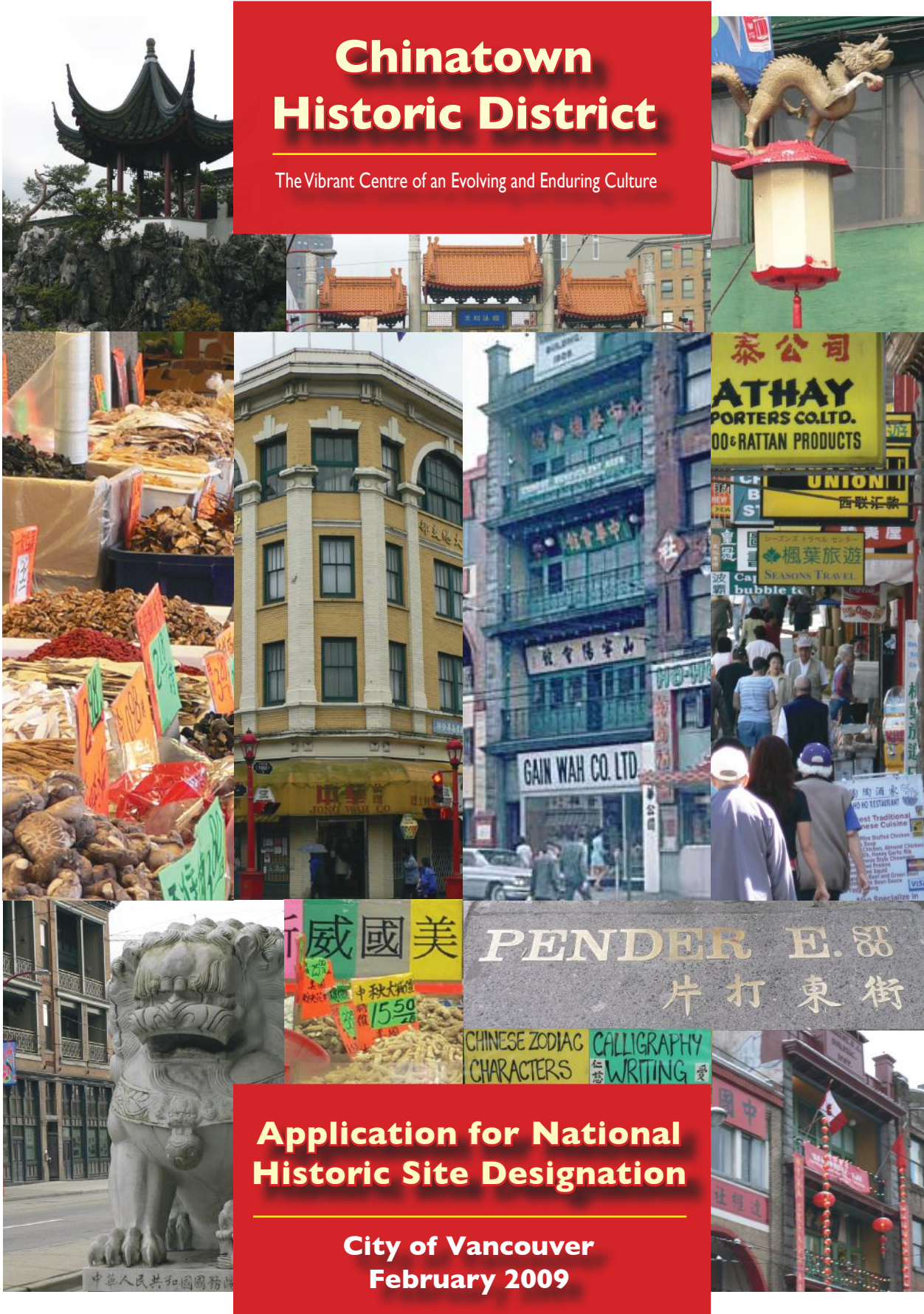


# Chinatown Historic District

The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving and Enduring Culture



## Application for National Historic Site Designation

City of Vancouver  
February 2009

**Dr. Edgar Wickberg**  
**1927 - 2008**

This application recognizes  
Dr. Wickberg's dedication to  
Vancouver's Chinatown and his  
enthusiastic support of this application.

Dr. Wickberg taught Modern Chinese  
History at the University of British  
Columbia from 1969 to 1992, and  
achieved an international reputation as  
a leading scholar of the global Chinese  
Diaspora.

He was the founding president of the  
Chinese Canadian Historical  
Society of B.C.

Ms. Julie Dompierre  
Executive Secretary  
Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada  
Director General's Office, Parks Canada  
5th Floor, 25 Eddy Street  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0M5

February 27, 2009

**Re: Nomination of Vancouver's Chinatown as a National Historic Site of Canada**

Dear Ms. Dompierre,

On behalf of the City of Vancouver and the community-based Proponent Group, please find enclosed a nomination package for the consideration of Vancouver's Chinatown as a National Historic Site of Canada.

Established in the 1880s, Chinatown is one of the two formative communities of Vancouver. This community stands as the vibrant centre of an evolving and enduring culture. The formation of cultural identity through community organizations, the expression of social and cultural history through a distinctive urban and cultural landscape, and the genesis of vernacular architecture are some of defining characteristics of this lively neighbourhood.

Chinatown speaks to important historical themes in Canada relating to urban immigration and settlement patterns. As one of the original ethno-cultural communities in Vancouver, Chinatown epitomizes the core value of contemporary Canadian society - cultural diversity. It continues to provide numerous social and cultural functions while adapting to change and preserving its historic sense of place.

Acknowledging the national significance of Chinatown would be a great honour for Vancouver and British Columbia.

Should you have any questions or if you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours truly,

Zlatan Jankovic, M.Sc.  
Heritage Planner  
[zlatan.jankovic@vancouver.ca](mailto:zlatan.jankovic@vancouver.ca)  
Tel: 604.871.6448





# Chinatown Historic District - Vancouver, British Columbia

This application for National Historic Site of Canada designation for Vancouver’s Chinatown follows the format established by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in its “Information Requirements for a Nomination”.

