The Vancouver Heritage FOUNDATION

HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR

get INSPIRED, EDUCATED & INSIDE 10 homes

sunday june 7th 2009

{10am-5pm}

The Vancouver Heritage FOUNDATION

The Heritage House Tour is a fundraising event in support of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation

guidelines for visitors

Welcome to the **7th Annual Open Vancouver Heritage House Tour.** We know that by choosing to participate in this event, you are someone who respects and values heritage homes. In order to ensure that the tour is successful and problem free, we ask you to adhere to the following guidelines.

All shoes must be removed before entering tour houses - we recommend wearing shoes that can easily be removed.

- This numbered guidebook is your ticket. For security reasons the passport on the back cover will be marked at the entrance to each house. Only ticket holders will be admitted.
- The houses are open for visiting from 10 am to 5 pm in whatever order you prefer. Early birds and latecomers will not be admitted. Expect a line-up outside some of the homes.
- Interior photography is prohibited except by designated and identified tour photographers.
- We regret the lack of handicap access.
- We suggest that young children are not suitable visitors and no strollers will be permitted. Please leave your pets at home.
- When parking, please be aware of the needs of neighbours and other tour participants. Do not block driveways or streets. Parking is limited and we strongly suggest carpooling with friends.
- Please leave any parcels or big bags in your car or at home.
- No food, drink or smoking will be allowed on tour properties.
- When viewing gardens, please stay on pathways and do not pick flowers or take plant samples.
- Do not enter any rooms which have been roped off or which have closed doors. Avoid touching furniture, art and household items.
- Note that washroom facilities are not provided in the houses. Please plan to make washroom stops in public facilities, or at Hycroft, 1489 McRae Avenue and at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 805 E Pender Street (see map in the centre of this guidebook).
- The organizers maintain the right to remove or refuse entry to any visitor who, in the unlikely event, refuses to adhere to these guidelines.
- The guidebook provides a bike route and a public transit guide along with **a good street map** to encourage participants to either: bike, bus, or carpool on tour.

Please feel free to ask questions of our terrific volunteers. We wish you a wonderful day!

welcome from the VHF

This year marks the 7th anniversary of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation Heritage House Tour. The event has opened 75 historic spaces to more than 10,000 people, and has raised $350,000 to enhance the VHF's education and granting programs. Thank you for your support.

This year's tour theme of 'HomeGrown' is a good match for the economic and environmental times we live in. The pre-tour lecture and the guidebook essays focus on early urban agriculture, corner markets, and food production in Vancouver. Over the last half a century the focus has been on widening our horizons through sprawling suburbs and global buying of our food and energy. In fact a common phrase to describe recent decades is 'How small the world has become!' Now we are rethinking how we live: staying closer to home and striving to purchase local goods and services. The words of modernist architect, Mies van der Rohe, 'Less is More' are ringing true not only for design, but also for life in general.

There are three former corner grocery stores open this year, each with a different 21st century development solution; from the wonderfully intact Connaught Apartments, to the completely rebuilt Douglas Park neighbourhood Foley Building, to the Strathcona corner store that has become someone's private living and exhibit space. In each case the solution is what was right for the neighbourhood and the structure. One solution is not better than the other, the solution is simply different and ensures the communal memory of 'the corner store' lives on.

As you tour the houses enjoy a peek into the past and get ideas for your own house, but also look beyond the building fabric and decor to understand the value these buildings have in the community. Beyond the details it is the history of the building, its location within the neighbourhood, and the changes to the building over many years that tell the story of our city.

Enjoy the tour, and don't forget to sign up for other Vancouver Heritage Foundation programs and activities at vancouverheritagefoundation.org. See you on July 12th at Hotdogs for Heritage. Bring your friends and family to enjoy the architectural salvage sale, silent auction, children's activities and, of course, delicious but decadent hotdogs.

Enjoy the tour!

Diane

Diane Switzer, *VHF Executive Director*

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book now for upcoming VHF events & programs

{ LIMITED SPACE SO BOOK EARLY ! }

PRE-TOUR LECTURE

$10 "VANCOUVER: FEEDING OURSELVES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE" HERB BARBOLET
Tuesday, May 26th at 7:30 pm. Unitarian Church, 949 West 49th Avenue.
One of the leading food activists in North America, Herb Barbolet is the founder of FarmFolk/CityFolk, and works in food policy research and projects from the very local to the global.

OLD SCHOOL: COURSES FOR BUILDING CONSERVATION

{educational workshops and lectures - certificate program}

HERITAGE 101: UNDERSTANDING HERITAGE CONSERVATION
October 17th, 9am – 5pm, $100+GST

RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF A BUILDING, PART I
FALL 2009 dates TBA, 7-9pm at the City of Vancouver Archives, $12+GST

RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF A BUILDING, PART II
FALL 2009 dates TBA, 6:30-8:30pm at the VPL Special Collections, FREE

WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS **November 4th, 5-9pm, $50+GST**

WINDOWS + THEIR CONSERVATION **November 7th, 9am-3pm, $75+GST**

PLANNING + MANAGING A HERITAGE PROJECT **November (Date TBA), 9am-5pm, $100+GST**

SUMMER WALKING TOURS {10am on Saturdays}

CHINATOWN **July 11th** with John Atkin
CARRALL STREET **July 25th** with John Atkin
JAPANTOWN **August 8th** with John Atkin
DOWNTOWN MID-CENTURY MODERN **August 22nd** with John Atkin & Liberty Walton

$14/person inc. GST & map-guide. Tours are held Saturday mornings at 10am and last approximately 2.5 hours. Summer 2009 walking tours follow the VHF's map-guide itineraries. If you can't join a guided tour, please visit the VHF office to pick up free copies of the map-guides: Downtown Modernist Architecture, and NEW: Japantown, Carrall Street Greenway and Chinatown.

