



VANCOUVER
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

HISTORIC JAPANESE CANADIAN DISTRICT

PAUERU-GAI
MAP GUIDE



VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC JAPANESE CANADIAN DISTRICT



Katelyn Yuen, Satsuki-kai odori, PSF. 2017

The Powell Street area has a unique historical tie with the Nikkei (people of Japanese descent), who commonly referred to the district as Paueru-gai, literally translated as Powell Street. Though this has always been a culturally diverse neighbourhood, Japanese Canadians made up the majority ethnic group from the 1890s until 1942, when the Canadian government forcibly removed the entire community.



CVA 300-136

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This map guide focuses on some of the key heritage buildings and sites related to Japanese Canadian history that still exist around Powell Street. We have numbered stops as a suggested route to explore the area but you do not need to follow the numbers to enjoy the sites. A full walking tour will take about 1-2 hours. It is a short walk from Gastown, Chinatown and Strathcona.

THE EARLY YEARS

A significant Japanese Canadian community established in this area starting in the 1890s. Access to jobs at nearby Hastings Mill was a key factor, as well as the presence of labour brokers who helped individuals find jobs on the railroads or in remote lumber industries. In spite of immigration restrictions placed on Japanese men in 1908, the population grew when men were able to bring family and sponsor workers, including many 'picture brides'—women chosen by an extension of the arranged marriages in Japan. These were proxy marriages and often only a picture was exchanged.

Many new Japanese immigrants worked in the forestry, fishing, mining, farming and canning industries. To secure employment, they often had to accept lower wages than non-Asian workers, thus displacing workers of other ethnicities and feeding existing racist sentiment in the general population. The hostility erupted in violence in 1907 in the form of an anti-Asian riot through Chinatown and Paueru-gai which left many businesses extensively damaged.

Despite discrimination, the community continued to grow and by 1921, 578 ethnic Japanese businesses and organizations thrived on Powell Street. Japanese Canadians served every need of their community with stores, bath houses, boarding houses and restaurants. Cultural institutions that were established include the Vancouver Japanese Language School, the Vancouver Buddhist Temple and various martial arts clubs.

NINA, courtesy Kitagawa family, 1930



THE VANCOUVER ASAHI

The Vancouver Asahi baseball team, established in 1914, was the pride of the Japanese Canadian community. Based at the Powell Street Grounds (now known as Oppenheimer Park, see stop 11), the Asahis were semi-professionals who played in commercial leagues with other teams in the Pacific Northwest. The team enjoyed widespread support, and as one fan recalls, "the barriers came down whenever the Asahis played ball." Powell Street businesses closed when the team played and many of them sponsored the Asahi trophies. The accomplishments of the Vancouver Asahis have been recognized with induction into both the BC Sports Hall of

Fame and the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

BEGINNING OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Many of the buildings on Powell Street were falling into disrepair by the late 1930s, partly because new zoning of the area for industrial use made it difficult to borrow money for improvements. The wealthier Japanese Canadians were moving into middle class districts like Marpole, Kitsilano and Kerrisdale. However, Japanese Canadians were still the principal property owners on Powell Street on the eve of the Second World War.

The war spread waves of xenophobia across the country. After the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941, racist sentiment came to the forefront of society. The Canadian government demanded the relocation of all Japanese Canadians near the coast to at least 100 miles inland, calling it a "precautionary act" against a possible spy network. No Japanese Canadian was ever charged with subversion but the entire Vancouver community was relocated during the spring and summer of 1942, often with less than 24 hours notice. The Hastings Park Clearing Station at the Pacific National Exhibition grounds was used to hold many Japanese Canadians before they were sent to long-term internment camps in the Kootenays and locations further east.

All Japanese Canadian-owned property, including homes, cars, boats, stored possessions and businesses on Powell Street, was expropriated and sold by the Custodian of Enemy Property, a federal government agent. Most properties were sold for a fraction of their value. The vibrant community of Powell Street disappeared almost overnight.