## 1. Identification of the Applicants

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c/o Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner  
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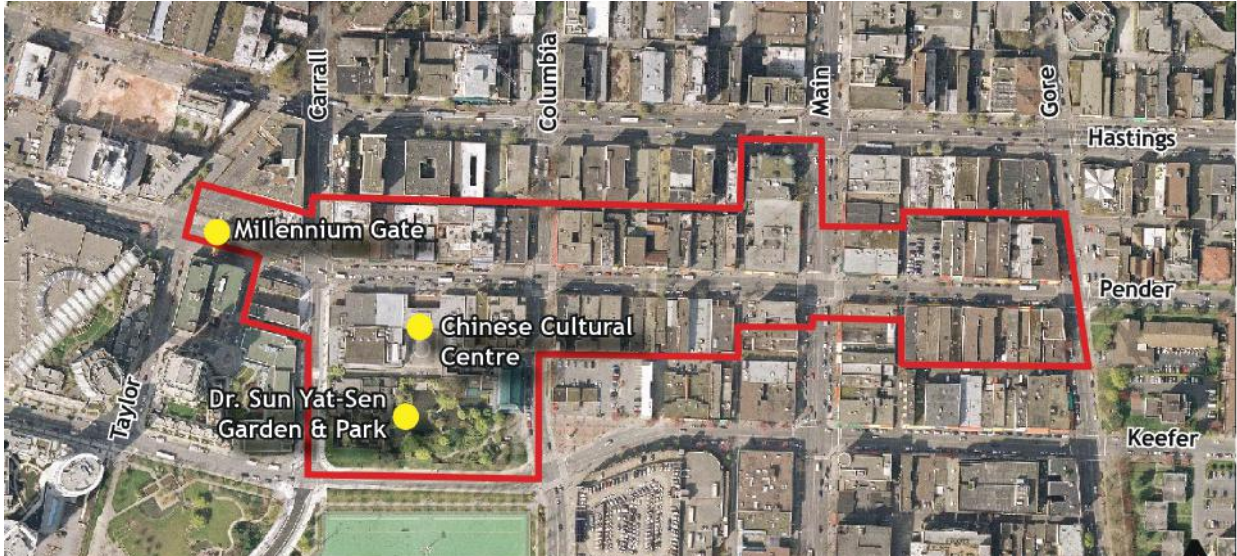
Community-based Proponent Group  
  
Dr. Edgar Wickberg & Joe Wai  
Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association  
Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC  
Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver

## 2. Identification of the Subject

### Chinatown Historic District

*The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving and Enduring Culture*

Chinatown is situated in the historic core of the City of Vancouver. It is Canada’s largest historic Chinatown and has been since 1911. The historic district constitutes the City of Vancouver’s HA-1 zoning district which protects the heart of the community centred on Pender Street between Taylor Street and Gore Avenue and the lanes north and south of Pender. The district boundary encompasses eleven of the twelve heritage Society buildings studied by the City of Vancouver, dating back to the turn of the 20th century as well as significant cultural resources including the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Classical Garden and Park (1986), the Chinese Cultural Centre (1981-96), and the Millennium Gate (2002).



2008 Aerial View of the Chinatown Historic District

## Geographical Coordinates

The geographic coordinates of a central point in Chinatown are 49° 16' 49" N and 123° 06' 05" W.

## Significant Dates

Five phases define Chinatown's history and development.

### • 1880s - 1900 Establishing a Community

In the late **1880s** at the conclusion of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), sojourners attracted by the opportunities in the newly established city, arrive in what is to become Vancouver. Many of Chinatown's earliest residents were railway workers, whose efforts in building the trans-continental railway are recognized as a National Historic Event (1977); **1885**, a federal head tax of 50 dollars is instituted; **1887**, the presence of a "China Town" at the south end of Carrall Street is noted in local papers; **1889**, the construction of the first brick building in Chinatown; **1890s**, the construction of the theatre and opera house and the establishment of the Vancouver branch of the Chinese Benevolent Association. An emerging merchant class is established. In **1887** the Chinese population was estimated at 90 but by **1901** the population had risen to almost 2900.

### • 1900 - 1911 Growth and Importance

With the growing importance of Vancouver, Victoria-based Society headquarters move to Vancouver; **1903**, the Empire Reform Association is formed; **1903**, head tax is raised to 500 dollars; **1907**, a mob charges through Chinatown and Japantown after a meeting of the Asiatic Exclusion League; subsequent reports lead to immigration quotas for the Japanese and ultimately to the Chinese Exclusion Act; **1909**, the Chinese Benevolent Association building is opened; **1911**, Vancouver's Chinese population of approximately 3500 had surpassed Victoria's. In this period, Chinatown expanded eastward to Gore and the overall identity of the district was established with the construction of the first of a number of Society buildings, starting with the Chinese Empire Reform Association on Carrall Street. The establishment of the Reform Association and the visits of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen attest to the connection Vancouver's Chinatown retained with China and the interest and participation in her affairs.

### • 1923 - 1947 Exclusion Act to Enfranchisement

**1923** saw immigration to Canada closed for the vast majority of Chinese with the passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act on July 1st. Chinatown struggled with families unable to reunite, and an aging bachelor population; **1935**, the first of three major music societies was established; **1936**, Chinatown celebrated Vancouver's Jubilee by erecting a Chinese Village on the site of today's cultural centre, a turning point in attitudes to the district; **1947**, through the efforts of Wong Foon Sien (declared a National Historic Person in 2008) on behalf of Chinese war veterans, the 1923 Act was repealed and Canadian citizenship was granted to Chinese Canadians. The BC legislature returns the right to vote to the Chinese that same year.

### • 1947 - 1966 New Opportunities

With immigration restrictions removed, Chinatown flourished. New and popular restaurants and businesses, attracted citizens from across the city; popular nightclubs such as Forbidden City became part of the city's social scene; **1957**, Chinatown was noted in the City's 25 year plan for downtown as an economic bright spot. In the same year, Canada's first Chinese-Canadian MP Douglas Jung, is elected in the riding of Vancouver Centre which includes Chinatown. In the **1950s**, freeway plans are floated which threaten parts of the district.

### • 1966 - 2003 Freeway Debate to Revitalization

Rallies and marches draw attention to Chinatown and the threat posed by freeway construction and urban renewal projects. Throughout the **1960s** and **70s** Chinese organizations fight the redevelopment and freeway proposals; **1971**, Chinatown is protected as a historic district along with Gastown under provincial legislation; **1980s**, beautification projects underway; **1981**, Chinese Cultural Centre construction begins; **1986**, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Classical Garden opens; **2002**, the Millennium Gate is built at the western end of Chinatown and the City of Vancouver accepts the recommendations in the **2002** Chinatown Vision report.



### 3. | Criteria

**Vancouver's Chinatown responds in particular to criterion "1b" of the General Guidelines of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada: "illustrate or symbolize in whole or in part a cultural tradition, a way of life, or ideas important in the development of Canada" ([www.pc.gc.ca/clmhc-hsmbc/crit/crit1\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/clmhc-hsmbc/crit/crit1_e.asp))**

#### *The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving and Enduring Culture*

Vancouver's Chinatown is the vibrant centre of an evolving and enduring culture. It is a place that speaks to important historical themes in Canada relating to urban immigration and settlement patterns, the formation of cultural identity through community organizations, and the expression of social and cultural history through a specific vernacular architecture that is characteristic of the neighbourhood.

***Distinctive Character:*** The business and everyday life of Chinatown provide the vitality and living colour that gives Chinatown its distinct character. The rhythm of storefronts on narrow lots, the sidewalk displays of produce and goods along with the distinctive architecture of the Society buildings and the cultural institutions such as the Chinese Cultural Centre, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden and Park (the first authentic full-size Ming dynasty garden constructed outside of China) and the Canadian Chinese Military Museum, collectively create a distinctive urban district.

