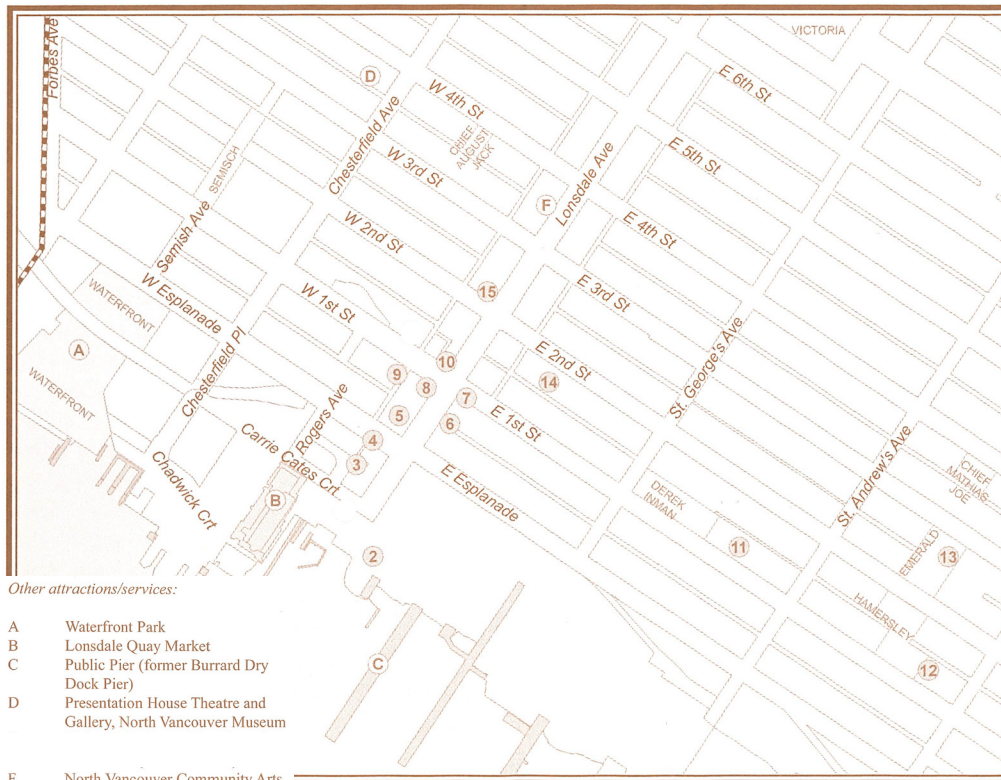


Historic Walking Tour LOWER LONSDALE

A little history...

The now thriving City of North Vancouver began along the waterfront, radiating out from the ferry terminus at the foot of Lonsdale Ave. The ferry service connected the North Shore with the City of Vancouver. Between 1900 and 1912, Lower Lonsdale developed into a vibrant commercial area, offering a full range of goods and services. Beginning in 1906, streetcars met the ferries to deliver passengers to the north, east and west. The PGE Railway opened in 1914, running west to Horseshoe Bay, serving passengers and delivering freight. The area became less prominent after bridges across Burrard Inlet were built and the automobile opened up access to the North Shore. Streetcar service ended in 1947 and the ferry stopped running in 1958. In 1977 the Seabus arrived, returning passenger service to Lower Lonsdale and rejuvenating interest in the area. Lonsdale Quay and other major developments soon followed. In 1997 the City of North Vancouver completed a Lower Lonsdale Planning Study to guide the area into a new phase of development. Vacant sites have been replaced by new commercial and residential towers west of Lonsdale. Construction of the Pier Development in the former Wallace Shipyards is now underway including new public piers which opened in Spring of 2005. We hope you enjoy your tour of the area's unique heritage buildings and its wonderful shops, parks, restaurants and people.



Other attractions/services:

- A Waterfront Park
- B Lonsdale Quay Market
- C Public Pier (former Burrard Dry Dock Pier)
- D Presentation House Theatre and Gallery, North Vancouver Museum
- F North Vancouver Community Arts Council & Cityscape Gallery

EXPLORE THE HISTORIC
CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

2. Wallace Shipyards (1906) (Burrard Dry Dock) Waterfront East of Lonsdale

Alfred Wallace brought his shipyards to North Vancouver in 1906, the year electricity arrived in the area. Under the leadership of Alfred and his sons, the shipyard prospered into the largest in B.C. It was later known as Burrard Dry Dock and Burrard Yards Shipyards. The Princess Louise (1921) and RCMP St. Roch (1928) were built here, as were over 50 supply ships during the Second World War. The shipyard was sold by the Wallace family in 1972 and was later known as Versatile Pacific Shipyards. The influence of this shipyard on the economy and character of North Vancouver has been extremely significant. During World War II, it was a major employer of women workers who stepped in to replace men fighting overseas. The 21st Century has brought a new purpose to the shipyard site as a mixed residential-commercial use area, with the restored pier now open to the public.



