

Statement of Significance
Clubhouse and Great Hall, Gleneagles Golf Course
West Vancouver, BC
Draft, March 2008



Historic Place

The historic place is the present clubhouse of the Gleneagles Golf Course. It comprises the Fairway Room, built in 1952; the Great Hall, built in 1954, and later additions, which includes a sun room and dance floor, the coffee shop, and the link to the Fairway Room. The wood buildings are constructed of Pan-Abode™ components.

The Clubhouse is located along the sixth fairway of the Gleneagles Golf Course. It is surrounded by mature native plants and has views across an apple orchard to Larson Bay.

Heritage Value

The Clubhouse at Gleneagles Golf Course has value for reflecting both the social evolution of the West Vancouver community and the growth of golfing as a recreational pastime. It also has architectural value as an example of a wood building system that was developed in the Lower Mainland.

Gleneagles Golf Club became the first Jewish golf course in Metro Vancouver in 1951, when it was purchased from previous, non-Jewish, owners. This was a response to the pervasive anti-Semitism, which excluded Jews from membership in other private clubs and made discrimination common on public courses.

The golf course was developed as the Gleneagles Golf and Country Club in 1927, reflecting the growing popularity of golf as a recreational pastime in the Lower Mainland. It was built on the site of a former pioneer ranch, started by Peter Larson c.1900. The apple trees at the sixth hole, which can be seen from the Great Hall, are a remnant landscape of the Larson estate.

The historic place has considerable value as the first venue for golf and related social activities built specifically for the Jewish community in the Lower Mainland. The new Jewish owners of the Gleneagles Golf Club built their first clubhouse in 1952; this survives as the Fairway Room. The larger and more impressive Great Hall was built in 1954, and further additions were made subsequently.

The golf course was open to the general public – thereby avoiding reverse discrimination – and in 1958 it was estimated that 70 percent of players were non-members. Gleneagles was reflective of a growing trend towards social integration in sport and other community activities.

The District of West Vancouver's purchase of Gleneagles Golf Course in 1959 was an important demonstration of the local government's commitment to providing recreational and social facilities for the general public.

The Great Hall has been the centre of public and private celebrations in West Vancouver for many years. To the many residents who attended weddings, parties, and meetings at the Great Hall, the building evokes personal memories of an earlier period in West Vancouver's history.

The complex is a Pan-Abode building, a patented system of interlocking horizontal wood units made from Western Red Cedar. Pan-Abode opened in the Lower Mainland in 1948, and quickly became popular as a building system, mostly for smaller homes. The Fairway Room uses 'first-phase' Pan-Abode components, whereas the Great Hall uses 'second-phase' components. The original Great Hall is quite large for Pan-Abodes, about 90 by 32 feet in size. The clubhouse has value as a surviving Pan-Abode public building, and for providing the contrast between the two systems in a single building complex.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Great Hall at Gleneagles Golf course include:

- Large building of Pan-Abode™ construction, with interlocking corners; this includes the 'first-phase' components of the Fairway Room (single slot and groove) and the 'second phase' components of the Great Hall (larger in cross-section, with a double slot and groove)

- Large, column-free interior volume
- Transverse laminated ceiling beams (with metal compression stringers) and eight-inch cedar board ceiling
- Original interior finish of shellacked, cedar Pan-Abode logs
- Original cement brick fireplaces at either end of the Hall
- Original exterior cladding of stained cedar Pan-Abode logs
- Later shed-roofed Pan-Abode addition divided into a sun room (bar) and sprung dance floor
- Low building profile in relation to the expansive site
- Location at the centre of Gleneagles Golf Course, with sweeping views through the sixth fairway, with views to the ocean, at Larson Bay
- View of the apple trees along the sixth fairway, which are a remnant landscape from the Larson estate and ranch
- Surrounded by native vegetation, including mature cedar trees, salal and huckleberry, with plantings of non-native rhododendrons and hostas