



Heritage Discovery Day 2025

Saturday, June 7th
10am - 5pm

This guidebook is your ticket



VANCOUVER
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION





LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

June is Indigenous Heritage Month in Canada, with National Indigenous Peoples Day designated as June 21st each year since 1996. As we spend today touring the Kitsilano neighborhood, let us reflect on the long history of this land.

Vancouver Heritage Foundation recognizes that the area between Alma St and Burrard St where our tour takes place, now known as Kitsilano, is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

There are two Indigenous languages in use when referring to places in Vancouver: həńq̓əmińəm (also written as Hul'q'umi'num), the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh language, and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh sníchim, the Squamish language.

This area has played a critical role in connecting communities from all three host nations since time immemorial. The land now named Vanier Park was a thriving 150-person village called səháʔq̓w in həńq̓əmińəm and seńák̓w in Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh sníchim (pronounced sa-knock.)

The village acted as a gateway between the North Shore and inland villages. However by the early 1900s səháʔq̓w/seńák̓w had been evacuated and the structures destroyed by the provincial government.

For an in-depth look at another Musqueam village called ćəsnaʔəm (pronounced ses-nam) from the same time period as səháʔq̓w, please visit the Museum of Vancouver exhibition ćəsnaʔəm: The City Before the City.



Museum of Vancouver
ćəsnaʔəm exhibition

Time Immemorial səháʔqʷ/seháǰw village exists

- 1862** First European settlers in the area
- 1876** First Indian Act passed
- 1877** Kitsilano Indian Reserve no 6 created, limiting residents to a 34-hectare area
- 1886** City of Vancouver is incorporated
- 1911** Amended Indian Act allows for forcible removal of Indigenous peoples from reserves located within incorporated cities
- 1913** Provincial government forces səháʔqʷ residents to leave the ancient village permanently, and destroys the structures

Today the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples are alive and well, surviving the long history of mistreatment and indignities by all levels of government. Through monumental efforts of these nations' communities, their languages and cultures have been maintained, revitalized, and are being passed down from the elders to the youth.

Please take a moment to visit the websites of the Indigenous peoples of this land and learn about their priorities.



xʷməθkʷəy̓əm
(Musqueam)
Website



Sḵwx̱wú7mesh
(Squamish)
Website



xsəliłwətaʔt
(Tsleil-Waututh)
Website

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THANK YOU

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WELCOME TO VHF'S HERITAGE DISCOVERY DAY!

Vancouver Heritage Foundation has hosted our annual Heritage Discovery Day event in June since 2003, showcasing the incredible heritage that makes up the fabric of our city's historic neighborhoods.

This year's event features 9 sites, ranging from private heritage homes to some of Vancouver's Places That Matter - a collection of community-nominated sites, featuring the people, places and events that tell the stories of Vancouver's history and heritage.

The tour is self-guided and ticket holders can choose which stops to visit and in which order. Volunteers and your guidebook will offer historical information about each site, as well as additional neighbourhood insights.

We encourage you to enjoy a meal, drink, or shop at the local neighbourhood amenities during your time in Kitsilano.





TRANSPORTATION & GETTING AROUND



Parking

Limited parking is available – we encourage you to consider carpooling or ridesharing. Please be respectful of neighbourhood residents, do not block driveways, laneways, drive onto private property and do not park in permit only zones. Ticket holders are responsible for finding and covering costs associated with vehicle parking.



Transit

There are a number of bus routes that will take you within 2-3 blocks walking distance of each stop.

- 99 - UBC/Commercial Broadway
- 4 - UBC/Powell
- 84 - UBC/VCC
- 2 - Burrard Station/MacDonald



Cycling

While tour sites are located across the Kitsilano neighbourhoods, this area of Vancouver is still very bicycle friendly. A friendly reminder that bikes cannot be stored on properties while touring homes, so please lock and secure your bike before visiting.

Find the nearest bike rack using this digital Cycling in Vancouver map.



ABOUT THE TOUR



TOUR GUIDELINES



Sites are open from 10 am to 5 pm only, unless otherwise noted. No latecomers or early birds.

Please be patient as line-ups are possible.



All attendees are required to take their shoes off before entering a house.

Please bring socks/slippers/indoor shoes and a bag for your shoes and avoid bare feet. Sites that are public buildings are exceptions.



