

Wells Residence



32 904 Wentworth Street

Built in 1911, the Wells Residence is a good example of an Edwardian era, Craftsman style bungalow. The solid and substantial appearance, front verandah, oversize triangular eave brackets, and scroll-cut verge boards are typical features of this style. The glassed in porch on the building's east side, with its row of large mullioned windows, takes full advantage of the view toward Nanaimo's downtown core and harbour. Charles S. Wells was an accountant for the Western Fuel Company. The company, successor to the Hudson's Bay and Vancouver Coal Mining and Land companies, was Nanaimo's single largest employer from 1903 to the end of the 1930s. During the Western Fuel Company period, miners experienced tremendous change including mine mechanization, bitter labour conflicts, including the infamous 1912-1914 strike and, eventually, the decline of the industry and the loss of their livelihoods.

Layer-Hall Residence

Built in 1913 for the Layer family, the residence later became the home of Dr. G.A.B. Hall, who lived here during the 1930s and early 1940s while employed as the physician and surgeon to the Western Fuel Company miners. The residence is an excellent example of an Edwardian era building with Foursquare and Craftsman influences. The Foursquare's box plan made it economical and practical to build and the simple design typifies restrained, Edwardian elegance.



33 115 Machleary Street

Steel Residence



34 990 Campbell Street

Built in 1936, the Steel Residence is a very good example of the type of modest, vernacular housing that was popular in Nanaimo during the Depression. Interesting features of this Craftsman-inspired house include the jerkin-headed (clipped gable) roof, inset front porch and the decorative molding. The house was constructed by the Steel Brothers, prolific local contractors from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Craig Street Residence

Built around 1912, the Craig Street Residence is a very good example of a pre-WWI Edwardian-style building. Modest in scale, this house displays many stylistic features typical of the Edwardian era but also has some special decorative touches. Most notable is the coloured glass in the unusual stepped triple casement window in the front dormer. The landscape features a mature sumac, a large mature oak and a Mountain Ash at the front.



35 112 Craig Street

Nanaimo Public Cemetery



36 555 Bowen Road

The Nanaimo Public Cemetery was established in 1877. The modest early grave markers reflect Nanaimo's predominantly working-class population while more elaborate monuments provide the names of the city's wealthier citizens. The many inscriptions about mine accidents, testimony to the over 600 mine-related deaths that occurred from the 1860's to the 1950's, are representative of Nanaimo's history.

Brochure Produced By:

NANAIMO Culture & Heritage

IT'S WHO WE ARE

For more information about the buildings featured in this brochure, request a copy of the City's Heritage Register. If you have questions about the City's Heritage Register or Heritage Conservation Program, please contact the Culture & Heritage Department.

- location: Service & Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street
- mail: c/o Culture & Heritage, 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
- phone: 250-755-4483
- online: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/heritage
- email: cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca



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A Walk Through Time

Your Guide to Nanaimo's Old City Heritage Walk

One of Nanaimo's oldest residential neighbourhoods, by the turn of the 20th Century, the Old City was established as a middle to upper income residential area located a comfortable distance from the busy commercial core and adjacent mixed residential / industrial and residential / agricultural neighbourhoods. By the turn of the 20th century, Nanaimo's entrepreneurial and professional classes were moving to areas west and north of the original town site. This movement was largely spurred by the development of the huge No. 1 Coal Mine in what was once a predominantly residential area on the southern waterfront but also reflects a general trend towards single-use neighbourhoods that were increasingly defined by social class and their distance from industrial activity. The unique character of the neighbourhood is very much defined by its historic residences and mature vegetation.

Manson Residence



1 471 Selby Street

The Manson Residence is a very good example of the stylistic evolution of a building over time. The original part of the house was a typical, modest Nanaimo worker's cottage, built between 1885 and 1887. The worker's cottage form is still clearly visible at both sides of the house. Subsequent renovations include the addition of a full

front verandah with front gable and late-Victorian posts and a large rear addition. Although modern windows and doors have been introduced, the essential character of the building remains intact. This building is also significant because of its association with Michael Manson, who came to Nanaimo from his native Scotland in the 1870s. Initially, he worked as a brakeman on a coal train, then clerked in and subsequently owned a dry goods and grocery store. From time to time, Manson left Nanaimo to trade with First Nation peoples along the coast and he eventually established a trading post on Cortez Island. In later years, Manson served as Nanaimo City Clerk, Secretary of the School Board and, from 1909 to 1932, as a member of the British Columbia Legislature.

