

Eighth Street and Royal Avenue. Toronto Place was laid out by Colonel Moody in his original city plan. Simcoe Park is the site of the 1886 red brick provincial jail, which then served as T.J. Trapp Technical School from 1920 to its demolition in 1955. The present John Robson School at 120 Eighth Street was built in 1928 as part of Trapp Tech.

Many of New Westminster's most prominent early citizens built homes in the Brow of the Hill from the 1880s on, including John Hendry, president of B.C. Mills Timber and Trading Co., bank president Isaac Fisher, architect G.W. Grant, engineer Andrew Mercer, historian and judge F.W. Howay, industrialist Elijah Fader and Thomas Ovens, originator of the Ancient and Honourable Hyack Anvil Battery. The Brow of the Hill is a solid family neighbourhood with people from all walks of life. The area includes some of the earliest houses in the city. These homes are important for their historic value, character and period appearance.

#### NEW WESTMINSTER'S CITY PLAN

(Please refer to the map on the back cover)

In Colonel Moody's Victorian plan for B.C.'s first capital city, the streets were laid out according to the topography of the land rather than to the points of the compass. Streets run up the hill and avenues across it, roughly parallelling the river.

Moody imposed a cruciform shape on the center of the city. The Parliament Buildings, to be located on the present city hall property on Royal Avenue, were at the center of the cross, dominating the hill and leading down to Holy Trinity Cathedral, the official English church, still in its original location on Carnarvon Street.

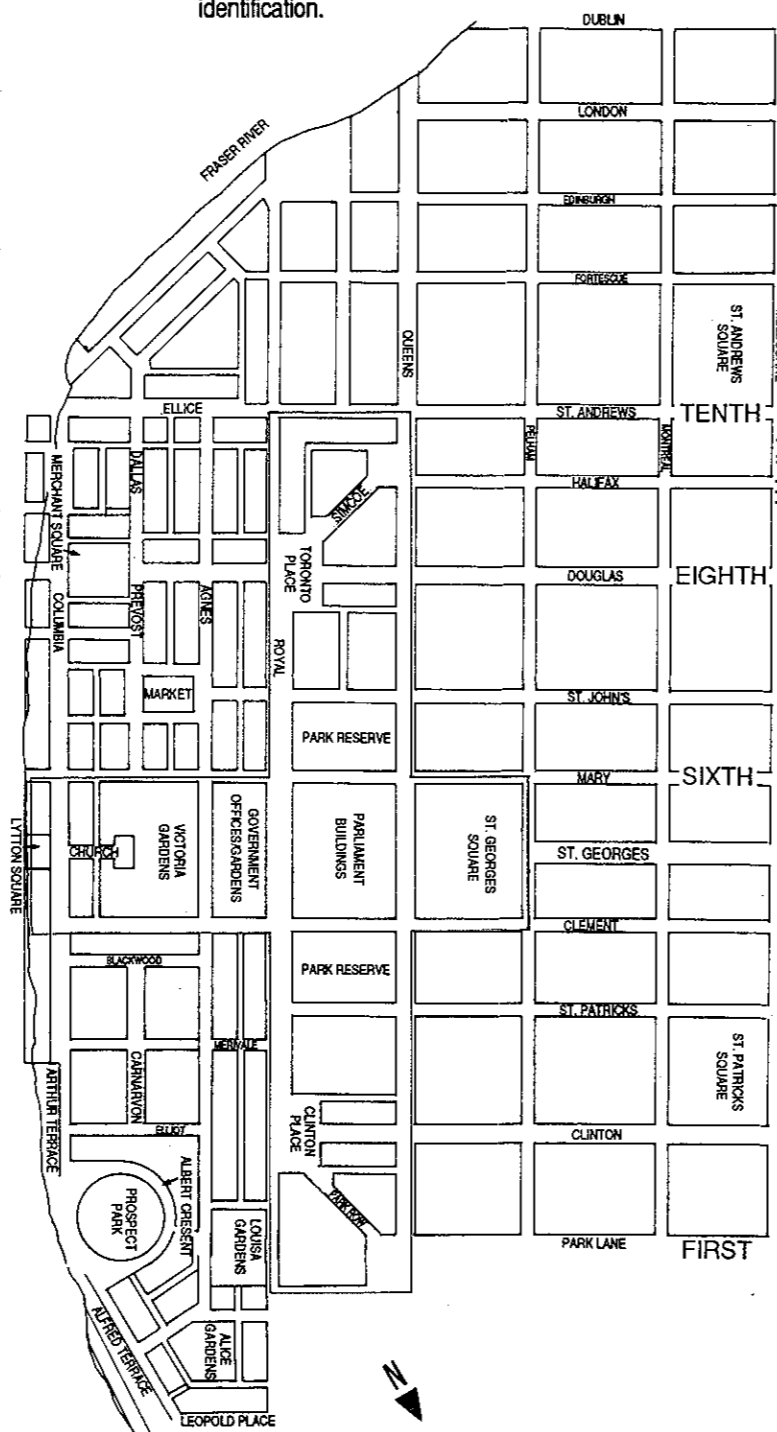
The city was defined on the west and east by Toronto and Clinton Places, still in existence as city park space. Two diagonal streets, Simcoe Street and Park Row, led into these garden areas. Simcoe Street was closed in as part of Simcoe Park in 1972 and gave the park its name.

