



HERITAGE DESIGNATION, REGISTER, CANDIDATES & POINTS OF INTEREST ELECTORAL AREA A – MILL BAY

Community Heritage Register

Included in the CVRD Community Heritage Register (CHR) is the Mill Bay Historic Church. The Mill Bay Historic Church is a white wooden one-storey steep-roofed church building with a prominent elevated entrance and arched windows dedicated in 1898. The church is surrounded to the north and the south by a cemetery. Situated on a large lot overlooking the Trans-Canada Highway, the church is located in the town of Mill Bay, as is the current location of the Heritage Museum. This historic place includes the church, the surrounding cemetery and grounds.

Candidates

Other heritage resources that may have significant heritage value and will be considered for inclusion in the CHR include but are not limited to the following:

1. *BC Ferries Terminal*: Located on Saanich Inlet off Mill Bay Road, the terminal was established in 1924 for the Mill Bay–Brentwood Bay route, which is the oldest continuous ferry route in BC. This heritage resource has many stories to tell about the history of Saanich Inlet and the community.
2. *BC Ferry MV Klitsa*: The MV *Klitsa* is a 1972-built K-class ferry operated by BC Ferries, serving the scenic Brentwood Bay–Mill Bay route, one of the oldest continuous ferry routes on the BC coast.
3. *Sylvania School Site*: Built in 1919, the school has been repurposed for community use supporting local clubs including the Mill Bay Lions Club.
4. *St. Francis Xavier Church*: Located at 790 Kilmalu Road in Mill Bay, this Catholic church is the oldest building in Mill Bay and the third oldest church in the Cowichan Valley. It has been in continual use since its conception and includes the church grounds and a cemetery.
5. *St. Francis Xavier Church Cemetery*: Located at 790 Kilmalu Road, this picturesque Catholic church cemetery celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2012.
6. *Stone Bridge*: This stone structure crosses Shawnigan Creek along the Barry Road right-of-way in Mill Bay Village. The bridge was built in the summer of 1966 by long-time resident Grant Garnett and his children, and is part of a trail network that, although privately owned, has been used for many years by Mill Bay residents.



7. *Third Mill Bay School*: The third Mill Bay School still stands on the site of Mill Bay Nature School. Built in 1914, it has heritage potential for its significance to the history of education in the life of early pioneers.

Points of Interest

Sites of noteworthy local interest.

1. *Bamberton Community Hall*: The hall was removed from its original location and was partially rebuilt in a new location on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road.
2. *Bamberton Manager's House*: The 1920s manager's house, with an orchard and swimming pool, is in poor condition but still standing and is privately owned.
3. *Bamberton School*: The school was removed from its original location and is now privately owned and used as a dwelling on Mutter Road.
4. *Bamberton Silos*: Two of the original cement silos still stand. They are currently used for cement produced in Vancouver, brought to Bamberton by barge and then shipped off to all parts of southern Vancouver Island.
5. *Cedarcrest Apartment Building*: Located along the north side of Barry Road, this is an older apartment building, unique in Mill Bay, accommodating ten units. There may be heritage features that can be restored or maintained.
6. *Cottages along Mill Bay Rd*: During the early part of the 20th century many cottages were built along Mill Bay Road to provide recreational retreats from Victoria. Some of these cottages are still standing and may have heritage value.
7. *McCurdy House*: Located on the Malahat, this house, built in 1911, is virtually unchanged and is still occupied by family members.
8. *Mill Stream Store*: The Mill Stream Store, built in 1933, was located on the corner of the highway and the Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road. It was moved to the north side of Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road and is a private home.
9. *Original Mill Bay Inn and Resort*: Built in the 1920s on Bakerview Road, this house and the site were once a resort destination. The original home is still used as a private dwelling.
10. *Original Mill Bay Mill Site*: Constructed at the mouth of Shawnigan Creek and the bay, the Original Mill Bay Mill Site was the site of the early water-powered sawmill gave the Mill



Bay community its name and may have local heritage significance. Although there are no remaining buildings or structures, the site gives testimony to the history of the forest industry and early pioneers. Interpretive signage may be desirable. Land is privately owned and Lashburn Road is now owned by Brentwood College.

11. *Original Mill Bay Stagecoach Depot*: Located on Cobble Hill Road, the original Mill Bay stagecoach stop is a privately-owned dwelling notable for its early architectural features as well as its historical significance, documenting the lives of early pioneers who arrived in Mill Bay via stagecoach.
12. *Queen Alexander Solarium*: Formerly located at the current site of Brentwood College in Mill Bay, the solarium was built in 1927 for the residence and rehabilitation of children with disabilities or injuries. It was the only one of its kind in Western Canada, and the location was chosen due to Mill Bay having the “best climate in British Columbia” (according to provincial archives).
13. *Rotary Trough*: Situated along Mill Bay Road, the structure was built in 1924 for visitors and residents travelling along the original Malahat Highway. This replaced the original wood trough erected on the site in 1911. The current structure is maintained by the Victoria Rotary and Malahat Nation.
14. *Saanich Inlet Whaling Station*: Verdier Point used to be the site of a whaling station, and there are many stories surrounding the site and the history of its early pioneers.
15. *The Rockhaul*: This is the route that was used to haul rock from the Cobble Hill Quarry to the Bamberton Cement Plant. It is still in place today, located off Trousse Road.