Gilbert Residence

Built for Mary Jane Gilbert, a native of Cornwall, England, in 1893, this late Victorian cottage survives mostly in its original configuration (a second floor was removed), and is one of the best surviving examples of this type of house in Nanaimo. Square and symmetrical in design, with a central front entry, it is covered with a pyramidal roof that extends over the paired front bays to form a small porch. The front bays display decorative carved brackets at the eave line. The front door is original, with arched top panels, and retains its sidelights and transoms. The residence still sits on its original large property, with many mature shrubs and landscape features typical of the period, including variegated hollies. One of the most remarkable features is the unique wrought iron front gate and gateposts, manufactured by the Stewart Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.



2 279 Selby Street



3 241 Selby Street

Brackman-Ker Milling Building

Originally built as the Brackman-Ker feed mill, this building is one of the few remaining pre-W.W.I industrial structures in the City. Built in a utilitarian style, this is a good example of an early industrial building. The form of the structure is unchanged although upgrades have been made to the building

exterior, with the most notable change being replacement of the building's original corrugated iron siding with vinyl siding. Due to its mass, this building forms a prominent part of the Selby Street streetscape and is a visual reminder of an area abutting the railway that formed one of Nanaimo's earliest industrial zones.

Aldred House



4 529 Wentworth Street

Built around 1890, the Aldred House is a good example of a modest, vernacular, Italianate influenced residence. Characteristics of this style include a tall appearance, asymmetrical massing, rectangular shape, tall, narrow windows, side bay windows and segmented arches above windows and doors. Aldred House is one of the earliest known buildings in this neighbourhood. Additionally, it is one of few surviving Victorian era buildings of this size and style in Nanaimo.

First Nanaimo Scout Hut



5 445 Comox Road

Built in 1930, the First Nanaimo Scout Hut is an excellent example of a vernacular adaptation of the Rustic architectural style. Inspired by rustic park lodges, this style, with its emphasis on simplicity, use of natural materials and sympathy with the landscape, was particularly appropriate for the Boy Scouts whose basic principles include self-reliance and respect for the integrity of the natural world. Although the building has been altered over time, its form is essentially intact and it continues to serve the purpose for which it was built.

Newbury Residence



6 39 Milton Street

Built in 1910, the Newbury Residence is a very good example of a Craftsman bungalow. Arthur Newbury first appears in local records in 1909 as a miner for the Western Fuel Company. In 1921, he received his 1st Class Certificate of Competency, a requirement to become a coal mine official. From 1921-1926, he managed the Harewood Mine and from 1927-1935, he was the manager of the No. 1 Mine.

Young/Pargeter Residence

Built by local contractor Levi Chester Young in 1911, the Young-Pargeter Residence is an excellent example of a Craftsman bungalow. The residence was acquired in 1913 as a rental property by James T. Pargeter, an auto mechanic and later, engineer for the Canadian Western Fuel Company.



7 45 Milton Street

Connaught Barracks Stable

In 1911 work started on the Agricultural Hall. It was opened the following year on this site. By October of 1913 the hall had been turned over to the military to house the Civil Aid Force during the big (miners) strike of



1912-1914. Detachments of troops were still stationed on the site in August, 1914 when World War One started. At this time, the Agricultural Hall was renamed the Connaught Barracks. In 1915, stables were built for the horses of elements of the Canadian Mounted Rifles stationed at the barracks. By 1917, agricultural shows were once again being held at the site, however this could not be sustained. In 1921 the City acquired the site and in 1922, the barracks was converted into the Nanaimo High School (later renamed Thomas Hodgson High School in 1931). In 1936, two of the former stable buildings were repaired and converted into a space for use by the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training School. The school offered courses in general building construction and automotive engineering. The program ended in 1942, when it was taken over by the military for training purposes. From 1946 until they moved to property at the former military camp in 1948, civilian vocational training resumed on the site. The legacy of the school lived on however, eventually forming part of what is now Vancouver Island University.

