

Understanding the Area

The Historic Area

The Historic Area is the birthplace of our city. Early Vancouver and British Columbia history can be uncovered through its many heritage buildings, development patterns, and community histories. The physical heritage resources contribute to the area's distinct built form and rich character, and are community assets valued by many people. The area is also part of the larger Downtown Eastside (DTES) neighbourhood, an important low-income community that is home to many residents, community-based organizations, businesses and services. More information on the DTES neighbourhood is found in the *Other Information* section of this presentation.



Unit Block (000) W Cordova - 1907



100 Block W Hastings (South Side) - 1930

Physical Characteristics of the Historic Area

Building Form: Predominantly rectilinear in shape, the Historic Area's building form reflects the economic, social, and architectural character of early Vancouver, with most buildings constructed between 1886 and 1920. Older buildings have fine-grained detailing and ornamentation, and use rich building materials. Ground floor uses are primarily pedestrian oriented, with a variety of uses on upper floors, such as residential and office use.

Height: A variation of low to mid-rise (2 to 7-storey) buildings creating a "sawtooth" streetwall pattern, with a limited number of taller buildings.

Density: The average density for the area is 3.4 floor space ratio (FSR) (see the *Other Information* section of this presentation for a Glossary of Key Terms, including FSR)

Lot Size: Most building lots are 25 to 33 feet wide

by 120 feet deep, with some lots as wide as 75 to 100 feet.

Streets: Two major corridors, Main Street and Hastings Street, connect the Historic Area to the rest of the city. There are two noticeable shifts in the east-west street grid at Columbia Street and Cambie Street.

Open Spaces: Public spaces in the area have a very urban character and are used by residents and for community celebrations. There are no large open spaces within the Historic Area boundaries, however, two large parks are nearby (Andy Livingstone Park and Oppenheimer Park).

Views and Natural Features: Burrard Inlet and the Port are to the north; modern high-rise development is to the south and west.