Like Kensington Market in Toronto or The Main in Montreal (both National Historic Sites, 2005 & 1996 respectively), Chinatown is a functioning, working neighbourhood that also plays an important role in tourism for Vancouver and British Columbia. With the sounds of mahjong, Chinese music and the Chinese language; the sights of many signs written in Chinese and Chinese people using the area; the smells of the herb shops; and, special traditions, such as the annual Spring Festival (New Year's) Parade, Chinatown retains a "spirit and pride of place" that makes it unlike any other place in Canada.

***Chinatown and Vancouver:*** There has always been a Chinatown in Vancouver. Chinatown is closely tied to the development of Vancouver's original commercial core as one of the two formative communities but enjoys a distinct stature in part because of its historic associations with early Chinese settlement in British Columbia and Canada. With the emergence of Vancouver as Canada's main Pacific port and the trans-Pacific trade, Chinatown grew with the city. It became an important point of immigration, surpassing Victoria's Chinatown in little more than two decades. With growth came influence. Vancouver's Chinatown merchants and entrepreneurs played an ever more important role in the development of British Columbia in many industries; the Wing Sang Company, for instance, controlled much of BC's herring industry, exporting vast quantities to China.

***Societies:*** For over 100 years, Chinatown Societies have provided cultural, social, educational and recreational services. The Chinese Benevolent Association, informally established in 1889, is the umbrella organization to which over 90 individual Societies belong (see list of member groups in the Addendum). Societies have helped new immigrants find employment, accommodation and other necessities; they continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of the community. While the Societies are rooted in Vancouver's Chinatown, many have had a broad influence, as they established branches not only in British Columbia, but throughout Canada and the rest of North America.

***A Cohesive Continuum of Valuable Buildings:*** Chinatown has a cohesive continuum of valuable buildings which have a high heritage, social, cultural, political, and architectural value, the highlight of which are the Society buildings, which anchor the character of the district. There are eleven heritage Society buildings (1901 - 1926), within the proposed National Historic Site, which blend aspects of eastern and western architectural styles many of which have highly original and intact interiors.

A unique blend of Chinese and western design elements continued to be combined in new Chinatown buildings throughout the 20th century. This evolution in built form can be seen in not only architect designed new buildings, but also in vernacular buildings used for retail, residential and office. Recent developments that entrench Chinese culture have borrowed heavily from eastern design elements. The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden (1986) was designed and built with significant input of artisans from Suzhou. The design of the Chinatown Millennium Gate (2002) incorporates many elements from traditional Chinese gates. The early Society buildings, along with the eastern influence in the design of many subsequent buildings, form a unique streetscape, which defines the built form character of Chinatown.

**Enduring Presence:** Unlike many historic Chinatowns in North America, Vancouver's has not lost its connection to the local community nor been reduced to a tiny remnant of its former self. Although its eastward expansion was artificially truncated by urban redevelopment projects in the 1950s and 60s Chinatown continues to grow and attract new businesses. It remains, most importantly, a distinct Chinatown. It has not evolved into a generic "international" district.

Its continued presence plays an important role for the Chinese community both new and old. Strong ties mean local Societies have developed seniors' care homes, while traditional retailing continues to cater to a wider population. Chinatown's importance is reinforced by the over 90 active associations and societies headquartered here, which provide a wide range of educational, social, and recreational activities (calligraphy, martial arts, music, Chinese language, legal aid etc.)

**Community Influence:** Chinatown is important for the role the community played in helping to raise awareness and ultimately defeat urban renewal and freeway proposals which would have damaged significant portions of the historic fabric of Chinatown and adjacent Gastown (nominated in 2007 as a National Historic Site). The Chinese community organizations collaborated with community groups across the city to stop the destruction. As a result, Chinatown and Gastown were both protected under provincial legislation in 1971. The defeat also caused a significant change in federal government policies and led to the creation of new national programs such as N.I.P. (Neighbourhood Improvement Program) and R.R.A.P. (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program). These are all accomplishments of which the Chinatown community is justifiably proud.

Vancouver's Chinatown has been extensively studied and written about by academics from around the world studying urban geography, community organizing tactics, culture, immigration and racism.

**Vancouver and Victoria:** The nomination of Vancouver's Chinatown would not duplicate, but complement the earlier recognition of Victoria's Chinatown. Victoria's Chinatown was designated a national historic site (1995) because it is the oldest surviving Chinatown in Canada; it was the largest urban centre of Chinese population in Canada through the first decade of the twentieth century; it is one of a very few Chinatowns in North America to retain cohesive groupings of high heritage value and it is dominated by its historical buildings. During the second decade of the twentieth century, the west coast centre of Canadian Chinese society and culture shifted from Victoria to Vancouver, where it has resided ever since. Together, Victoria and Vancouver represent two successive chapters in the history of Chinese Canadians.

The Chinese community in Vancouver is vibrant, prosperous and successful. At the same time, it maintains a distinct identity in its architecture, its way of doing business, the strength of its families, and the preservation of its language, traditions, and culture.



**The Chinese Community Celebrating the End of World War II in Chinatown at Pender and Columbia Streets. Vancouver Public Library photo A45087**





## 4 | Existing Historical Recognition

Chinatown was designated as a historic district by the provincial government at the request of the City of Vancouver in 1971. In 1974 City Council created the HA-1 zoning schedule for Chinatown, in 1975 the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee established. The 13 member Committee advises the Director of Planning on matters relating to the HA-1 and HA-1A zones, preserves and protects the heritage and character of the Chinatown area, and works with all City departments to develop and implement area policies and programs.

In 1994 the City of Vancouver revised the HA-1 zoning for Chinatown creating HA-1 and HA-1A areas. HA-1 encompasses the historic heart of the community and is the focus of this application. Within the HA-1 boundary there are 70 contiguous municipally designated properties. There are 24 buildings listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register.



Chinatown Historic District: HA-1 Zoning Boundary and Vancouver Heritage Register Listed Buildings

### Legislation

- 1971 Provincial Designation:** Chinatown and Gastown were designated under the Provincial Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act of 1960. This was the result of the defeat of the freeway proposals and the 1969 “Restoration Report – A Case for Renewal of the Old City”, commissioned by the Chinatown Improvement Group. The designation included all buildings of heritage value as well as intervening properties which were vacant or occupied by contemporary structures. The result was a contiguous protected heritage area. This was the only time the Act was used to protect an entire historic district in an urban environment.
- 1974 City Zoning:** The City created new zoning schedules for Chinatown (HA-1) and Gastown (HA-2). The new zones were larger than the areas created by the provincial designation.
- 1986 Heritage Inventory:** The City of Vancouver formally adopted the Heritage Inventory listing of buildings, landscapes, monuments and archaeological sites of significance. Since 1994 the Heritage Inventory has been called the Heritage Register.