All attendees must have a ticket.

No children under the age of 6 are permitted. Infants in front carriers are allowed.



Photography on tour sites and within participating buildings is strictly prohibited.

Please be aware designated VHF photographers may take photographs or live recordings during the tour, and these images will be utilized without notification by VHF for the purpose of promotion or communications.

ABOUT THE TOUR



TOUR GUIDELINES



Washroom facilities are NOT available at tour sites.

Check the map in this guide for recommended public facility locations or ask one of the volunteers to direct you to the closest washroom.



While visiting tour properties, please do not eat, drink, smoke/vape or use your cell phone.

Open food or drinks and pets are prohibited on tour properties.

Strollers, bicycles, dogs, and visible cameras are not permitted in any tour site. You will be asked to remove or carry large bags or backpacks before entering.



Unfortunately the tour is not mobility device accessible. If you would like more information about what parts of the tour are accessible, please reach out to us.

***VHF reserves the right to refuse entry or ask any visitor to leave who does not adhere to these guidelines.**

ABOUT KITSILANO

The Vancouver neighborhood known as Kitsilano, commonly called "Kits," is named after August Jack Khatsahlano, a renowned Squamish chief. is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱áyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. Please see the Land Acknowledgement in this guidebook for more information.

Kitsilano is located in Vancouver's West Side along the south shore of English Bay, between the neighbourhoods of West Point Grey and Fairview. The area is mostly residential with two main commercial areas, West 4th Avenue and West Broadway, known for their retail stores, restaurants and organic food markets.

Kitsilano residents have a long history of community involvement. As early as 1907, Kitsilano citizens lobbied for sewers, tram service and other infrastructure for their community. The most dramatic changes have occurred in the apartment area, where most original houses have been replaced by new apartment buildings. In the duplex/conversion areas of Kits however, residents have been working hard to restore and preserve the character homes which make the community so distinctive.

At the turn of the century, the area from Burrard to Alma Streets was a dense, wild-life-filled forest despite earlier logging. Tour Site 1, Hastings Mill Store is a museum that captures the historic Hastings Mill sawmill that predated the incorporation of the City of Vancouver. In addition to these early sawmills, salmon canning was another important early industry in Kits. A factory at the foot of Macdonald Street was once unable to cope with the "hundreds of thousands of salmon" caught in the early 1900's. The Gulf of Georgia Cannery in Steveston is National Historic Site that provides an in-depth look at the canneries that thrived in the late 1800's and early 1900's concurrent to those operating in the area that would become Kitsilano.

A notable Kitsilano resident is Major James Matthews, a self-taught archivist whose hobby turned into an all-consuming passion upon his retirement in 1924. Early photos of Vancouver from the Matthews collection appear with credit throughout this guidebook.

The Bay Kitsilano, BC circa 1909.

Photo Credit: Major James Matthews Collection, Vancouver Archives. AM54-54



ABOUT KITSILANO



CPR Locomotive No. 374 at Kitsilano Beach.

Photo Credit: Major James Matthews Collection, Vancouver Archives. Can P241

Much of the development of Kits is tied to new means of transportation. B.C. Electric Railway's streetcar line along 4th Avenue to Alma began running in 1905, using the Canadian Pacific Railway lines. The Burrard Bridge was built in 1932, playing a role in the development of Kitsilano south to 16th Avenue in the late 1940s.

In the early 1880's the CPR brought thousands of labourers from China to build the Pacific Railway. About three-quarters of the men who worked on the section between the Pacific and Craigellachie were Chinese. Although considered excellent workers, they received only a dollar a day, half the pay of a white worker. Hundreds of Chinese workers died from accidents or illness from dangerous work and unhealthy living conditions. Those who remained

in Canada when the railway was completed securely established the basis of British Columbia's Chinese community. The role of Chinese construction workers in building the Canadian Pacific Railway was designated a National Historic Event in Canada in 1977.

The Canadian Pacific Railway company (which owned most of the land east of Trafalgar) built the CPR Kitsilano Trestle bridge in 1886, providing railway access to English Bay. The Trestle connected to additional railways on the south side of Vancouver, including the Arbutus Corridor to Richmond. Engine No. 374 is the CPR locomotive that pulled the first transcontinental passenger train to reach Vancouver, arriving on May 23, 1887. Engine No. 374 was on display in Kits Beach Park after its retirement in 1945 until 1983. It is now on display in Yaletown at The Engine 374 Pavilion, located on the corner of Davie Street and Pacific Boulevard next to the Roundhouse Community Centre.