FALL EVENTS

VANCOUVER SPECIAL TOUR **September 26th,12-5pm, $25+GST**

MID-CENTURY MODERN RESIDENTIAL BUS TOUR
October 4th, 1-6pm includes a wine reception and a $50 tax receipt, $100+GST

for more information or *to register* visit
www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org or call (604) 264 9642

The Vancouver
Heritage FOUNDATION

HOTDOGS FOR HERITAGE

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Sunday, July 12th

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

1550 Angus Drive ~ Admission by donation

ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE SALE
SILENT AUCTION
ENTERTAINMENT
HOURLY PRIZES
HOT DOGS

For up-to-date details and salvage items, visit
vancouverheritagefoundation.org

homegrown

HISTORICALLY, MANY OF VANCOUVER'S HOMES HAD VEGETABLE GARDENS, BUTLER PANTRIES, OUTDOOR FOOD STORAGE AND WINE & ROOT CELLARS. LOCAL ORCHARDS, FARMS, GROCERY MARKETS AND HOMEMADE GOODS WERE PRESENT IN ALMOST EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD. CELEBRATING THE MORE DIGESTIVE SIDE OF OUR PAST, THIS YEAR'S TOUR INCLUDES NOT ONLY FASCINATING HOUSES BUT ALSO INVESTIGATES CULINARY SITES, CUSTOMS AND HISTORY OF EARLY EUROPEAN AND ASIAN SETTLEMENT IN VANCOUVER.

One might assume that in Vancouver's early days, the food scene was simple and limited compared to today's multi-cultural array and selection. As Canadian culinary historian Dorothy Duncan[1] says: "We talk about the 100-mile diet. Back then, everybody was eating the One-mile diet, never mind 100 miles!"

But maybe food wasn't as restricted as we imagine. According to research conducted by Don Dickson, the owner of South China Seas (www.southchinaseas.ca) "A century before anyone said fusion food or nouvelle-cuisine, settlers on the West Coast brought cooking traditions from all over Europe, China, Japan, even Hawaii, and borrowing heavily from the cooking methods of local native cultures, turned the unique abundance of this land into food that was lively, fresh, creative and most definitely, cross-cultural."

But whether our diet was more colourful on the west coast or not, food was prepared in the kitchen, and historic kitchens were a very different place than they are today. Kitchens were utilitarian rooms and were primarily the domain of women. We have some insight into what happened in kitchens in the late 19th century through numerous household publications from the period.

The most influential publications of this kind in North America were written by Catherine Beecher in the 1840s, who according to Jane Powell & Linda Svendsen (authors of Bungalow Kitchens) may well be the mother of the modern kitchen. Ms. Beecher was the first to propose such concepts as storing foodstuffs near where they would be used; different preparation areas for different foods; flour and sugar bins; the broom closet; open shelving and possibly even the grooved drain boards next to the sink.

Stand straight and steady on your sturdy step-stool when you reach for anything above eye-level. The other one's for sitting.

from the 1949 booklet titled **handy households hints**, a compilation of canadian woman's chatelaine magazine, come these two helpful tips:

"why, oh why, do canadian women continue to stand to perform every household task? it's nothing more or less than a bad habit - a carry over from pioneering days."

A common kitchen from the first decade of the 20th century was typically a room with a freestanding stove, wall-hung sink, a work table, maybe one freestanding or built-in cabinet and almost no counter space. The fridge/ icebox would be on the utility porch accessible from the kitchen. Before refrigeration, perishables were stored in root cellars or preserved through canning, drying or smoking.

In the smaller houses of the working classes, the kitchen was often used also for living, sleeping, as well as bathing. Because the kitchen stove was almost constantly on, the kitchen was probably the warmest place in the house.

Wood fired stoves provided heat, but they were also a considerable fire hazard. The scorching cast iron, flying sparks and constant fire stoking presented so much risk that kitchens were often designed to be a separate structure that could be pushed away from the rest of the house if they caught fire. Nick-named "lean-to" kitchens, they were usually single-storey formations at the back of the house, with their own roof and can easily be identified on early fire-insurance maps of Vancouver.

From the 1920s and on, we start to recognize signs of a "modern" kitchen: built-in cabinets, continuous countertops, tiled-in sink, electric refrigerator inside the kitchen and possibly a nook or breakfast room. In this period many packaged foods, labour-saving appliances and time-saving products were introduced which made food preparation more efficient.

On tour day, visitors will have the opportunity to **visit former grocery stores, existing food business in historic spaces and read about the unique food connection** some tour houses brings through their history, their former residents' occupations, original kitchen features or culinary artifacts found on the premises. Especially fun will be to **pick up a copy of the Strathcona Market Map**, a unique map of historic and existing markets in Strathcona researched and designed by the VHF specifically for this year's tour. **The Strathcona Market Map can be picked up on June 7th at the VHF booth, houses #1 and #2 in Strathcona, and all participating markets in the area.**

[1] Duncan, Dorothy. "Canadians at the Table: Food, Fellowship, and Folklore: A Culinary History of Canada" Dundurn Press Ltd., 2006

1

708 hawks avenue

STYLE **EDWARDIAN BOX**
DATE **1905**
FIRST OWNERS
THOMAS & JESSIE CRAWFORD

sponsored by Old School: Courses for Building Conservation

This home was built in 1905, as were its three adjacent neighbours on Hawks Avenue, by Vancouver policeman Thomas Crawford. Thomas Crawford died in 1907 but Jessie Crawford and her children continued to live at 708 Hawks Avenue until 1920 when they sold to Nicola and Marian DiTomaso. The DiTomasos, of Italian origin, built the addition to the front of the house around 1923 as a location for a family business. From 1924 onward, 708 Hawks was listed in the city directories as the Georgia Confectionery. The Di Tomaso family continued to live here and run the store until the 1970s. This configuration of a front-store with a family dwelling in the back and upper floors was a typical phenomenon in many residential neighbourhoods in Vancouver.