- **1994 Zoning revised:** Chinatown was rezoned to create 2 separate zoning schedules (HA-1) and (HA-1A). The Chinatown Historic Area District Schedule (HA-1) corresponds to the provincially designated site, and the HA-1A Schedule includes the remainder of Chinatown. “Chinatown HA-1 Guidelines for Designated Sites” was adopted by City Council.
  
- **1999 Chinatown Revitalization Program:** The City of Vancouver began the Chinatown Revitalization Program as part of the larger Downtown Eastside Revitalization Program in 1999. The programs sought to bring together community members to address key issues in the area, such as safety and economic growth, and included an extensive community engagement and building process. The Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee (2001) and Chinatown Vision (2002) are outcomes of this program.
  
- **2002 Chinatown Vision Directions:** “*A Place that Tells the History with its Physical Environment*”, “*A Place that Serves the Needs of Residents, Youth and Visitors*”, and “*A Hub of Commercial, Social and Cultural Activities*” adopted by City Council, July 2002.
  
- **2003 Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program:** A 5 year program to kick-start economic activity in Chinatown, Gastown and the Hastings Street corridor through work on individual heritage buildings was approved by City Council. The program provided façade grants, tax incentives, bonus density and the ability to transfer density off-site.
  
- **2003 Provincial designations became municipal designations:** All provincially designated heritage sites in Gastown and Chinatown were transferred to municipally designated sites. This was by and large an administrative formality, as the Province had delegated authority to issue ministerial permits for changes and alterations to provincially designated properties to the Director of Planning in 1981.
  
- **2005 Chinatown Revitalization Program (Phase II) - Chinatown Community Plan:** City Council approved a three-year action plan and work program to develop and implement a Chinatown Community Plan as the second phase of the Chinatown Revitalization Program.
  
- **2008 Chinatown Society Buildings Planning Grant Program:** “To foster the cultural legacy of Chinatown through the rehabilitation and revitalization of Society buildings”, City Council approved a program to provide grants of up to one hundred thousand dollars to support preparation of comprehensive rehabilitation plans.

The City of Vancouver continues to take an active interest in Chinatown’s well-being through the development of programs such as: an Awning Initiative, in partnership with the provincial government, for the repair and maintenance of storefront awnings; a Lighting Study which suggests ways to use light to enhance Chinatown’s nighttime ambience; and the Carrall Street Greenway which provides a landscaped link between the two historic communities of Chinatown and Gastown.



Photograph courtesy of George Draskoy

## Plaques and Monuments

- **Heritage Plaques:** The City plaque program is available to buildings protected by municipal heritage designation or other legal agreements. It is an important acknowledgement of the value of Vancouver's heritage resources. The plaque is intended to profile designated buildings and increase the awareness of the significance of our heritage to both city residents and visitors.

The Carnegie Library, 401 Main Street is the only building within the Chinatown historic district to have received a plaque. There are 23 additional buildings that qualify for a plaque.



### **CARNEGIE LIBRARY**

**Architect: George William Grant**

*This eclectic 1903 Victorian building was one of 2,507 public library buildings paid for by the Scottish-American industrialist Andrew Carnegie, the richest person in the world when he retired in 1901. Carnegie believed in the “Gospel of Wealth” and gave away 90% of his fortune. This commanding building is faced with Gabriola Island sandstone and features and [sic] Ionic corner portico and dome, Romanesque-inspired arched windows, a French mansard roof and an unusual stained glass window by the spiral staircase. Vancouver’s main library operated here until 1957, while the top floor housed the Vancouver Museum from 1905 to 1968. In 1980, after a campaign spearheaded by the Downtown Eastside Residents’ Association, this building was saved and converted into the Carnegie Community Centre.*

- **Centennial Commission plaques (1986) “100 plaques for 100 years”:** As part of the City’s birthday celebrations, 100 oval plaques were placed around the city to commemorate people, places and events. In Chinatown there are three plaques: the “Sam Kee Building” at 8 West Pender, the “The Oldest Building in Chinatown”, the Wing Sang Building at 51 East Pender Street (inaccessible due to building restoration) and Hart’s Opera House at the Chinese Cultural Centre.



### **Sam Kee Building**

*Ripley recognized this building, constructed in 1913, as the narrowest in the world. Responding to a wager, Chang Toy, owner of the Sam Kee Company, used bay windows and public baths under the sidewalk to maximize development on a site dramatically diminished by city road expropriation.*

- **Commemoration of personalities and area history in Shanghai Alley:** In 2001, a replica of a 2,200 year old Han Dynasty bell was placed in Alan Yap Circle, Shanghai Alley. Plaques around the bell list the inhabitants of the early Chinatown on Shanghai Alley, Canton Alley and Carrall Street along with nine interpretive panels depicting the history of the Shanghai Alley, notable personalities and buildings.
- **Monument to the Pioneers:** At the intersection of Keefer and Columbia a monument dedicated to the CPR labourers and World War Two veterans is the focus of Remembrance Day ceremonies in Chinatown.
- **Canton Alley:** As part of the 1990s redevelopment of Block 17, Canton Alley was physically re-established between the CBA Seniors’ Home and the S.U.C.C.E.S.S. headquarters.

• **National Historic Persons (plaque locations to be determined):**

Nellie Yip Quong 1882-1949 (2008) *“Bold and outspoken advocate for her adopted community, she served as an intermediary between the Euro-Canadian and Chinese-Canadian societies.”*

Wong Foon Sien 1899 - 1971 (2008) *“Ardent activist for the recognition of the rights of the Chinese-Canadian community and other minorities.”*

• **Commemoration of Chinese Canadian Veterans and Canadian Pacific Railway Labourers:** Two wall plaques at the entrance to the courtyard of the Chinese Cultural Centre commemorate the contributions of the CPR labourers (National Historic Event 1977) on one wall and a list of World War Two veterans on the opposite wall.



**Railway Labourers:**

*In recognition of the Chinese Railway workers, and all the early Chinese Pioneers, whose blood, sweat, tears, and toil have contributed so much to the making of Canada, this sculpture is forever dedicated to their memory by a grateful community. Erected under the auspices of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver and the Chinese Cultural Centre of Vancouver.*



**Veterans:**

**CHINESE CANADIAN VETERANS W.W. II**  
**THIS PLAQUE IS DEDICATED TO ALL CANADIANS OF CHINESE DESCENT WHO SERVED WITH CANADIAN AND ALLIED FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II. THEIR ENDEAVOURS AND SACRIFICES ENABLED THE CHINESE IN CANADA TO WIN THEIR ENFRANCHISEMENT AS CANADIAN CITIZENS IN 1947.**

*(Text format is as it appears on the plaque)*

*The plaque was installed with funding from community sources and the federal government.*

• **Medallions:** mosaic medallions are set into the sidewalks of Chinatown and the surrounding neighbourhood marking significant events or sites within the area. The mosaics, Gold Mountain, The Associations, and Bridge to China are within the proposed National Historic Site. Funded through the Western Diversification Fund (2001).