Colonel Moody's Victorian New Westminster was a garden city, amply supplied with park reserve space and public squares. The city retains Toronto and Clinton Places and Queens, Prospect, Tipperary and Moody Parks as part of his legacy.

Colonel Moody selected his place and street names from prominent government officials, names of British cities and the patron saints of England, Scotland and Ireland. Moody named Mary Street for his wife and Clement Street after his own middle

name. He named Agnes Street for Governor James Douglas' daughter, who lived in the city. Names associated with Queen Victoria are present in Queens and Royal Avenues and Victoria Gardens. Queen Victoria also chose New Westminster's city name. Around Prospect Park, Prince Albert is recognized in Albert Crescent and the couple's children in the names of nearby terraces, places and gardens.

Some of Moody's street names still exist. Others were changed in the early 1890s to reflect a modern Canadian trend of the time to use numbers rather than names for street identification.



Produced by the Heritage Preservation Society Design and Illustration: John Atkin  
Printed in Canada

# BROW OF THE HILL



## NEW WESTMINSTER



#### THE BROW OF THE HILL

New Westminster's steep hills and position on the Fraser River are the reasons for its choice as British Columbia's first capital city. Colonel Richard C. Moody of the Royal Engineers, dispatched to the new colony by the British government in 1858, selected this defensible site to maintain the British presence and rule of law against the flood of miners pouring over the colony's borders to look for gold. By 1859, working from the Royal Engineers' camp near Sapperton, Colonel Moody had a city plan designed and the site surveyed.

The Brow of the Hill area, first known as the West End, was one of the city's earliest residential neighbourhoods. Roads for military purposes cut through the forest to Burrard Inlet by the Royal Engineers are in use today. The Douglas Road, now Eighth Street, in 1861 was a trail leading to settlements around Deer and Burnaby Lakes. The road's completion to the Hastings Townsite in 1865 also gave New Westminster a resort destination, the Brighton Beach Hotel, located near the Second Narrows. A stage coach left Columbia Street daily for the hotel. The False Creek Trail, roughly following present-day Kingsway, led off the Douglas Road at Fourteenth Avenue.

Residential growth in the Brow of the Hill was accelerated by the New Westminster Reserve Act of 1884, which freed government reserve property for development. Water, gas and electric lines were installed and streets pushed through. The Westminster and Vancouver Tramway Co., forerunner of the B.C. Electric Railway, attracted more residents with its new line along Twelfth Street in 1893. The BCER also erected car barns at the foot of Twelfth Street for street car construction in 1903. The BCER's 1909 Eburne/Marpole line follows present-day Marine Drive into south Vancouver.

After the economic depression of the mid-1890s, the next home building wave in the Brow of the Hill came in 1910, as sewers, sidewalks, curbs and paved streets were laid. Growth slowed once more during World War I. In the late 1920s large properties were still being subdivided into smaller single family lots. During the 1950s the Brow of the Hill saw the beginning of an era of apartment construction, primarily of the three-storey frame type.

Park space in the Brow of the Hill includes Simcoe Park, created in 1971 from government reserve property given to the city, and Toronto Place, both located at



A. Smith and Buckland, contractors, built 611, 609 and 607 Queens Avenue in 1910. Ald. J. Carter Smith lived at 607 and his partner Robert Buckland at 611, both houses designed by C.H. Clow in concrete blocks molded to look like stone. 609 is a Prairie style home planned by F.G. Gardiner for realtor E.L. Webber. At 613 is Olivet Baptist Church, built in 1938, Sharp and Thompson, architects.



C. James Gilley lived in the 1904 Queen Anne tower house at 115 Eighth Street and Capt. Joseph Mayers, master mariner, at 119 in 1910. 131 Eighth Street is the city's only and outstanding example of the San Francisco Stick style in architecture. Hugh Galbraith moved to New Westminster from New Brunswick via San Francisco, founded a millworking firm and built his home about 1894 from a pattern book design.