In 1957, the school and most of the ancillary buildings were demolished and playing fields created by the Gyro Club under the administration of the City of Nanaimo's Parks and Recreation Department. The only building to survive this period and be adapted for recreational purposes was the single stable building.



8 850 Wentworth Street

Cunningham Residence



9 190 Kennedy Street

Designed by the local architectural firm of McArvay and Barley, this house is their only identified residential building and an excellent early example of the suburban rancher style. This architectural style is characterized by its single storey, "to the ground" character. Typically, ranchers had low pitched roofs which emphasized the form's horizontality, broad central chimneys without ornamentation, corner windows and large "picture" windows that were the centerpieces of the main rooms of the house. The suburban ranch style was the favored design in suburban tract developments from the late 1940s into the 1970s. For this reason, this house's downtown, Old City location is unusual.

Crossan Residence

Built in 1912 by Janet and James William Crossan, the Crossan Residence is a very good example of a Craftsman Bungalow. Although updated, the building still features many of the hallmarks of this style including long and low proportions and stained glass windows. More unusual locally is the decorative shingling in the front gable. James Crossan was Nanaimo's Chief of Police from 1894 to 1912, Secretary for the Pilot Board, and an Alderman for the North Ward.



10 718 Wentworth Street

Wood Residence



11 133 Milton Street

For many years this was the residence of the Wood family. Sarah Ann Wilcox was widowed on May 22, 1891, when her husband John, the co-owner of the Commercial Hotel, died. She later married William A. Wood, Nanaimo Station Master. The charming Late Victorian cottage appears to date from approximately 1896. This was the era when steam driven band saws allowed for the extensive use of scroll-cut carpenter ornamentation, of which this house is a splendid example.

Wilton/Welch Residence

Built in 1903 for Sarah and Alfred Wilton, and expanded in 1916, the Wilton/Welch Residence is a very good example of a vernacular, Edwardian era building. The simple, L-shaped plan has an overall restrained appearance that is enriched by carpenter ornamentation including scroll-cut eave brackets and contrasting tongue-and-groove in detailing in the front gable and along the eave lines. The residence was also the home of Albert and Isabella Welch who owned a farm in the Wellington area, raised animals for the fur trade, and also opened a feed business in Nanaimo, and later Welch and Welch Confectionery with his son at the corner of Bastion and Skinner Streets. During the late 1920s, he served on City Council and was the Police Commissioner for a time. The property is also significant as the site of Nanaimo's largest identified Catalpa Tree, commonly referred to as an Indian Bean Tree after its prominent seed pods.



12 129 Milton Street

Jenkins Residence



13 674 Wentworth Street

Built in 1924 for David Jenkins, proprietor of D. J. Jenkins Ltd, Funeral Directors and Embalmers, the Jenkins Residence is a superior example of a late Craftsman bungalow. Its long and low form is typically Craftsman but it also features many distinct design elements including carved verge boards with unusual upswept ends and a treatment in the gable ends and verandah piers in which random sized pieces of granite were pressed into wet mortar. These elements, and the immaculate condition of the building, combine to make the Jenkins Residence an exceptional example.

Wilson Residence

Built in 1926, the Wilson Residence is an excellent example of a late Craftsman style building. The building is finely detailed and has a notable wrap-around verandah that takes advantage of its corner location. The residence is also significant for its association with Charles Wilson. During the 1930s and 1940s, Wilson was a prolific local contractor and designer. Wilson exemplifies early Nanaimo builders. Self-taught builders like Wilson, who had no formal architectural training, designed the majority of Nanaimo's early building stock. Among Wilson's credits are this residence, the design and construction of the Hall Block on Commercial Street, the construction of the Eagle's Hall on Bastion Street and the Hudson-Essex garage (now offices) at 30 Front Street.