**Gold Mountain**



**The Associations**



**Bridge to China**

## **Gates:**

The tradition of constructing gates in China goes back to the Han Dynasty. There are two entrance gates in Vancouver's Chinatown. After being displayed at Expo 86, the Chinese government gave a gate to the Chinese Cultural Centre. It was erected at the building's entrance. Maintenance problems lead to replacement of the colourful upper portion of the gate with white carved marble. The second gate is the Millennium Gate, which crosses Pender at Taylor Street, the western boundary of the district. It incorporates both eastern and western symbols with traditional and modern Chinese themes in its construction and appearance. It was officially opened in 2002.



**Millennium Gate at Pender and Taylor Streets**



**Chinese Cultural Centre at Pender and Carrall Streets,**



**Chinese Cultural Centre, Museum and Archives building,  
555 Columbia Street**



## 5 | Specific Considerations for a Site

### Support

The Chinatown community has expressed interest in greater recognition of Chinatown’s heritage value, and received support by the Vancouver City Council in this endeavor in April 2008. To assist the community with the nomination of Chinatown as a National Historic Site of Canada, the City of Vancouver has taken the role of lead nominator and has facilitated a community consultation process for the preparation of the nomination package.

The community consultation process undertaken by the City of Vancouver informed the Chinatown community and general public about the nomination, and sought their feedback. Funding for the application was provided by the BC Heritage Branch and the City of Vancouver.

### Boundaries of the Site Proposed for the Designation



### Description of Boundary

All the properties within the proposed National Historic District were protected as historic properties in 1971 by the province of British Columbia (since transferred to the City of Vancouver). This boundary has been used by the City of Vancouver as the basis for its administration of the historic district, as it captures the core of historic Chinatown. The HA-1 zoning district coincides with the protected heritage properties and the boundaries of the proposed National Historic Site. The generalized legal description of the properties is as follows:

- south easterly portion of Block 18, District Lot 541;
- north easterly portion of Block 17, District Lot 541;
- southern half of Block 13, District Lot 196;
- Block 14, District Lot 196;
- southern half of Block 12, District Lot 196;
- north easterly portion of Block 12, District Lot 196;
- southern portion of Block 15, District Lot 196;
- northern portion of Block 11, District Lot 196;
- southern portion of Block 16, District Lot 196

## Components of the Historic District

This application is congruent with the HA-1 zoning district, which is itself congruent with the municipally protected properties. The Chinatown historic district is focussed on Pender Street, from Taylor Street to Gore Avenue. This is the heart of historic Chinatown - its commerce, its community life, its cultural life - which was first established in the late 19th century and has continued to evolve and thrive. The components of the district are both tangible and intangible.

### Urban Form:

The subdivision pattern created by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s set the pattern for Chinatown's urban form. Streets and lanes were created in a traditional grid pattern, and lots divided into 25 foot frontages. This is not the more complicated form of Victoria's Chinatown with its narrow alleys and interior block development. The vast majority of Vancouver's Chinatown buildings are constructed at the front property line on 25 foot increments and occasionally on consolidated lots 50 feet or more. Most vary in height from two to four storeys. Pedestrians are treated to a lively assortment of commercial uses with merchandise often spilling onto the sidewalk. The upper floors are typically developed with office, institutional and residential uses.

This development pattern is varied on the south side of Pender Street between Carrall and Columbia Streets, where there is no lane and one large property, owned by the City of Vancouver, is developed with the Chinese Cultural Centre (including the Museum and Archives), the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park and Garden. The Chinese Cultural Centre is partially set back from the sidewalk, and there is a large courtyard leading to the entrance to the Park. This creates the primary public open space within the proposed National Historic Site.

On the north side of Pender between Carrall and Columbia Streets, there is evidence of another unique pattern of development which includes interior courtyards, passageways and development oriented toward both the primary street and the lane. The Yue Shan property, for example, has an interior residential courtyard which separates the Society's buildings facing Pender Street from their residential buildings adjacent to the lane. Passageways from Pender Street and from the lane facilitated access by residents to the courtyard. The lane north of Pender functioned very much like a street as it had many uses fronting onto it. It has its own name - Market Alley. The Green Door restaurant (one of a number of well known and popular "Door" restaurants on the Alley) which existed until the late 1990s, was accessed only from Market Alley.