At Eighth Street and Royal Avenue are John Robson School (1928, J.B. Whitburn, architect) and Simcoe Park, site of the 1886 provincial jail and named for John Graves Simcoe, first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. Across Eighth Street is Toronto Place, laid out by Colonel Moody in his 1859 city plan.



B. Fine stonework, art glass windows and flamboyant Tudor trim in wood on stucco are hallmarks of 731 Queens, designed by Charles Kjolaas in 1912 for Dr. T.S. Hall, dentist. The Craftsman home at 729 Queens was built in 1912 for stationer J.S. Hainesworth. 727 Queens is a second Classical Revival house designed for J. Carter Smith by C.H. Clow in concrete blocks in 1912.

Herbert Gilley of Gilley Bros. building materials firm lived in the 1912 home designed by E.J. Boughen at 725 Queens. Gilley had purchased and subdivided the block, formerly the property of John Hendry, president of B.C. Mills Timber and Trading Co. and mayor of New Westminster and Vancouver. Hendry's 1888 home by G.W. Grant survives as the first storey portion of this house with arched windows and the main block of the house moved to 214 Ash Street in 1912.

D. 815 Milton Street is the late Victorian Queen Anne home of Sidney J. Pearce, city police chief 1887-91. At 818 is the 1890 G.D. Turner house in the Homestead style of the city's pioneer era. Other Victorian homes are 805 for millwright Edward Smith in 1892, 807 for jail guard George Robinson in 1893 and 809 for shipwright Alex McPhee, Jr. in 1891. 820 was built in 1895 for insurance agent J.D.B. Thompson and 819 in 1892 for millwright John Rushton.



E. W.E. Mercer, carpenter, built the fine Victorian Queen Anne home at 227 Ninth Street in 1902. The many Victorian homes and gardens in this block offer a sense of how many streets of family homes looked in the city at the turn of the century. 205 and 209 are 1892 Victorian cottages for clerk P.J. Foulds and carpenter T.J. Dales. 208 was built in 1911 by architects Gardiner and Mercer for realtor A.E. Easton. 210 was constructed in 1892 by carpenter E.J. Barnes and 217 and 223 by carpenter Thomas Turnbull in 1892 and 1907. 219 was built in 1911 for contractor J.H. McClughan and 221, 222 and 224 in 1892 for machinist John Forrester, butcher William Murray and baker J.F. McFarlane. William Bartlett, mate on the Samson, lived at 226 in 1895.



F. Carpenter Hezekiah Stead built the Queen Anne tower house at 233 Ninth Street in 1901. 1901 also saw the construction of 229, a Classical Revival home for fisherman and boat builder Josiah Russell, and 235, a Queen Anne cottage for piano agent J.H. Todd. Reuben Elley, proprietor of the Merchants' Hotel, lived at 230 in 1895.



G. 908 Third Avenue is one of four identical Victorian Italianate homes at 902, 4, 8



H. 1006/8 Third Avenue is one of a pair of brick Victorian duplexes or double houses designed by architect A.H. Towle in 1892. Lawyer T.C. Atkinson lived at 1008 1892-6. At 306 Tenth Street is the 1912 Mercer Block, built to house John Mercer and Sons' grocery and the White Bakery. The 1000 block Third Avenue also includes the 1892 Mrs. F.E. Moncrief lodging house at 1012, the 1905 home of carpenter Gustave Melin at 1016 and two 1910 Prairie style cottages at 1019 and 1021. 1023, a 1908 Queen Anne house set to the rear of an immaculate garden, was owned by engineer Andrew Ramsey.



I. 328 Eleventh Street is a Victorian Italianate house, first resident J.B. Foster, cook, tailor and teamster. At 332 and 334 are two 1890 Victorian houses built for George Blakeley, manager of T.J. Trapp's hardware store, and Nels Nelson, brewer. Carpenter Edward Rhodes lived at 314, designed in 1911 by C.H. Clow. 313 and 317 are 1942 Art Deco homes in stucco, both startlingly new on the block but now antique styles in their own right.

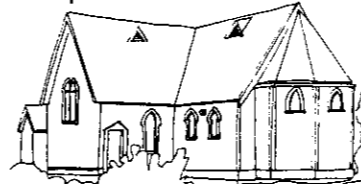
and 10 Third Avenue built by A.H. and C.W. Gillanders in 1891 in CPR drop siding with two-storey bay windows. Alexander Phillip, financial agent, lived at 908. At 906 is a 1910 Classical Revival home, 907 a 1916 Shingle style store for Mrs. Nellie Mercer and 912 a 1914 Craftsman bungalow for merchant Dan Cameron.