15. Barraclough's Building (1929) 201-203 Lonsdale Avenue

This Lower Lonsdale landmark burned down and was replaced by a reproduction. It features an octagonal turret, dome and flagpole. The bay windows, flower baskets and bracketed cornices, all enhance its appearance. Designed by W. Earland, the building was constructed for J. Barraclough, a local grocer.



3. North Vancouver Cartage Co.

(circa 1905)

7A Lonsdale Avenue (rear)

This was the tiny office of the North Vancouver Cartage Co. The horses were kept at a stable, elsewhere. Political meetings were later held at the office. Currently, a lush garden scene brightens the outside walls.



4. Coronation Block

(1911)

This brick, commercial structure, built for the North Vancouver Land & Improvement Company, indicates the increasing prosperity of the times and the need for more permanent buildings. Architect: William F. K. Gardiner.



5. Syndicate Block

(1903)

51-59 Lonsdale Avenue

This business block is understood to have been the first built in North Vancouver. Designed and built by the Western Corporation, it was intended to attract business to the area. The first tenant was McMillan's Grocery. The building was also home to the first Post Office and the Express newspaper. The original structure was later demolished and replaced with new construction embellished with some early architectural features.



6. Aberdeen Block

(1910-11)

78-90 Lonsdale Avenue

The prosperity of the Boom Years is displayed in this commercial building by Architects: Mills & Hutton. Note the use of masonry facades combined with elaborate details such as the central entry. Commercial tenants included the BC Electric Railway Co., which operated North Vancouver's streetcars, and in 1914, City Hall. Paine Hardware occupied the building for many years until a fire gutted the interior.



7. Bank of Hamilton Building

(1910)

92 Lonsdale Avenue

Perhaps the most impressive commercial building built on the North Shore during the Boom Years, its masonry and sandstone construction is decorated with engaged pilasters, Ionic capitals, a detailed stringcourse and a prominent copper cornice. Designed by Architects: Mills & Hutton, the building was used for medical offices, in addition to banking. The building boasts the North Shore's first passenger elevator.



8. Keith Block

(1908)

91-99 Lonsdale Avenue

This was the first of the larger commercial buildings in Lower Lonsdale. It was built for Mr. J.C. Keith, a prominent local developer and community leader, after whom Keith Road was named. In 1913 it served as City Hall. The building has an unusual curved corner and decorative oval windows. It was stuccoed in 1955.



9. BC Telephone Co.

(1926)

117 West 1st Street

The B.C. Telephone Co. constructed this office for its use. The brick facade is relieved with precast concrete which is an early example of this technique. The storefront remains in original condition with multi-paned clerestory windows, tiled bulkheads and a granite front step. This building has one of the rare remaining examples of a copper sash, which were once commonly used. It is believed that the original B.C. Telephone Co. signage is covered by metal sheathing.



10. Beasley Block

(1904)

101-109 Lonsdale Avenue

The Western Corporation, a prominent early development firm, constructed this building in 1904. McDowell's Drugstore opened here in 1905 and operated at this location until 1973. The building is typical of a frontier store with its false storefront. The angled corner entry is typical of virtually every corner commercial building in the area. To the west is a cube-like building, dating from around 1911, that was once the Empire Theatre.



11. Harbour Manor

(1910)

250-254 East 1st Street

This elegant building was built for Charles Wiegand as North Vancouver's first apartment block. Its symmetrical design includes four projecting bays on the second storey with leaded glass windows. The decorative dentil course and tasteful use of paint and signage make this a very attractive building. The upper floors were converted into office use in the recent past.



12. Hamersley Gardener's Cottage

(1904)

364 East 1st Street

This charming cottage was built for the gardener of the Hamersley Estate, which originally extended to the waterfront. The cottage features a wrap-around verandah, supported by square columns with carved brackets and a side gable roof with hip returns. Alfred Hamersley was the City of Vancouver's first solicitor and the man who formalized local ferry service to North Vancouver.



13. Hamersley House

(1904)

350 East 2nd Street

This home was built for Alfred St. George Hamersley, an English man who immigrated to Canada from New Zealand. It took two years to build and is positioned on cut granite blocks which support poured concrete walls nineteen inches thick. After Hamersley returned to England in 1906, the house was purchased for use as a private hospital, then boarding house, a rest home and finally a restaurant. The home has now been restored to its former glory by Derek and Shelley Porter and is currently operated as a Bed & Breakfast.



14. Wartime Administration Building

(1942)

131 East 2nd Street

The rapid growth of the workforce at the Burrard Shipyards in the early 1940s created a housing crisis. Wartime Housing Ltd. responded by building 687 single family units, family rental dwellings, staff houses, Westview School, a recreation centre and a fire hall. This building was originally the Registration Office for shipyard workers seeking wartime housing and later became the local library and much later the home of the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce for a time.

