

33. Chinese Cemetery, 1598 Townsite Road



Built in 1924, the Chinese Cemetery is a very good example of an ethnic cultural landscape. In addition to grave markers with Chinese inscriptions, the cemetery features traditional Chinese elements including ornate, brightly painted entry gates, a pagoda structure, an altar and a shrine. Although the cemetery is no longer exclusively Chinese, it retains, through the presence of these elements, a distinct Chinese character.

The Chinese Cemetery is a rare, tangible link with Nanaimo's Chinese heritage. The Chinese, almost wholly single men, came to Nanaimo as early as the 1860s to work in the mines or to open businesses. Perceived as unfair competition because of their willingness to work for lower wages than white employees, the Chinese were the source of much labour conflict during the 19th century. Initially, the Chinese settled in what is now downtown Nanaimo but in the 1880s they were removed by the coal company to the outskirts of town in an effort to reduce tensions. By 1908, a new Chinatown, one of the largest in North America at that time, was established near the western edge of the city. The last Chinatown was destroyed by fire in 1960, although much of its population had already dispersed. Because there is so little other tangible evidence of Nanaimo's Chinese heritage, the Chinese Cemetery is especially significant.

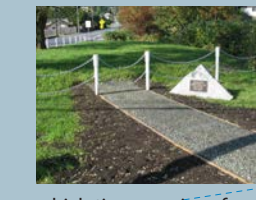
34. Wellington Cemetery, 4700 Ledgerwood Road



The Wellington Cemetery is one of very few tangible links to the town of Wellington, a formerly distinct community that was subsequently absorbed into the City of Nanaimo. Developed in the 1870s as a coal town by Robert Dunsmuir, who became one of the province's wealthiest men, Wellington rivaled Nanaimo in population and industrial output until its demise in 1900 when coal operations were moved south of Nanaimo to Extension and Ladysmith. At that time, many of the buildings were moved by railcar to the new communities. Combined with a few remaining 19th century buildings that are scattered throughout the area, the Wellington Cemetery is an important example of the ephemeral nature of single-industry resource towns.

The physical remains of the Wellington Cemetery reveal much about the early social and economic history of the area. The original division of the cemetery into quadrants by religious denomination reflects the importance of those distinctions. In addition, the headstones provide evidence of the community's population composition. Unlike Nanaimo, which was developed predominantly by English and Scottish settlers, the headstones at Wellington Cemetery indicate an ethnically diverse population that included significant numbers of Italians, Finns, and Belgians. Other headstones tell of deaths due to mining accidents, a common occurrence in Wellington's history. As a whole, the cemetery functions as an outdoor classroom of Wellington history.