### Buildings:

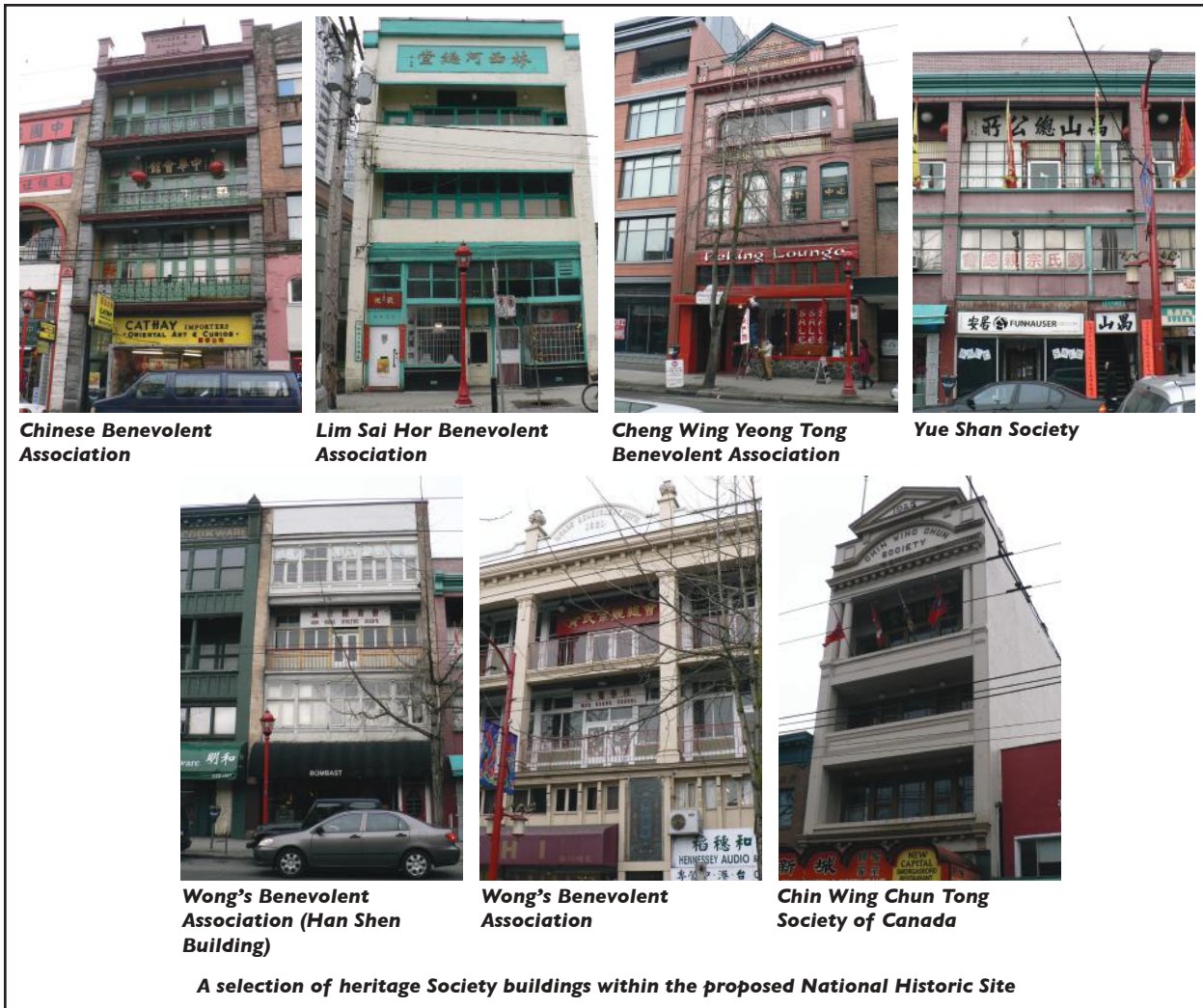
The image of Chinatown is defined by the distinctive 'balcony-style' architecture, exemplified in the Society buildings, constructed between 1901 and 1926 and reinforced with subsequent development that uniquely blends eastern and western design elements. The 'balcony-style' is a hybrid architectural style that blends aspects of Chinese regional architecture (Guangdong and Fujian Provinces, where many of Vancouver's Society members originate) with western styles and building methods. These buildings were all built to the front property line and have commercial uses at grade. They are typically four full storeys in height, plus a mezzanine with a lower ceiling height. Most Society buildings were constructed on 25 foot lots, although some were constructed on consolidated lots of 50 feet or more. Distinguished examples include the Chinese Benevolent Association building (1909), the Chin Wing Chun Tong Association (1925) and the Wong Benevolent Association (1925). As shown in the photographs, distinctive architectural features include: deeply recessed balconies with wrought iron railings and abundant fenestration, brick piers (sometimes painted), stepped parapets and/or heavy cornices, and a separate narrow door at grade leading to a steep staircase to the upper floors. Elements of the buildings are often painted colourfully. The name of the building is typically found on the face of the parapet and Chinese lettering within the recessed balconies identifies the name of the Society.



**The bust of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen at the entrance to the public park in Chinatown.**



**Market Alley is recalled in this surviving tile work at the rear of the Yue Shan building.**



**Chinese Benevolent Association**



**Lim Sai Hor Benevolent Association**



**Cheng Wing Yeong Tong Benevolent Association**



**Yue Shan Society**



**Wong's Benevolent Association (Han Shen Building)**



**Wong's Benevolent Association**



**Chin Wing Chun Tong Society of Canada**

*A selection of heritage Society buildings within the proposed National Historic Site*

Other early buildings in the historic district are in the Victorian and Edwardian styles, even though they were built by Chinese owners. A good example is 80 East Pender with its pair of oriel windows, brick arches and gables (c. 1900). Significantly, however, are the many other buildings constructed since the early Society buildings, which continue to demonstrate the blending of eastern and western design elements. Evidence can be found in buildings such as Birmingham and Wood's 1971 design for a new Bank of Montreal at 188 East Pender which was designed to integrate into Chinatown in terms of its overall massing, as well as its design details. The building is now occupied by VanCity Credit Union. There are also many examples of vernacular buildings, designed to evoke a connection to Chinatown, often through the use of glazed roof tiles. The Chinese Cultural Centre's Museum and Archives building (1998), 555 Columbia Street, incorporates many Chinese design elements.



**80 East Pender Street**



**111 East Pender Street**



**Bank of Montreal, 188 East Pender  
Birmingham and Wood 1971**





**Vernacular buildings on the 200 block of East Pender  
c. mid 1970s**



**Compatible new design (just outside the HA-1 boundary):  
Bank at Keefer and Main Streets Chinatown Plaza at Keefer and  
Quebec Streets**



Since 1994, renovations and new construction must comply with the City’s Chinatown “HA-1 Guidelines for Designated Sites” which seek “to preserve and protect the historic fabric of Chinatown and to ensure that new development is supportive of and harmonious with the area’s character.”

**Interiors:**

Most of the Societies still have their original meeting rooms on the upper floors of their buildings. The Meeting Hall of the Mah Society, for example, is richly decorated with gifts from other associations, including furniture from China, paintings, calligraphy and photographs.



**Interior of the Mah Society**



**Interiors of Chinese Benevolent Association (left) and the Lim Sai Hor Benevolent Association (right)  
Photographs from the City of Vancouver Society Buildings Study**

**Beautification:**

In the 1980s an extensive program of street beautification was undertaken. These improvements reinforced the Historic District’s cultural characteristics and promoted the local economy. Key beautification components included: red lampposts with golden dragons, street signage in two languages, scored concrete sidewalks and crosswalks, and ginkgo boulevard trees.

### **Interpretation:**

To commemorate early Chinese settlement in Shanghai and Canton Alleys, nine panels were installed depicting the use of the alleys and prominent residents. The centrepiece is a replica of a West Han Dynasty bell that was unearthed in Guangzhou in 1983. It was a gift from the City of Guangzhou to the City of Vancouver to honour the 15th anniversary of the twinning of the two cities.

### **Cultural Institutions:**

The heritage Society buildings within the proposed boundary that were constructed in the early 20th century created the foundation for a rich cultural and caring community life. They have been reinforced by additional development: the Chinese Cultural Centre (from 1981-1996) which offers numerous community programs, including a Chinese school attended by over 400 students, art classes and operates a number of branches in the Metro Vancouver area; the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park and Garden (1986); the Museum and Archives (1996); and the Millennium Gate (2002).

### **Intangible:**

The unique aspects of Chinatown also include components that are not part of the built environment. They include, for example: the tradition of displaying merchandise on the sidewalks; the sounds of mahjong and Chinese music being played, the Chinese language being spoken; the sights of many signs written in Chinese; Chinese people using the area; the smells of the herb shops, barbecued meat stores and bakeries. Special long-standing traditions include the annual Spring Festival (New Year's) Parade, Remembrance Day services, and the mid-autumn moon festival. The Dragon Boat Festival was begun by the Chinese Cultural Centre in 1986 and since has become not only an annual Vancouver tradition, but has also been embraced by cities across North America.

