



VANCOUVER  
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Heritage House Tour 2020 ONLINE

## Central Mount Pleasant



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The annual Heritage House Tour has highlighted Vancouver's diverse historic homes and neighbourhoods since 2003, exploring local history, architecture and design.

As part of Heritage House Tour 2020 Online, VHF is providing opportunities and ideas to explore in a safe way with self-guided tours. Walk, bike or drive and use the map provided with highlighted stops along the way to discover the distinctive character and history of the area. The heritage places noted are just a sampling of points of interest along the route.

Enjoy exploring!

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# Central Mount Pleasant

**Mount Pleasant** is a vibrant and diverse neighbourhood, packed with history and heritage places. The popular residential area is often cited as Vancouver's first suburb and includes large historic houses, many now converted to multi-family use, as well as adapted heritage buildings and purpose-built apartments. It is also a commercial hub with many independent businesses.

Covered in thick forest until the mid-nineteenth century, the area was a rich resource for Vancouver's Indigenous communities, traversed by the spawning streams of Brewery Creek east of Main and China Creek near Clark Drive. An ancient trail led southeast from False Creek; in 1861, it became the first road through the area, now Kingsway, when it was upgraded by the Royal Engineers to connect with the colonial capital of New Westminster.

In 1869, Henry Edmonds, a New Westminster municipal council clerk, bought the land north of today's Broadway, speculating that Burrard Inlet would become home to the terminus of a transcontinental railway. Following the City's incorporation in 1886 and the arrival of the railway, Edmonds named his new subdivision Mount Pleasant after his wife's birthplace in Ireland. Streetcar service began in 1891 and by the turn of the 20th century, Mount Pleasant was a village with its own stores, fire hall, nurseries, greenhouses, churches and hundreds of new homes. The pre-war real estate boom brought apartment blocks and commercial development, many in substantial brick, stone and terracotta, including the landmark Lee Building in 1912.

Like the city's other old neighbourhoods, Mount Pleasant's fortunes had slumped by the postwar era. However, in the 1980s, a beautification campaign successfully turned around its reputation and fostered new confidence in its identity and rich history. The remarkable restoration of several historic homes on West 10th Avenue by the Davis family in the 1970s and 80s inspired others and showed the potential for retaining the heritage character of the streets.

For more on neighbourhood history, see the *Mount Pleasant Historic Context Statement*, written by Bruce MacDonald for Donald Luxton & Associates and the City of Vancouver, 2008.

**Mount Pleasant's 'Heritage Heart'** centres on the crossroads of Main Street, Kingsway and Broadway. Numerous heritage buildings anchor the unique cultural and commercial character of the area, which is threatened by development pressure increased by the planned new subway line station. A campaign led by the Mount Pleasant Heritage Group seeks a formal plan to retain the social diversity, independent businesses, affordable rents, historic architecture, smaller store frontages, public spaces and unique personality of the neighbourhood.

**1 101 E 7th Avenue | Quebec Manor 1912 | Heritage Register: A**

The distinctive façade with patterned brickwork and two eye-catching female figures holding up the pediment began as a 32-suite luxury apartment hotel, designed by father and son architects Townsend and Townsend for owner WD Muir. It became rental apartments in the 1920s and has been a housing co-op since the 1980s.

**2 154-156 E 7th Avenue | Williams Block 1910 | Heritage Register: B (M)**

Built by Fred Williams and owned by his family for many years, this was one of the first apartment buildings built in Mount Pleasant, with a storefront and residential above.

**3 Mount Pleasant Clock and Gertrude Guerin Plaza**

Installed in the late 1980s as part of a beautification project for the area, the design of the Welcome clock reflects the historic character of the area. It was built by renowned local clockmaker Ray Saunders whose works include the Gastown Steam Clock. The small plaza where Main Street and Kingsway meet is named for Musqueam Elder Gertrude Guerin, who was a Chief, politician and tireless advocate for community issues and First Nations rights.

**4 2345-2349 Main Street | Goh Ballet Academy 1912 | Heritage Register: B**

This terracotta-clad neoclassical bank building was designed by Thomas Hooper for the Royal Bank of Canada who had a branch here until 1973. The Goh Ballet Academy, established in 1978 by National Ballet of China's Choo Chiat and Lin Yee Goh, moved in to this and the former grocery store next door in 1985. Around the corner at 151 E 8th Avenue is the complex Depencier House. Built around 1890 on the site of the Royal Bank, it was moved and raised to add room for commercial space on the ground floor. With various other modifications, it has housed candy production and several cafes yet many original elements remain.

