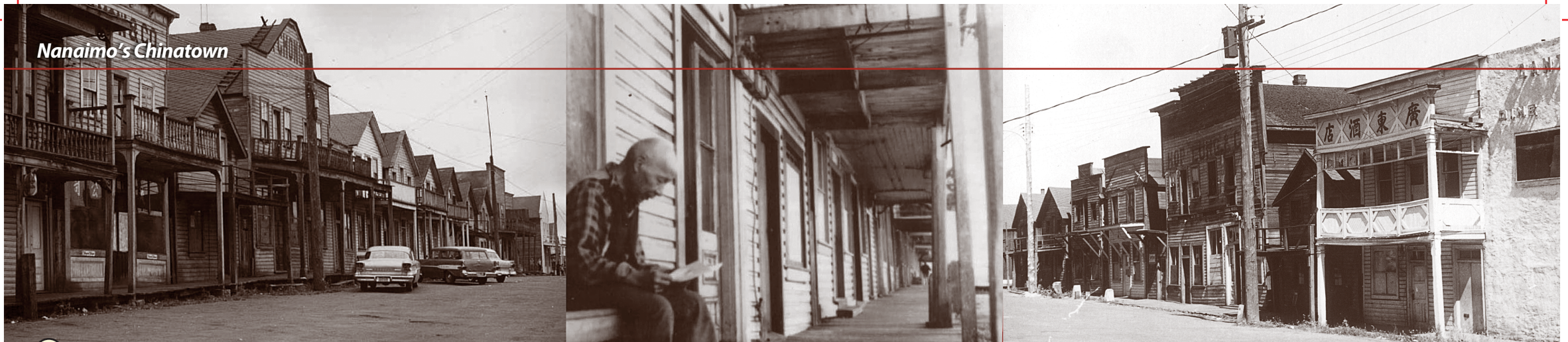


Nanaimo's Chinatown



13 By 1911, Nanaimo's Chinatown was well established, with buildings on both sides of Pine Street. The community had a population of approximately 1,500 which would swell on weekends when Chinese workers came from surrounding areas to socialize and purchase supplies.

The non-Chinese population also frequented Chinatown for commercial and entertainment purposes. The population and economic vitality of the Pine Street Chinatown waned in the early 1920s due to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923 and a decline in the coal industry. The area became increasingly

derelict until it was destroyed by fire on September 30th, 1960. By this time, the majority of the population had dispersed throughout Nanaimo or relocated to larger Chinese communities in Canada and the United States.



Nob Hill Park

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.



1 400 Milford Crescent

Provincial Liquor Store

The Streamline Moderne style Provincial Liquor Store is one of few local buildings constructed by the provincial government. Built in 1949 to a standard plan created by the Department of Public Works' Assistant Chief Architect Lord Wilfred Hargreaves, the Liquor Store is one of only two known surviving examples of this particular plan. The other is located in Prince George.



2 25 Cavan Street

Cavan Street Coal Seam

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.



3 95 Cavan Street

Fire Hall #2

Built in 1893 Fire Hall #2 is a very good example of the popular Victorian Italianate style. The large doors at the front lower level were designed for easy access for the fire company's horses and equipment. Similarly functional, the concrete hose tower, added to the rear of the building in 1914, allowed fire hoses to dry quickly.



4 34 Nicol Street

McRae Residence

This charming late Victorian era home was built by carpenter Malcolm McRae in 1901. McRae and his wife Annie Quennell lived here for many years their daughter Mildred Couture lived in the house, sleeping in the same room she was born in, until her death in 1996.



5 98 Victoria Road

Sullivan Residence

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.



6 673 Selby Street

Beck Residence

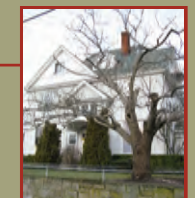
Built around 1921, this modest Craftsman bungalow was built for John Beck, a blacksmith for the Western Fuel Company. Typical of the Craftsman style, the house has scroll-cut barge boards, pointed and exposed rafter ends, triangular eave brackets, and tapered porch piers.



7 610 Selby Street

Harrison Residence

Built around 1892, the Harrison Residence is a very good example of Late Victorian Eclectic architecture. The picturesque massing of the building reflects the Late Victorian enthusiasm for complex roof lines. Built for Judge Eli Harrison, the house was subsequently owned by Dr. R.E. McKechnie (member of the Provincial Parliament, President of the Provincial Executive Council and doctor for the Vancouver Coal Company), Dr. James Hogle, who operated a maternity hospital from the house, and, much later, by Shelby Saunders, a businessman and real estate developer, who opened the Pgymy Pavilion dance hall (later the Fiesta Bowling Lanes) on Chapel Street in the 1930s.



8 546 Prideaux St

Jones Residence

Built around 1907, the Jones Residence is a superior, sophisticated example of Craftsman style architecture and ornamentation. Jones was an accountant and real estate speculator who built and leased many properties in the area.



9 639 Prideaux Street

Dykes Residence

This tall structure features a two storey projecting front bay and a generous front verandah with square chamfered columns. The residence was likely built around 1904 by Joseph Dykes, a "bratticeman" responsible for timber bracing at the mines.



10 639 Kennedy Street

Pargeter Residence

Built in 1913, the Pargeter Residence is a very good example of a World War I era Craftsman bungalow, a style exceptionally popular in Nanaimo at the time. The site includes two of Nanaimo's largest Chilean Pines, also known as Monkey Puzzle trees. Popular from the late 19th to early 20th centuries, Monkey Puzzle trees were often used as specimen trees in front yards.



11 536 Kennedy Street

York Residence

Located in the heart of Chinatown this was the home of Charlie York, a prominent local merchant who emigrated from Canton, China in 1916. After working briefly as a logger, he opened a tailor shop on Haliburton Street and by 1917 had moved the shop to 123 Commercial Street. The business would later evolve into a successful clothing store which was operated until his death in 1978. This modernistic residence was built in 1948 and has many design characteristics influenced by the Streamline Moderne style.



12 908 Hecate Street

Brochure Produced By: Nanaimo Community



Heritage Commission

For more information about the buildings featured in this brochure, please ask for a copy of the City's Heritage Register at the Development Services Department, 238 Franklyn Street or visit the City's web site at www.nanaimo.ca

If you have questions about the City's Heritage Register or Heritage Conservation Program please contact:

Heritage Planner

City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5J6
(250) 755-4429



**Nob Hill
Neighborhood Area**

Continue your visit to
Nanaimo's past at:

The Nanaimo District Museum,
100 Museum Way (250-753-1821).

The Nanaimo Community Archives,
150 Commercial Street (250-753-4462).



All historical photos courtesy Nanaimo Community Archives
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Special Thanks To: Neighbours of Nob Hill - Jim Teneycke,
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A Walk Through Time

Your Guide to Nanaimo's Nob Hill and Chinatown Heritage Walk

In the late 19th century, Nob Hill was a prestigious residential area. Today, the neighbourhood is a mix of single-family dwellings, apartments and boarding houses that retain many original Victorian and Edwardian design elements.

A few blocks away is the site of Nanaimo's Third Chinatown. For many years, this area was home to a large, vibrant Chinese community who contributed significantly to Nanaimo's development.