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Additional Photos: Langley Centennial Museum #3733 and others

ALDERGROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2940 272 STREET

1911

Neighbourhood: Aldergrove

Status: Historic Site

In 1910, F. J. Hart, a New Westminster real estate agent with development plans for the area, offered a free lot to the first church wishing to build in Aldergrove. The Presbyterians accepted and built this simple wood-frame structure. Materials for the building were donated, with William Vanetta being one of the persons active in procuring donations. A Mr. Hopkins of Sumas, Washington, was hired as the contractor, and the church opened in August 1911. With church union in 1925 the structure became a United Church. A large memorial hall was added to the north of the lot in 1953. The congregation moved to larger premises in 1983. The Calvary Baptist Church of Aldergrove now occupies the building.

"Aldergrove, August 28: The new Presbyterian Church here was opened for public worship yesterday afternoon... The services lasted nearly two hours. The church, which is seated to accommodate 150 people, was crowded... The building, chaste and tasteful in design, stands on the Shortreed road, generously given by F.J. Hart, Esq., New Westminster, and is a conspicuous object from the Yale-Westminster Trunk road. The building cost \$1,500 and was opened free of debt. The collection on the opening day amounted to upwards of \$40."

The British Columbian, August 29, 1911

Presbyterian worship in the area had begun as early as 1885, held in the home of Robert Shortreed Junior. The extended Shortreed family, which came from Halton County in Ontario, were all Presbyterian, and the Reverend Alexander Dunn came to Aldergrove for a two day visit, at which time he held services for them and three neighbours. Occasional services were held after that but they did not have a church until this structure was completed in 1911.