

**1. Morrow Residence - 1920**  
566 Gorge Road West

Margaret (1890-1945) and Harry Morrow (1889-1950), a clerk in Campbell's Drug Store, commissioned contractor David Bale to design and build this house.

This 1 1/2 storey house has a steeply-pitched, front-gabled roof. Clad in double-bevelled siding, there is half-timbering in the gable end, and multi-paned leaded casement windows. It also has a porte-cochère which is unusual for this size of house.

A horizontal frieze or belt course with crown moulding and dentils runs continuously above the main floor, around the house and the portico.



**2. The Laurels - 1913**  
516 Gorge Road West

James M. Kellie (1853-1927), mined quartz in the Kootenay area. In 1890 he moved to Revelstoke, where he founded the Miners Association. James was elected in 1894 and 1898. He retired from political office in 1899 to run his extensive mining and lumber businesses, which included British Columbia Timbers, Limited. James and his wife Margaret (1865-1949) moved to Victoria in 1913.

Gunnar and Asta Christensen bought this house in the 1950s and rented it out to various tenants before

converting the house back to a single family dwelling in the 1970s. The Christensens' restoration included stained glass windows in the front door from number 500 Gorge Road West and exterior wrought-iron fire escapes from the Beverly Hotel on Yates Street.

The Laurels is a landmark Gorge residence noted for its two-storey verandah with a distinctive criss-crossed balustrade. Some exterior details have been replaced with more decorative, "Adamesque" features such as garlands over the windows and doors. A Palladian dormer has replaced the original shed-roofed dormer.

**3. Miller Residence - 1912**  
500 Gorge Road West

James Carrick Miller (circa 1851-1927), a native of Glasgow, Scotland and Ellen Arminia Lewis (1862- 1919), farmed north of Brandon, Manitoba from the late 1800's and retired to Saanich in 1912.

This two-storey, hipped-roof house is an Edwardian era example of a Foursquare design, symmetrical in massing but with an offset entry. It features second-floor bay windows, jettied outward from the front corners, and hipped-roof dormers.



**4. Fullbrook Residence - 1913**  
2852 Inez Drive

James Fullbrook (1861-1938) moved from the Prairies to Victoria in 1913. James was the proprietor of Fullbrook Stationery Company, located at 1220 Government Street. He and his wife, Elizabeth (1863- 1942), owned this house for nearly 30 years.

This house has a very wide wraparound verandah on the east and south sides, with a conical cap over the rounded corner section. The verandah's columns and balustrade are not original. Until the 1980s, the sleeping porch had a solid cedar-shingled balustrade with rounded corners, and it is possible that the verandah had similar detailing.

**5. Johnson Residence - 1913**  
2896 Inez Drive

Original owners were Charles and Selma Johnson. Charles was a carpenter by trade and likely built this Edwardian-era Arts and Crafts house. It is front-gabled with symmetrical saddlebag dormers. The verandah has a shallow hipped roof, with columns that are panelled and sit on battered, shingled piers. The upper floor sleeping porch has multi-faceted and panelled columns.



**6. Lloyd Residence - 1914**  
574 Walter Avenue

Margaret (1872-1953) and John Lloyd (1867-1924), a carpenter from Wales, were the original owners of this cottage. This charming cottage is a remnant of the tail end of the western boom that preceded the First World War. While this dwelling's original verandah has been enclosed, the original bargeboards complete with saw tooth detailing and finials at the gable peaks, survive. The house features cedar shingle siding, a picturesque roofline and a variety of windows including multi-paned double-hung and casement sash.