Chinese Canadian
Museum

HASTINGS MILL

1 5 7 5 A L M A S T



The Hastings Mill Store is the oldest building still standing in Vancouver. Predating the City's incorporation by nearly 20 years, it is a glimpse into the early era of Vancouver's history.



The store was originally constructed in 1868, on waterfront pilings near the future intersection of Dunlevy and Railway

streets. In addition to being a general supply depot and community gathering place, it also served as Vancouver's first post office.

Along with most structures in Hastings Mill townsite, the store survived the Great Vancouver Fire of June 13, 1886. An estimated 1000 buildings were destroyed in the fire and hundreds of people took refuge in the waters of Burrard Inlet.

The flames and smoke were seen by the Skwxwú7mesh community of Ustlawan, on Burrard Inlet's north shore. Community members quickly launched their canoes and paddled across the inlet to rescue those in the water.

Hastings Sawmill continued to operate until 1927, when the land was sold to the Vancouver Harbour Commission for redevelopment. As mill structures were demolished and equipment was sold off, it was announced that the iconic Hastings Mill Store would also be torn down, causing much local outrage.

In 1930, the (non-Indigenous) Native Daughters of British Columbia Post Number 1, a local lodge of born-in-BC women founded to pay tribute to early pioneers of the province, came up with a bold plan to save the building. They proposed relocating it to land that they had leased at the north end of Point Grey's Alma Road at their own expense, for refurbishment as a museum.

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sponsored by:**



HASTINGS MILL

1 5 7 5 A L M A S T



Hastings Mill Store, ca. 1888. City of Vancouver Archives Mi P14

In 1930, Hastings Mill Store was carefully raised and placed on a barge, where it was towed from Dunlevy past Jericho beach to its new home where it still stands today.

After relocation, the exterior wood was restored, the interior was refreshed with new shelving and a new stone fireplace, and the original rough-hewn post and beam construction remains unchanged to this day. Through much perseverance, these visionary women accomplished their goal. The Old Hastings Mill Store Museum continues to draw visitors today from all over the world.

Operating as a museum since 1932, the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum has an extensive collection of Indigenous cultural objects, many of which have incomplete documentation. As mentioned on their website, "...Friends of Old Hastings Mill Store Museum cannot erase the wrongdoings of another time period. However, we can pledge to move forward in a shared commitment with our Indigenous hosts, upon whose traditional territory the building stands, to tell the full story."

CHATWIN HOUSE



Situated just a block off West Point Grey Road, the Chatwin House is a unique Craftsman with features reminiscent of a classical revival style. Built in 1912 by architects Oliver & Williams, the striking home straddles two lots facing Collingwood Street and includes a converted basement suite.



The sleeping porch on the second floor was a popular feature of homes in North America, designed to provide the health benefits of fresh air for sleeping in the summer.

The house was owned by at least 7 residents in its early years, including the first owner, Henry W Chatwin, a local chiropractor. The City Directories shows a glimpse into the life and death of William S Jamieson, the homeowner beginning in 1923. Jamieson was an assistant chief operator at Canadian Pacific Rail Communications. By the 1930's, Jamieson was married to Victoria M Jamieson, also listed as a resident of 1719 Collingwood Street. In the 1943 Directory, a new family name appears but then curiously in 1953 Victoria Jamieson was again listed as the resident of the house, now noted to be a widow.

Today, the current owners have maintained the original flooring and wood casements, the working gas fireplace with original tiles, the built-in buffet, and stained-glass windows throughout the house. Peeking in the small kitchen pantry, you can find the back of the fireplace partially encased showing small adjustments made to suit modern life. The dramatic dining table was crafted by the owner's grandfather who salvaged buried timbers from the early nineteenth century ship, the Euphemia. The brig Euphemia was bought by the town of San Francisco to use as the city jail on Oct. 8, 1849 (right at the peak of the gold-rush) and anchored off the Sacramento St. Wharf, at the corner of Battery St. Old ships were used as civic buildings during this time, as the ships had been deserted by crews who ran off to the gold fields to seek their fortune.

