

Hollyburn Lodge and Cabin Community

Statement of Significance
15 July 2009



Top: View of north and east facades
Middle: View of interior of Lodge
Bottom: Ranger station

Hollyburn Lodge and Cabin Community
Hollyburn Mountain, West Vancouver, B.C.
1927 (Lodge)

Description of Historic Place

Hollyburn Lodge is a one-storey, gable roofed wood frame cabin, used as a ski lodge and warming hut for the recreational area on Hollyburn Ridge, located in Cypress Provincial Park. The Lodge is adjacent to First Lake and is located within a network of ski and hiking trails in the hemlock, cedar and fir forest of the Ridge.

Value

Hollyburn Lodge and its immediate environs are significant for their environmental, historical, aesthetic, cultural and social values as an important enduring mountain recreational resource in the region.

Site

The magnificent physical landscape is significant for the role it plays in the Lodge's siting, setting and sense of place. The Hollyburn Lodge site and its wider setting have a number of important landscape features that reflect evolving uses: logged land later used as ski slopes, lakes modified for industrial use, then embraced for their naturalized landscaped aesthetics, and particularly the early and current network of recreational trails converging on the Lodge, which served historically, and still serves, as a destination and stopping point.

Building on the site has been a response to the site's natural geology, topography and climate, and landscape modifications such as forest lands logged for the supply of the Naysmyth mill lower down the mountain. First Lake is culturally modified, dammed to provide necessary conditions to operate a log flume from the lake to the Naysmyth Mill below. The relationship of the Lodge to the residential cabins is important for its place within the only surviving cabin community on the North Shore. Early in the 20th century, Seymour, Grouse and Hollyburn all had extensive cabin communities which were connected to the early logging camps, to the Scandinavian immigrants from the 1920s, who brought traditions of winter sport and cabin construction with them. The presence of the West Vancouver Forest Ranger Station adds value to this community of cabins.

The Lodge has played a role in the history of skiing on the North Shore as seen in the development of early mechanized ski lifts and a ski jumping site. Although the first recorded ski run on Hollyburn was down a large, snow-covered debris pile at the abandoned Nasmyth mill in 1925, it is very likely that Scandinavian skiers had been skiing on the plateau above, or even from the peak of Hollyburn, before then. By 1928, a well-established run had been cleared from Hollyburn Peak to First Lake.

Hollyburn Lodge remains a multi-generational destination and an historical symbol of outdoor recreation and social life on the North Shore and province-wide. It is highly valued by the community as an ongoing integral part of the outdoor lifestyle and leisure pursuits valued by the citizens of greater Vancouver, and the collective memory of early pioneers and recent visitors alike.

Lodge

Sited within the natural landscape features of Hollyburn Ridge, the Lodge is of environmental significance for having been constructed in direct response to its particular mountain setting very near the major developing population centre of Vancouver, and its for its materials, which were largely recycled from building infrastructure associated with the site's previous incarnation as a logging camp.

Hollyburn Lodge is significant historically for its association with the early logging of the North Shore mountains, which predated their identification as a recreational area and enabled its subsequent recreational use: the cleared land and trails on Hollyburn made the area accessible and suitable for recreation, and the nearby remnant sawmill infrastructure was available for re-use as a recreational camp. With its core section being the reconstructed Nasmyth Shinglebolt Mill cookhouse,

Hollyburn Lodge and Cabin Community
Statement of Significance
15 July 2009

relocated higher up the mountain at the head of the original logging flume above the mill, the Lodge is a remnant of the that early logging industry construction.

Additionally, the Lodge and Ridge development are significant for their place in the larger provincial context of mountaineering and outdoor pursuits. Their early development is representative of recreational mountain lodges in other parts of the province developing at a similar time, when the growing popular appreciation of the natural world in the province marked a cultural shift towards the aesthetic and scientific appreciation of the wilderness on the West Coast. The Lodge and its environs are important for embodying the culture of re-use and making-do that was typical of the early adventurers and cabin dwellers on Hollyburn, and more widely, in the province. The Lodge represents this era of newfound engagement and collaboration in skiing, climbing and various other outdoor recreation pursuits, the social interactions of mountain and ski clubs, and an understanding of BC history related to leisure travel and outdoor pursuits. The regular small-scaled improvements to the building represent a conservative approach to the place that places high value on the continuance of an earlier generation's simple direct enjoyment of the place.

The Lodge has broad historical significance for its association with people and events related to the emerging ski culture on the North Shore: the Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club, recognized as the first organized ski club with a mountain headquarters on the pacific coast; Rudolph Jules Verne, a Swedish immigrant and professional skier was the first to set up a ski camp that provided equipment rental, meals and accommodation; the Burfield family, who played a key role in the Lodge's history between 1946 and 1984 when three generations of the family ran the lodge.

The Lodge is socially significant for its association with the continued activity of the Hollyburn Ridge Association, a group devoted to the care and maintenance of a recreational way of life of the clubs and culture at the time of the Lodge's construction. It is socially valued for its importance to the wider community, as documented in the great body of photos which depict the people and events associated with this place over many years, curated by the Hollyburn Heritage Society. The building is aesthetically important for its uncomplicated form, locally sourced cladding materials employed in traditional ways, and signage as traditionally used in the province.

Character-defining Elements

Site

- Location adjacent to First Lake in Cypress Provincial Park
- Location within simple, straightforward Cypress Park trail system
- Screened views of the building when arriving by trail
- Views from the site to the lake, mountains and trails
- Related exterior furnishings such as benches and ski and snowshoe racks
- Variety of signage designs from different eras
- Relationship to associated buildings including Forest Service Ranger's Station and cabins
- Early and continued use as a ski lodge

Building and Materials

- Raised log foundations
- Heavy timber and log structure
- 1927 rectangularly massed building structure
- Porch entry on the north side
- 1928 covered porch over the east entrance
- 1934 back room addition to the west
- Long rectangular footprint of the main section of the Lodge
- Gabled roof on the north side, front gabled porch on the east elevation,
- gabled roof on the western addition
- West entry
- Covered porches on north and east facades

Hollyburn Lodge and Cabin Community
Statement of Significance
15 July 2009

- Park standard wooden building signage
- Combination of board-and-batten and cedar shake siding
- Wood trim
- Original shake roof and shingled configuration of the covering corrugated metal roof
- Multi-paned wooden windows
- Red and white colour scheme

Building Interior Features

- Open interior volume of space, including attic spaces
- Wood plank floor
- Rustic vertical wood wall finishes
- Contrasting wood wall paneling in the back room
- Wood plank ceilings with exposed log beams
- Interior volume of north porch
- Kitchen
- Artifacts and collected memorabilia