Although this is a quiet, traffic-calmed spot today, historically this corner was a hub for several retail businesses. Before the creation of McLean Park, this part of East Georgia Street was a streetcar route and a popular commuter thoroughfare into downtown. Apart from the Georgia Confectionery, across the street at 701 Hawks (the north-end unit of the row house) was the East End Grocery, established in 1908. Over time it was renamed the Royal Grocery and then the Hawks Grocery until it was condemned in 1975.

It is quite amazing that after a long history of substantial retail traffic, the home's interior is practically unaltered. Original windows, moulding, trim and floors all survived beautifully, as did the straightforward layout of the three bedroom family home. The current homeowner was stunned to discover a kitchen so unaltered it could only be described as a scullery: lacking counter space and even a stove! He says, "I was most drawn to the two rooms in the house that are the most problematic. One was the former storefront with its wonderful light and corner views. However, it's proving tricky to use, for reasons both structural –foundation issues– and aesthetic. It's a very public space– it's known in the neighbourhood as "the fish bowl"– and I haven't yet settled on the right combination of outside planting and window treatments that will give a modicum of privacy but still let all that beautiful outside in. I was also taken by the kitchen, with its (I suppose) homespun terrazzo floor and the cute little galley. However, the surfeit of doors in the room, and the absence of a continuous wall have been a design challenge, as has the unusual floor with its cracks and gulleys. The question has been, which should take precedence: the original folk art charm of the place? Or kitchen practicalities that would see the original (or, at least, established) features altered or removed altogether. After not much agonizing, the former that held sway."

walk to 732 princess

flower arrangements by **FULL BLOOM**
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www.fullbloomflowers.com

2

732 princess avenue

STYLE **EDWARDIAN BOX**
DATE **1903**
ARCHITECT **UNKNOWN**
FIRST OWNER **JANE & GEORGE WILKS**
vancouver heritage register status "C"
municipally designated

new life old buildings

sponsored by VHF publication *New Life Old Buildings*

Jane Wilks signed the building permit application for this building in 1903, which was to become a rental property for her family. Strathcona was always a well located neighbourhood, near the port, Hastings Mill and the business district of Gastown. This fact may have helped the Wilks in finding long-term tenants Gilbert Parker & Mary McKinnell, to move in as soon as the house was completed.

A colourful variety of residents lived in the house after the McKinnells' eight year residency. The city directories list ship Captain James John Bartlett living here with his family from 1912-15. For a few decades after that this was a hub for Italian families, with the Corsetti family at 732 Princess (confectioners), the Benedetti family establishing Benny's Italian Foods Market and their residences at the corner, the Dalfo family at 750 Princess, followed by Mrs. Lena Berrettoni who lived next door for over 30 years.

The current homeowners bought the house in 2000, a transaction that wasn't for the faint-of-heart, as 732 & 750 Princess were technically on the same title, each straddling a portion of two adjacent lots running north-south. Together with the homeowner at 750, and through a complex Heritage Revitalization Agreement with the City of Vancouver, they were eventually able to reconfigure the lots and separate land titles. In return for this process, they agreed to legally protect the heritage houses from demolition (hence the bronze plaques).

During this administrative period, the homeowners dedicated themselves to an intense rehabilitation of the building, upgrading outdated mechanical systems and exposing the homes' beautiful features that had been hidden under layers of alterations. In the process, curious things were discovered, both personal and structural, that the new owners decided to preserve. The most moving discovery was a postcard dated November 1914 sent to 732 Princess from Captain James Bartlett who was away at sea. Found behind a wall during the renovations, the postcard is now framed and displayed in the dining room with other surprising bits of the home's past.

Today, residents on Princess Avenue still benefit from quality Italian groceries a stone's throw away, and the active community network at their fingertips (a daycare, community centre and elementary school on this very block). Recently, the now officially separated households decided to share the costs and benefits of a common children's tree-house straddling the property line. Combining both homes' historic colour schemes, this structure is a modern chapter to the story of a unique neighbourhood where wonderful

walk to 708 hawks

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how we were fed : the early years

{ WRITTEN BY MICHAEL KLUCKNER }

VANCOUVER WAS FOUNDED AT THE POINT WHEN NEW TECHNOLOGY, REFRIGERATION AND FAST LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORT, INCREASED THE OPTIONS FOR FEEDING URBAN POPULATIONS. LIKE MOST CITIES VANCOUVER SUPPORTED A FARMING HINTERLAND AND WAS IN RETURN FED BY IT – INDEED, AS WITH ALL CITIES, ITS COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED A WEEK WITHOUT THE LABOUR OF ITS HUMBLE FARMERS.

arbutus market at the corner of 6th ave & arbutus built in 1908. this watercolour, by michael kluckner, depicts the prosperous 1920s when even family men could afford "flivvers' like the chevy in the picture.

In the early 1860s, 25 years before the railway's arrival, a group of settlers including the McCleery brothers, Hugh Magee and Henry Mole began farming the Southlands flats. Their customers lived in New Westminster, a rowboat ride away, and at the salmon canneries and fish camps that dotted the riverbank and were concentrated at Steveston.

