1911**  
2895 Colquitz Avenue

Willemetta (1875-1972) and Cowper Newbury (1866-1930) were both born in Victoria. Willemetta's parents arrived in Victoria in 1853 on the second voyage of the Norman Morison. Cowper's parents arrived in Victoria in 1863.

Around 1910 Willemetta and Cowper bought four lots from Cowper's brother, John, in order to retire to the "country." Cowper had worked more than 20 years in the Victoria Post Office. After they moved to Koblehurst, they cultivated a fine garden and exhibited at horticultural shows.

Koblehurst is one of Saanich's best examples of a Craftsman bungalow. One-and-one-half storeys in height, it has a low-pitched front-gabled roof, with large gabled dormers on each side. The verandah foundation, piers, and two chimneys are built of fieldstone. The main body of the house is cedar shingled, while the broad gables are half-timbered. The front verandah has a low-pitched gabled roof set on columns supported by two types of heavy brackets. Members of the Newbury family believe that it was designed and built by prominent home contractor David H. Bale.



BC Archives A-02934

**6. Desjardins Residence - 1955**  
2887 Colquitz Avenue

In January 1955, Romeo and Margaret C. Desjardins commissioned architect John A. Di Castri to design this modern-style stucco house. It is set on a concrete foundation with concrete steps to the upper level. The flat roof is tar and gravel, the fascia is plywood and the windows have wood frames. Frank Lloyd Wright's work exerted a strong influence on Di Castri's innovative style. This two-storey structure has a strong horizontal massing, emphasized by the wide fascia and the cantilevered canopies that project over the doors and windows. The dark colours of window glass and painted wood provide contrast to the lighter colour of the stucco.



**7. Houghton Residence - 1912**  
2850 Colquitz Avenue

Malcolm H. Houghton was a local builder who bought several lots in the area from John Newbury. From 1915 until 1932, Laura (1878-1969) and Herbert Pope (1877-1963), an assistant blacksmith, owned this house.

This side-gabled Craftsman bungalow has a large front gable over the verandah. The house has the typical features of the Craftsman style such as bargeboards with cut ends, triangular brackets under the eaves, exposed rafter tails, and shingled porch columns. Between the main and upper floors there is a belt course with dentil moulding. Typical features of the Craftsman style that have been retained are the siding of brown-stained cedar shingles, and the cedar shingle roofing.

**8. Eaket Residence - 1914**  
2833 Colquitz Avenue

Agnes (1863- 1942) and Charles Eaket (1861-1927) moved from Winchester, Manitoba to Saanich in 1911. As a retired farmer Charles continued to own a cow maintained a barn and sold milk.

This one-and-one-half-storey, side-gabled house displays a number of the classical details that were popular during the Edwardian era, such as pedimented gables, paired columns on the sleeping porch, and paired flat eave brackets. The main floor has four pairs of columns flanking an inset verandah on one side of the central entranceway, and an inset bay window on the other side. The verandah balustrade is closed, while that of the sleeping porch is open, and the house is clad in double-bevelled siding.



**9. Butcher Residence - 1913-15**  
2828 Colquitz Avenue

Born in England, Thomas Butcher (1868-1941) was a labourer and contractor for the City of Victoria. Thomas built several houses in the Saanich area including this bungalow. In 1918 Elizabeth (1880-1965) and Edward Wilkinson (1879-1961), a grocer, owned the property.

This house is a simplified version of the adjacent bungalow at 2826 Colquitz. Can you identify the differences

(See underlined elements at 2826 Colquitz for answers)

**10. O'Kelly Residence - 1911**  
2826 Colquitz Avenue

Hattie (1854-1922) and Herman O'Kelly (1853- 1930) were farmers originally from Virginia and Kentucky that moved to the Victoria area shortly before they built this house. This Edwardian vernacular bungalow was a standard builders' type where owners could choose details. The steeper sloped main roof is a bellcast, hipped roof and the wide dormers also have bellcast, hipped roofs. A semi-octagonal front bay window balances the inset front porch, which has chamfered square columns set on a closed balustrade.



**11. Newbury Residence - 1922**  
800 Gorge Road

John and Emma Newbury built this home in 1922. John (1862-1934), was the first British Columbia Recipient of the Governor-General's medal when he graduated from Victoria High School at the age of 14. In 1878, John became a teacher at Craigflower School, where he remained for five years. John left the school, entered the customs service, and was Collector of Customs for Victoria from 1904 until his retirement in 1922. About 1910, John bought 20 acres of land north of the Gorge, originally the Thomas Richard Porter farm. He subdivided the land into residential lots and named two of the streets on the property Newbury Street and Cowper Street.