CRAFTSMAN HOMES AND KITSILANO

The Craftsman style of house was a popular choice for builders in Kitsilano during the 1910 to 1912 boom period. The style is characterized by decorative brackets, exposed rafter ends, mock trusses in the gable ends, expansive low-pitched gable roofs, and a rich variety of finishing materials and textures.



“Kitsilano is the Craftsman suburb,” writes artist and historian Michael Kluckner, who says the Craftsman distinguishes Kitsilano from East Side neighbourhoods like Mount Pleasant and Grandview, where Queen Anne style and Edwardian houses are typical.

The Craftsman style emerged from the Arts and Crafts movement of the early 20th Century. It was a style builders could take on without the services of an architect and generally used locally sourced materials. Customized components and even prefabricated sections were readily available using catalogues such as Sears, Montgomery Wards and Aladdin.

With its popularity spanning a 20-year period, several variations of Craftsman houses developed, three of which are particular to Vancouver: traditional Craftsman, Vancouver Craftsman and Craftsman Bungalow. Each was influenced by builders’ budgets and changes in taste over time and the adaptations in design to suit both large and small lots in neighbourhoods across the city.

FROM KIRKCALDY TO KITSILANO

BY KIM SPENCER - NARIN



I was especially keen to use linoleum as a floor surface when I renovated my home, and not just because it is a great environmental choice, being composed of natural materials such as linseed oil, wood flour, limestone, and jute.

My great great grandfather is Sir Michael Nairn, who during his lifetime established Kirkcaldy, Scotland, as the linoleum capital of the world. At its peak, Nairn Linoleum employed more than 4000 people and had expanded and built factories in Europe and America.

In the 1950s and 60s, as customers shifted to cheaper plastic vinyl flooring, the demand for linoleum dropped dramatically. Nairn was acquired by Forbo, a Swiss company and has revived the use of linoleum, also called Marmoleum.

The Forbo Nairn factory in Kirkcaldy continues to manufacture linoleum. Many of my family members in Scotland still have 100-year-old linoleum floors in their homes.

RODGERS HOUSE

🏠 #3

Constructed by Architects Hawes & Wyles in 1912, this two-story Craftsman house is a testament to the understated decorativeness of this style. Key aspects with unique flairs include leaded glass windows, pocket doors, a covered porch and fish scale shingles in a flower petal pattern.

Though built for broker William G. Rodgers, the first resident in 1914 was Reverend Isaac W. Williamson of the general secretary BC Sunday School Association.

Like many Kitsilano homes, the house was subdivided into three apartments hosting multi-



generational families like that of widow Winnifred Pye in 1944, who lived in the house with her daughter Margaret Pye. After Winnifred's death in 1950, Margeret continued to live in the house with her husband and two other couples. The current owner bought the home in 2022, reconfiguring it back to a single-family unit and basement suite. Linoleum flooring was installed in the kitchen and main floor powder room showcasing the family's heritage in the linoleum industry. The colourful pattern emulates ballet steps – reflecting the owner's background in performance arts.

The owner's passion for the Canadian arts continues to be seen throughout the home, with art pieces by Karin Bubaš, Ken Lum and Judy Chartrand among others.

The house received two Vancouver Heritage Foundation Conservation Grants. With the assistance of a True Colours grant in 2022 the house was repainted in historic paint colours, as well as a Conservation Grant to repair the home's original windows.

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WILSON HOUSE

🏠 #4

Built in 1912 by brothers, Edgar Walter Falls and Herbert Pitman Falls, this front gabled house is a prime example of Craftsman homes built before WW I. Classic Craftsman features characterize this house, with a full width inset porch, brackets and a stained-glass transom over the front casement window.

The Falls brothers established Terminal Construction and Investment Co. in 1907 and in 1910 they built a sash and door factory on Yew Street. As you enter, notice the unique wider than the standard sized front door, due to the brothers' manufacturing doors and sashes.

The brothers continued their businesses until 1919, when they closed. Herbert continued to build houses into the 1920's.

Charles E. Wilson, who later became an inspector for Canadian Immigration, was the first resident of the home, and he lived there until his death in 1931. His wife Elizabeth continued to live in the home until 1948. Ronald J. Boon, a waiter at the Pender Hotel, was listed as a resident as of 1949 with his wife, Margaret who worked as a clerk.