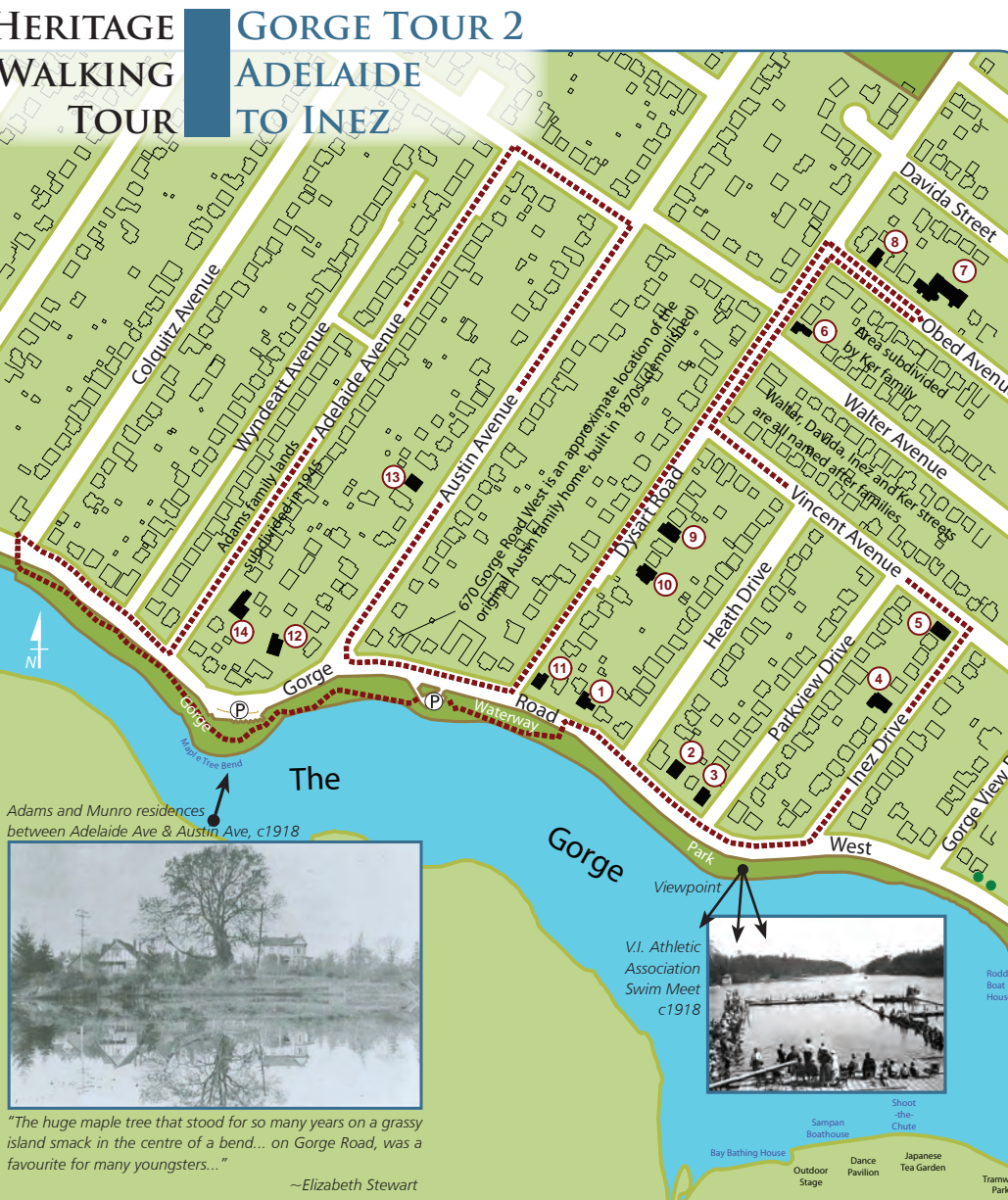


**7. St. Martin-in-the-Fields - 1913**  
550 Obed Avenue

Anglican Synod Diocese of British Columbia, Owner J.C.M. Keith, Architect & Edward G. Laycock, Designer; 1926; Additions 1946 and 1962

This British Arts and Crafts-style church was built to serve the rapidly growing Tillicum neighbourhood. Volunteers commenced building an Anglican church in 1914. Its official name, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, is derived from the famous London church in Trafalgar Square. A piece of St. Martin's in London, which was damaged by bombing during the Second World War, hangs as a plaque inside the church. A front-gabled tower added in 1946 houses a bell.

The church features a steeply-pitched side-gabled roof, and is clad in stucco trimmed with dark half-timbering. The windows are multi-paned wooden casements in multiple assembly. The bell tower addition, at the location of the original main entry, features half-timbered and bracketed detailing and a multi-coloured stained-glass window in a Tudor arched frame. Ribbon windows with cross-muntins are also used in the upper floor of the bell tower.



**8. Sewell Residence**  
576 Obed Avenue

The original owners were Harriet (1884- 1961) and Richard Sewell (1883-1961). Simple in massing and detail, this 1919 one and one-half storey cottage has cedar shingle siding and a steeply-pitched gabled roof. A prominent wall dormer sits at the side and there are shed-roofed additions at the rear. The windows are a variety of single, double and triple-assembly double-hung windows.