CONTINUED DISCRIMINATION

Although the war ended in 1945, the powers of the War Measures Act were extended by the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act to keep Japanese Canadians from returning to the coast until 1949. During that time, Japanese Canadians were encouraged to "show loyalty to Canada" and forced to disperse across the country or be deported to Japan. Of the 4,000 who were unconstitutionally removed to Japan, more than half were born in Canada and 75% were Canadian citizens.

POST-WAR POWELL STREET

By 1949, few Japanese Canadians were in a position, or had the interest, to return to Vancouver. The economic base of Powell Street and the surrounding neighbourhood had been dramatically eroded by wartime conditions and the gradual move of manufacturing and warehousing operations to the suburbs. Vacancy rates in the area remained high and buildings continued to deteriorate. As one Japanese

Canadian person said, "After the war everyone spread all over. There was no more community."

In the 1950s, some stores selling ethnic Japanese groceries and goods reappeared, as did some restaurants and even a gambling club on the main floor of the Lion Hotel at 316 Powell Street. A few major cultural institutions also re-opened, including the Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall (see stop 14), and the Vancouver Buddhist Temple (see stop 13).

LEADING UP TO THE CENTENNIAL

The Downtown Eastside (DTES), including the Japanese district of Powell Street, saw a period of decline from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s. To rescue and revive the area, a grassroots movement helped secure grants to enhance the community in the form of a Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.

In 1977, the Japanese Canadian community celebrated the centennial of the arrival of the first Japanese registered immigrant to Canada, Manzo Nagano. This created a new community spirit which sparked the Japanese Canadian Citizens Association into activity. They purchased 374-378 Powell Street, renovated a rundown hotel on the site and opened the Sakura-So Seniors Residence.

Responding to calls for redress, the Canadian government under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced a Redress Settlement on September 22, 1988. The settlement acknowledged the unjust treatment of Japanese Canadians during and after the Second World War and provided a payment of \$21,000 each to those affected by the War Measures Act.

The highly successful Powell Street Festival also began in 1977 as an annual celebration of Japanese and Asian culture through fine and martial arts, taiko, amateur sumo wrestling tournaments, craft vendors, traditional displays and Japanese food. The festival continues to unite the local community and further the growth of a vibrant Japanese Canadian culture.

While Paueru-gai is no longer the main cultural hub for Japanese Canadians, it is seen by the community as *natsukashii*, a place of fond memories. The DTES has seen many changes in recent decades but continues to be an economically diverse and culturally rich neighbourhood.



Jeanie Ow, Powell Street Festival, 2015.

1



STOP 1: KOMURA BUILDING

269 POWELL ST (1905)

Although only two historic buildings are left on the 200 block of Powell Street, this is where the Japanese Canadian community began and from where it radiated. The first property bought by Japanese immigrants, circa 1898, stood at 230 Powell Street. 269 Powell Street is an early Edwardian corner building, built in 1905 for George Stevens, and opened as Komura Bros. General Store by 1906. Hiyakujiro Komura evolved from tenant to building owner in 1911 when he purchased the site—probably the best testimony to a growing and successful business. The Komura Bros. General Store was one of the longest-running Japanese Canadian-owned businesses in the area, present and active at this location until forced removal of the community began in 1941. The landmark quality of the building is still evident in the mosaic floor-tile entrance marked with the Komura name.

2



STOP 2: SW CORNER OF ALEXANDER ST & GORE AVE

MAIKAWA NIPPON AUTO SUPPLY

298 ALEXANDER ST (1926)

The Nippon Auto Supply garage was run by Sadakichi Maikawa who was one of five brothers. Four of those brothers owned a variety of Vancouver businesses including restaurants like the Maikawa Fuji Chopsuey and shops like the Maikawa Fish Store. Sadakichi opened a transportation business in 1913 using automobiles instead of horses. By 1926, it grew into Nippon Auto Supply which had the largest garage and storage for automobiles at the

time. The building was recently renovated and original elements can still be seen.

