

## CITY OF COQUITLAM, STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE, 2007

### NOTRE DAMES DE LOURDES, 830 LAVAL STREET

#### **Description of Historic Place**

This landmark church occupies the central location in the Maillardville settlement. One storey in height and set on a full basement, this cross-gabled church has a tall square front spire that is highly visible throughout the area. The church is part of an historic religious grouping in Laval Square that also includes Saint Anne's Hall and Notre Dames De Lourdes Rectory.

#### **Heritage Value of Historic Place**

Notre Dames De Lourdes reflects the strength and continuity of the French-Canadian community that immigrated and settled in the area starting in 1909 to work at Fraser Mills. In French-Canadian culture the traditional social core of the community is the church. Laval Square, which includes the church, the adjacent Rectory and Saint Anne's Hall, is valued as the symbolic heart of the Maillardville community, one of the only distinct French-Canadian settlements west of Manitoba. Far from home, the residents of Maillardville settled in a town designed with a church located in a central square. Funds were raised to build the initial church in 1910, but it was destroyed by fire in 1912. The second church was built in 1912, and is now used as Saint Anne's Hall. By the 1920s, a new larger church was required to serve the area's growing population, and the foundations for a third and even larger church were poured. A decline in the lumber market prevented completion of the church, and the basement was covered with a roof to allow its temporary use. As economic conditions improved in the late 1930s, the third church was completed in 1938-39 on the new foundations. This church was designed and the construction was supervised by Father Francois-Xavier Teck, who served the church from 1929-1948.

The church is further valued for its association with the growth of the Maillardville community. An economic downturn in 1907 led to Anti-Asiatic riots that caused a local labour shortage, and as a result Fraser Mills (the major employer in the area) hired Oblate Priest Reverend Father William Patrick O'Boyle and Theodore Thereaux, a night watchman at the mill, to recruit new workers from lumbering villages in Quebec and Ontario. Father O'Boyle was interested in increasing the Catholic population in western Canada. On September 28, 1909, 110 French Canadians, approximately 40 families, mostly from villages in the Hull and Sherbrooke regions in Quebec and Rockland, Ontario, arrived at the Millside Station. A second group of immigrants arrived the following year. The French-speaking settlers founded the community of Maillardville in close vicinity to Fraser Mills, on pay-by-the-month lots supplied by the company. Father Edmond Maillard replaced Father O'Boyle and served the community from 1909 to 1911. Born in Lyon, France, Father Maillard had been an oblate missionary of Mary Immaculate in New Westminster. He was highly respected in the community, which was named in his honour.

Additionally, Notre Dames De Lourdes is valued as a good example of a traditional church that displays Period Revival styling typical of the 1930s. A visual landmark, the church has a rectangular plan with short transepts, and a cross-gabled roof, distinguished by a square tower at the front entry and rounded triple-assembly windows with leaded coloured glass. The church is well maintained, with few substantial changes other than the addition of vinyl siding in 1987 and a steeple in 1990. The interior of the church has retained much of its original form and detail, including the curved nave ceiling and wooden trim and pews.

**Character-Defining Elements**

Key elements that define the heritage character of Notre Dames De Lourdes include its:

- landmark location in Laval Square, in a religious heritage grouping with the Rectory and Saint Anne's Hall
- ecclesiastical form, scale and massing as expressed by one-storey height with full basement, transepts, cross-gabled roof and square tower flanking front entrance
- original wooden siding that exists under later vinyl siding
- fenestration, such as triple-assembly, arched wooden windows, and half-moon and circular windows with leaded coloured glass
- interior details such as curved nave ceiling, fir floors, original wooden pews, window trim, wainscoting and interior half moon windows with floral motif, and church hall in basement



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**NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES, 830 LAVAL STREET  
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
RESEARCH SUMMARY SHEET**

**CIVIC ADDRESS:** 830 Laval Street

**ORIGINAL OWNER:** Roman Catholic Archbishop

**SOURCE:** Parish Records of Notre Dame De Lourdes

**CONSTRUCTION DATE:** Initial Church 1910 (destroyed by fire 1912)

2<sup>nd</sup> Church 1912 (currently utilized as Saint Anne's Hall)

3<sup>rd</sup> Church completed 1938-39

**SOURCE:** Parish Records of Notre Dame De Lourdes

**REFERENCES:**

- **Maps:** 2624 subdivided in November 1912
- **Assessment Card Information:** Seating Capacity: 550 plus or minus
- **Assessment Book Information:** 1913: Canadian Western Lumber Company Ltd. listed, Church written over. Roll # 1229 Land Value \$600 1915: Roman Catholic Bishop, Vancouver. Roll # 1482 Land Value \$400

**OTHER REFERENCES:**

- *Coquitlam: 100 Years: Reflections of the Past.* Coquitlam: District of Coquitlam, 1990.
- Foundation Group Designs Ltd. *Heritage Maillardville: Building Inventory.* Coquitlam: District of Coquitlam, 1986.
- Monk, H.A.J and John Stewart. *A History of Coquitlam and Fraser Mills 1858-1958.* New Westminster: Jackson, 1958.
- Souvenir Program 1909-1959, *Fêtes du Jubile d'Or: History of the Parish,* 1959.
- Teck, Reverend F.X. *Re Inside Finish of New Church* July, 25, 1938.

**PHOTOS:** BC Archives, Historical Photo, # A-09225