Inside the home, many original features stand out including the original wainscoting and pocket doors-leaving the original wood grain visible. The current owners bought the home in 2003 and have meticulously restored many original features, doing much of the work themselves, adapting it to suit their personal lifestyles. The coal fireplace, with original tiling stands out adjacent to the remodeled kitchen. Whenever possible, they found heritage materials or appropriate substitutes to match the Arts and Crafts style of their home.



LOGAN HOUSE

🏠 #5

As part of the Historic Streetscape of West 3rd Ave, Logan House, is another example of a Craftsman style home built after WWI. Though now, it stands apart from its counterparts on the block, as an example of how Heritage and modern infill can coexist in Kitsilano.

The original owner, Robert M Logan, a carpenter by trade, built the house in 1924. Barrister, Michael M Greabes moved into the house in 1925, and resided there for two years.

The current owners bought the house in 2019 and entered into a Heritage Revitalization Agreement with the City of Vancouver to have the house Designated. They lifted and rebuilt the foundation to accommodate a new garden suite and added a two-story Carriage house to the back of the property. Throughout the home, the owners have paid homage to the 101-year-old house through curated fixtures, original stain glass windows and wainscoting throughout.



REED HOUSE

🏠 #6

Tucked away on Point Grey Road stands Reed house, an exquisite example of an Arts and Crafts style home. Built by Vernon Bros in 1910, this house is a good example of houses built by contracting firms and developed real estate during the pre-war economic boom in Kitsilano.

The home was built for George and Ellen Reed who had come to Canada in the 1880s from England. George held a managerial job as a foreman for the CPR and continued to live in the house with his wife and daughter into the early 1920's. After the Reeds left, the house was divided into three apartments including one in the attic to accommodate multiple families, as was common for Kitsilano houses after the first world war.

When the current owners bought the home in 2003, they restored and updated the house significantly. Preserving original features like the wood floors upstairs, colonnade dividing the living and dining spaces, a beamed ceiling and tiled fireplace; continuing the refined Arts and Crafts esthetic. Essential exterior work has included a new roof and repainting using an historic colour palette to complement the dramatic gabled architecture.



A water view can be seen from the family sitting room, once a larger sleeping porch before being converted to a TV Room.

The basement was upgraded to create a separate suite for family members, making this home to three generations under one roof.

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ENGEL & VÖLKERS®

CITY FARMER GARDEN

2 1 5 0 M A P L E S T



2150 Maple Street is a distinct property in present day Kitsilano even when the gardens are not in full bloom. Bordering the Arbutus Greenway, the site is an assembly of three equally sized lots with the two rear lots lacking legal road access,

creating a single large narrow parcel of land. The first building on the site was constructed in 1945 for the Home Insulation Company of BC, whose warehouse and offices remained until the late 1950's. Subsequent tenants included the Atlas Glass Company in the late 1950's, Shortreed RR & Sons concrete contractors in the 60's and Atlas Equipment Rentals in 1971. The site was vacant from 1976 until it was transformed into the City Farmer Garden in the early 1980's.

In the early years, the gardens were alongside active railroad tracks, as the Canadian Pacific Railway ran trains along the Arbutus Corridor until 1989. CPR retained ownership of the railway until it was purchased by the City of Vancouver in 2016 and reimagined into the Arbutus Greenway, a public space connecting False Creek to the Fraser River.

City Farmer teaches visitors how to grow food in the city, compost waste and take care of their home landscape in an environmentally responsible way. There are five garden areas maintained by staff: a waterwise native plant garden, a climate change adaptation garden, an organic food garden, an outdoor classroom, and a biodiversity garden. The organic food garden is the original garden, dug out of a parking lot in 1981.

Over the years a variety of simple technologies have been added to show urban people how they can become involved in food, waste and water conservation. These include rain barrels, a composting toilet and vermiculture. In addition to the gardens, be sure to check out the green roof, cob shed with surface clay from renowned Haida artist Bill Reid, the Mulberry and Bay leaf trees, and learn about how to start your own backyard composters.