14 697 Wentworth Street

Ledingham Residence



15 347 Milton Street

Built around 1902, this residence is a very good example of a vernacular, transitional style – from Late Victorian carpenter ornamentation to Edwardian symmetry and boxiness. The building displays some unusual features. The symmetrical massing is emphasized by twin projecting front bays on the ground floor that are joined by a continuous hip roof to form a covered porch over the central front entry. Decorative fish-scale shingling is used in the front gable. The residence is significant as one of the few surviving historic buildings in this immediate area that recalls its early identity as a prestigious residential neighbourhood. Over time, other single family residences in the area were replaced with apartment blocks, multiple family housing and institutional buildings.

McCourt Residence

Tall and imposing, the vertical massing of this residence is typical of the Late Victorian era. The projecting front bay has a sloped roof, with paired brackets at the cornice. The house survives in fairly intact condition, except for the enclosure of the corner entry porch, metal clad roof, and the addition of a concrete block chimney on the east façade. By 1901 the property had been acquired from Donald McLellan by Joseph McCourt, a miner who lived on Victoria Road, as a rental property.



16 750 Franklyn Street

Milton Street Residence



17 434 Milton Street

Constructed around 1893, this Late Victorian cottage is one of the oldest buildings on this street. Its symmetrical massing, central entry and porch, and flanking bays recall a vernacular style from the Southern United States sometimes called "Piano Box Victorian". Sympathetically rehabilitated, it adds greatly to the ambience of Milton Street, which still maintains much of its Victorian and Edwardian housing stock.

Leynard Residence

Built for the Leynard family around 1932, the residence is a very good example of the English Cottage Style that was very popular in Nanaimo during the interwar period. Design features representative of this style include the asymmetrical floor plan, steeply pitched gable and hip roofs and the early use of stucco siding. Art Leynard was a long time City Engineer and author of "The Coal Mines of Nanaimo", a popular publication.



18 442 Milton Street

Nanaimo Hospital (now Malaspina Lodge)



19 388 Machleary Street

Built between 1925 and 1942, the Nanaimo Hospital is a very good example of Classical Period Revival style architecture. Based on the architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome, Classical Revival was one of the most widespread styles in North America from the late 1880s to the early 1900s, especially for churches and public buildings. The buildings' Greek Cross form and minimal ornamentation are typical elements of this style. The building's overall austere and institutional appearance, appropriate for the serious nature of providing medical services, symbolizes tradition and authority. The Hospital building represents the City's complex history of medical services and speaks to the on-going challenge of providing adequate facilities for an ever-expanding population. The first hospital was opened in 1877 in a row of miner's cabins. In 1881, a large new purpose built hospital was opened on this site. Continued population growth dictated the construction of this new building in 1925. Construction was delayed by lack of finances and it was not officially opened until three years later. The north wing, although part of the original design, was not completed until 1942 because of funding problems. In 1962, a new hospital was opened at another site. The Nanaimo Hospital Building has since been adapted for other uses.

Freethy Residence

Built in 1911 for John W. and Edith Freethy, the residence is a very good example of a finely detailed Craftsman Bungalow. The horizontal massing, full front verandah, tapered columns and scroll-cut verge boards are typical features of this style. John Freethy was a clerk at Spencer's Store on nearby Victoria Crescent.



20 304 Kennedy Street



Woodman Residence



21 307 Kennedy Street

Built in 1913, the Woodman Residence is an exceptional, richly detailed example of Edwardian era eclectic trends in housing forms. The symmetrical façade and vertical proportions are typically Edwardian while the pattern of sinuous curves in the leaded glass in the upper windows sash speaks to an Arts and Crafts influence. The overall impression is of a finely crafted custom built house, relatively rare in a city composed predominantly of modest working-class housing. The residence is also significant for its association with a well known and respected teacher, May Woodman, who lived in the building from 1913-1971.

windows, front gable roof, inset verandah, squared chamfered columns, exposed rafter ends and triangular eave brackets. The residence is significant as an example of the type of superior housing, both in design and construction, that typifies the Old City neighbourhood.

Rowbottom Residence



25 320 Machleary Street

Built in 1913 for Francis (Frank) Rowbottom who was a baker, the residence is a superior example of an Edwardian bungalow. This symmetrical building has many Craftsman features including triangular eave brackets, exposed rafter ends on the front dormer and a large, finely detailed wrap-around verandah. The rock wall with stone gateposts and elaborate wrought iron gate, in addition to the mature landscaping, add to the estate-like ambience of this property.

