

# THE FINTRY ESTATE WALKING TOUR

Welcome to the Fintry Estate and one of British Columbia’s best parks.

This map will enable you to navigate the historic aspects of Fintry Provincial Park and learn a few interesting details as you explore.

- 1) The buildings in this area comprise the core of Capt. James Dun-Waters’ agricultural operations at Fintry. Of prime importance is the octagonal dairy barn, which we believe is the last structure of its kind in the province. Built in 1924, it housed Fintry’s Ayrshire dairy cows in bovine luxury and comfort. The carefully engineered sanitary system removed all waste from the building and deposited it in the slurry pit south of the barn. From there, the effluent was integrated with the irrigation system and recycled into the orchard.
- 2) “The Chalet” was a log cabin set in the hillside overlooking the Estate and home for some of the workers. The Chalet and the “White House” were both unfortunately lost to fire.
- 3) The path leads to the stairway that gives access to the waterfalls and intake point for the water required to operate the spray irrigation and Pelton-wheel generators. The Estate was ahead of its time in that all buildings were supplied with electricity, and all were linked by an internal telephone system.

- 4) This flat, open area was used partly as a pasture where the dairy cows could graze and partly as an orchard. A variety of fruit was grown here, including crab apples which were used to make sauces and preserves.
- 5) The group campsite is at the base of the cliff where most of the stone was quarried to build the Manor House, including the massive slabs of granite used to build the bear’s den in the Trophy Room.
- 6) The Manor House, known then as “Fintry Proper,” was the residence of James Cameron Dun-Waters, his first wife Alice and his second wife Margaret. Constructed in 1908-09, the house was gutted by fire in 1924, leaving the stone walls standing. This enabled a fairly rapid re-build and the addition of the Trophy Room on the south face of the house.
- 7) Though dubbed “The Staff Quarters,” we’re not entirely certain what this building was used for. The house staff in fact lived in apartments above the kitchen on the building’s west side. These three rooms may have been used as storage space as there were no bathroom facilities.
- 8) The sundial was a present to James Dun-Waters from the South Shropshire Hunt when he left England and immigrated to Canada. It was a considerable gift, as the entire

pedestal and brass dial were shipped across the Atlantic and Canada. The artisan used English limestone, a common material for garden ornaments, sculptures and ornamental details on buildings. The current dial, made in Vancouver, was a later addition. The original dial is part of the Manor House collection. Note the stone pathway that leads to the front steps of the house. It’s made of carefully selected, naturally flat stone probably collected from the bed of Short’s Creek.

- 9,10) These two beech trees were planted during the time the Dun-Waters lived here. They may have been brought from England as small trees. They’re a reminder that four acres of ornamental gardens once surrounded the Manor House.
- 11) Alice, the first Mrs. Dun-Waters, died in 1924 and is buried here. Over the years, the gravestone suffered the effects of weathering. Lying flat, the water froze and thawed each year, crumbling the concrete marker over time. The Friends of Fintry decided to remove the original and replace it with a copy. It is exact in all details except the material – Quebec granite, which is more durable.
- 12) Take time to walk the Labyrinth, created by the late Cathryne Durante, a local resident. She used the famous original at Chartres Cathedral in France as the model. Unlike a maze, a

labyrinth has no dead ends. The continuous path encourages the visitor to slow the pace and savour the atmosphere of the park.

- 13) The Dog Kennel: Dogs were an integral part of life at Fintry, as in many British households. Several lived here at any one time and Airedales were a favourite. The kennel has not been restored but it is hoped to do so in the near future. In keeping with this tradition, visitors are welcome to bring their dogs, on leads, while touring the Manor House.
- 14) The Packinghouse at Fintry is the only surviving one at which the sternwheelers on the lake would dock to load the products of the Fintry Estate and local fruit. The lake was, essentially, the valley’s highway, and the CP Rail sternwheelers were the trucks of the day. In addition to moving freight, the "Sicamous" provided passengers with private cabins, a post office and a luxurious dining room that used the dairy products from Fintry. Most importantly, the sternwheelers connected all the lakeside settlements with the rail-head at Okanagan Landing. Have a look at [SSSICAMOUS.CA](http://SSSICAMOUS.CA)
- 15) These facilities are conveniently located near the weeping beech tree; more are located at the group campsite.

The Friends of Fintry is a non-profit association that is in partnership with BC Parks to restore the Manor House, barns and associated historic features of the Park and to use these features to enhance our visitors’ experience. We share the park with the natural world, including some 2500 bats, which enables you to enjoy a mosquito free tour. Thank you.