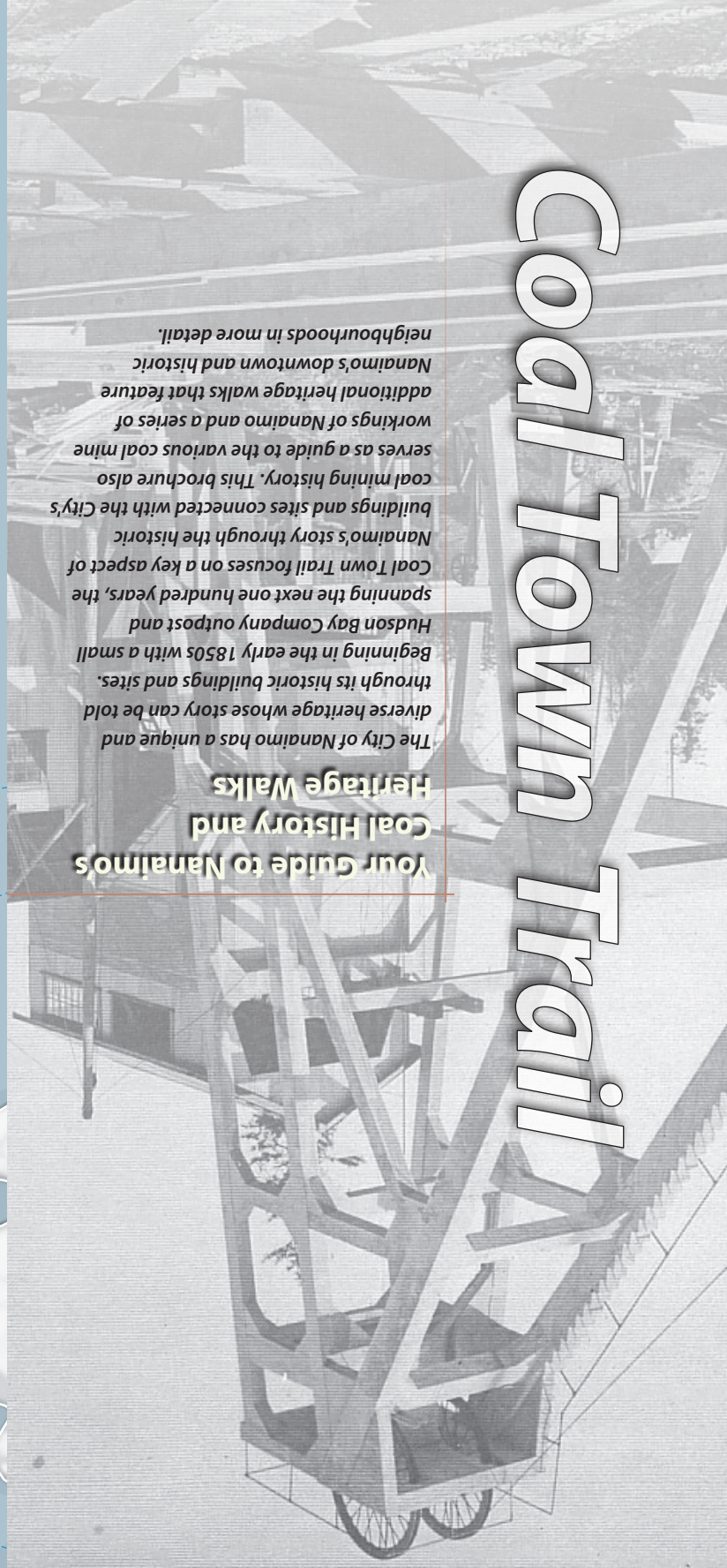
35. Snuneymuxw Ancient Burial Area, Departure Bay / Bay Street Intersection



Remains found at this site and the surrounding beach front area date back over 3,500 years, and are associated with the Snuneymuxw First Nation and a winter village settlement site known as Stl'llep, believed to have been located here for millennia. The Snuneymuxw continued to live seasonally at the Stl'llep village site until the mid 1800s at which time a series of events led to their displacement. The first event occurred in May, 1861 when a pioneer named John Christie pre-empted 114 acres of land around Departure Bay including most of the village site. The remaining portion of the village site was claimed by another pioneer named William Hughes in October, 1861. The land was surveyed in 1870, and title was crown-granted to these men in 1871. Despite this, the Snuneymuxw continued to use the winter village site. However, events that occurred in the 1890s and early 1900s such as the construction of the Dunsmuir Colliery wharfs, the CIL dynamite plant in what is now the Claire Subdivision, and continued residential settlement throughout the Bay area disrupted the environment and traditional fishing patterns, and ultimately resulted in the displacement of the Snuneymuxw at this site.