J. 415 Twelfth Street is a 1910 Shingle style house with curved balcony and a pair of cameo sunburst windows. Other Shingle style examples are 413, designed by C.H. Clow, and 431, built for F.J. Parmiter. 411 is the Craftsman style home of B.C. Electric Railway agent Sidney Gregory and 417 the Classical Revival home of J. Byard Abrams, proprietor of the Royal City Laundry.



K. 505 Eleventh Street is another J. Byard Abrams home, this later Craftsman bungalow designed in 1921 by J.B. Whitburn. Immanuel Lutheran Church at 427 Eleventh Street was begun in 1909 under the leadership of Gustave Melin as the Swedish community church. Melin built the original church at the rear of the lot and with contractor Salem Carlson the 1931 front portion.



L. St. Barnabas' Anglican Church at 1002 Fifth Avenue was built 1891-1900 as a mission church. The church bell was purchased from the B.C. Penitentiary in 1894. The altar windows date from 1900. The 1920s side windows are the work of Royal City Glass, founded in the city in 1914 by W.H. Morton. 1001 Fifth Avenue is a 1908 Prairie style house built for W. McWhinnie, boilermaker, and 1019 a 1911 Shingle style house for J.A. Marsh, BCER train master.



M. William Furness, tender for the Lulu Island bridge, had the quintessential Craftsman bungalow at 340 Tenth Street designed in 1913 by E.J. Boughen. Around the corner at 1005 Cornwall Street is the 1892 Homestead style house of Malcolm Matheson, merchant tailor, and the first house on the block. 1017 is the 1900 home of carpenter William Kearly, 1030 the 1894 home of Isaac Churchill and 1024 the 1907 house of W.H. West, marine engineer.



N. 407, 405 and 403 Ninth Street are identical houses built 1910-12. Their transitional style has both Victorian and later Classical Revival elements.



O. Leopold Brown, transfer agent, lived in the 1911 Craftsman bungalow at 406 Eighth Street. At 408 is a 1911 Queen Anne Revival home. 422 is an 1894 Queen Anne house built for W.T. Cooksley, journalist and photographer. 428, built by contractor Archibald Hogg in 1926, was considered a very modern house with its stucco finish and Mission Revival porch. 423 was designed by E.J. Boughen in 1911 for fisherman Hans Gorenson.



P. 311 Eighth Street and its neighbours on the block are a remarkably homogeneous collection of English country

cottages of the 1940s. The houses are finished in stucco masonry with leaded glass windows, steep rooflines and Tudor trim details. 311 was built in 1942 for Hector MacMillan, foundry, salesman. 323 Eighth Street is the 1908 George Gilley house.

302 Eighth Street was the home of Thomas Ovens from 1892 to 1927. Ovens was a city mayor and machine shop owner who started the custom of firing anvils rather than cannons for Queen Victoria's birthday salute, a ceremony still performed each Victoria Day by the Ancient and Honourable Hyack Anvil Battery.



Q. 609 and 615 Fourth Avenue were built by contractors Hubert Beharrell and Burton Smith. 609 was the home of S.L. Ross, manager of the Reliable Furniture Co., from 1919, while 615 was the Beharrell home. 619 is a 1927 Tudor cottage built for J.B. Jardine.

Behind these houses is an enclave of homes developed in 1911 and called Bent Court after

George Bent, the property owner. 403 Bent Court is the 1911 home of Capt. E.J. Fader, a "captain of industry" and also the rescuer of the crew and passengers of the Hudson's Bay Co. ship Beaver, wrecked in 1888 off Stanley Park. 609 Bent Court is the c. 1890 home of Daniel Whiteside, government messenger, and was moved here from the front of the property in 1911. 611 was built in 1913 by Hubert Beharrell and Burton Smith. 614 was built in 1911 by contractor George Bent as his home.



R. Angus Martin, canneryman, lived at 211 Seventh Street, a 1910 Classical Revival home with varied window patterns and Tudor trim in the gable. 213 is the 1910 home of John Spencer, stationary engineer.

617 Third Avenue is a 1938 Tudor Revival house built for postmaster Arthur Bowden. 620 is the 1892 Queen Anne cottage of E.A. Wyld, manager of the Bank of B.C. 430 Seventh Street is a 1910 Shingle style house built for store clerk J.B. Gregory and 435 an 1894 Queen Anne Revival double house.

