

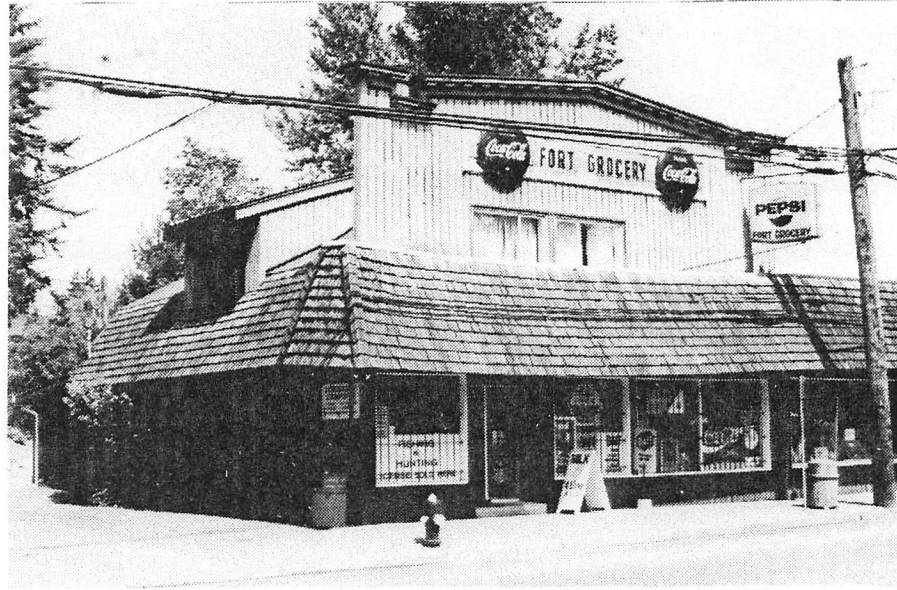
Simpson Bros. Store ca. 1930-1940, #2934

## Fort Langley

### COMMERCIAL BUILDING

9179 GLOVER ROAD

•  
built circa 1914-1920



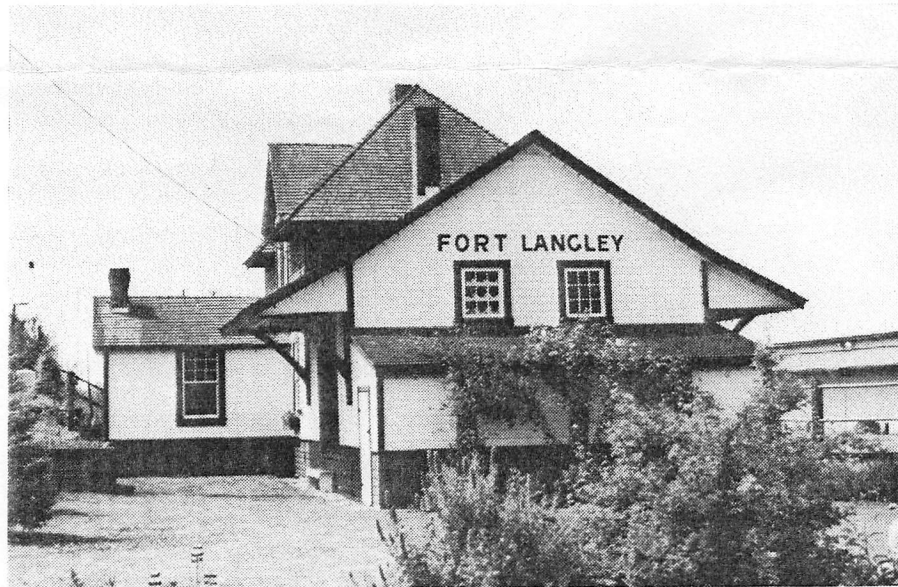
The land on which this building sits was subdivided in 1911, and was owned in 1914 by Charles Edward Hope, who lived nearby in 'Illahie' (see the Hope Carriage House, page 33). The date of construction of this building is unknown, but it most likely dates from the time of the First World War. It is a typical 'false-front' building of the period, with a raised front parapet that emphasizes the apparent height of the facade, and allows for a larger front-facing sign. This is a prominent building on Glover Road, but has been altered with later sidings and a mansard canopy.

### CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY 'LANGLEY STATION'

23245 MAVIS STREET

•  
built 1915

*Municipally Designated  
Heritage Site*

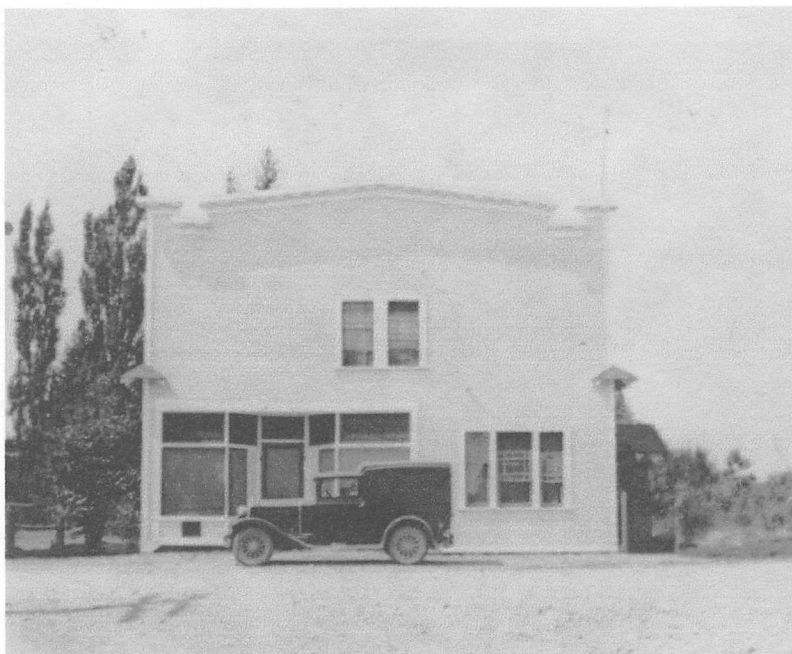


Historically known as 'Langley Station', this was one of the stations built for the new Canadian Northern line. It was built to their standard design (their '3rd class' type), and was one of about 85 such buildings constructed in Western Canada. After Canadian Northern was added to the Canadian National Railway system in 1918, the station was expanded to accommodate larger living quarters for the Station Agent. In 1980, passenger service was stopped, and a year later the station was declared redundant. In 1983, it was moved to its present location and restored by the Langley Heritage Society. Now owned by the municipality, the building was declared a municipal heritage site in 1984.

## The Fort Grocery

By the 1890s, the Hudson's Bay Company Fort had closed and sold its land to Alexander Mavis. However, the small village that took its name from the fur trading fort continued to grow. Soon the small grocery store on the corner of present day Mavis Street and Glover Road (where the IGA now stands) had a competitor for the trade of the expanding community. Between 1914 and 1920 the building currently known as the Fort Grocery was built on land owned by Charles Edward Hope, and may have served as a meat market in its earlier years, later expanding to a full service grocery store.

Charles Edward Hope had originally arrived in Langley in 1890 and, as a trained surveyor, had helped Alexander Mavis subdivide the land he had purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1892 Hope married Mavis's daughter, and after some years in Vancouver, they settled in Fort Langley in about 1911. This was the same year that Hope built the Coronation Block on the corner of Francis Street and Glover Road, opposite the cemetery.



Simpson Bros. Store in Fort Langley with delivery truck, between 1930-1940.

In 1929 the Simpson family moved to Fort Langley from Aldergrove and bought the small grocery store we know today as the Fort Grocery. Brothers John (1915-1989) and James (Jim) Simpson operated the store as "Simpson Bros. Store," and John and his wife Lillian lived upstairs. There were no shops to the north of the store; the family owned the space and had a large garden there. It was possible to see the mill on the Fraser River from this yard.





Jenny Lewis with her daughter, Sharron, at the "Simpson Warehouse" beside the store, 1940.

The whole Simpson family was involved in the running of the store. Alice Simpson, the mother of the Simpson brothers, helped out, as did other siblings including Jenny Lewis. Members of the Simpson family were involved in the Board of Trade, the Fort Langley May Day Committee, and the Community Society, among other local organizations.

The Simpson brothers sold the store in 1951, and there have been several owners since then. Despite changing hands, the Fort Grocery has remained an important part of the Fort Langley landscape.