NINM, Our Mothers' Patterns, May 1939



VANCOUVER GIRLS' SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL ARTS

302 ALEXANDER ST (1922)

Across the street you can see the Vancouver Girls' School of Practical Arts, established in the 1930s to assist women in finding jobs. It was open at 302 Alexander Street from 1936 until 1942. Similar schools and instructors were concentrated in Vancouver, but also operated elsewhere in the region such

as Mission and Steveston. Along with the Vancouver Girls' School of Practical Arts, there were the Women's Sewing School, Matsuzaki's School of Dressmaking and Tailoring, the Marietta School of Costume Design and the Academy of Domestic Arts. These schools provided comprehensive and individual instruction, and awarded the students a diploma upon graduation.



AOKI ROOMS

313 ALEXANDER ST (1898)

This tenement building is typical of those built by early Japanese settlers in Vancouver. The owner, Yonekichi Aoki, started logging in 1895 at Indian River and then worked at the Hastings Sawmill on Burrard Inlet at the foot of Dunlevy. He progressed to be a Canadian Pacific Railway contractor. Japanese labourers, newly arrived in Vancouver and seeking employment,

would visit Yonekichi Aoki for lodging but also for information on forestry logging contractors, the employment office for various types of labour, domestic and overseas ticket handling and consular procedures. Yonekichi's son George Tameo Aoki would also become well known in the community as a player on the Asahi baseball team.



STOP 3: NE CORNER OF POWELL ST & GORE AVE SUNRISE MARKET

300 POWELL ST (1964)

Today's Sunrise Market is also the former site of many specialty Japanese stores on the block. In 1920, it was Suzuki Fruit and Liquor. In 1936, the Yamamoto Fruit Store and the Kawasaki Confectioner were at this address, the latter selling Japanese treats such as *manju*, *mochi*, candied ginger and other *okashi* or snack foods. Since the 1960s, Chinese Canadian-owned Sunrise Market has been serving the community. It is where Sunrise Soya Foods, now Canada's largest manufacturer of tofu, began.



FUJI CHOP SUEY

314 POWELL ST (1931)

An interesting mix of Chinese and California-influenced architectural features, this 1931 building was home to the Fuji Chop Suey restaurant, which served Japanese-style Chinese cuisine. In the late 1920s, the trend was to design buildings in revival styles: updated traditional English, Dutch and Spanish designs. The Nikkei community in Vancouver was attuned to current trends and experimented boldly in non-traditional architecture, fusion cuisine and modern styles.

This building is a charming hybrid that boasts a Chinese-style colour palette with California Mission-style roofline, terra-cotta roof tiles and ornamental appliques.

The Fuji Chop Suey restaurant, founded in 1936 by Ichiji Sasaki and Mr. Wakabayashi, was one of the few restaurants where Japanese Canadian families could be served and it was a fashionable venue for banquets and weddings. Most other local restaurants were for men only and many restaurants outside of the neighbourhood would not serve Asians. During the Internment, the building was used by the British Columbia Security Commission to register "enemy aliens" on Powell Street.



4

STOP 4: MORIMOTO & CO. DRY GOODS

326-328 POWELL ST (1912)

The very first tenants in this mixed-use building were a Japanese tea room on street level, rental rooms in the upper floor dwellings and the Kane Shooting Gallery in the basement. Over the years, the rental portion changed its name to Stanley Rooms, then King Rooms, and continues to be a rooming house today. The tea room evolved into a dry-goods store run by various Japanese owners: Yamauchi, Morimoto and Higashiyama. Although U. Morimoto & Co. leased the store for only 2 years (1919-1921), the Morimoto name is still visible on the tiled entrance today. This building was also the address for the Canadian Japanese Social Athletic Club in the 1920s. Other examples of rooming house buildings with retail space on the ground floor can be seen on this block.

THE JAPANESE CANADIAN WAR MEMORIAL



On April 2, 1920 the community-funded Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Stanley Park was dedicated in memory of the Japanese Canadian participation in the Canadian Forces during the First World War. The Canadian Japanese Association, which also funded the training of 227 soldiers in Vancouver from January to May 1916, erected it in memory of those who served as well as the 54 men who lost their lives serving Canada during the war. Subsequently, Japanese Canadians who died in the Second World War, the Korean War and the Afghan War have been added. The lantern atop the memorial was extinguished in 1942 with the removal of the Japanese community from Vancouver. A relighting took place on August 2, 1985 and every Remembrance Day, a growing attendance continues to mark the contributions of Japanese Canadian war veterans.

