

# Langley Heritage Society



## ~Fort Langley~ Walking Tour

### 1 Canadian Northern Railway 'Langley Station'

Canadian Northern Railway (CNoR) began construction through Langley in 1910. Langley Station was built in 1915 to the railway's most common standard design, a Third Class depot. CNoR became part of Canadian National Railway (CNR) in 1918. It wasn't until 1926 that Langley Station was renamed Fort Langley Station.



By the early 1970s, passenger service and freight handling had changed, and the station was relegated to flag stop status. In 1980 all services ceased. The retired depot was moved from its original location in 1983 and restored by the Langley Heritage Society.

Thanks to Evelyn and Egbert Taylor, the site has a 1920s era CNR caboose housing an operating model railway built by volunteers. There is a 1950s era passenger car, and the site displays a variety of railway maintenance equipment.

The garden is named for Mary Simpson, wife of station agent Richard Simpson, who established the original gardens during the station gardening movement.

### 2 Haldi Residence

Haldi house stands east of Langley Station overlooking Bedford Channel and McMillan Island. Having settled in Langley in 1895, Jacob purchased the Hudson's Bay Company shop on this property in 1901, operating it as



a butcher shop. Jessie Haldi's 1908 inheritance of \$500,000 made it possible for the Haldis to hire carpenter William Harvey Brown to build this home that year. The Haldis had extensive

land holdings in the Langley area and owned much of Brae Island. The Haldi estate left funds to pay for construction of the first bridge to McMillan Island in 1931-1932.

### 3 Fort Langley Community Hall

The Fort Langley Community Improvement Association was formed in 1924 by the local Women's Institute. The society purchased the site in 1925 where the old town hall stood.



In 1930 construction began with plans drawn up by Archibald Hope, brother of Fort Langley entrepreneur Charles E. Hope.

Local builder James Souter oversaw the work completed by both paid and volunteer carpenters. In 1931 the maple trees along the south line of the property were planted by local women, while those along the north line were planted by men.

### 4 Dr. Marr Residence

Attracted to BC to care for Canadian Northern Railway construction crews, Dr. Benjamin Butler Marr arrived from New Brunswick to become Langley's first resident physician. Marr house was built in 1910 and expanded to the south before Marr's marriage in 1913 to Isabel Drew McIntosh, daughter of a local blacksmith.



Dr. Marr was an influential player in community affairs and responsible for planting the horse chestnut trees with veteran Archie Payne opposite his house as memorials to Langley men who died during the First World War.

### 5 Maple Tree

The replanting of a maple tree at the corner of Glover Road and 96th Avenue (originally Wilson Townline Road) honours the memory of William Arthur Wilson. Wilson was a Fort Langley farmer who served with the 47th Battalion and was killed at Passchendaele in 1917.



### 6 Fort Langley Cemetery

Established in 1884, Fort Langley Cemetery is the resting place of many of the area's pioneer families. The names Morrison and Allard date back to Hudson's Bay Company times. The granite cenotaph was erected at the instigation of Dr. Marr to remember Langley District men fallen during the First World War.



### 7 St. Andrew's United Church

Langley's oldest surviving church was built in 1885 at a cost of \$1,000. James Mackie, Langley's first Reeve, donated the site and the tower and belfry were added by Henry Wark. The original bell came from the Hudson's Bay Company ship *SS Beaver* but was destroyed in the 1970 bell tower fire. The floors, pews, and back door are original; the stained-glass windows were installed in the 1950s.



### 8 James Mowat Residence

The northern part of this charming small house dates to 1909. Its builder, James Mowat Sr., cleared and paved many of Fort Langley's older roads, including nearby Church and St. Andrews Streets.



### 9 Coronation Block

Coronation Block was built in 1911 and named in honour of King George V of England who ascended the throne in 1910. Architect Charles E. Hope built the store as a revenue property for his wife, Lily Dawson Hope (nee Mavis).