This brochure is sponsored by Friends of Fintry and



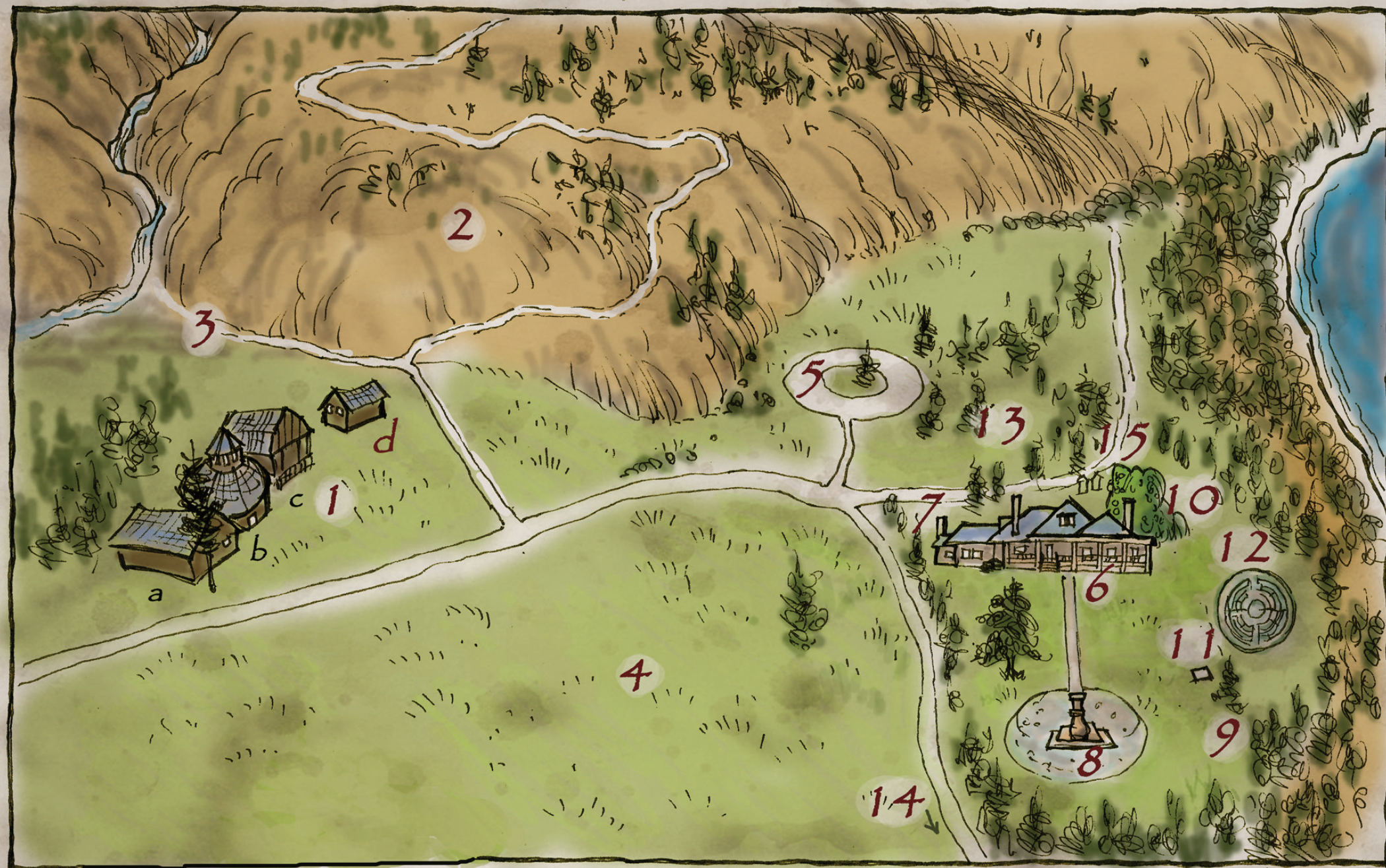
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Thanks to Neil Thacker for the map artwork





## Points of Interest

1. Barn Complex
  - a). Horse Barn    b). Dairy Barn
  - c). Hayshed Granary    d). Pig Barn
2. Site of "Chalet"
3. Path to Falls & Pelton Wheel water intake
4. Hayfields-Orchard Site
5. Group Campsite
6. Manor House
7. Staff Quarters
8. Sundial
9. Copper Beech
10. Weeping Beech
11. Alice's Grave
12. Labyrinth
13. Dog Kennel
14. To the Packinghouse & Boat Launch
15. Washrooms



Site Map