5



STOP 5: HOTEL YEBISUYA

358 POWELL ST (1907)

This building was purpose-built as a hotel in 1907 for Jinshiro Nakayama. The Edwardian Commercial bay-windowed design is typical of other Vancouver retail areas of the time and similar designs can be seen along Main Street and Commercial Drive. Hotel Yebisuya, also known as the Toyo Rooms when it was run by the Sakakibara family (1927-29), was a rooming house for new immigrants and seasonal workers. The retail spaces on the ground level were occupied by various Japanese Canadian businesses such as the Ikeda Barbershop, the Nabata Shoemaker, a meat shop and a pool room. The lane house behind this building is also significant for its demonstration of historical housing patterns.

LANE HOUSE

300 BLOCK BETWEEN POWELL ST & E CORDOVA ST
(1891)



This lane house behind 358 Powell Street is among the oldest standing buildings in Vancouver. Laneways between streets were well utilized historically and some lots became completely built up, front to back, when individual service buildings became joined to other buildings. Lanes were accessed by "breezeways"

between buildings and typically had stables and storage sheds as well as houses, businesses and vegetable gardens. Today, many breezeways have been filled in and access to remaining buildings is mostly from the lanes.



STOP 6: S. SHIBUYA & CO. CLOTHING

374 POWELL ST (1912)

Designed by architect William F. Gardiner for owner David Sanguinetti, this building has seen an eclectic mix of uses, including rental rooms known as the Sun Rooms (1913-1941), the Sun Theatre (1912-1918), various light industries, offices and retail businesses. Sono Nakazawa became the owner in 1919 and moved her clothing store into the building after some renovations. She helped to style young 'picture brides' in western-style clothing. In 1963, Aki Takeuchi opened Aki Restaurant here. Aki was the first restaurant in Vancouver to serve raw fish and is a rare example of a Japanese business returning to Powell Street after the war. Aki restaurant is still a family-run business, now in Vancouver's Coal Harbour neighbourhood. Today, the H.A.V.E. (Hope Action Values Ethics) Café offers a sustainable culinary program.



STOP 7: MAIKAWA DEPARTMENT STORE

365 POWELL ST (1908 & 1936)

The Maikawa Department Store opened in 1908 and quickly became the largest commercial operation on Powell Street. Two of owner Tomekichi Maikawa's four brothers also opened stores on this block and Maikawa family businesses took over most of the north side in the 1930s. As with many boarding situations, the employees were housed on the

upper floor and family at the back of the property. In 1936, two lots were consolidated to construct a new storefront designed by architect T.L. Kerr, reflecting a prosperous and stylish community (the original store still stands behind the facade). This expansion in the midst of, and in spite of, the economic depression of the 1930s exemplifies the success of a Japanese Canadian business despite discriminatory treatment. The streamline Art Deco-style architecture, with the stylized store name still visible on the facade, carried the latest Canadian and Japanese fashions and products but operated in its new, expanded version for less than five years before it was confiscated by the government.

8



STOP 8: SECORD HOTEL

401 POWELL ST (1889)

The Secord Hotel was opened here in 1890 by Angus Secord. From 1917 to 1930, this building was run by Hyakutaro Honda as the Imperial Hotel. The lower level, the Imperial Beer Parlour was also used as a judo dojo run by Shigetaka Sasaki, the founder of judo in Canada. Neighbourhood children would attend the Japanese Language School, have supper, then practice at the judo club. Today, the building is managed by the Atira Women's Resource Society as Secord Housing for Women. The original facade featured wrap-around balconies and a narrow breezeway leading to a horse stable.