Once the railway arrived, ice harvesting and storage became profitable. Texas Lake near Yale in the Fraser Canyon was the source of the first ice sold in Vancouver, delivered by horse-drawn dray. Soon, commercial ice-making began, then kerosene or electric refrigerators became affordable for the average family.

Chinese men no longer able to get railway work began market gardening on the rich floodplain downstream from New Westminster; one was Hok Yat Louie, who used the time spent driving a vegetable wagon to Vancouver's Chinatown to learn English. He went on to build the H.Y. Louie wholesale produce company; his son, Tong, created the local IGA supermarket chain and London Drugs. Other Chinese market gardens sprang up on patches of suitable soil, such as on 41st just east of Fraser (the only north-south road in early Vancouver).

One curiosity a century ago was the Canadian Pacific Railway Gardens – now Point Grey School's playing fields. Located next to the Vancouver-Steveston interurban line, it grew fresh vegetables for the company's trains and hotels.

Given that it was a logged-off rainforest with rain-leached, acidic soil, Vancouver also supported a surprising number of dairy farms, the cows in the early years roaming widely through the brush and scrub. The Garvin Dairy was a neighbourhood institution in lower Mount Pleasant. The Jones Dairy on Kingsway at Windsor was a near neighbour of the McGeer farm at Fraser Street; according to legend, future mayor and senator Gerry McGeer honed his oratorical skills talking to himself during his boyhood milk deliveries.

watercolour, by michael kluckner, depicting **yaletown** in the early 1900s. 1371 seymour street (demolished in 1949 for the granville bridge exit ramp) and a valley dairy delivery buggy (the dairy was at 856 howe st. and its cows grazed vacant lots in the west end).

William Shannon ran a herd on the south slope of the city near Granville Street – hence Shannon Road, now 57th Avenue, a name that survives on the old Rogers/Taylor estate at the corner of 57th Ave and Granville. The Stewart dairy farm occupied the bluff above Spanish Banks and, it is said, delivered its milk cans to trucks on Marine Drive using a funicular railway. The False Creek flats that were railyards for the Great Northern Railway and Canadian National Railway were also used as cow pasture during the 1920s and '30s. A handful of Strathcona families kept cows in their back-lane barns.

As the city grew, milk from the Fraser Valley nourished the growing Vancouver population. The BC Electric Railway company's interurban to Chilliwack did not stay profitable for long on passenger volume, but its milk runs were an essential part of the region's economy until the line closed in 1950 and trucks became the mode of transport. The vanished industrial area south of Broadway near Arbutus was home to the Jersey, Guernsey and Associated dairies – they were bottling plants. Palm Dairy on Main Street operated into the 1970s. The surviving business from that era in the city is Avalon Dairy, begun in 1906 with six cows on cleared bushland south of 41st Avenue in East Vancouver.

Many suburban families grew their own vegetables in their backyards and kept hens – a century ago, newspaper advertisements touted the independent lifestyle of the small-scale egg producer, and flocks of a hundred or so hens were common on vacant lots on the suburban outskirts of South Vancouver. That kind of subsistence agriculture continued in Southlands even after the last of the big farms – the McCleerys' – had been taxed out of existence and turned into a golf course in the 1950s.

One remnant from that rural past is the ancient apple orchard at the southwest corner of 51st and Balaclava; its underplanting of daffodils, started in the 1920s by Archie Urwin to provide an early cash crop, continues to bloom and brighten the pale Vancouver springtime. Today one has to travel to south or east Richmond, or to the Burnaby flats, to see the kind of beautifully tended market gardens that once dotted the Vancouver landscape.

3

1945 ferndale street

STYLE **EDWARDIAN BUILDER**
BUILT **1908**
FIRST RESIDENT **F. GORDON LOANE**

City Of Vancouver Heritage Planning Dept Info Booth {across the street @ 1932 Ferndale}

realtor, Lisa MacIntosh

sponsored by DEXTER ASSOCIATES REALTY

The area around Ferndale Street was opened up for development in 1907-1909 by the Vancouver Improvement Company, who owned much of the eastern side of Vancouver at the time. Because Ferndale Street was close to the waterfront industrial area and to downtown, it was probably marketed as the working class portion of the new, high-end suburb of Grandview. Compared to the southern, higher parts of Grandview, here lots are smaller, views are less grand, and houses were probably much more affordable. The Vancouver Improvement Company sometimes sold off entire blocks for development.

The new land owners would hire their own surveyor to subdivide their parcel into lots. On this block, subdivision obviously maximized the development potential and enabled the construction of 25 separate dwellings on the block with no lanes or other 'wasted' space. The street, which was known as Keefer Street until 1929, was conveniently located on a street car line that went west into downtown and was extended between 1910 and 1919 all the way to Boundary Road.

The house at 1945 Ferndale was hooked up to the city water system in 1908, with an application in the name of Joseph Rainey (spelling uncertain). By 1909 it was inhabited by Gordon Loane, a cashier at the Hastings Shingle and Manufacturing Co.. This company had one of its mills on Powell Street just down the hill from Ferndale: a short walk for Mr. Loane.

For a number of years prior to WWI John Cummings, the owner of Manitoba Transfer, lived in the house. A transfer company was the precursor to today's teamsters, hence the International Brotherhood of Teamsters logo that incorporates two horses. Transfer Companies drove heavy-duty carts pulled by horses that carried everything from logs to manufactured goods.

The house at 1945 Ferndale has been lovingly rehabilitated. The owners matched original mouldings and kept the original staircase, windows and siding. Between the living room and dining room the owner replicated missing trim and room division elements. The new plan is more open than the original layout, and doors which were removed were re-instated elsewhere in the house. The showcase feature of the rehabilitation is the stunning, well equipped kitchen. The house incorporates a rear garden level office. The original one and a half storey massing of the house has been retained giving the upper floor a small footprint. Today, the entire upper floor is a master bedroom and bathroom space.