**9. McKie Residence - 1912**  
2867 Dysart Road

Ernest McKie (1870-1962) had worked in England as a draftsman on many waterworks projects and on the London underground railways. He married Selina (née McKie, 1869- 1963) in Wales. They emigrated in 1911 and Ernest worked as a civil engineer with the City of Victoria.

This front-gabled California bungalow has roughcast parged chimneys and verandah piers, and is clad with single-coursed, dark-brown stained cedar shingles. Two courses of shingles outline the arched openings of the verandah, which are round-headed on the sides and segmental at the front.



**10. Payne Residence - 1912**  
2847 Dysart Road

Caleb Payne was a City of Victoria assistant engineer. He designed the 1913 Gorge Bridge in reinforced concrete. The Bungalow Construction Company Limited built this house in 1912. The company specialized in five- and six-room California or Craftsman-style bungalows built at a cost of \$2,500 to \$5,000.

This California bungalow style home has a low-pitched gabled roof and oriental-style bracketing on the verandah. The gables have bargeboards with cut ends, brackets and open timberwork screens. The double-coursed cedar shingle cladding emphasizes the overall horizontal proportions. The windows are paired, single-paned casements with multi-paned transoms. Stubby square columns on battered piers support the verandah roof.

**11. Woodward Residence - 1913**  
(later the Gorge Road Guest House)  
590 Gorge Road West

The original owner was George Woodward, foreman of the City of Victoria Waterworks. After the Second World War it was used as the Gorge Road Guest House, run by Violet Altham. Summer revenue was reported as being \$25-\$30 per day.

The house is front-gabled, has shed-roofed wall dormers on each side and Arts & Crafts detailing. The enclosed front verandah has distinctively patterned sash, and the open sleeping porch has flat balusters with cut-outs.



**12. Munro Residence - 1903**  
702 Gorge Road West

George Munro, born in Prince Edward Island about 1863, came to British Columbia in 1885 and worked as a purser on the Boscowitz, which operated between Victoria and the Skeena River. He settled in Victoria as a commission merchant and in 1891 he married Hadie (born in 1867). In 1903, the Munros moved to this house on the Gorge, set on a 25-acre property.

This 1 1/2 storey, front-gabled house is an early example of an Edwardian Vernacular Arts and Crafts house common in the Victoria region. The inset verandah is offset and balanced by the sweep of the shingled diagonal staircase balustrade. The east dormer is gabled and the west dormer is hipped. The verandah has square columns and balusters. An unusual feature is that the upper sashes of the double-hung wood windows are smaller than the bottom sashes.

**13. Chaston Residence - 1913**  
2836 Austin Avenue

Katherine (1881-1953) and Charles Chaston (1869-1951), a merchant, owned this home. This elegant Edwardian era house has a full front verandah and an upper balcony with an Arts and Crafts balustrade. The front-gabled roof and gabled dormers have decorative turned finials. Narrow lapped wooden siding is used for the main body of the house, with cedar shingles at the foundation level and in the gable peaks.



**14. Adams Residence - 1878**  
2803 Adelaide Avenue

In 1878 Adelaide (1836-1919) and Daniel Adams (1831-1905), both originally from New Brunswick, moved to the Queen Anne style home situated on ten acres along the Gorge. Daniel became a builder and contractor and in 1862 he ventured to the Cariboo Gold Rush for four years. Afterwards, he returned to Victoria and resumed his contracting business, including building the fourth Gorge Bridge in 1882. The Adams had four sons and a daughter that all attended Craigflower School. Jack Adams became Provincial Assayer and built the home at 758 Gorge Road West on his family property in 1949. Charles E. Adams was killed at Vimy Ridge in 1917. Adelaide Road is named after Adelaide Adams.

The house has lost much of its original decorative detail including the original two-over-two double-hung sash windows, however, the unusual fretwork frieze on the side (now front) verandah has been retained.



**G. Austin Street**  
Austin Street was named for the family of John Joel Austin, auditor of provincial public works, musician and choir master. He built Mayfield, the family home, in 1878 at the site of 670 Gorge Road West. Two older daughters married sons of James Yates. The family lost 4 other daughters to diphtheria in a two-week period in 1888.



**F. Neighbours**  
Neighbouring property in the area included the Gorge Retreat close to the Gorge narrows, the Yates family Craigie Lea Farm east of today's Tillicum Rd., Craigflower Schoolhouse to the north and further north and across the water was the Four Mile House.