A majority of the property in this local area--as elsewhere in Victoria--was developed in the boom years that preceded the First World War (c. 1910 - 1914).

John Cowper, who was the teacher at Craigflower Schoolhouse from 1878 to 1881, bought 20 acres of land along Gorge Road West in 1910. John subdivided the land into residential lots and named Newbury Street and Cowper Street after his family names.

## Subdivision 1910-1914

Saanich Pioneer Society  
Map compiled by direction of Chief  
Commissioner of Lands and Works, 1895



The Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company, established farms in the vicinity of the fur trade forts to reduce the need for importing goods from abroad, and to meet the Hudson's Bay Company's obligations to Britain to support colonization. In 1853 two of these farms were established along the south shore of the Gorge waterway, stretching from Four Mile Hill to Selkirk Water. Craigflower was a 900 acre farm managed by Kenneth McKenzie and Constance Cove Farm to the south of Craigflower was managed by Thomas Skinner. The Craigflower Manor (now an interpretive museum) can be seen across Craigflower Bridge from the Craigflower School house.

## Puget Sound Agricultural Co. c.1850s

Three surviving Christmas trees planted in 1880 by Craigflower students under the guidance of teacher John Newbury. (See No. 11 on Map)

### E. Fir Trees

back to the 1880s

### D. Maple Tree

This ancient Maple is visible in photos dating in the summer of 1933 while the present bridge was being built.

passengers across the waterway in his rowboat a hamburger stand. Brookman ferried bus remains of a Gorge Road Bus converted into slot machine in the 1930s. Next door was the store had a built by Art Brookman Senior, the store had a

### C. Craigflower Bridge Store

herself from her father in Winnipeg. assistance of his mother who learned the trade the world with a towel in his pocket") with the father, (a mason from England who "travelled named for the wife of prolific local builder Jack The apartments at 992 Gorge Road West were

### B. Catherine Court Apartments

This was a popular swimming area in the 1960s. The District of Saanich trucked in sand and built a swimming float.

### A. Rockwell Beach

Items of Interest (see map)

## A Brief History - Gorge Road West

Much of the Greater Victoria area is within the traditional territory of First Nations people who shared a common dialect of the North Straits Salish language that they called Lekwungen. These family groups are now represented by the Esquimalt and Songhees nations. Families lived in villages on these waterways and travelled seasonally to their fishing and hunting camps.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the land where the historic Craigflower Schoolhouse is now located was occupied by First Nations people long before the European settlers of the 1800s. An artefact found on the site, a crystal quartz micro blade, dates back 2,400 years. A village of the Sapsom people is referred to as Kosampsom in historical records.



First Nations woman digging clams in Esquimalt, 1904 - Saanich Archives 1981-019-098

The Sapsom People formed the basis of the Esquimalt Reserve in 1852. The village location at Maple Point on the north side of the narrows between the Gorge and Portage Inlet would have been important as a vantage point for protection, its canoe portage distance to Esquimalt Harbour and for the local food resources such as the salmon and herring runs. Archaeological investigations reveal that the Gorge area was an excellent source of oyster.

## Colonial Settlement c.1850s-1880s

The British Crown leased lands to the Hudson's Bay Company for farms on the condition that settlement would be established within five years. Lands were offered for sale at 1 Pound Sterling per acre, with rocky or swampy ground thrown in for free. By the late 1850s James Yates, Dr. John Kennedy and John Lemon (all former HBC employees) owned large parcels of land along the northeastern shore of the Gorge. Narrow strips of land were also granted in 1858 to six former Craigflower Farm workers in return for completing five years of contracted service. Arriving some years later were two more notable landowners, John Joel Austin and Provincial Auditor General Robert Ker. The latter's large Fernhurst farm is today marked by streets bearing Ker family names of Davida, Inez, Walter and Arnot.



## Welcome to Saanich Walking Tours

Saanich Heritage Walking Tours are provided to increase public awareness of Saanich Heritage.

The architectural information on each heritage structure – shown as numbered items on the map (over) – was provided by Donald Luxton & Associates Inc. and Jennifer Nell Barr.

Sources for historical background and points of interest include Dennis Minaker, historian and author; Grant Keddie, Curator of Archaeology at the Royal BC Museum; and Saanich Archives (www.saanicharchives.ca, 250-475-1775) & BC Archives.

For more information, see the Saanich Heritage Registry or www.saanich.ca

### Please Note:

All residences on the tour are privately owned and are not open to the public. Please remain on public property (i.e. the street) during the tour and respect the privacy of residents or owners.

Front cover photo credit:  
Saanich Archives 1981-013-004 Gorge Regatta (190-)

SAANICH HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

## Gorge Tour 1

ADMIRALS  
to  
COLQUITZ