Legend:

- Coal Town Trail, (35km)**
 - This map illustrates the route within the context of the whole City. For the City downtown area, please refer to the reverse side map.
- Historic Coal Mine Sites (general location)**
 - Mines in Nanaimo Region not on this map
 - Bright Mine
 - Morden Mine
 - Timberlands
 - Extension #4
 - South Wellington #5 & 10
 - White Rapids
 - Granby
 - South Wellington Colliery
 - Wellington #8
 - Lantzville
- Other City Heritage Walk Routes**
 - If you are interested in these areas noted on the map, each area has its own heritage walk brochure, with detailed maps, pictures and information, available at City Hall, Nanaimo Museum, Nanaimo Archives and various tourist information sites.
- Popular Parks**
- Popular Trails**
- Points of Interest**



Your Guide to Nanaimo's Coal History and Heritage Walks

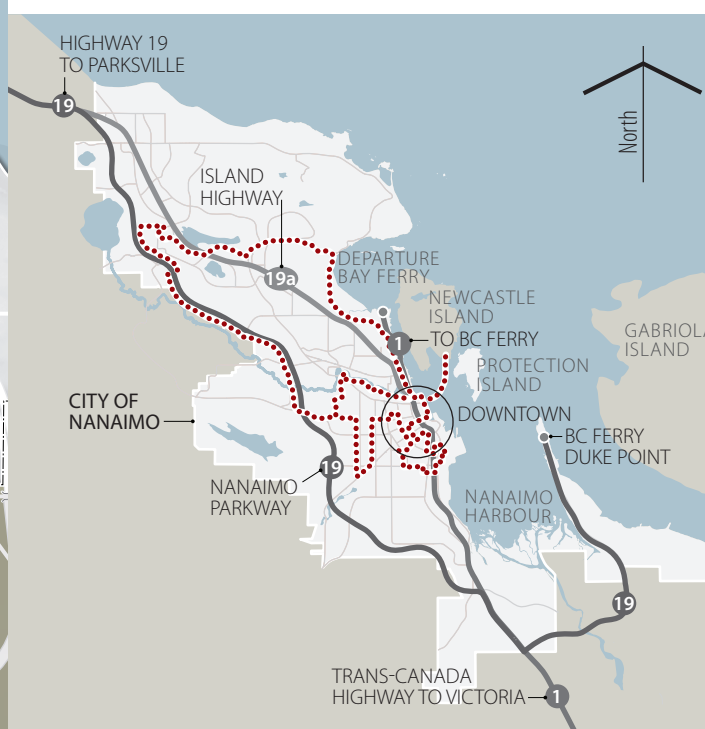
The City of Nanaimo has a unique and diverse heritage whose story can be told through its historic buildings and sites. Beginning in the early 1850s with a small Hudson Bay Company outpost and spanning the next one hundred years, the Coal Town Trail focuses on a key aspect of Nanaimo's story through the historic buildings and sites connected with the city's coal mining history. This brochure also serves as a guide to the various coal mine workings of Nanaimo and a series of additional heritage walks that feature Nanaimo's downtown and historic neighbourhoods in more detail.

Brochure Produced By:

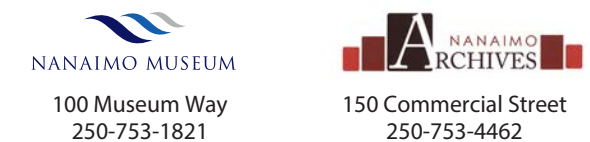


For more information about the buildings and sites featured in this brochure, request a copy of the City's Heritage Register. If you have questions about the City's Heritage Register or Heritage Conservation Program, please contact the Community Planning section.

- location: Service & Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street
- mail: c/o Community Planning, 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
- phone: 250-755-4464
- online: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/heritage
- email: communityplanning@nanaimo.ca



Continue your visit to Nanaimo's past at the:



100 Museum Way 250-753-1821
150 Commercial Street 250-753-4462

All historical photos courtesy Nanaimo Community Archives

Coal Town Trail Heritage Buildings and Sites

1. Bastion, 98 Front Street



The Nanaimo Bastion is the only known Hudson's Bays Company (HBC) wooden Bastion still standing in North America. Nanaimo's most recognizable landmark, the octagonal black and white Bastion was constructed from 16-inch timbers fitted together with wooden pegs. The Bastion served mainly as a symbol of community security and it's basement was used as a town jail. This unique structure has safeguarded the inner harbour since 1853.

