

Statement of Significance

Klee Wyck

200 Keith Road

West Vancouver, BC

April 2008

Historic Place

'Klee Wyck' is a rustic estate property, situated above the banks of the Capilano River in West Vancouver. The site includes a main house (1925) and a gate house (1932), and later structures that include greenhouses and an artist's studio. The site is landscaped with old-growth trees and introduced plant species, some dating from the 1920s through the 1940s.

Heritage Value

'Klee Wyck' is important as one of a few remaining examples of 'rustic' estate properties in West Vancouver that pre-date construction of the Lions Gate Bridge.

The property has historical value for having been home to Dr. Ethlyn Trapp from 1942 until her death in 1972. Dr. Trapp was a nationally significant woman, who was prominent as a physician, a humanitarian, a pioneer in cancer research, and a patron and friend of the arts. She represents the small group of educated women who succeeded in non-traditional careers in mid-20th-century Canada. She served as president of the BC Medical Association and was awarded the Order of Canada in 1968.

Dr. Trapp named the property 'Klee Wyck' in honour of her good friend, the world-renowned BC artist, Emily Carr. The site has been associated with creative arts in West Vancouver, and has been used as a community arts centre since the 1980s. It is also part of West Vancouver's park system, and home to the District's plant nursery.

Built in 1925 for Clarence Fearnside, the house is also important for its Craftsman architectural style, and for the association of alterations to the interior layout with Dr. Trapp's friend Nan Cheney, a person of note in the history of art in British Columbia. Aspects of the house and landscape represent Trapp and Cheney's ideas.

This property is unusual in that it straddles the municipal boundary between the Districts of West Vancouver and North Vancouver.

Character-Defining Elements

The character-defining elements of Klee Wyck include:

- The Craftsman style architecture of the main house and gate house, including cedar-shingle cladding and exposed roof brackets
- The architectural form of the main house, which includes two gabled wings with a central link, and which include alterations designed by Nan Cheney for Dr. Trapp
- Relationship of the main house, gate house and long driveway, which are evocative of a rustic estate property
- The setting beside the Capilano River
- The large, well landscaped property, which includes old-growth trees
- The newer mature trees, ponds, and other features that represent Trapp and Cheney's ideas for landscape design
- Introduced plant species, dating from the 1920s onward, including a dove tree and other unusual plant specimens, some imported from the Orient
- The cultural associations of the property, including the name, the main house, and the ongoing use as a community arts centre

Sources

- Walker, Doreen, ed. *Dear Nan: Letters of Emily Carr, Nan Cheney and Humphrey Toms*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 1990
- Ada McGeer, *Bid Time Return*; Catherine Converse, *Mainstays of British Columbia*; City Directories for 1934, 1940, 1945
- UBC Special Collections, Introduction to Materials on Nan Lawson Cheney; BC Medical Association Archives, Portrait Gallery, Dr. Ethlyn Trapp
- Stewart Jackson, *Radiation as a Cure for Cancer: The History of Radiation Treatment in British Columbia*
- West Vancouver Museum and Archives, Information File, E. Trapp, Rupert Harrison Fonds B Noteworthy People, >T=; Other information including copies of legal agreements and will provided by client
- West Vancouver Heritage Inventory, updated to 2003
- West Vancouver Heritage Landscape Inventory, 1988
- West Vancouver Heritage Inventory Worksheets and Evaluation Sheet.