**5 151-189 E Broadway | Lee Building 1911 | Heritage Register: B**

At seven storeys, this was the tallest building south of False Creek and a symbol of confidence in the economic prosperity of the city. The steel framed structure was built for merchant Herbert Lee on the site of his former grocery store. Including retail, office and residential, it was designed to be truly mixed use. The storefronts were pushed back and an arcade created when Broadway was widened in 1953. Look for the *Places That Matter* plaque at the entrance.

**6 2539-2549 Main Street | Belvedere Court 1912 | Heritage Register: B**

Arthur Bird was City architect and chief building inspector, and an advocate for public housing. He designed many commercial and residential buildings in the city, this one in restrained Edwardian style. Look out for the handsome three-storey Algonquin Apartments at 5 E 10th further on the route, designed by Bird a few years earlier.

**7 166-170-190 E 10th Avenue | Mason Block | 1905-07**

An early example of mixed-use architecture, it is built of reinforced and cast concrete – one of the first buildings to use these materials in the city. In addition to the storefront and walk-up apartments, there are three two-storey townhouses, each with private entrances – possibly the city's first concrete condominiums.

**8 154 E 10th Avenue | Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral 1950 | Heritage Register: B (M)**

Architect Seij J. Timoshenko drew on the traditions of Eastern European architecture including symmetrical cupolas, central dome, stained glass windows and ornate interior with numerous icons. Much of the construction work was completed by church members. The Ukrainian Orthodox congregation was established in 1937 and the church was officially opened on Easter Sunday 1950.

**9 2525 Quebec Street | Cornerstone 1909 / 1994 | Heritage Register: A (M)**

Built in 1909 by the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church congregation and designed by prolific architectural partnership Parr & Fee, for 80 years this building housed different groups, including the Christian City Church and the Evangelistic Tabernacle. By 1989, the dwindling congregation could no longer sustain the building and it was used briefly as a theatre and performing arts venue before being converted into 23 strata units in 1994.

**10 2601 Quebec Street | Federal Store | 1922**

Neighbourhood corner stores were once common throughout Vancouver's residential neighbourhoods. Established as Coville Bake Shop by Hannah Coville, this one was recently reinvigorated with a café. The name Federal Store dates to the 1960s. Hannah's husband John Coville built houses in the area as well as The Frontenac apartments along the street in 1910.

**IMPORTANT NOTE** Many of the sites noted on the tour are private homes and property. They are not open to visitors. Please respect privacy. Please enjoy viewing the stops on the tour from the sidewalk and do not enter private gardens or property for any reason.



# Central Mount Pleasant

**11 2617-2619 Ontario Street | View Court Housing Co-op 1905 | Heritage Register: B**

The duplex house, originally a single family dwelling, was built by James G. Chalmers. It was the first in the city to be constructed with cast cement blocks on-site. Chalmers had the adjacent brick apartment building constructed by Edward Ryan in 1912. Ryan's firm went on to construct some of Vancouver's most iconic buildings including the Marine Building and the Hotel Vancouver. Since 1981, both buildings are part of a 32-unit resident-owned co-op.

**12 36 W 10th Avenue | 1909 Heritage Register: C**

This large gabled home was built by Tobias Collins who was active in developing many other homes in the area, including numbers 28 and 30 on the same block.

**13 42 and 46 W 10th Avenue | 1911 | Heritage Register: B**

Both were built by F.S. Lindley and are fine examples of the Colonial Revival style popular during the Edwardian period in Vancouver. The well-preserved exteriors each feature a hipped roof, wide eaves with brackets, a centrally-placed dormer, and pedimented porch with turned spindle supports. Both were painted in an authentic historical scheme using the True Colours palette with the help of VHF's first grants in 1999.

**14 117 W 10th Avenue 1894 | Heritage Register: B (M)**

This two-storey Queen Anne style cottage has distinctive gable fretwork, drop siding, and a broad porch. It is considered to be one of the earliest surviving examples of its kind along with its easterly neighbour. The first owners were Isaac Mills, a clerk at a shoe retailer in Gastown, and his wife Edith Donohoe. It was restored by the Davis family in the 1980s.

