

Statement of Significance
St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church
4773 Piccadilly South
West Vancouver, BC
April 2008

Historic Place

The historic place is St. Francis-in-the-Wood, a stone-and-timber Anglican parish church located near the Village Green in the Lower Caulfeild neighbourhood of West Vancouver. The historic place includes the original church (1927) and the later alterations and additions (1937 and 1957), the parish hall, the landscaped grounds, and the lychgate.

Heritage Value

St. Francis-in-the-Wood has heritage value for expressing the distinct vision of developer Sir Francis Caulfeild for his uniquely designed West Vancouver community. The Caulfeild neighbourhood evokes associations of picturesque England with its narrow curvilinear roads, naturalistic setting, and traditional architectural design that emphasizes stone and timber. Caulfeild began his subdivision in 1909; it was the first on the mountainous North Shore to recognize the natural terrain.

The building also has value as the oldest remaining church in West Vancouver. It was designed by local resident H.A. Stone and was built in 1927 on land donated by Caulfeild.

The church is representative of the transformation of West Vancouver from a sparsely-populated weekend and summer resort community to a year-round dormitory suburb. This is seen in the expansion of the church – retaining some of Stone’s features – by architects Underwood, McKinley and Cameron in 1957.

The historic place is also significant for having been used for worship, community gatherings, and memorials for more than 80 years, and as an important landmark in West Vancouver. The church is directly connected to the people of Lower Caulfeild through building additions and the installation of interior fixtures as memorials to local residents.

Character-Defining Elements

The character-defining elements of St. Francis-in-the-Wood include:

- The traditional building materials of granite and timber
- The A-frame roof and horizontal tie beams, which were placed over the original sanctuary during the 1957 building campaign
- The stained-glass windows depicting the life of St. Francis of Assisi, made in England by William Morris and Company
- The parish hall, built in 1957
- The picturesque lychgate
- The memorial features, including:
 - The central stained-glass panel, erected in memory of Francis Caulfeild
 - The pulpit, which is a memorial to the fallen local soldiers of the Second World War
 - The chancel and sanctuary added in 1937 as a memorial to one of the original Caulfeild residents, Beatrice H. Stone