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4

1476 graveley street

STYLE **EDWARDIAN/CRAFTSMAN**
DATE **1910**
FIRST OWNER **DOUGALL A. ACORN**
vancouver heritage register status 'B'

sponsored by SMALLWORKS STUDIOS / LANEWAY HOUSING

Together with its "twin" at 1504 Graveley (which was included in the 2005 Tour) these homes are evocative reminders of middle class living in early Grandview.

By 1910, both the Interurban and a streetcar ran along Commercial Drive and properties throughout Grandview were being developed. The house at 1476 Graveley was built by Dougall A. Acorn, and is virtually identical to not only its "twin" at 1504 Graveley, but also a house at 2504 York, which Acorn also built and lived in. The first occupant, Louis G. Hoffmeister, was an uncle to Major-General Bertram Meryl Hoffmeister, Canada's most decorated solider, former CEO of MacMillan Bloedel and founding chair of the BC Land Conservancy. The next owners, Frank & Teresa Merchese, lived in the house for 36 years, until 1950.

The exterior features a large triangular front gable, steeply pitched roof, a saddlebag dormer, and deep overhangs with scrolled knee brackets. The square porch columns are capped with brackets. The second floor sleeping porch was enclosed in the 1920s or 30s with single pane wood windows making it into year-round useable space.

The interior is wonderfully intact. One enters into a generous sized foyer through the original door, which is flanked by coloured art glass. The main floor features extensive wood panelling, oak floors with dark wood inlays, picture rails, plate rails, high baseboards and art glass throughout. The lovely dining room fireplace has glazed tiles, oak columns with Corinthian capitals and a bevelled glass mirror above the mantel. The tiny parlour just off the kitchen (now the TV room) may have been a maid's room.

This home undoubtedly had a "grand view" of the North Shore Mountains for many years, not only because it is constructed on the crest of a hill, but also because the entire city block to the north was undeveloped until the late 1960s.

The backyard used to have extensive grape vines, which were considerably reduced when the previous owners constructed an infill building. The infill, similar to that which was constructed at the "twin" house across Woodland Drive, was permitted under the existing RM-4 (apartment) zoning. The current owners have recently received a Restore It! Grant from the Vancouver Heritage Foundation for the re-roofing of the building.

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map create your own itinerary!

{choose to visit any or all of the houses open on the tour & don't forget to drop by the stores in tour buildings as well}

I VHF INFORMATION BOOTH

Open 9am-5pm
1551 Laurier Ave (outside house #7).
Drop by to purchase last minute tour tickets (call 604 264 9642 for availability), ask questions, share your suggestions, or to receive your cycling/public transit rebate of $5.

II CITY OF VANCOUVER HERITAGE PLANNING DEPT INFORMATION BOOTH

1932 Ferndale Street (across the street from house #3).
Find out about the Heritage Register & Designation, and ask about the City's Bronze Plaque program.

LUNCH OPTIONS & WASHROOM FACILITIES

a Hycroft University Women's Club
1489 McRae Avenue, 11:30am – 2pm
$10 light sandwich lunch
Reserve ahead at (604) 731 4661
Limited seating in Dining Room & on Terrace
Vintage cars courtesy of Lorne & Peter Findlay

b NEW! Ukrainian Cultural Centre
805 E Pender St, 11am – 2pm
$10 lunch plate: perogies, cabbage rolls, Ukrainian sausage, salad & vegetarian options. Hot & cold beverages available to purchase on site.
No reservation needed. www.auucvancouver.ca

NEW! Tea & Tasting Option - South China Seas
1904 Victoria Drive, 10am - 6pm
Free tasting and printed recipes of historic local dishes. Learn about the diverse culinary traditions in early Vancouver.

SUGGESTED BUS ROUTES

Grandview Woodlands < > Strathcona
#22 On Clark
#20 On Commercial or E Hastings

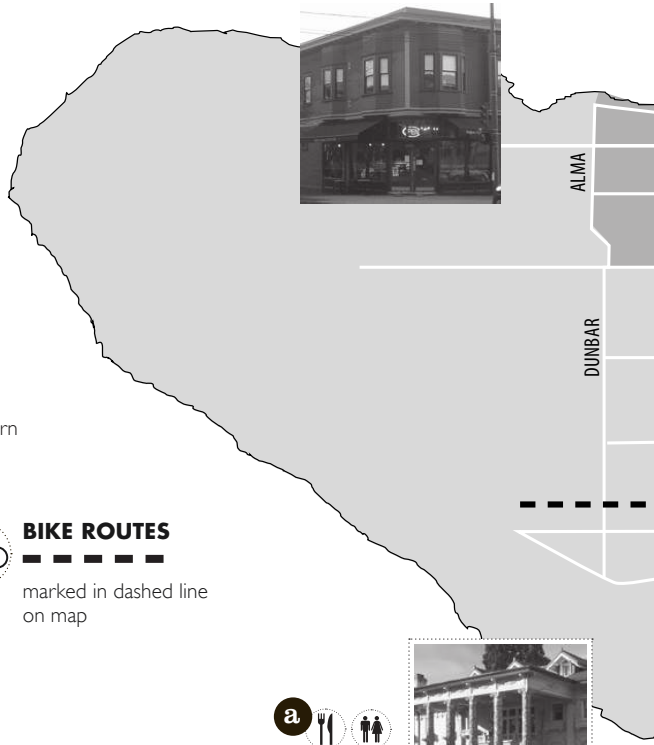
Douglas Park < > Kitsilano < > Shaughnessy
#16 on Arbutus
#25 on King Edward
#33 on E Blvd or W 16th