In the summer of 2016, metal artist, Davide Pan created a new metal gate welcoming passersby from the newly established Arbutus Greenway. Made of 'obtanium', a variety of objects were found and collected along the greenway, like old railway iron spikes, show a unique representation of the industrial history of the site.

MAHONEY HOUSE



Constructed by A.D Mahoney in 1910, West 6th stands in the center of what was originally five identical Edwardian style houses in a row. Vancouver expanded rapidly in the first decade of the 20th century when its population quadrupled to 100,000 and construction of new homes took off to meet the demand.

The current owners pride themselves in the original features that have been maintained, like the original staircase up to the 3rd floor, faceted roof, and fir floors upstairs. As well as the updates that they have made in the 50 years of ownership. Having already been converted into a duplex at the time of purchase in 1974, the house now allows their multi-generational family to cohabitate.



Multiple features throughout the house reflect one of the owner's careers as a prominent architect in the City of Vancouver. One of the most interesting features you will not find in any other Vancouver home are the worn marble stairs that lead to the second floor. Slated for demolition, the 'Judges Stair' was purchased from the Vancouver Art Gallery for \$1 at the time of the conversion from the courthouse to the current Gallery. Having worked on this project as the design architect, the owner rescued them for installation in his house

Other changes for modern living include an open floor plan on the second floor to include a study, living room and kitchen. The home shows a collection of various sentimental art pieces and features from around the world. Spot three editions of the 'signature' MOA chair, a Fred Herzog photo taken in Marpole, and a Gathie Falk ceramic shoe.

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ODLUM BROWN

Ross Turnbull
Vice President, Portfolio Manager

FAULKNER HOUSE



Tucked away on W 3rd sits, this quaint early vernacular house. The veranda, bay window, double-hung sash windows, narrow clapboard siding and front gable of this home are all typical features of this home style from 1870 to 1910.

This house was originally built by Benjamin Faulkner, a car repairman at CPR. Obtaining a building permit in 1907 for a house costing \$1,000 to build, Mrs. Faulkner had the water connected in 1908 and in 1910 a further permit was issued to raise the house.

After purchasing their home 18 years prior, the current owners began restoring and renovating in 2012. Working with renowned architect, Noel Best, they have



completed significant updates including excavating the basement to increase ceiling height, and replacing plumbing, electrical, heating and deteriorated south facing windows.

Interior features have been retained and complemented with thoughtful additions. The fireplace was not original so was redone using the owners' collection of unique nineteenth century antique English Minton tiles. A salvaged front door and stained-glass panels were installed, and two smaller bedrooms were combined to create the master bedroom.

The home was repainted in historic paint colours with the assistance of a Vancouver Heritage Foundation True Colours grant in 2014.

MY KITSILANO

BY JUDY STOFFMAN

The built environment tells you things and shapes your memories. But here in Kitsilano, the natural ripples of False Creek also define the neighbourhood's northern edge and the tides of Kitsilano Beach the western side. It seemed to me a relaxed place with a perpetual holiday air, when I first got to know it as a young bride living in a cheap basement apartment on 1st Avenue in a house with a sausage factory in the back yard.

My late husband and I moved East after university in pursuit of careers, but eventually "Kits" called us home. Here the present is like the tides, a rippling glass through which you can glimpse the past. Two things among my memories from living in Kitsilano: The beautiful totem pole carved by Mungo Martin, the great First Nations carver, that was at the foot of Cypress Street; and the modernist building at Cypress and 4th Avenue where CFUN 1410, the rock station that provided the soundtrack of my teen years.



Centennial Totem Pole. Photo Credit: City of Vancouver

The Centennial Totem Pole was installed in 1958 to mark the centenary of the creation of the Colony of British Columbia under Queen Victoria. Bald eagles, who always seek out the highest point in the landscape to roost, sometimes sat at its top and when I took visitors to see it, they invariably wanted to have their pictures taken in front of the pole. It was removed by the City of Vancouver after the bottom portion started to rot and is currently in storage awaiting conservation assessment. It seems unlikely to ever be displayed outdoors again.

An apartment building has gone up in place of the CFUN 1410 building now.

Between, it was also the site of a popular thrift store. CFUN's contributions to the city are commemorated near the new building's entrance. Take a look and reflect.

Gertrude Stein famously said of her home town of Oakland, California that "There is no there there." Kitsilano has a sense of place, a there. Enjoy your visit.

