

# 5241 Koksilah Road House

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**Location:** 5241 Koksilah Road, Koksilah, BC

**Other Names:** The McLay House

**Construction Dates:** Unknown, approximately early 1900s



## Statement of Significance for 5241 Koksilah Road House

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### *Description of Historic Place*

5241 Koksilah Road House is a three-storey gabled-roofed residence with a stone foundation and a covered front porch, located in Koksilah, British Columbia. The formal recognition is limited to the building footprint.

### *Heritage Value*

Heritage value of the 5241 Koksilah Road House can be found in the building's historic integrity, in regards to character and materials. Several qualities of this building have led locals to believe the architect, and possible original owner, was Robert McLay Jr. The link between this important local figure and the building at 5241 Koksilah Road has significant heritage value to the community.

Through a study of the architecture and materials, the 5241 Koksilah Road House is believed to have been built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The character of this building speaks to the Arts and Crafts movement that swept through the Cowichan Valley during this time period. Original elements of this building that speak to the Arts and Crafts design include the river rock siding and the 'birds mouth' barge boards. Heritage value can be found in the well-preserved character and design of the 5241 Koksilah Road House.

A significant aspect of the 5241 Koksilah Road House's heritage value comes from its historic integrity. The interior of this building retains its original floorplan and many of its original materials, including Douglas fir floors. Original interior design features including a granite fireplace, wood built-ins, and wood panelling also contribute to this building's heritage

value. Many of the exterior materials of the 5241 Koksilah Road House also date to its time of construction, the early 1900s. These exterior materials include river rock masonry, wood-framed windows, and half log siding.

The final component of the 5241 Koksilah Road House's heritage value lies in this building's association with Robert McLay Jr. Local architect Robert McLay Jr is credited with the creation of many iconic and historic buildings in the Cowichan Valley, including the Duncan Garage and the Cowichan Creamery. The architecture, location, and era of the 5241 Koksilah Road House have led many locals to assume that Robert McLay Jr was the original architect of this building. As one of few buildings believed to have been designed by McLay, this building provides a rare representation of an individual who greatly contributed to the character of the Duncan community.

### *Character-Defining Elements*

Key elements that define the heritage character of the 5241 Koksilah Road House include:

- All original design features relating to the unique Arts and Crafts character of the building including the wood-framed leaded windows, 'birds mouth' barge boards, river rock porch walls, porte-cochere and columns, and the half log siding
- All original exterior materials, including the river rock masonry, wooden window frames, and half log siding
- All original interior features and materials including the granite fireplace, wood built-ins, and the Douglas fir wood panelling and flooring found throughout the house
- The building's position on its original location