Relocated from its original position in 1891, the Bastion has been in continuous use since as a heritage attraction and museum. Today, visitors can tour the museums three floors of exhibits, photographs and costumes to explore life as it was in Nanaimo more than 150 years ago.

2. Globe Hotel, 25 Front Street



Built in 1887 in the Italianate style, the globe was one of many area hotels that provided affordable housing and social space for single men working in Nanaimo's coal mines.

3. St. Paul's Anglican Church, 100 Chapel Street



One of the oldest, continuously functioning parishes in BC, this landmark church, built in 1931, is Nanaimo's only example of Gothic Revival architecture. The original stained glass windows, oak pulpit, stone baptismal font and fir organ case are all intact. A 1914 miner's lamp located on the left side of the altar shines a perpetual light.

4. Great National Land Building, 5-17 Church Street



Built for the Bank of Commerce in 1914 during a coal mining strike, the building's imposing Classical Revival style was meant to convey conservatism, tradition, stability and prosperity during a volatile time. With its four massive columns and located on a prominent downtown corner it remains one of Nanaimo's most striking landmarks.

5. Hall Block, 37-45 Commercial St. Street



Constructed in 1925, the Hall Block retains much of the interwar period's vernacular Edwardian commercial style and is significant because of its historical ties to former mayor Dr. G.A.B. Hall (1930 to 31), a physician and surgeon for a local coal mining company, an industry with high accident and death rates.

6. Occidental Hotel, 432 Fitzwilliam Street



The "Oxy" has been in continuous use for more than 100 years. Prolific Victorian architect John Teague designed its imposing vertical proportions and tall rounded windows and doors in the Victorian Italianate style in 1886 at a time of prosperity when the E & N Railway was completed and the coal mining industry expanding.

7. Manson Residence, 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. 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.

8. Cavan Street Coal Seam, 95 Cavan Street



This coal seam represents the many seams that were mined throughout the Nanaimo area between 1852 and 1953. It has been exposed on this steep rock face as a result of site grading.

9. Nob Hill Park, 400 Milford Crescent



In 1863, the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, successors to the Hudson's Bay Company, devised a town plan for Nanaimo that laid out all the streets and green spaces. Nob Hill Park, originally known as Milford Crescent Park, was included in that original plan. Over 150 years later, the original park remains intact and is a tribute to the original planners who understood the value of public green space in urban areas.

10. Beck Residence, 610 Selby Street



Built around 1921, this modest Craftsman bungalow was built for John Beck, a blacksmith for the Western Fuel Company.

11. Sullivan Residence, 673 Selby Street



Built around 1892 for Daniel Sullivan, a blacksmith for the Vancouver Coal Company, the fanciful Sullivan Residence is a rare surviving Queen Anne style building.

12. Deverill Square, 200-262 Irwin Street



This Park was originally called Deverill Square. It was named for George Deverill, assistant manager of the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company.

13. Haliburton Street Miners' Cottage, 111 Haliburton St.



A house existed on this site as early as 1875, although it is unclear whether this is the house. According to the assessment records John Caulfield and Thomas Zealand were the original owners of this property. The property was later owned in the 1880's by John Hilbert, an undertaker and furniture maker who was also mayor in 1891. However, it does not appear that Hilbert lived at this address.

This building is one of the earliest surviving examples of a vernacular workers cottage (or miners' cottage) located in Nanaimo. This residence retains the basic form of a miner's cottage with a side gable roof, extended back addition and front porch typical of the housing form.

14. Jones Bevilockway Residence, 55 Haliburton Street



Joseph and Ann Bevilockway, both of Staffordshire, England, came to Nanaimo in 1854 aboard the Princess Royal. Joseph built numerous buildings for the Vancouver Coal Company and he built this simple home for his family. This is one of the oldest structures in Nanaimo.