Grandview Woodlands < > Strathcona < > Douglas Park
#22 on Clark
Switch to #15 on W Pender Downtown

BIKE ROUTES

marked in dashed line on map

9/10 2515 / 2521 Vine
vine @ w.broadway



a Hycroft
1489 McRae Ave
near 16th @ Granville

1 708 Hawks
hawks @ e.georgia
2 732 Princess
union @ princess
3 1945 Ferndale
victoria @ ferndale
4 1476 Graveley
graveley @ woodland
BURRARD
HASTINGS
PRIOR UNION-ADANAC
GRANDVIEW WOODLANDS
EAST 1ST
2ND
STRATHCONA
CLARK
WOODLAND
COMMERCIAL
4TH
6TH
BROADWAY
KITSILANO
10TH
16TH
CYPRESS
ONTARIO
MAIN
HEATHER
CAMBIE
KINGSWAY
KING EDWARD
ARBUTUS
ANGUS
GRANVILLE
SOUTH CAMBIE
SHAUGHNESSY
33RD
KNIGHT
VICTORIA
37TH
41ST
Ukrainian Cultural Centre
805 E. Pender St
E.Pender @ Hawks
7 1551 Laurier
granville @ king ed
8 5689 Angus
granville @ 41st
5 650 W.20th
w.20th @ heather
6 3208 Heather
w.16th @ heather

a garden unto itself : the story of douglas park

{ written by lisa smedman }

THE LAND GRANTED TO THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY IN 1885 INCLUDED EVERYTHING BETWEEN MODERN TRAFALGAR AND ONTARIO STREETS, ALL THE WAY SOUTH TO ABOUT 57TH AVENUE—WITH ONE EXCEPTION. SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL WAS DISTRICT LOT 472, A TOTAL OF 160 ACRES OF LAND PRE-EMPTED BY WILLIAM PITCAIRN MACKIE IN 1874.

stores like **victoria produce** in grandview carried produce grown by the chinese gardeners of district lot 472. [photo VPL 7921, dated 1932]

The area, which lay between modern Oak and Cambie Streets and between 16th and 25th Avenues, was originally the site of a logging camp operated by Jeremiah ("Jerry") Rogers. Rogers chose Mackie's land as a logging camp site due to the grazing it offered. "At one time it was an elk pasture; that was why Jerry Rogers and Angus Fraser used it as a camp; so that they could turn the logging oxen out in the muskeg to graze on Sundays," wrote Vancouver's first archivist, Major James Skitt Matthews.

The pasture Matthews wrote about is today's Douglas Park, 13 acres of land bounded by Laurel and Heather Streets, and 20th and 22nd Avenues.

Mackie transferred his pre-emption in 1883 to Gordon Edward Corbould, who surveyed and subdivided much of District Lot 472.

The Point Grey Gazette's 1913 "Edition of Progress" noted the growth of District Lot 472.

"This corner of the municipality is not only becoming an excellent residential suburb but is also developing a trade worthy of notice."

Stores clustered around the intersection of 16th Avenue (which boasted a streetcar line) and Heather Street, which had been surfaced with "bitulithic pavement" all the way south to the base of Little Mountain. These businesses included Thompson's Grocery, the B.C. Market, Noble's Hardware, and a dry goods store, bakery, shoe repair, barber and real estate office. A nearby corner boasted the real estate office of J.B. Foley, an ice cream parlor and "fancy" grocery store (Tour House #6).

Despite this boom, two blocks of District Lot 472 were swampy and thus less desirable real estate. They changed hands several times between 1887 and 1901, when they wound up in the hands of James Z. Hall, Vancouver's first notary public.

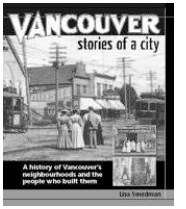
His wife—Jessie Columbia Hall, daughter of squatter Samuel Greer—would eventually sell the two blocks in 1926 to the Municipality of Point Grey, which turned them into Douglas Park. Before that happened, she rented out the property to a Chinese immigrant whose name is recorded as Ah Mew. ("Ah" is an honorific, roughly equivalent to "Mister.") He turned them into a market garden.

Enid Taylor and Frances Pollack lived in the area in the early 1920s. In a 2005 interview with the Vancouver Courier, they recalled the Chinese men in black clothes and "coolie" hats who trudged single file to the gardens each day, talking in a "sing-songy" language.

"They used to wrap all their vegetables in newspapers," said Pollack. "Enid and I used to gather newspapers and put them in a wagon and we would go over there... and we would get two or three pennies for taking these piles of papers to wrap their vegetables."

When the property became a park, the Chinese market gardeners moved on. The shack where they'd stored their newspapers was burned.

surrey archives collection WH1179
chinese labourers in **market garden** circa 1960



excerpt from **"Vancouver: Stories of a City"** by Lisa Smedman
available from the Vancouver Courier
e-mail: book@vancourier.com or call (604) 738 1411

5

650 west 20th avenue

STYLE **CRAFTSMAN**
DATE **1914**
BUILDER **HUDSON & WINKEL**
FIRST OCCUPANTS
JAMES AND ELEANOR POLLARD

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District Lot 472 (bounded by Oak, Cambie, 16th and 25th) was the only privately-held land in the middle of the huge land grant given to the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885. The land had been pre-empted by William Pitcairn Mackie. By 1913, it had been subdivided and a cluster of stores could be found along 16th Avenue, which had a streetcar line. Heather Street had been paved as far south as 29th.