Hitchen Residence

Built in 1952 by Arthur Hitchen Jr. for his widowed mother, Ethel, the Hitchen Residence is a very good example of early ranch house design and displays many elements typical of the style including a long and low profile, rock trim on the exterior, a low-pitched roof, large picture windows and deeply overhanging eaves. Ethel Hitchen was born in Nanaimo in 1896 and was the granddaughter of one of Nanaimo's earliest merchants, John Hirst, and the daughter of merchants Frank and Louisa Hirst Rogers. Ethel was a school teacher for many years and an active member of St. Andrew's United Church and the Business and Professional Women's Club.



26 395 Machleary Street

John Johnston Residence



27 407 Machleary Street

Built around 1912 for John Johnston, a local blacksmith, the residence is a very good example of a vernacular, Edwardian era bungalow. Common elements include an open front verandah inset under a projecting second storey front gable, supported by square chamfered columns. Unusual features include the arches located on the front porch. Johnston's two daughters, Lillian and Isabelle, were teachers in the community for many years. The house was lived in continuously by members of the Johnston family until 2006.

Parrot Residence



28 411 Machleary Street

Built in 1916, the Parrot Residence is a very good example of an Edwardian era bungalow and displays many elements typical of the style including a simple, square form, restrained ornamentation, an open front verandah with square chamfered columns and a cross-gabled roof.

Rowley Residence

Built in 1893 for Joseph Rowley, a blacksmith, this tall late Victorian house displays the influence of the Italianate style. Scroll-cut eave brackets decorate the broad cornice under the roofline. A two storey projecting front semi-octagonal bay features star-shaped cut outs, and a steeply sloped skirting that extends to form a roof over the front entry. Slender turned columns frame the front door. The front door and the balustrade have been replaced, and a deck added to the rear of the house, otherwise it remains in very good condition.



29 426 Machleary Street

Clements Residence



30 420 Pine Street

Built in 1929, the Clements Residence is a good example of an unusual, vernacular late-Craftsman style building. While the simple form, steeply pitched roof and shed dormer are typical Craftsman elements, the extensive use of rock is an idiosyncratic and unusual surface treatment. The residence is located on sloping topography forming the dividing line between two significant older City neighbourhoods – the Old City Neighbourhood to the east and the Harewood neighbourhood to the west.

St. Peter's Cemetery

St. Peter's Cemetery is a rare, tangible link with Nanaimo's Roman Catholic heritage and speaks to the earliest ecclesiastic, social and spiritual history of Nanaimo. The first recorded burial took place in 1876, although the church was established in Nanaimo at least 15 years earlier. The cemetery is the only surviving single denomination graveyard in Nanaimo. Still in active use, the cemetery is important as a communal, spiritual space, and as a publicly accessible, outdoor history museum.



31 301 Machleary Street

Wilkinson Residence

Built in 1913, the Wilkinson Residence is Nanaimo's premiere example of the eclectic design trends of the Edwardian era. The Craftsman influenced river rock foundation, Classical style porch columns and Edwardian era vertical proportions of the building are evidence of this trend. The building is further distinguished by a two-storey high rounded turret on the front façade, stained glass window panels and sidelights, and a second floor balcony. The residences' corner location, height, and mass make it a highly visible neighbourhood landmark.



22 305 Kennedy Street

Shaw Residence



23 815 Fitzwilliam Street

Built in 1910-11 by George N. Shaw, manager of International Correspondence Schools, the Shaw Residence is a very good example of a modest Craftsman style bungalow. Long and low in form, this simple building features a few decorative elements typical of the Craftsman style including a stained glass panel in the second floor window, triangular brackets under the porch and double-hung wooden sash windows.

Beattie Residence

Built in 1910 for George Beattie, owner of Beattie and Hopkins Printers, the Beattie Residence is a sophisticated and unusual example of an Edwardian-era Craftsman style bungalow. The building features many of the hallmarks of this style including its long and low proportions, double hung wooden-sash



24 825 Fitzwilliam Street