15. Young Residence, 102 Fry Street



James Young built this prominent, late Victorian house around 1890. Young owned a general store and was active in the fledgling labour movement. The Calvin Ewing Knights of Labour, local assembly 3017, was the first local in British Columbia and the focus of union activity north of Victoria. Young signed the notice for the first meeting at the Nanaimo Foresters Hall in 1884. Young later served on City Council in 1910, 1912-1916 and 1919.

16. Robins Gardens, 1150 Milton Street



This is one of Nanaimo's most historic blocks. Before 1900, this area was the "upscale" part of town and included many of Nanaimo's most elegant homes. Robins Gardens are named after Samuel Robins, the Vancouver Coal Company Mine Superintendent from 1884 to 1903. Robins revitalized the Vancouver Coal Company after years of decline and developed good relationships with labour. Robins was an avid gardener who collected plant specimens from around the world. His 18-room home and grounds, complete with gazebo, fishpond and rose garden, have long since disappeared.

By 1930, the Western Fuel Company owned the entire block and no buildings remained. Later this was the site of the motel-style Evergreen Auto Court. Today, all that remains are the stately trees and plants as testimony to a by gone era.

17. No. 1 Mine Site & Memorial Plaque, 1151 Milton Street



On this site in 1883, the Vancouver Coal Company opened the No. 1 Esplanade Mine with workings that later extended beyond Newcastle and Protection Islands and the Nanaimo River. Workers at the mine extracted 18 million tons of coal, more than any other mine on Vancouver Island, by the time it was closed in 1938. The memorial plaque remembers the 150 miners who lost their lives in the 1887 mine explosion.

18. Provincial Government Mine Rescue Station, 1009 Farquhar Street



Nanaimo's coal mines were among the most dangerous in the world. Explosions, falling rock and coal, drowning, and crushing by equipment and animals caused over 2000 injuries and fatalities. In 1913, the Government Mine Rescue Station was constructed (one of four in the Province). Rescue teams received training by means of drills and competitions. In the event of a catastrophe, teams would don rescue equipment and crawl through the tunnels to find survivors and bring out bodies.

19. Rowe Residence, 545 Haliburton Street



Mary Ann Rowe lived behind the store she built next door until this elegant Edwardian house was completed in 1906. Born Mary Ann Malpass in 1860, she married miner Jonathan Blundell in 1876. The couple had five children before Jonathan was killed in the No. 1 Mine disaster (1887). In 1889, she married American Richard Rowe, and she had three more children. Mary Ann was an astute businesswoman; she made considerable money selling the coal rights from the Malpass Estate (located in Cedar by the Nanaimo River), and the grocery business that she ran with Richard prospered. She died on July 16th, 1943 at the age of 83.

20. Robins Park, 620 Park Avenue



Robins Park, originally known as the Cricket Field, was constructed in 1903-04. The park was the site of many soccer and cricket championship matches, and also featured a horse race track. Its name was later changed to honour Samuel Robins, the Superintendent of the Vancouver Coal Company.

21. Leynard Residence, 442 Milton Street



Built for the Leynard family around 1932, the residence is a very good example of the English Cottage style that was popular in Nanaimo during the interwar period. Art Leynard was a long time City Engineer and author of "The Coal Mines of Nanaimo", a popular publication.

22. McCourt Residence, 750 Franklin Street



Likely built around 1901 as rental property by Joseph McCourt, a miner who lived on Victoria Road, 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 facade.

23. Young/Pargeter Residence, 45 Milton Street



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 Western Fuel Company.

24. Newbury Residence, 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.

25. Connaught Barracks Stable, 850 Wentworth Street



In 1911 work started on the Agricultural Hall on this site and was completed in 1912. 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.

26. Layer-Hall Residence, 115 Machleary Street



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.

27. Wells Residence, 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.

28. Nanaimo Public Cemetery, 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 over 600 mine-related deaths that occurred from the 1860's to the 1950's, are representative of Nanaimo's history.

