

## COLONY FARM MANAGER'S RESIDENCE, COLONY FARM

### Description of Historic Place

The Colony Farm Manager's Residence is a one-storey cross-gabled bungalow, located adjacent to the main north-south axis, Colony Farm Road, at Colony Farm in Coquitlam. This is one of two original buildings remaining at Colony Farm, the other being the Bunkhouse; both are located across from the original Village Green that was a central grassed feature of the site.

### Heritage Value of Historic Place

Built in 1917, the Colony Farm Manager's Residence is valued as one of the original buildings constructed for the Coquitlam Hospital for the Mind, (now known as Riverview Hospital), for its ties to the province's psychiatric health initiatives and as part of a model farm developed by the province. Colony Farm was purchased by the province in 1904 as the location for a new psychiatric facility to relieve the overcrowding at the original lunatic asylum in New Westminster. The lowlands of the farm were developed to provide opportunities for the inmates to work in a healthy, supervised setting and also to provide food supplies for the hospital complex. Upland from the farm, a campus of buildings for chronic patients was designed, based on the best and most humane practices of the time. The complex, which came to be known as Essondale after the Secretary of Health, Henry Esson Young, strived for self-sufficiency while providing occupational training for the mentally ill. Opened in 1910, the facilities at Colony Farm were conceived as more than just an adjunct to the mental institution, but rather as a provincial demonstration farm with high quality farm and living quarters, ultra modern farm equipment and pristine grounds. The farm was partly staffed by patients, who were paid a small salary to work and live at the farm. Numerous buildings were constructed to provide residential accommodations for the many workers and patients, as well as to house the many agricultural operations.

Additionally, the Colony Farm Manager's Residence is valued for its architectural design and as an example of standardized housing designs provided by the provincial government. The design for the original buildings both at Colony Farm and at the uphill campus being constructed for chronic patients was contracted out by the province, as they lacked the in-house expertise to tackle projects of this scale. After the end of the First World War, reflecting both grim economic realities and the establishment of the Department of Public Works (DPW), all of the subsequent design work at Essondale was undertaken by the province. The Manager's Residence reflects the modest, Arts and Crafts style the DPW considered appropriate for worker's housing, and is similar to a number of cottages built at Essondale at the same time. It also demonstrates the late persistence of the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement, and the essentially conservative nature of the DPW and its chief architect, Henry Whittaker, who guided its development for three decades. The Manager's Residence is a significant representation of the DPW's design aesthetic from the period between the two world wars.

The Colony Farm Manager's Residence is also valued for its association with one of the most successful Colony Farm managers, Pete Moore, a skilled agriculturist who started at the farm in 1917. He was responsible for converting an average Holstein herd at Colony Farm into one of the most successful dairy herds in Canada, and also pioneered and instituted the practice of artificial

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insemination for cows, now a common practice around the world. Moore and his wife lived at this residence until his retirement in 1948.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Colony Farm Manager's Residence include its:

- setting within historic Colony Farm, facing Colony Farm Road, adjacent to the Colony Farm Bunkhouse and across from the Village Green
- residential form, scale and massing as expressed by its one-storey wood-framed structure with cross-gabled roof
- wood-frame construction, with lapped wood siding at the main level, cedar shingles at the foundation level and half-timbering in the gable
- Arts and Crafts style details such as open eaves with exposed purlins and rafters, and triangular eave brackets
- additional exterior details such as external red-brick chimneys
- fenestration such as double-hung 6-over-1 double and triple-assembly wood-sash windows







DWELLING AT COLONY FARM — CIRCA 1928



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**COLONY FARM MANAGER'S RESIDENCE, COLONY FARM  
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
RESEARCH SUMMARY SHEET**

**CIVIC ADDRESS:** 200 Colony Farm Road

**ORIGINAL OWNER:** Coquitlam Hospital for the Mind

**SOURCE:** Riverview Heritage Evaluation, pp.37-44.

**CONSTRUCTION DATE:** 1917

**SOURCE:** BC Archives GR-0344, Box 1, File 7

**ARCHITECT:** Henry Whittaker, Department of Public Works

**SOURCE:** Attribution

**OTHER REFERENCES:**

- BC Archives
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**PHOTOS:** BC Archives, Historical Photo # G-04786