**15 130 W 10th Avenue | Macauley House 1893 / 1900 / 1910 | Heritage Register: C**

A modest Victorian style home was built by labourer John Crawford. When he sold to Richard Macauley, it was first extended and then extensively remodelled in the fashionable Edwardian style, largely replicating the façade of the neighbour at 150 W 10th. Macauley was a fireman at Firehall No. 3 on Broadway.

**16 140 W 10th Avenue and the Davis Houses 1911 | Heritage Register: B (M)**

The extraordinary collection of well-preserved heritage homes on this block of W 10th Avenue is largely due to the efforts of the Davis family. Starting in 1973, John and Nita "Pat" Davis and their family purchased, restored and protected with heritage designation a succession of houses that were threatened by neglect and demolition, often converting them to multiple suites and providing long-term affordable rental accommodation. This house along with 117, 144, 148, 150, 156 and 160 are all part of this picturesque and historic block due to their efforts. This house was restored in 1980.

**17 144 W 10th Avenue | Fred Welsh House 1905 | Heritage Register: A (M)**

Built for grocer Fred Welsh, the house has many Victorian characteristics such as a prominent bay on one side, and a small sheltered half-porch on the other as well as the gable trim, gingerbread detailing, fretwork brackets, fish-scale shingles and turned columns.

**18 156 W 10th Avenue c. 1900 | Heritage Register: A (M)**

The first resident was Clarence R. Monck, a stonecutter who lived here until 1904. The next twenty years saw new residents every couple of years including a tailor, sheet metal worker, conductor, lineman, bookkeeper, and various labourmen. It wasn't until 1924 that the first long-term residents moved in. The Ulonska family lived in the house until 1935.

**19 166 W 10th Avenue | Robert Moore House / Davis House 1891 | Heritage Register: A**

Considered to be the oldest surviving house original to the Mount Pleasant area, distinctive features include the asymmetrical façade, prominent front-facing bay window and gable roof. It is named for the first owner, Robert Moore, a teamster. However, the building is also commonly referred to as the Davis House for the Davis family who resided here from 1975 to 1985 and who were responsible for the 1973-75 restoration. It was the first home that they restored on the block and the first in the city to receive a City of Vancouver heritage plaque.

**20 2544 and 2532 Columbia Street Bloomfield Residence and Studio 1894 / 1899-1900 | Heritage Register: C and A (M)**

Henry Bloomfield established BC's first art glass studio in New Westminster in 1890. He moved to Vancouver in 1898 with his two sons, Charles and James and they lived and worked here. James (Blomfield) went on to have his own distinguished career as a stained glass artist. His local work includes St. Paul's Anglican Church, Gabriola Mansion and the design of the City of Vancouver coat of arms used 1903-69.

**21 2631-2633 Columbia Street | 1908 | Heritage Register: A**

This imposing house is one of the best surviving examples of the Colonial Revival style. The symmetrical facade and wide front porch with triple columns add a classical note and a reminder that Mount Pleasant was being developed as a prestigious area at the time. The first owner was Dr. Brett Anderson.

**22 145 W 11th Avenue | 1909 | Heritage Register: B**

This Early Cottage style home sits behind a larger home on the same lot. Rear yard infill buildings such as this one were not uncommon in Vancouver's early neighbourhoods, a precedent for the more recent laneway house developments.

**23 25 and 31 W 11th Avenue | 1908 | Heritage Register: B**

These two homes in the Early Vernacular style mirror each other in design and are part of an original cluster of seven wood frame houses on the block, of which six remain. In 1910, the occupant of number 25 was Gideon Bower, lumberman, while his neighbours at number 31 were James and Hannah Hogg.

**24 2703-2707 Main Street | Wenonah Apartments 1912 | Heritage Register: B**

Designed by Seattle architect William P. White for owner James B. Mathers and built by Booker, Campbell & Whipple, the Wenonah Apartments cost over \$50,000 to construct. It features high end materials and details including decorative terracotta and blonde bricks. The same architect and builders also did the Crosbie Block further north (156 E 8th). More recently, stained glass designs have been added to many of the windows, creating a unique collection.

**TO KEEP EXPLORING, CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES**

- Heritage Site Finder Interactive Map**  
[www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/map](http://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/map)
- Places That Matter Community History Resource**  
[www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/places-that-matter](http://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/places-that-matter)

**More information about many of the stops in the guide is available through our online resources – simply search by address or name of the site**  
[www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org](http://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org)

The tour area is on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.