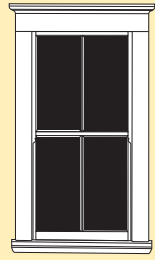


### 10 Morrison/Hadden Residence

This house was built in 1904 by Fort Langley pioneer Hector Morrison and was the first home in Langley to receive electric light. Morrison's first wife died when the boiler of the paddle wheel-er *Ramona* exploded just upriver in 1901. His second wife, Margaret Hadden, was active in community affairs serving as president of the Fort Langley Women's Institute and assisting in the formation of the Fort Langley Community Improvement Society.







# Langley Heritage Society

Langley Heritage Society is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization. Donations in support of our heritage and requests for membership applications may be forwarded to:

Langley Heritage Society  
PO Box 982 Stn Fort Langley  
Langley, BC V1M 2S3

Visit Our Website  
[www.langleyheritage.ca](http://www.langleyheritage.ca)

Special thanks to renowned artist Brian Croft for generously donating these sketches.

An official tax receipt is issued for donations of \$10 or more.

## 11 St. George's Anglican Church

Located on what was originally the extreme southwest corner of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) land, this lot was a cemetery for the earliest settlers and HBC employees. The Anglican Parish purchased the lot with graveyard for \$50 from Alexander Mavis. The church opened in 1901 and contains several stained-glass windows. It was enlarged and renovated in 2003.



## 12 Pioneer Cemetery

Although most of the original tombstones have disappeared, the cemetery adjacent to St. George's Anglican Church is known to contain 24 burials as located by an archaeologist using ground-penetrating radar in 1999. The wrought iron cross above the door formerly stood in the cemetery. It memorializes a Hawaiian-born Hudson's Bay Company employee, Peopeo.



## 13 Langley Centennial Museum

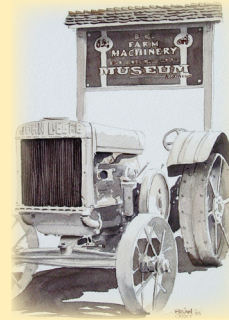
Opened in 1958, the museum brings art and history to life. The stories of early explorers, fur traders,



Indigenous Peoples, and settlers of this region are interpreted in the permanent galleries, and changing exhibits of art, science, and history are featured in the Exhibition Centre. Special events and programs are offered year-round and the gift shop features items by local artists.

## 14 BC Farm Museum

Founded in 1958, the museum opened in 1966 and contains the province's largest collection of pioneer and agricultural artifacts. A fun place to explore for all ages from April 1 to Sept 30. Reservations for group tours during the off season can be made by calling the office. Visit [www.bcfma.com](http://www.bcfma.com)