CVA AMS4-S4: Hot P 85, c. 1890s



STOP 9: TAMURA BUILDING

398 POWELL ST (1912)

This grand four-storey commercial building was designed by architects Townsend & Townsend for Shinkichi Tamura, a Japanese merchant who served as Canada's first Commissioner of Trade to Japan and who later returned to Japan to pursue a political career. The building's exterior exhibits unique sheet metal ornamentation, cornices, corbels and Corinthian pilasters that were used on other Townsend & Townsend commissions in Vancouver, such as Quebec Manor and Shaughnessy Manor apartment buildings. Named the World Hotel, both the name and design reflected the community's integration into North American culture. It was known as the hub of Powell Street and was the most substantial rooming house in the neighbourhood. A variety of Japanese Canadian-owned businesses were run on the first two stories of the building over the years, including a drugstore, bakery, confectionery, toy store, dentist, tailoring and dressmaking stores, salmon packing outfit and Tamura's own Canada and Japan Trust Savings Bank.

JCNM 95.102, c. 1935



In 1938, the New Canadian newspaper was established in the Tamura building. The first English-language Nikkei paper, it adopted the motto "the voice of the Second Generation." During

the Second World War, it was the only Japanese Canadian newspaper granted printing permission and provided an essential line of communication for the community during the Internment.

In 2017, a restoration and rehabilitation was completed including re-creation of original sheet metal elements along the roofline, in particular the two prominent pediments and three decorative urns. The pressed metal ceiling and vault were restored in the former bank space, and storefronts and entries were renovated to closely match the original design.



STOP 10: NW CORNER OF DUNLEVY AVE & E CORDOVA ST

SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT MISSION

255 DUNLEVY AVE (1929)

The Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement arrived in Vancouver in 1926 to run the Catholic Japanese Mission School, founded in 1912 and the first of its kind in Canada. Initially run from a rented room on Cordova Street, the mission moved to this building in 1929. It ran language programs, a kindergarten, a daycare and a healthcare clinic for the local community. In 1942, the Franciscan Sisters protested to the government against the forced removal of the Japanese Canadian community. Their protests were unheeded so the Sisters decided to leave their ministry in the Japanese district, follow the community and set up schools in the internment camps. The schools ran until 1949. The Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement continued to operate from this building, running a daycare until 1993, and providing food and clothing to hundreds of people each day. In 2011, they closed their Vancouver ministry and the Missionaries of Charity moved into the mission complex.

FRANCISCAN SISTERS HOUSE

385 E CORDOVA ST (CIRCA 1887)

Believed to now be the oldest house in Vancouver, this building was once owned by Thomas Donne, one of Vancouver's first ten Aldermen. It was purchased in 1932 by the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement to provide more space for their Catholic Japanese Mission School and remains part of the mission complex.



STOP 11: OPPENHEIMER PARK

400 BLOCK OF E CORDOVA ST

The Powell Street Grounds at Powell and Dunlevy have always been a significant public space for those who lived in this area. The park was officially opened in 1898 and was eventually named for Vancouver's second Mayor, David Oppenheimer. It was a social gathering place where sports were played and festivals were held. The Powell Street Grounds were also the home field for the Vancouver Asahi baseball team.

Throughout the deep economic depression of the 1930s, the park served as a meeting ground for the marginalized and unemployed and was a starting point for labour action and protests. The best known was the On To Ottawa Trek during the spring of 1935. In October 1936, Oppenheimer Park was declared the only park where political, religious and other views were permitted to be publicly voiced.

As part of the 1977 festivities to celebrate the centennial of the arrival of Canada's first official Japanese immigrant, the community held a ceremonial planting of twenty-one memorial *sakura* (flowering cherry trees) by *Issei* pioneers (first generation Japanese immigrants) which was coordinated by the *Tonari Gumi* (Japanese Community Volunteers Association). In 2008, a major renovation of Oppenheimer Park planned to uproot a number of the commemorative trees. Several Japanese Canadian organizations mounted a protest through an adhoc committee called the Coalition to Save the Legacy Sakura and the 1977 trees were saved.

Many legacy sakura continue to blossom every spring and are enjoyed by park users to this day. Currently, the park serves the diverse and complex needs of the area's residents. In addition to traditional park uses, it is a social gathering place for a variety of community activities, including the annual Powell Street Festival, celebrated here on the August long weekend.



