

4512 West Saanich Road (1911) - Saanich Municipal Hall



Saanich was incorporated on March 1, 1906. Council meetings were held initially in the Hilliger house, and from February 9, 1907, in the converted James Pim farmhouse at the corner of Glanford and Vanalman Avenues. In the 1911 election debate over the location of the new municipal hall, Frederick and William James Quick were instrumental in choosing Royal Oak. John Charles Malcolm Keith, the architect of Christ Church Cathedral, designed the hall, C.H. Merkly built it for \$4364, and D.L. Hickey and Company did the wiring for \$288. The first addition was built in 1915 by Arthur Stewart. In 1948 Dillabough and Luney made repairs and built an addition. In 1958 two huts from Gordon Head Camp were purchased and moved to the hall. The new municipal hall was opened in 1965. The old hall was sold and is now a restaurant.

This hipped-roof building has been altered considerably over the years. The low-pitched, bell-cast roof has lost its open, octagonal cupola or bell-tower on the roof ridge. The symmetrical, formal front facade had a hipped-roof open entrance porch with proportionately large, square, shingled pillars. The building's fieldstone foundations are visible only from the parking lot, under a wooden ramp, and its former dark-stained shingles are now light.