## 15 Fort Langley National Historic Site

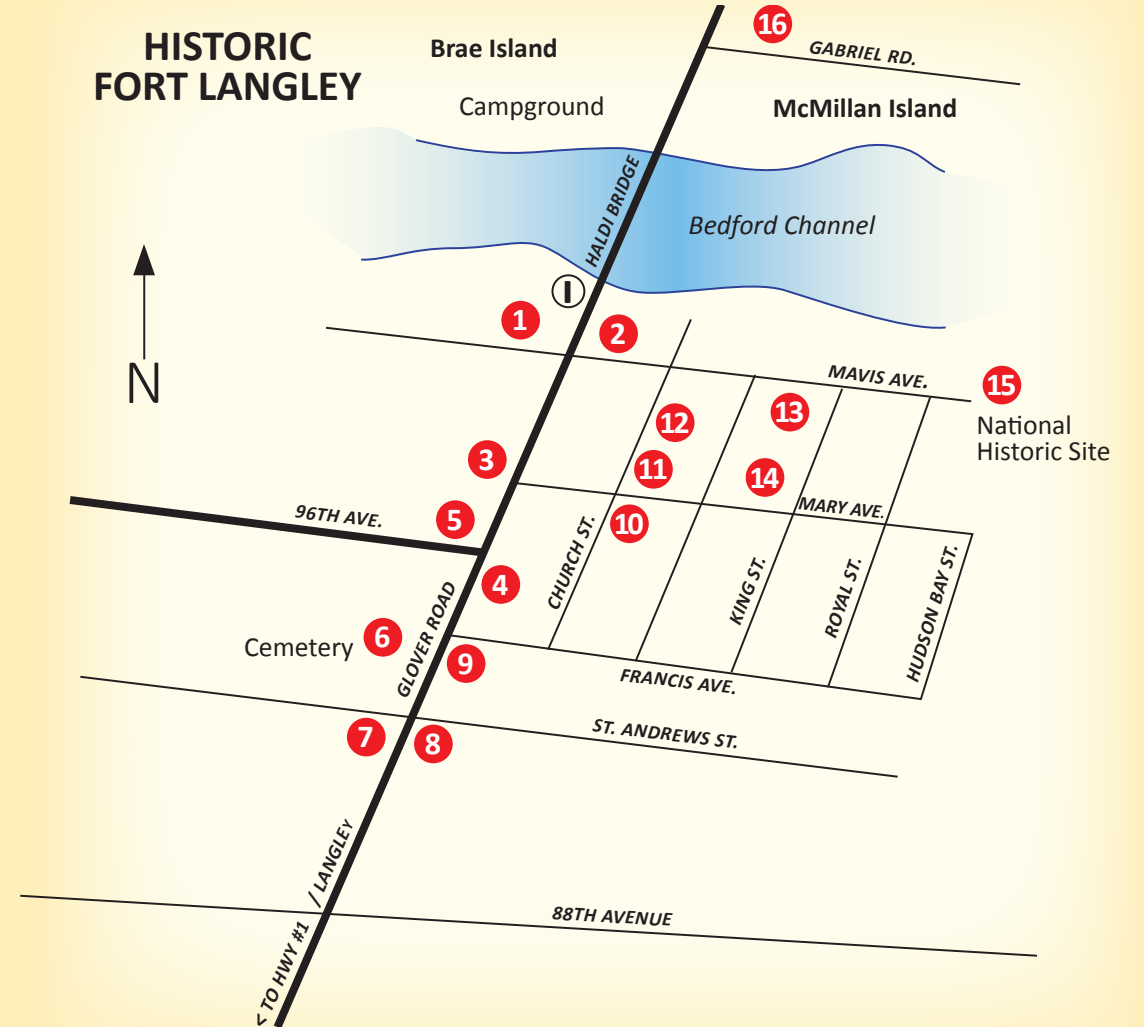
Originally built at Derby in 1827, 4 kilometres upstream from its present site, the Hudson's Bay Company relocated and rebuilt Fort Langley in 1839. It was destroyed by fire in 1840 and rebuilt once again. The current fort is a partial reconstruction of the third fur trade post. The storehouse of post-on-sill construction is the last remaining building from 1840.

On November 19, 1858 the newly sworn in Governor James Douglas proclaimed the Colony of British Columbia in the Big House.

## 16 Church of the Holy Redeemer

Built in 1897 by band members in conjunction with local Roman Catholic missionaries, the church is located on McMillan Island on Kwantlen First Nations land across Bedford Channel from Fort Langley.

On clear days the magnificent Golden Ears mountain ranges can be seen behind the church.



### MAP LEGEND

- 1. Canadian Northern Railway 'Langley Station'
- 2. Haldi Residence
- 3. Fort Langley Community Hall
- 4. Dr. Marr Residence
- 5. Maple Tree
- 6. Fort Langley Cemetery
- 7. St. Andrew's United Church
- 8. James Mowat Residence
- 9. Coronation Block
- 10. Morrison/Hadden Residence
- 11. St. George's Anglican Church
- 12. Pioneer Cemetery
- 13. Langley Centennial Museum
- 14. BC Farm Museum
- 15. Fort Langley National Historic Site
- 16. Church of the Holy Redeemer
- ① Fort-to-Fort Trail Info Marker