29. Crewe Residence, 624 Wakesiah Avenue



Frederick Crewe, a miner, is listed as living at this site as early as 1900. It is likely this home dates from approximately that time. A concrete milk house remains on the Wakesiah Avenue side of the property, and the concrete foundations of a barn exist on the adjacent lot to the south, recalling the agricultural legacy of the area.

30. Colliery Dam Park, 645 Wakesiah Avenue



Built in 1910 by the Western Fuel Company to supply water for coal washing and for use by miners, mules and horses in the mines, the Colliery Dam water system quickly developed an important secondary use. Homes near the pipeline were allowed to tap the line for domestic uses and eventually this water was carried to most of the homes in South Harewood.

31. Newbury Farm House, 678 Second Street

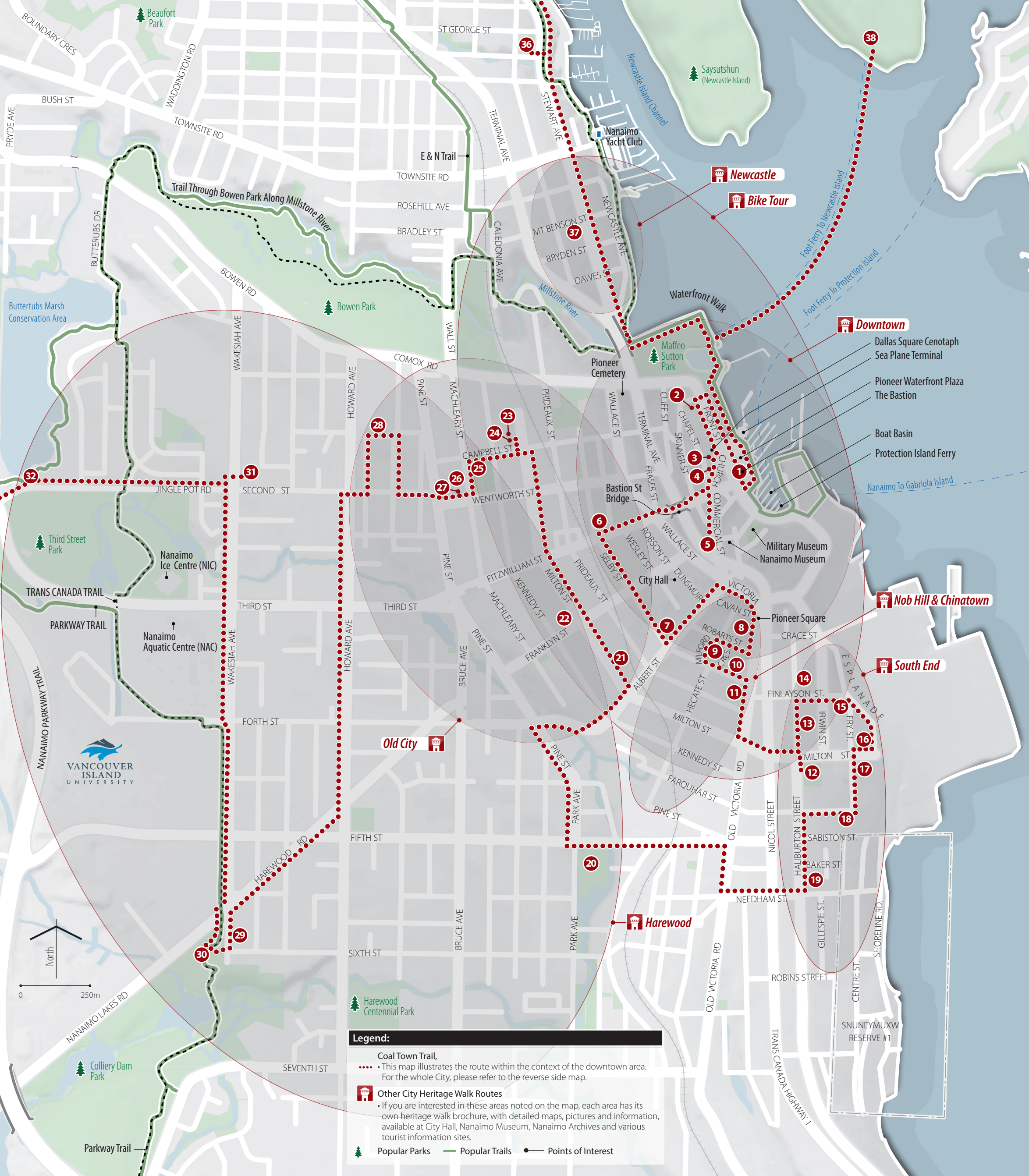


Built in 1918, the Newbury Farm House is a substantially intact, example of a Craftsman bungalow. William Newbury is known to have lived on the farm as early as 1909. He and his son were living examples of Samuel Robins's vision of self-sufficient miners. Alternatively listed as miners and nurserymen, the Newbury's at one time operated a florist shop in downtown Nanaimo.

32. Brick Cottage, 1904 Jingle Pot Road



The cottage was built as a coal company office around 1910. Although East Wellington was known as a brick and tile manufacturing area, brick was seldom used in residential work. Originally set on a large lot at the corner of Addison Road, the cottage was purchased from the Specogna family in 1998 and relocated to this site for use as an historical and environmental interpretation centre.



36. Garden Memorial to Chinese Pioneers, 105 St. George Street



The Garden Memorial to Chinese Pioneers speaks directly to Nanaimo's Chinese heritage. Around 1890, this small plot was donated by the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company for use as a Chinese burial ground. At that time, the site was just beyond the city's official boundaries. Bodies were interred here, but it was always intended that the bones of the deceased would be returned to China. The site was in use until 1924, when the new burial grounds on Townsite Road were established. This site served as an essential communal space for the original Chinese community and later, as an important commemorative space for their descendants.

37. Isaacson Residence, 255 Stewart Avenue