**MING SUN -
UCHIDA BUILDING**
437-441 POWELL ST
(1891)

This building began as the Russ House Hotel, housing European residents. In 1902, husband and wife Chiyoshichi and Kinu Uchida bought the site and converted it into a boarding house. Retail space was rented as a tobacco or grocery store for many years, and from 1910 to 1912 there was a pool hall in the building. By the 1930s, one of the Uchidas' sons, Matasaburo, a doctor, set up a medical practice in the building. The neighbouring buildings to the west, which were all reconstructed in the 1980s, have replicated wooden facades that reflect what the original "boomtown" storefronts on this block would have looked like in the 1890s. The building to the east (the site of the Wakabayashi Tofu) was demolished in 2013 and the Uchida Building's brick facade was dismantled. As of 2018, the building's future remains uncertain.

LOCAL TOFU PRODUCTION

CVA 1184-1545, 1942



Tofu, the high protein Japanese food staple made from soybeans, was often made and sold along Powell Street. There were several competing tofu producers on Powell Street such as Wakabayashi Tofu which was at 439 ½ Powell Street, one of many businesses located along breeze-ways.

"We made about 50 tofu cakes each day, selling them for about 5 cents each. Day by day, we sold more. Then by 1941, we were making 250 tofu cakes each day, selling for 10 cents each".

- Bud Tanaka, neighbourhood resident, from Open Doors Project (441 Powell St)



12

STOP 12: MACDONALD-MCCRAE HOUSES

230-248 JACKSON AVE (1905)

The four Edwardian-style houses at 230, 236, 242 and 248 Jackson Avenue were built for Alexandra MacDonald and Amy McRae, the wives of business partners David MacDonald and William McRae, who were involved in property development. These two-and-one-half storey wood-frame houses have retained many of their heritage character elements including the front-gabled roofs and hipped-roof dormers, porches, siding and closed eaves with wooden tongue-and-groove soffits.

KITA SCHOOL OF DRESSMAKING

NMM, Our Mothers' Patterns, May 1939



Dressmaking was an important source of income for many Japanese Canadian families. At 248 Jackson Avenue, the Kita School of Dressmaking was run by Mrs. Kita. One of her students, Kay Tatebe neé Shimoda spoke about the importance of sewing to the Japanese community. Kay lived with Mrs. Kita and six other girls and graduated in 1930. She opened a dressmaking shop in New Westminster in 1931 which she operated until the evacuation in 1942.

"Instead of high school we went to sewing school. No Japanese were allowed to be nurses, or teachers. There was a dressmaker on every corner and they were mostly Japanese. It was the only trade they were able to do other than working in the cannery or housekeeping. In the morning we got up, we took turns making breakfast, lunch and dinner. After supper, we'd be in the shop until about midnight sewing. That's the only recreation we had in those days".

- Kay Tatebe in a conversation with Susan Michi Sirovyak, Japanese Canadian National Museum, June 1996.

13



**STOP 13: JAPANESE METHODIST CHURCH /
VANCOUVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

220 JACKSON AVE (1907 & 1979)

In 1907, the Japanese Methodist Church was built here by the Japanese Methodist Mission. In 1920, to attract young people, a gymnasium and swimming pool were added. The church became the Japanese United Church in 1925 after the Methodists joined the United Church of Canada. When Reverend Kosaburo Shimizu took over the ministry a year later, he contributed to organizing English language services and a free medical clinic with his friend Dr. Shimotakahara, as well as running ministries in other communities in British Columbia. He was also called upon during the Internment to provide comfort and advocacy for those who were confined to the Hastings Park Clearing Station and internment hospital, and those who were in transition.

The first Buddhist temple in Vancouver was built in 1904 at 32 Alexander Street. A new temple was built at 604 Cordova Street in 1933 but was seized in 1942. This site was purchased in 1954 by the Vancouver Buddhist Temple and the current building constructed in 1979.