**E. First Land Owner**  
Dr. Kennedy, who was a HBC surgeon and trader, retired to Victoria in the late 1850s and owned the land that today runs from Tillicum Road east along Gorge Road West and north to the Colquitz River. He was a Member of the first Vancouver Island Legislative Assembly in 1856 along with other pioneer men Pemberton, McKay, Porter, Skinner, Helmcken, Yates and Muir.



Saanich Pioneer Society  
Map compiled by direction of Chief  
Commissioner of Lands and Works, 1895

**D. YMCA Camp 1905-1925**  
Camps along the Gorge waterway started springing up in 1892 during a smallpox outbreak as it was believed that sleeping outdoors was the best way to avoid infection. Most camps were situated along the south shore of the Gorge such as the YMCA club, which came later. The YMCA camp- "30 young men in 15 canvas tents from Victoria Day until September"--hosted the first certified Provincial Day until championships prior to First World War.

**C. Victoria Amateur Swim Club 1919-1925**  
A floating 50-yard "swimming tank" made of logs and wooden decks, and a floating clubhouse. The club held an annual Christmas Day swim, and often hosted water polo matches with a team from the YMCA senior men's camp on opposite shore (see 'D', below). The club moved to the Crystal Garden pool in 1925.

**B. Sequoia Trees**  
Sequoia trees said to mark the old driveway leading to the hilltop mansion Rockwood, built in 1890 by brewmaster Joseph Loewen. Building later served as Estella Carroll's brothel. It burned to the ground in 1923. These Sequoia trees may have also marked the driveway entry to Ferniehurst (c. 1880s) prior to subdivision of the farmland in the early 1900s.

**A. Gorge Tramway Amusement Park**  
Opened in 1905. Site of the Japanese Tea Garden, Variety Shows, Dance Hall, Band Concerts, Waterslide, Roller Coaster, Merry-go-Round, Concession Stands, and Boat-houses.

**Items of Interest (see Map)**



**A Brief History - Gorge Road West**

Land owners in the area, as recorded in the 1860s, were James Yates, John Lemon and Dr. John Kennedy.

In 1867 a trail was cut through the woods (now Craigflower Rd.) then over the channel rapids and westward to the (Craigflower) school to give improved access to the farms and school.

Robert Ker, originally from Scotland, and his wife Jessie purchased Dr. Kennedy's land around 1871. He named the farm Ferniehurst. The two oldest boys of the Ker family would travel by canoe to school in town. Later they would attend Craigflower School.

In the late 1870s and early 1880s more families started to settle along Gorge Road. Daniel and Adelaide Adams and John & Sarah Austin were settlers of this period who's names are reflected in the names of the streets.<sup>1</sup>



Adam's family home - Dennis Minaker collection - Saanich Archives

Many homes were built along the Gorge water between 1910 and 1914. Subdivision of the lands into smaller parcels began around 1910 at which time John Cowper Newbury (see Gorge Tour 1) subdivided his 20 acres of land along Colquitz Ave. and Cowper Street. As well, Donald Ker, eldest son of Jessie and Robert Ker, subdivided Ferniehurst Farm (see map over).

From the 1860s through to the 1920s the Gorge was a very popular recreation area for swimming, boating, camping, dances and picnicking. Water quality became a problem in the 1950s due to the increase in runoff from urban and commercial development to the waterway.

In 1966, Saanich Mayor Hugh Curtis and municipal engineer Neville Life instigated a Gorge Waterway beautification project where the Provincial Capital Commission provided funding for the construction of the stone wall and pathway running along the north shore of the Gorge waterway between Admirals Road and Tillicum Road. Clean up of the waterway began and the District of Saanich, over several years, purchased properties to complete the Gorge Waterway Park.



**Welcome to Saanich Walking Tours**

Saanich Heritage Walking Tours are provided to increase public awareness of Saanich Heritage.

The architectural information on each heritage structure – shown as numbered items on the map (over) – was provided by Donald Luxton & Associates Inc. and Jennifer Nell Barr.

Sources for historical background and points of interest include **1)** Dennis Minaker, historian and author; and **2)** Saanich Archives [www.saanicharchives.ca](http://www.saanicharchives.ca), 250-475-1775 & BC Archives.

For more information, see the Saanich Heritage Registry or [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca)

**Please Note:**

*All residences on the tour are privately owned and are not open to the public. Please remain on public property (i.e. the street) during the tour and respect the privacy of residents or owners.*

Front cover photo credit:  
Saanich Archives 1989-008-240 Trees at Gorge Park 1908

Gorge Tour 2

ADELAIDE  
to  
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HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

SAANICH