The advantages of nearby stores, a streetcar route and a paved street began to make the development of District Lot 472 an attractive proposition. The house at 650 and its neighbour to the east were the first houses built on the 600 block of West 20th Avenue.

650 West 20th is a charming family home which has retained much of its original fabric. This is probably due to the fact that one family occupied it for 55 years – 1944 to 1999 - when the widow Lucile Hooker passed away at the age of 107. The current owners like to recognize her kind and generous spirit by referring to their house as the "Hooker House".

The exterior features a covered porch with columns sitting on granite piers. The brackets under the porch roof and the main roof are designed to look like a mortise and tenon joint. The ends of all the fascia boards have unusual square cut notches. Inside the house there is extensive original woodwork of first growth fir, including floors, wainscoting and mouldings. The original radiators are still in use and provide a gentle heat. Sets of pocket doors are intact and still function smoothly. The living room (originally the dining room) features a built-in china cabinet with coloured leaded glass. This same diamond pattern was used when new tiles were applied to the fireplace.

One block to the west is Douglas Park, which from about 1912 to 1926 was rented by owner Jessie Columbia Hall to a Chinese immigrant, Ah Mew, who used the land as a market garden. The site of the current Douglas Park Community Centre was the location of a popular park pavilion from 1928 until 1966. The Park also has a bench dedicated to the memory of Lucile Hooker.

walk to 3208 heather st

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6

3208 heather street

STYLE **EDWARDIAN COMMERCIAL**
DATE **1909**
FIRST OCCUPANT **J.B. FOLEY**

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The large 7-Up Olympic Grocery sign identifies this building as a former corner store. Rebuilt in 2005, this 1909 Edwardian building was one of the first commercial buildings erected in the Municipality of Point Grey. The municipality was established in 1908 just south of the City of Vancouver's southernmost boundary of 16th Avenue. Point Grey and the City of Vancouver amalgamated in 1929.

The building was erected in 1909 by J.B. Foley, a local realtor. The corner commercial unit at 698 West 16th was a grocery or confectionery store continuously from 1911 until the mid 1990s. The first store was the Samuel Barker & Sons grocery store. This was followed by a string of grocers until 1914 when it became the Heather Market, and then in 1930 the Heather Confectionery. From 1940 to 1965 the Beckett family operated the Heather Confectionery which became Becketts' Red & White from 1960 to 1970. Once the Beckett family moved from both the residential unit on 16th and the store, the Chow family's Golden Star Grocery and subsequently the Kim family's Olympic Grocery carried on the corner store tradition.

The original plans for the redevelopment of the building in 2005 involved rehabilitating the original structure, but due to serious structural issues the building was dismantled and as much of the original exterior fabric as possible was re-used. This includes much of the ground storey siding, the dentils and the grocery sign. The new building looks much as the original building did in 1909. The interior of the building is completely new, and presents a good contrast to the completely original Connaught Apartments in Kitsilano (House #9 and #10 on the tour). The completed building ties into the strata developments to the east and south, and retains the grocery store in situ, which today functions as a photography studio.

Little is known about the unit at 3208 Heather Street. The address only appears in city records as the James C. Bradley Beauty Parlour and Barber between 1927 and 1939, otherwise it is absent from city records. The original configuration of the building had a four-bedroom, one-bathroom residential unit upstairs, accessible from the eastern end of the W 16th Avenue façade, and from an internal ladder in the store.

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7

1551 laurier avenue

STYLE **ENGLISH REVIVAL**
DATE **CIRCA 1912**
FIRST RESIDENT **GEORGE R. McQUEEN**

VFH Information Booth

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sponsored by GARRY ZLOTNIK

The Canadian Pacific Railway began development in First Shaughnessy (the area between 16th Avenue and King Edward in the north and south, to the Interurban along Arbutus Street and Oak Street to the west and east) in 1907 to take advantage of the economic boom in the city. It was slated to be the most elegant place to live west of Mount Royal in Montreal. Building continued unabated through WWI until the early 20s when Second Shaughnessy opened south to West 33rd, and then in 1926 Third Shaughnessy extended this gracious enclave to 41st. (See tour house #8). Many of the streets in Shaughnessy are named after CPR officials, including Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, the CPR President. Laurier Avenue is named after Sir Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada from 1886 to 1911.

Although one of the most historic neighbourhoods in the city, city records are sparse for many Shaughnessy houses, and this is true for the house on Laurier. The building permit, water connection record and original plans for the building did not survive. What we do know from City Archives fire insurance maps is that the house existed in 1912. The first known resident in 1914 was George R. McQueen of Ellis & McQueen, Barristers and Solicitors. The McQueen family lived in the house from 1914 to 1947, after which a series of families occupied the house including the Milsom, Tynan and McGougan families. From 1976 to 1996 Glen and Jean Hyatt lived here.

The outstanding feature of this house is its stunning porch wrapping around three sides of the house. It is accessed from multiple sets of tall, slim original French doors. The living, dining and family room windows are beautifully leaded, and the owners have echoed the window style in the remodelled kitchen. On the bedroom level some alterations have been made to update the master bedroom and the bathrooms for a modern family, none of which detract from the gracious family home. Note the curious layout of the master bedroom with what is speculated to have been either a dressing room, or a 'his and hers' bedroom arrangement. Future plans for this house include a renovation to the full-height third floor.

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8

5689 angus drive

STYLE **TUDOR REVIVAL**
DATE **1930**
FIRST OWNER/RESIDENT
DR. NEIL MUNN MCNEILL, PHYSICIAN
DESIGNER & CONTRACTOR
SW HOPPER

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The half-timbering, stucco entrance and red brick exterior of this gracious Shaughnessy house are typical of a Tudor Revival style that emerged in Vancouver, alongside other revival styles, between 1900 and 1930. In the absence of an established local architectural style, immigrants brought with them the design sensibilities and values of their homelands.