## **Site Condition**

Many of the important buildings in Chinatown are Society buildings built of wood frame construction with masonry walls, on narrow lots and are not easily adaptable for new uses. They are also vulnerable to seismic forces. They were the subject of a special study in 2005 by the Chinese Canadian Historical Society and the City of Vancouver which provided a solid understanding of their history and construction. In recognition of the special value of these buildings, and the unique threats to them, the City of Vancouver adopted in 2008 the Society Building Rehabilitation Strategy, including a special grant program to assist Societies with the preparation of feasibility studies for the upgrading of their heritage buildings. Five grants were awarded to Societies for this work in 2008.

In 2003, Vancouver City Council established the Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program and the Heritage Façade Rehabilitation Program, to facilitate the conservation of buildings in Chinatown, as well as Gastown and Hastings Street. The Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program can be credited with the revitalization of the original Chinese Freemasons' Building (5 West Pender) and the Wing Sang Building (51 East Pender). The Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA) building (108 East Pender) and the Chin Wing Chung Society (158-160 East Pender) have received grants for the rehabilitation of their principal façades. These incentives have permitted the owners to achieve a high level of heritage conservation.

In addition, the City of Vancouver has been engaged in a community-based revitalization program for Chinatown since 1999. Currently, the City is working on the implementation of the 2002 Chinatown Vision through the development of a Chinatown Community Plan, scheduled to be complete this year. The Chinatown Vision and corresponding Chinatown Community Plan aim to:

- further develop Chinatown as a complete mixed use community with an increased residential population of diverse social-economic and cultural backgrounds;
- position Chinatown as one of the cultural districts for Vancouver and its region, where locals and visitors can experience Chinese-Canadian heritage and culture, including its architecture, urban history, arts and cultural events and commercial activities;
- reflect Chinatown's historic function as a regional centre with institutions and services for the Chinese-Canadian community as well as other cultural groups; and,
- reinforce the role of Chinatown as a regional cultural tourist destination.

In addition to the City's work in Chinatown, the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society is preparing a Conservation Plan for the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden.



## 6. | Documentation

### On-line Documentation (major sources)

Society Buildings Study brochure (PDF)  
Society Buildings Study - English (PDF)  
Society Buildings Study Appendix - English (PDF)  
[www.vancouver.ca/Chinatown](http://www.vancouver.ca/Chinatown)

Heritage Incentives for Gastown, Chinatown, Hastings Street and Victory Square  
[www.vancouver.ca/heritage/incentives.htm](http://www.vancouver.ca/heritage/incentives.htm)

Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee  
[www.vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/civicagencies/chinatown/index.htm](http://www.vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/civicagencies/chinatown/index.htm)

William C. Smith Papers 1924-27  
Survey of Race Relations, interviews conducted in Chinatown 1924,  
<http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xvi9159>

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- Chinatown Improvement Group. *A Case for Renewal of the Old City*. Vancouver: 1969.
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- Marlatt, Daphne and Itter, Carole, editors. *Opening Doors – Vancouver's East End*. Victoria: Province of British Columbia, 1979.
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- Lee, Josephine; Lim, Imogine; Matsukawa, Yuko; editors. *Re-collecting Early Asian American History*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2002.
- Roy, Patricia. *A White Man's Province: British Columbia Politicians and the Chinese and Japanese, 1858-1914*. Vancouver: UBC, 1989.
- Roy, Patricia. *The Oriental Question: Consolidating a White Man's Province 1914- 1941*. Vancouver: UBC, 2003.

Tang, Andrea. *Research on Chinatowns in North America*. Research paper for the City of Vancouver, 2003.

Yan, Andrew. *Rethinking Vancouver's Chinatown: Planning in a Global Neighbourhood*. Vancouver: 2001.

Yee, Paul. *Saltwater City*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1988, reprinted and revised 2006.

Wegars, Priscilla, editor. *Hidden Heritage: Historical Archaeology of the Overseas Chinese*. Amityville: Baywood, 1993.

Wickberg, Edgar, editor. *From China to Canada. A History of the Chinese Communities in Canada*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1982.

### **City of Vancouver Guides**

Chinatown, A Walking Tour Through History, 2005  
[www.vancouver.ca/heritage/walks/chinatown](http://www.vancouver.ca/heritage/walks/chinatown)

Chinatown (historic buildings map), 2009  
[www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org](http://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org)

### **Recent Newspaper features**

Walking into City's History. *Vancouver Sun*, June 7, 2005  
John Mackie writes about the Wing Sang Company building's history and restoration.

The Government of Chinatown. *Vancouver Sun*, November 4, 2006  
Michael Scott writes about the history of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver.

Clan Conservation. *Vancouver Sun*, February 8, 2008  
Randy Shore writes about the City of Vancouver's new grant program for the heritage Society buildings in Chinatown.

Benevolent Design. *Vancouver Courier*, August 7, 2008  
Susan Hollis writes about the City's grant program, building study and general interest in the Society buildings in Chinatown.

**Archival Photo Collections available on-line**

City of Vancouver Archives  
[www.vancouver.ca/archives/photos/index.htm](http://www.vancouver.ca/archives/photos/index.htm)

Vancouver Public Library  
[www.vpl.ca/find/cat/C393/](http://www.vpl.ca/find/cat/C393/)

Royal BC Museum BC Archives  
[www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC\\_Our\\_Collections/BC\\_Visual\\_Rrd\\_Collect.aspx](http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC_Our_Collections/BC_Visual_Rrd_Collect.aspx)



***Pender and Carrall Streets 1912 looking northwest. The painted sign for Pekin Chop Suey on the former Chinese Freemasons building was uncovered in a recent restoration. Vancouver Public Library photo A49544***



***East Pender Street looking west on the 100 block c.1970s with the Lee Building and the Wong's Benevolent Association building. Vancouver Archives CVA 780-470***



***Pender and Columbia Streets looking southeast 1978 showing the Ho-Ho Restaurant on the corner. Next door is the 1909 Chinese Benevolent Association building and the Chinese Freemasons building in the 100 block of East Pender. Vancouver Archives 780-443***



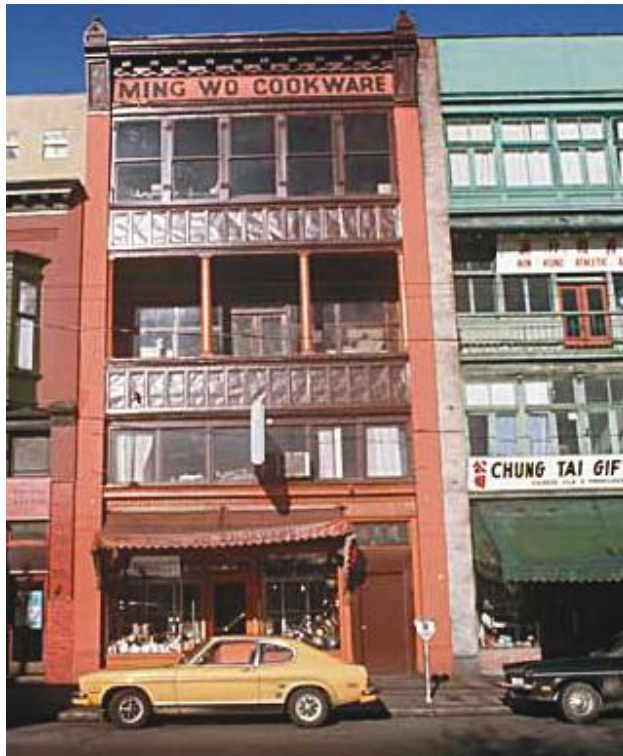
**Shanghai Alley looking south, 1974  
Vancouver Archives CVA 780-462**