STOP 14: VANCOUVER JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL & JAPANESE HALL

475 ALEXANDER ST (1928)

The Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall (VJLS-JH) was established in 1906, originally at 439 Alexander Street. In 1919, as the community grew and many Japanese Canadian children began attending regular public schools, the school switched from teaching a comprehensive curriculum to focusing on Japanese language instruction only. Children would then attend public schools in English during the day and go to the Vancouver Japanese Language School after school or on Saturdays to learn about Japanese language and culture. The VJLS-JH expanded in 1928 into this Spanish-Mission Revival building at 475 Alexander Street, designed by Sharp & Thompson Architects to serve as both a school and cultural centre.

The VJLS-JH is the only example of confiscated property that was returned to Japanese Canadian owners after the Internment. From 1942 to 1949, the Canadian Armed Forces occupied half of the complex to use for administration and planning, and sold the other half to pay for war expenses. It was because of this portion that had not been sold that the requests to have the property returned were successful and in 1953 the VJLS-JH reopened in half of their original building.

To this day, the VJLS-JH is dedicated to the learning and promotion of Japanese language, culture and arts. In 2000, to accommodate the hall's growing role as a centre for multicultural education, the VJLS-JH began a major expansion, with an allusion to the 1928 building seen in the addition's tiled entrance.



DALES HOUSE-
414 ALEXANDER ST
(1889)

One of the oldest buildings in Vancouver, this home was built for carpenter Thomas John Dales. Due to its proximity to Hastings Mill, Alexander Street was the first part of the city to get piped water and a residential area of substantial houses quickly followed. The street became a key

residential area for Japanese immigrants and this address was rented by Japanese tenants by 1911. In 1927, the home was purchased by Isokichi Yamazaki, evidence of the growing prosperity of the Japanese Canadian community in the 1920s, with many individuals moving from being tenants to property owners.

This building is important for its era, size, scale and rarity, the last of its kind in Vancouver. The archival photo of this house is strikingly different from the structure remaining today, as the high Victorian pediment and turret were both removed at some point. The house has also been raised and covered in asphalt shingles.



414 Alexander Street c. 1890

CVA SGN-295

ABOUT VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Vancouver Heritage Foundation promotes the appreciation and conservation of our city's historic places for current and future generations. Through events, tours, lectures and workshops, as well as online and print resources we create opportunities to learn about Vancouver's history and heritage places. With grant programs and other resources, VHF supports efforts to restore and reuse historic buildings and places for all to enjoy.

For more information about Vancouver Heritage Foundation, please visit our website at vancouverheritagefoundation.org

Photo credit: VHF



RESEARCH AND SOURCES

This map guide draws on text created in 2009 for the Vancouver Heritage Foundation Japantown Vancouver map guide produced in partnership with the City of Vancouver. It also includes more recent research from Open Doors Project, Powell Street Historical Walking Tour by the Nikkei National Museum, and the Virtual Museum of Canada Community Stories.

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Thank you to our sponsors



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IMAGE CREDITS

All images (unless otherwise noted):

Martin Knowles Photo/Media

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Other map guides available:

Historic West Hastings Street

Historic Kitsilano Northeast

Historic Chinatown

Historic Chinatown (Chinese language)

Historic Japanese Canadian District (Paueru-gai) (Japanese language)

Mid-Century Modern Downtown

Carrall Street Greenway

Strathcona Markets

Mole Hill

- 1 pg 6 Komura Building
- 2 pg 6 SW Corner of Alexander St and Gore Ave
- 3 pg 8 NE Corner of Powell St and Gore Ave
- 4 pg 9 Morimoto & Co. Dry Goods
- 5 pg 10 Hotel Yebisuya
- 6 pg 11 Shibuya & Co. Clothing