Built by contractor S.W. Hopper Ltd., this traditional family home has seen many owners over the years; however it remains remarkably intact. Inside the home are the remnants of Dr. McNeill's clinic at the rear of the house, including a separate entrance for his patients, and his office fireplace. The original layout of the principal rooms on the main floor and most of the upper floors remains, as does the staircase, large entrance hall and small unusual room abutting the front door, currently used as a large walk-in coat closet. Newly updated are the lovely kitchen and the bathrooms. Kitchens and bathrooms are typically the two rooms in old houses that are altered the most. The reason for this is that plumbing and appliance technology and the way we use these rooms, have all evolved so significantly since the original design of the building, that many of their components and even their layout become irrelevant for today's families.

According to city directories, the McNeill family moved out after WWII. Albert & Bella Koch, President of Lauries Ltd. lived in the house until 1963 followed by Scott and Mary McIlquham from 1964 to 1979, and Ronnie and Barry Tessler until 1996. Following the Tessler family were a series of short term owners until the present family took on the house and once again established it as a family home.

Although not listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register, this house is identified on the Second & Third Shaughnessy Neighbourhood Preservation Study conducted in 1990 by the Shaughnessy Heights Property Owners Association. For information about the City's Heritage Register visit the Heritage Planning Department information booth set up across the street from Tour house #3 on Ferndale Street.

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9

2515 vine street

{ upstairs UNITS 3+7 }

STYLE **EDWARDIAN COMMERCIAL**
DATE **1911**
FIRST OWNER/RESIDENT
H.L. RADERMACHER
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR
G.C. COULSON

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The Connaught Apartments, painted in a richly hued historic colour scheme with imposing bay windowed façades, stands out along this bland strip of low-rise apartments and commercial buildings. The restoration of the building has been a labour of love for the Michas family who were honoured for it with a City of Vancouver Heritage Award in 1999.

In the absence of archival images, the owners took their inspiration for the restoration from remnants of the original building still in place, and from features of other similar buildings. They rebuilt the deep eaves and brackets, scraped and refinished original siding, repaired the windows, restored and replicated the storefronts, and took great pains to match wood detailing to the original.

The first water permit for the building was issued to C.H. Nichol of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., but there is no record the CPR ever built on the lot. The CPR land grant extended west to Trafalgar Street. The building first appears in 1911 – 12 as four apartments above six stores designed by Campbell and Dawson Architects and built by contractor, G.C. Coulson for owner H.L. Radermacher. In the 1930s it was altered to accommodate eight suites upstairs and one suite to the rear. Today it has three stores facing Broadway, with eight apartments above, one apartment to the rear, and three street level apartments in former commercial spaces along Vine Street.

Three units are open on the tour: Upstairs units #3 and #7 at 2515 Vine Street, and 2521 Vine Street at street level. The upstairs suites have original, stained woodwork, with hallways, apartment doors, staircase, and floors all intact. It is interesting to see the original fir kitchen cabinets, and the closet which once housed an original Murphy style bed, in Unit # 7. In 2521 Vine Street a loft style platform has been inserted to make room for a bedroom in this spacious former store.

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10

2521 vine street

{ @ street level }

STYLE **EDWARDIAN COMMERCIAL**
DATE **1911**
FIRST OWNER/RESIDENT
H.L. RADERMACHER
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR
G.C. COULSON

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2521 Vine Street was originally a commercial space listed in the 1913 City Directories as the premises of Gill & Steeves Electric. By 1916 Walter H. Mills, a nurse at St. Paul's hospital, is listed as occupying the space until the 1930s when Leslie J. Ould, an accountant moved his office to the suite. Following WWII the suite remained a store and office until the Michas family renovated it as a residential unit in 1999.

2300 West Broadway, the door on the corner, was a corner grocery from 1913 straight through to the 1990s. It started out as the London Grocery, and by 1916 had become the White Cash Grocery. Best known of the corner stores occupying the suite was the Connaught Dairy which operated here from 1950 until 1996.

In 1910, just prior to the construction of the Connaught Apartments, the area at Broadway and Arbutus was part of 'Fairview', and the name 'Kitsilano' was reserved for the small area immediately adjacent to Greer's Beach, now Kits Beach. Gradually Fairview was pushed east, and Kitsilano pushed south and west. Vancouver Breweries Ltd. later known as Carling Breweries built their brewery on the wooded outskirts of town in 1912 at Yew & 12th Avenue just south east of the Connaught Apartments. They built the brewery next to a marsh with a creek flowing through it (now Connaught Park) to supply the water for their beer. Kitsilano is described in 1910 by Major Matthews, who later became the City of Vancouver Archivist, as "…. sparsely settled with a half dozen houses north of Cornwall Street. West of Trafalgar there were a few houses, but it was mostly lots covered with small bushes. Broadway was not opened up; it was very swampy down there…."

Today the 'swamp' is drained, Connaught Park is an active urban green space and Broadway is a major city corridor.

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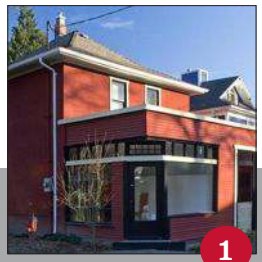

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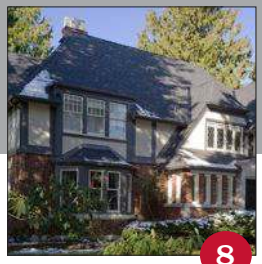

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