



## HERITAGE DESIGNATION, REGISTER AND CANDIDATES ELECTORAL AREA A – MILL BAY

### Community Heritage Register

Included in the CVRD Community Heritage Register (CHR) is the Mill Bay Historic Church. Built in the 1890s and now one of the oldest buildings in the Mill Bay area, the church commemorates the community and religious life of early pioneers, and its proximity to the original mill can provide residents with history relating to the roots of Mill Bay. The church hall, located behind the historic church, was built in the 1940s. Today, the church is important to local historic groups who wish to maintain a part of this local history. The site is now owned by the CVRD as a community park.

### 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. *The Original Mill Bay Mill Site*: Situated in Mill Bay Village, 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.
2. *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.
3. *The Queen Alexandra Solarium*: Located at 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). One building remains and is used as a residence at Brentwood University College.
4. *The 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.
5. *2nd Mill Bay School*: The 2nd Mill Bay School still stands on the former site of Ecole Mill Bay School. Built in 1914, it has heritage potential for its significance to the history of education in the life of early pioneers.
6. *The 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. *The 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 B.C. This heritage resource has many stories to tell about the history of Saanich Inlet and the community.
8. *The Cedarcrest Apartment Building*: Located along the north side of Barry Road, this is an older apartment building, unique in Mill Bay, accommodating 10 units. There may be heritage features that can be restored or maintained.
9. *Cottages along Mill Bay Road*: 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.
10. *The Bamberton School*: The school was removed from its original location and is now privately owned and used as a dwelling on Mutter Road.
11. *The 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.
12. *The Bamberton Bridge*: A rock bridge marked the boundary between the Bamberton manager's territory and that of the factory workers and their families. This bridge is still intact.
13. *Bamberton Town Site*: A rock wall still lines the road that led through the original town site, but the forest has reclaimed the space that once held the homes of cement factory workers and their families. The footings of the Bamberton community hall and school still exist today, although the buildings have been removed. There is still evidence of the tennis courts and bleachers that once stood next to the community hall at Bamberton.
14. *Bamberton Cement Factory*: The Bamberton cement factory opened in 1911 and operated as such until 1980. Although many buildings have been removed, it remains a lingering evidence of working life in the original Bamberton town site.
15. *The Bamberton Manager's House*: The 1920s manager's house, with an orchard and swimming pool, contrasts directly with the housekeeper's tiny home located right next door.
16. *The Bamberton Housekeeper's House*: This building has possible heritage value. It has been converted into a part of the Bamberton Historical Society's museum and currently showcases many fascinating artefacts.
17. *The Bamberton Commemorative Garden*: This garden is located near an intersection of the original Bamberton town site. At the foot of a large maple tree, a plaque explains that the maple sapling was planted to commemorate Canada's 60th birthday.
18. *The Bamberton Community Hall*: The hall was removed from its original location and now exists in a new location on Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.



19. *The Original Bamberton Fire Station:* The original fire station has potential heritage and consists of a slanted tin roof and a few buckets that still sit in their original spot, having never been used.
20. *The Bamberton Funicular:* An odd-looking 10-foot-tall triangular wooden structure with wheels can be found at the Bamberton site. This old-fashioned vehicle was used to transport people up and down the cliff between the quarry and the factory before the development of the Malahat Highway.
21. *The Bamberton Silos:* Two of the original silos still stand at the Bamberton site. They were designed to contain cement waiting to be shipped off to all parts of Vancouver Island.
22. *The Mill Stream Store:* The first Bamberton store still exists along Shawnigan Mill Bay Road and is now privately owned as a dwelling.
23. *McCurdy House:* Located on the Malahat, this house is virtually unchanged and is still occupied by family members.
24. *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.
25. *The Rockhaul:* This is the route that was used to haul rock from the Cobble Hill Quarry. It is still in place today, located off Trousse Road.
26. *The Original Mill Bay Inn and Resort:* Located on Bakerview Road, this house and the site were once a resort destination. The original home is still used as a private dwelling.