Legend

- A** St. James Community Square | 3214 W 10th Ave
- B** Former Ace Cycles
- C** Hollywood Theatre | 3123 W Broadway
- D** Balaclava Block of Craftsman
- E** The Naam Restaurant | 2724 W 4th Ave
- F** Kits Neighbourhood House
- G** Russian Community Centre | 2114 W 4th Ave
- H** Arbutus Coffee | 2200 Arbutus St
- I** St. Augustine's Church | 2028 W 7th Ave
- J** Major Matthews' House Plaque
- K** The Blue Cabin | 1905 Ogden Ave
- L** First Gurdwara (Sikh Temple)
- M** Burrard Street Bridge
- N** [sana?qw](#)

- Places That Matter
- Site of Interest

SITES OF INTEREST

FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY



PLACES THAT MATTER

P L A C E S T H A T M A T T E R . C A

Places That Matter began as plaque project in 2011 to celebrate Vancouver's 125th anniversary by asking Vancouverites to nominate places of importance to them.

The initial project captured 125 site nominations. In the 14 years since the start of the project, Places That Matter has grown into a community driven program to amplify, connect, mark, and archive multi-layered community histories and stories of the lesser-known places, people and events that have shaped present day Vancouver.

Places That Matter values the diverse history and cultural heritage that has been underrepresented in traditional spaces and recognition avenues.



Photo Credit: Kamran Safari

The first decade of plaques represent sites that were nominated in 2011, and today we are working with various Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to prioritize what's missing.

This takes time but one strength of this project is that it has no end goal or deadline, only to continue to add stories and places when communities or individuals are ready.

Nominations for new sites always open and we would love to hear from more Vancouver communities about our Places That Matter.



Photo Credit: Kamran Safari



PLACES THAT MATTER

IN KITSILANO

The current Kitsilano sites included in the Places That Matter project speaks to over ten thousand years of human occupation, beginning with the stories of səháʔqʷ.

The səháʔqʷ story as told by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam First Nation) is edited from the Places That Matter website.

"Burrard Inlet was also part of our core hunting and fishing area. Our families stayed at səháʔqʷ while hunting elk and waterfowl. səháʔqʷ was also important for harvesting and processing salmon,urgeon, and smelt that frequented False Creek and its many streams, many of which have been lost to urbanization and development."

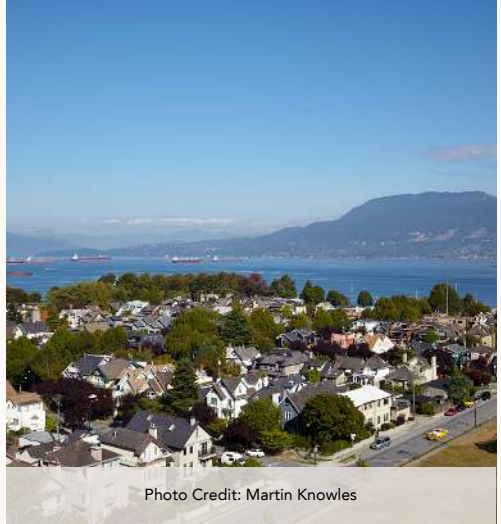


Photo Credit: Martin Knowles

This story is told on VHF's Places That Matter website, and a plaque has not been installed, as per the request of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, until further work take place with the sk̓wx̓wú7mesh and səliłwətał Nations.



Photo Credit: CVA 586-682 - View of False Creek looking east from the Burrard Bridge

Non- Indigenous settlement from Europe and East Asia, late 1800s to present, was facilitated by the CPR and heavy industry along False Creek as sawmills employed early immigrants and the interurban connected those from Steveston, Lulu-Island (today's Arbutus Corridor-est. 1905), from the stal'əw to səháʔqʷ.

PLACES THAT MATTER

IN KITSILANO

The Arbutus Grocery (1907 - present) now Arbutus Coffee, has been in use since the development of the residential neighbourhood of Delamont, retained as part of the City's freeway plans of the Mid-century.

On 4th Avenue west of Arbutus Street, today's Russian Community Centre (est. 1959), is located in a 1913 movie theatre, turned Famous Players in the Mid-Century with a brief moment as The Afterthought, a psychedelic nightclub venue.



