

## = Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse =

The Craigflower Manor and Craigflower Schoolhouse are National Historic Sites of Canada located in View Royal , British Columbia ( the Manor ) and Saanich ( the Schoolhouse ) near Victoria . The centerpiece of each historic site is a 19th @-@ century building ? a manor and schoolhouse commissioned by the Hudson 's Bay Company to provide education and lodging for their employees . Built as part of the agricultural community Craigflower Farm , the buildings served as a focal point for the community into the modern era ; they remain open to the public today as museums devoted to the colonial history of Victoria .

The sites also have unique archaeological merit , encompassing three distinct periods , and types , of human habitation which span thousands of years . In addition , the existing structures have great historical and cultural value , remaining some of the best , and last , examples of their kind in Canada . These factors combine to make these two sites important National Historic Sites , and have been given government protection for the public trust .

## = = Site history = =

The land in the area was formed during the last ice age in North America , approximately 13 @,@ 000 years ago , when receding glaciers carved a deep gouge into the earth , which became a number of small lakes and streams . Over time , these lakes rejoined the ocean , becoming a salt @-@ water inlet known today as the Gorge waterway , which the indigenous people call " Kosapsom " . The Lekwungen , a Coast Salish tribe and ancestors of the modern Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations , settled in the area , calling the whole region " Camossung " , after the legend of a girl they believed was turned to stone there .

Archaeologists working in the Gulf of Georgia , Vancouver Island , and the Lower Mainland have identified several distinct periods of cultural activity , known as " culture types " in the region . The site at Craigflower Farm exhibits three of these culture types , known as " Locarno Beach " , " Gulf of Georgia " and " Historic " . The " Historic " culture type refers to the colonial settlement of the area , and is contiguous with the European colonization ; a majority of the artifacts recovered from the site have been dated to this period .

The other two periods of human habitation are discernible mainly by the presence of a large shell midden on the site ; testifying to the abundant shellfish and game in the area . The earliest of the periods , the " Locarno Beach " type , used many different types of stone tools , including microblades , adzes , and other shaped or sharpened objects . The next culture type , dating from around 2500 years ago and known as the " Gulf of Georgia " type , is characterized by an increased use of bone tools , such as wedges and awls made from antlers , as well as different kinds of wood . This culture type 's presence on the site ends with the arrival of Europeans , and the colonization of Vancouver Island ? altogether , around 1000 indigenous artifacts were recovered from the site during two separate archaeological digs .

Both the manor and the schoolhouse were part of a settlement known as Craigflower Farm , which was one of Western Canada 's first farming communities . Established in 1853 by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company , a subsidiary of the Hudson 's Bay Company , the farm was to supply fresh produce to the nearby Fort Victoria , and to aid in settlement of lower Vancouver Island . The farm was named after Craigflower Farm in England which was owned by Andrew Colville , Governor of the Hudson 's Bay Company from 1852 to 1856 . The land for the farm , was purchased from the Esquimalt First Nation ( recorded as the " Kosapsom " on the treaty ) in 1850 , who relocated nearby .

## = = Craigflower Schoolhouse = =

Originally called Maple Point School , the schoolhouse was commissioned by first farm director , Kenneth McKenzie , to provide education for the children of farm employees . This was to be the third school constructed in the colony of Vancouver Island , following Governor James Douglas ' call

" to give a proper moral and religious training to the children of the settlers who are growing up in ignorance and the utter neglect of all their duties to God and society . " The need was judged to be most severe for children of Protestant denomination , as Roman Catholics received ( until 1851 ) " very able and zealous " instruction from a priest from the Society des Oblats . Construction was commenced , using timber milled on the farm , in August 1854 and continued until late February 1855 . The first students took classes there in March of the same year , and were charged a fee of between 30 shillings and 1 pound .

The two @-@ story building was built in Georgian Revival style , and boasted a single schoolroom on the first floor , as well as six rooms for the teacher , their family , and student boarders from other parts of Vancouver Island . A large brick fireplace , as well as a stove , provided heating for the building , and a bell salvaged from the wrecked steamship Major Tompkins was hung in the yard to call students to class . Initially , the school was accessible from the main part of the farm only by boat , but the 1856 completion of the first Craigflower bridge linked the two parts of the farm together .

The schoolhouse became the focal point of social and religious events on the farm , and saw continuous use until 1872 when town council neglected to provide funding for Victoria 's schools . However , Education Act amendments returned the school to operation soon after , and in 1873 education was made mandatory for students aged seven to 14 . The school continued to operate until 1911 , when it was replaced by the second Craigflower school , built across the road . The current school , called Craigflower Elementary School , was built in 1964 to replace the aging 1911 building . The schoolhouse , however , was converted into a museum in 1931 and run by a local service club until 1975 when the provincial Historical Parks board acquired it and restored the structure . It was briefly run as a museum by The Land Conservancy of British Columbia in public trust ? it is the oldest surviving schoolhouse in Western Canada , though it is often erroneously referred to as " the first school built in British Columbia " . The Schoolhouse is now the home of the Hallmark Heritage Society , The Capital Regional District 's oldest heritage preservation organization , and is open to the public for special presentations during the summer and will be the site of heritage workshops beginning in the fall of 2015 .

= = Craigflower Manor = =

The manor house was built shortly after the completion of the schoolhouse , to serve as a home and office for the management of the Craigflower farm , and their family . The house was constructed as a Georgian Revival version of a Scottish manor house , at the request of Kenneth McKenzie 's wife , Agnes . The foundation was laid in 1853 , prior to the McKenzies ' arrival , and was completed in May 1856 .

A grand , two @-@ story structure , the manor was over 900 square feet ( 84 m2 ) in size and second only to the first Government House in elegance . The building boasted a dining room , sitting room , office , music room , kitchen , and four bedrooms for the large McKenzie family . Heat was provided by several fireplaces , serviced by two large brick chimneys . The manor was used as lodging up until 1922 , when the Hudson 's Bay Company converted it into a community centre . It eventually became a hotel , before being sold to the government in 1965 . As the building is the earliest , and one of the few remaining , examples of its type in Western Canada , it was extensively restored in 1967 by the province , before being run as a museum . It is currently leased by the Highland Games Society .