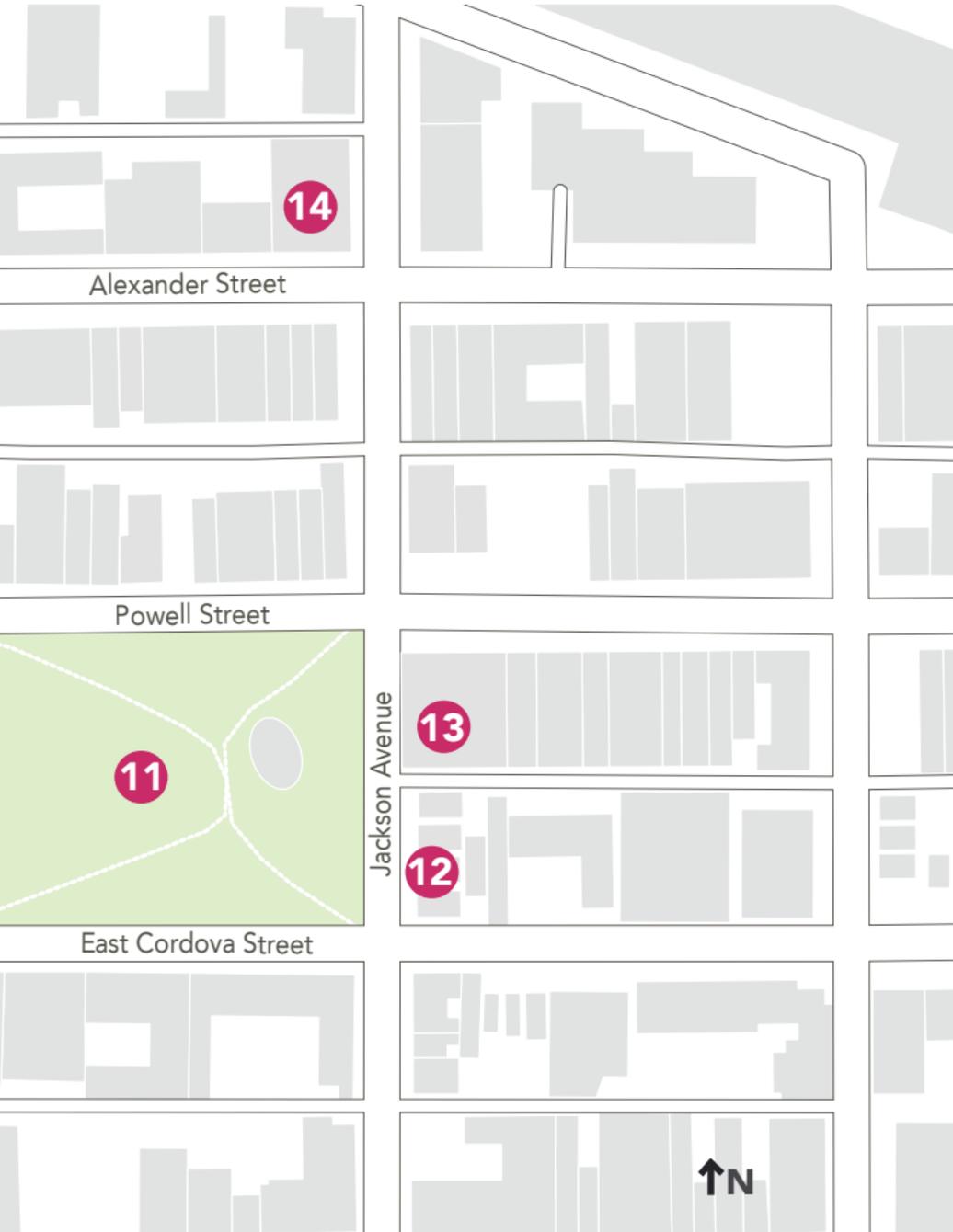


We invite you to visit these sites in Vancouver related to the history of Japanese Canadians: Livestock Building (Hastings Park) and Celtic Cannery (Blenheim St at Celtic Ave).

VHF's Places That Matter project raises awareness about the people, places and events that tell the stories of Vancouver's history. vancouverheritagefoundation.org/places-that-matter



- 7 pg 11 Maikawa Department Store
- 8 pg 12 Secord Hotel
- 9 pg 13 Tamura Building
- 10 pg 14 NW Corner of Dunlevy Ave and E. Cordova St
- 11 pg 15 Oppenheimer Park
- 12 pg 17 MacDonald-McCrae Houses
- 13 pg 18 Japanese Methodist Church / Vancouver Buddhist Temple
- 14 pg 19 Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall



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