Arbutus Grocery, ca. 1975. City of Vancouver Archives
CVA 1095-13552

The Naam Restaurant, on 4th Avenue East of MacDonald Street, founded in 1968 as a vegetarian food store and cafe, is the least altered connection with Kitsilano's hippie community of the psychedelic and "back to the land" era in the 1960s and '70s. 4th Avenue was at the time referred to as "Rainbow Road".

Back towards Burrard Street, the 2nd Avenue Gurdwara (Sikh temple) from



Photo credit. Khalsa Diwan Society Collection

1908-1970, was the first in Canada, and the center for spiritual, political, social, and economic life for Indians of all faiths as well as at the forefront for social justice campaigns supporting the Komagata Maru and regaining the right to vote for South Asians in 1947.

A pre-1942 Japanese Canadian community existed in the area too.

PLACES THAT MATTER

IN KITSILANO

“Ki-chi-ra-no” reflected the cultural diversity of early students at Henry Hudson Elementary on Cornwall Street.

Nearby, Major Matthews, the City’s first archivist, lived on Maple Street (1911- 1970) and established what became today’s City Archives.

The Seaforth Peace Park (est. 1949) referencing the Seaforth Highlanders across the street, saw its most active era in the 1980s peace protests, across the Burrard Street Bridge.



Kitsilano House, Photo Credit Kitsilano House.

On 7th Avenue and Vine, Kits House (Kitsilano Neighbourhood House) est. 1970 in a 1911 Greek Orthodox Church, is a community space for all. Kits House grew out of Vancouver’s first Neighbourhood House established at 7th and Pine in 1938. It was called Alexandra House and began as a women’s and children hospital then orphanage.



PTM plaque presentation for Ace Cycles now closed. Photo credit. J. Quan.

On the 2300 block of Balaclava Street, a row of 1912 Craftsman homes built by the Vancouver Homebuilders Ltd. reflects the popularity of the style at the time.

Nearby, Ace Cycles (1946-2018), was owned by the family of Lorne “Ace” Atkinson who rode for Canada in the 1948 Olympics in London and the 1950 British Empire & Commonwealth Games.

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The 2025 Heritage Discovery Day has involved the efforts of over 170 volunteers, including all of our team leads, house attendants, info booth and photography volunteers. A big thank you to our homeowners for welcoming us into their homes.

Guidebook – VHF Staff, Koch and Kahkonen Communications
Essays- Kim Spencer-Narin, Judy Stoffman, VHF Staff
Photography – Martin Knowles, Kamran Safari
Research – Bronwyn Smyth of City of Vancouver Archives

ABOUT VHF

Vancouver Heritage Foundation advances the appreciation and conservation of our city's diverse heritage places and their stories. We raise awareness of the vital contribution that heritage makes to a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community.

Since 1992, our work focuses on three branches:

1. Education and awareness of heritage topics in Vancouver.

We offer a range of publicly accessible educational programs in Vancouver, such as walking tours, lectures, and public events. Vancouver Heritage Foundation has a heritage reading room and we produce educational resources like our Heritage Study Guide for teachers. We also offer hands-on conservation workshops as well as our newly-launched Heritage 101 on Demand course.

2. Heritage retention policy work with the City of Vancouver.

Vancouver Heritage Foundation is a Civic Agency that works with the City of Vancouver Heritage Planning Department, Sustainability Department, and directly with City Council to promote policies that retain heritage across Vancouver. Councillor Lisa Dominato is our official liason to Council and is an ex officio member of our Board of Directors.

3. Practical support for conservation projects.

We administer a conservation grant program for the City of Vancouver, allocating \$230k annually. The grant funds we provide for conservation projects come from the City of Vancouver or through designated private funding as part of the original purpose of establishing VHF in 1992. In addition to funding for major capital projects, we also encourage minor conservation projects with our grant funding.



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101 on Demand**



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ABOUT VHF

Vancouver Heritage Foundation Staff



(Pictured above, left to right)

Sarah Carlson, Director of Education (on leave)

Jessica Quan, Community Engagement Manager

Meghan Lenz, Grant Programs Manager

Golmehr Kazari, Educational Events and Projects Manager

Katherine Figueiredo, Program Manager

Caroline McDonald, Administration and Volunteer Manager

Laura Carey, Executive Director



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