

Walking Tour Five

Lampson Street - Highrock Park

1. The memorial was unveiled in August 2014 in memory of Lampson Street School students killed in action during the First World War. Elm trees around the perimeter of the schoolyard, along Lampson Street and Old Esquimalt Road, were planted as memorial trees in 1917.

2. Lampson Street Heritage Homes.

- “Brierly,” 948 Old Esquimalt Rd, was built about 1904/05 for Richard Jones, Inland Revenue Collector. In 1915, Norman Yarrow son of Sir Alfred Yarrow, purchased the house renaming it “Fairmont.” Sir Alfred purchased the BC Marine Railway Company in 1914 and renamed it Yarrows Limited. Norman managed the shipyard for 32 years. It is thought architect Samuel Maclure designed the house. Alterations and additions were designed by him in 1917.
- 721 Lampson St. was built in 1913 by Philip Austin as a wedding present for his bride Dorothy Leeming. Austin, an Esquimalt Councillor (1916), served as the Acting Consul for the French Consulate for many years.
- 727 Lampson St. was built in 1893 by Henry Nixon and sold to Leonard and Charlotte Leigh. Leigh, an undertaker by profession, came to Canada from the USA in 1887. Their son, Leonard Jr., was a founding partner of Leigh and Cuthbertson Confectionery in Vancouver. The house, one of the oldest in Esquimalt, was designated heritage in 1990.
- 729 Lampson St. was also built by Henry Nixon. Leonard and Charlotte Leigh moved into the larger home, remaining there until 1913 when they sold to Rev. Canon Harry Stocken. Rev. Stocken developed a written language for the Blackfoot Indians and printed Bibles for them on a printing press in the basement. Rev. Stocken was instrumental in having Memorial Park created.
- “Owee-Kay-No,” 733 Lampson St., built in 1908 by George Munro, was sold in 1911 to George and Lillian Simpson. He was the great-grandson of Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson’s Bay Company. Lillian was the daughter of the founder of the Gurd Ginger-Ale Company. The house name honours the people from Kwa-Kwa-Me on Schooner’s Passage killed in the 1848 massacre. The stone fence was made from rock that Lillian had blasted out from under the house one summer while George was at River’s Inlet Cannery. Part of “Firgrove,” the property is owned and managed by the Capital Region Housing Corporation.



733 Lampson

3. Cairn Park (see Tour 4). Veterans Cemetery National Historic Site, called “God’s Acre,” can be seen to the west. Access to the cemetery is off Colville Road. The cemetery is open daily for visitors.

4. Old Esquimalt Road was built in 1852 by sailors from HMS *Thetis* supervised by Lt. John Moresby, RN. The ship’s captain, Augustus Leopold Kuper and Moresby both had Islands named for them. Kuper Island was renamed Penelakut Island in 2010 to reflect its First Nations history.

- 1147 Old Esquimalt Rd. was owned by Frederick Moore who partnered with Col. John Albert Hall to establish the Victoria Chemical Company. Another interesting resident was William Hastie Cochrane, a well-known sportsman, weaver and poet. His family owned one of the largest woolen manufacturing plants in Scotland. He created a BC tartan in 1937 registered in Ottawa but not accepted by officials in Scotland. He was a veteran of the Boer War.
- 1154 Old Esquimalt Rd., designed by Herbert Frederick Bourne, CE, in 1938, was home for Arthur G. Patton and his wife Myra. A solicitor for the City of Victoria, he was connected to the Joker’s Club, a popular Victoria establishment in the 1930s and 40s. She was the daughter of veteran printer Frederick Shakespeare and granddaughter of Noah Shakespeare, Victoria postmaster (1888).
- 1158 Old Esquimalt Rd. was built by teacher Alex Hutchinson and his wife Olive Severs in 1939. Hutchinson attended the school for 10 years and taught there for 45 years. His family emigrated from England in 1908 and lived for a few years at 615 Fernhill road, then home of his Aunt, Mary Hunt.

5. Fernhill Road named for “Fernhill,” (see Tour 9) the residence of Charles E. and Elizabeth Fisher Pooley. Their 22-room house was demolished after a fire in 1932. Charles Pooley was a travelling companion of Chief Justice Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie (1819-1894) who trained him in law. Pooley, Registrar of the Courts for 12 years, was called to the bar in 1877. He represented Esquimalt in the provincial legislature for 24 years. Elizabeth Pooley laid the cornerstone of St. Paul’s Church at its present location in 1904. Pooley was involved in the Colonist Printing and Publishing Company and the Esquimalt Waterworks Company.



Fernhill

6. “Windford,” 657 Lampson St., was designed by architect John Gerhard Tiarks in 1894. The first resident, Robert Milne Jeffrey, was a cashier for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway. He and his wife Mary immigrated to Canada in 1887 settling in the Cowichan Valley where he worked as a miner. Before joining the railway, he was an accountant/bookkeeper/cashier for R.P. Rithet, Dunsmuir & Sons and the John Parker Butcher Shop. Completely restored in 1983, it was the first house in Esquimalt to receive heritage designation.



657 Lampson Street