Built in 1931, this house is a good example of an English Cottage style bungalow. The house was built after an earlier house (Eldovilla), centred in the middle of the block, was demolished. S.V. Isaacson was the Secretary-Treasurer of Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd.

38. Saysutshun (Newcastle Island)



A brief walk around SAYSUTSHUN (Newcastle Island) brings you to the site of SAYSUTSHUN Village, where recovered native artifacts bear silent witness to the life of a Snuneymuxw First Nation village that was deserted some time before coal was discovered in Nanaimo in 1849. For centuries the Snuneymuxw First Nation had occupied this village between the months of September and April, leaving every spring in order to fish for cod and gather clams and tubers on Gabriola Island. Although the Snuneymuxw First Nation were among the island's first coal miners, they were soon "supplemented" by boatloads of British; these men christened the island after the famous coal town in northern England and diligently worked the mines until 1883. Newcastle Island's supplies of sandstone lasted longer than did the coal: this attractive building material, used in many constructions along the west coast, was quarried from 1869 until 1932.

Newcastle Island also played a role in the fishing industry of the province. By 1910 the Japanese, who dominated the west coast fisheries, had established a small settlement just north of Shaft Point on the east side of the island. Here they operated a saltery and shipyard until 1941 when all the Japanese-Canadians who lived along the coast were sent to internment camps in the Interior in the interests of national security.

In 1931 the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company purchased the island and operated it as a pleasure resort, building a dance pavilion, tea house, picnic areas, change houses, soccer field and a wading pool. The island became very popular for company picnics and Sunday outings, with ships from Vancouver bringing as many as 1,500 people at a time. The advent of the Second World War caused a decrease in the number of ships available for pleasure excursions and SAYSUTSHUN (Newcastle Island) suffered a consequent decline in popularity. The Island became a Provincial Marine Park in 1961, when the City of Nanaimo granted it to the Province of British Columbia after having acquired the island from the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1955. Today the Island is a popular camping destination for both Nanaimo residents and tourists. (Text courtesy of BC Parks)