

NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES RECTORY, 828 LAVAL STREET

Description of Historic Place

Notre Dames De Lourdes Rectory, located in Laval Square in the centre of the Maillardville community, is part of a significant grouping of religious buildings that includes Notre Dames De Lourdes and Saint Anne's Hall. It is a one-and-one-half storey residence with a wrap-around verandah, facing south at the centre of Laval Square. A significant renovation of the Rectory occurred in 1976, obscuring some of its original features; however the form of the building remains recognizable.

Heritage Value of Historic Place

Notre Dames De Lourdes Rectory is valued for its association with the Maillardville community and Fraser Mills, and is part of a grouping of religious buildings that forms the physical and spiritual core of Maillardville, one of the only distinct French-Canadian settlements west of Manitoba. The establishment of the Church reflects the strength and continuity of the French-Canadian community that immigrated and settled in the area beginning in 1909 to work in Fraser Mills—a major employer and producer of wood products. In 1909, 110 French Canadians, approximately 40 families, mostly from lumbering villages in the Hull and Sherbrooke regions in Quebec and Rockland, Ontario, arrived at the Millside Station. A second group of immigrants arrived the following year. The French-speaking settlers founded the community of Maillardville in close vicinity to Fraser Mills, on pay-by-the-month lots supplied by the company. Far from home, the residents of Maillardville settled in a town designed with a church located in the central square. Funds were raised to build the initial church in Maillardville in 1910.

The Rectory was built in 1911 to serve as the residence for the church Priest, and is a direct link to those who made an invaluable contribution to the Maillardville community, including Father Edmond Maillard. Born in Lyon, France, Maillard had been an oblate missionary of Mary Immaculate in New Westminster. He was highly respected in the community, which was named in his honour.

Additionally, the Rectory is valued as a reflection of the modest vernacular architecture of this early company town. Typical of the houses that populated the community, it is built of wood-frame construction, with unusual details that hint at the eastern Canadian origins of the settlers. Its simple form and massing, with three distinctive gable wall dormers facing west, is elaborated with a wraparound verandah that provides commanding views of the Fraser River and the Fraser Mills site to the southwest.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of Notre Dames De Lourdes Rectory include its:

- landmark location in Laval Square, in a religious heritage grouping with Notre Dames De Lourdes and Saint Anne's Hall
- residential form, scale and massing as expressed by one-and-one-half storey height, full basement and west-facing gabled wall dormers
- wood-frame construction, such as lapped wooden siding that exists under later vinyl siding
- wraparound covered verandah facing to the south and west

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- landscape features such as the mature spruce at the front



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**NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES RECTORY, 828 LAVAL STREET
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
RESEARCH SUMMARY SHEET**

CIVIC ADDRESS: 828 Laval Street

HISTORIC NAME: Priest's House

SOURCE: Historic Maillardville Heritage Inventory 1986, p. 154.

ORIGINAL OWNER: Roman Catholic Archbishop

SOURCE: C.I.H.B. Number: 1062

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1911

SOURCE: Notre Dame De Lourdes Parish Records

REFERENCES:

- **Assessment Card Information:** Date of Construction: 1911 Foundation: Concrete Part Full, with floor; 1 part crawlspace In. Finish: V-joint Number of Rooms: 4 on main floor, 4 upstairs Note: Assessment cards show a Nun's Residence and School (Roll # 7942), built 1911; torn down October, 1961.

OTHER REFERENCES:

- *Coquitlam: 100 Years: Reflections of the Past.* Coquitlam: District of Coquitlam, 1990.
- Foundation Group Designs Ltd. *Heritage Maillardville: Building Inventory.* Coquitlam: District of Coquitlam, 1986.
- Monk, H.A.J and John Stewart. *A History of Coquitlam and Fraser Mills 1858-1958.* New Westminster: Jackson, 1958.
- Souvenir Program 1909-1959, *Fêtes du Jubile d'Or :History of the Parish,* 1959.
- Teck, Reverend F.X. *Re Inside Finish of New Church* July, 25, 1938.