**Pender looking east with the Ho-Ho restaurant sign.  
c. 1966 Vancouver Archives CVA 780-475**



**East Pender Street looking west from Columbia Street. c. 1966. The photo shows the Transnation Emporium at the corner with the Cheng Wing Yeong Tong Benevolent Association next door. The red building is the Wing Sang Company building. Vancouver Archives CVA 780-456**



**Ming Wo Cookware at 23 East Pender Street. 1978  
Vancouver Archives CVA 780-461**



**Pender and Carrall Streets with a celebration in front of  
the Freemasons original building.  
Chinese Freemasons Society collection**



**Sam Kee Building, the narrowest commercial building in the world, shown here in the 1930s.  
Vancouver Archives Bu N158.1**



## 7 | Suggestions for Further Research

Although much research has been done on Chinatown, there is further research that could be conducted in relation to its early history:

- The evolution of the Society buildings' architectural style in Chinatown is not well understood. While the “balcony-style” or “shophouse-style” may have originated in southern China, it has seen a number of transformations throughout the world. What role did local architects play in interpreting or developing the style here and how strong a role did the Societies play in determining the design?
- The “cheater floor” is an example of how a common architectural feature of Edwardian building practice is referred to as something illegal when it appears in a Chinatown building. The suggestion is that the owners were cheating on their taxes by hiding an extra floor in the building. How buildings were taxed and the significance of these mezzanine floors needs clarification.
- There is a need to better understand Vancouver's Chinatown and the role it played in the larger world-wide Chinese Diaspora in terms of both politics and business.
- Settlement patterns in the vicinity of Carrall Street and Shanghai Alley would assist in a better understanding of Chinatown's origins.

## 8 | Federal Riding

Vancouver East, currently represented by Ms. Libby Davies (NDP)

## 9 | Proponents/Interested Parties

The following groups and individuals were members of the Proponent Group that assisted with the preparation of this nomination package, and supported the initiative in the community consultation process. In total, the proponent group met three times to discuss the nomination.

Dr. Edgar Wickberg & Joe Wai  
Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association  
Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC  
Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver (see list of 94 member groups in the Addendum)

Through the public consultation process, statements of support, including letters and resolutions, were received from the following individuals and organizations:

Advice Travel Service Ltd.  
B.C. Heritage Branch  
Cantonese Opera Association of Canada  
Chee Tack Gen Tong Society  
Cheng Wing Yeong Tong Society  
Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver  
Chinese Canadian Artists Federation in Vancouver  
Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee  
Chinatown Next  
City Garden Florist  
Confederation of Canadian Wushu Organizations, Western Canada  
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society

**Photo credits: All unaccredited photographs have been taken by the authors Jeannette Hlavach and John Atkin.**

Floata Seafood Restaurant  
 Forum Home Appliances Inc.  
 Heritage B.C.  
 Hing Me Society  
 Jin Wah Sing Musical Association  
 Kin Fung Athletic Group  
 Lee's Benevolent Association of Vancouver  
 Lew Mao Way Tong  
 Libby Davies, MP  
 Lim Sai Hor (Kow Mock) Benevolent Association  
 Mah Athletic Association of Vancouver  
 Mah Benevolent Society of Vancouver  
 Mah Society of Canada  
 National Congress of Chinese Canadians, Pacific Region  
 Oy Lin K. S. Association  
 Qi-Quang Society  
 Senior Chinese Society of Vancouver  
 Shon Yee Benevolent Association of Canada  
 Shon Yee Benevolent Association of Canada, Athletic Division  
 Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee  
 Vancouver Heritage Commission  
 Vancouver Heritage Foundation  
 Yee Fung Toy Society of Canada  
 Yue Shan Society  
 Z. Z. H. Association

As a result of community consultation, the City of Vancouver received 39 signatures of support from the public at an Open House.

Samples of the materials presented in the community consultation, and additional materials related to the Open House, are included in the Addendum.

Newspaper ads and clippings	pg. 24
Open House panels	pg. 25
A selection of letters of support	pg. 33
Heritage Register listed buildings in Chinatown	pg. 48



## Addendum

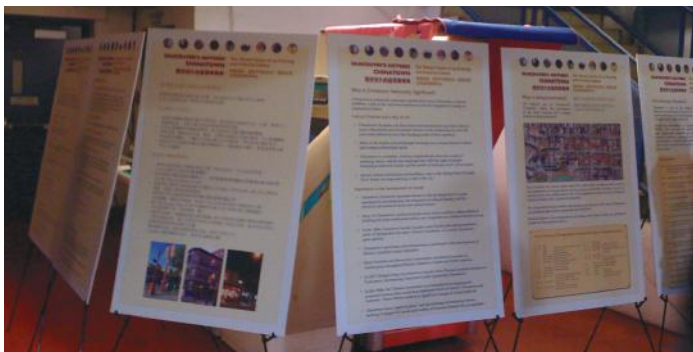
### Public Consultation

The City of Vancouver has taken the role of lead nominator and has facilitated a community consultation process for the preparation of the nomination package.

The following summarizes the community consultation process the City of Vancouver undertook, in order to inform the Chinatown community and general public about the nomination, and to seek their feedback and determine the level of support:

- held pre-consultation meetings with key community groups;
- formed a Proponent Group to assist with the preparation of the nomination; members included interested community group representatives, and City of Vancouver and BC Heritage Branch staff;
- held a Public Open House on the draft nomination;
- held consultation meetings with key community groups (Chinese Benevolent Association, Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee, Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association, Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee, Vancouver Heritage Commission);
- distributed a “Fact Sheet” on the nomination process to community groups, Societies, and interested members of the public;
- consultation materials were made available in English and Chinese, as deemed appropriate, and verbal translations were made at all meetings as necessary.

The general public was informed of the Chinatown nomination through an Open House, which was held on Saturday, February 7, 2009 in the Chinatown Plaza. The Open House was advertised in local English and Chinese newspapers. Approximately 80 people viewed the display panels and spoke with City staff, members of the Proponent Group and consultants. Thirty-nine signatures of support were received. The nomination has received excellent coverage from both English and Chinese TV, radio and newspapers.



**Panels on display at the Chinatown Plaza**



**City staff and the public at the Open House**

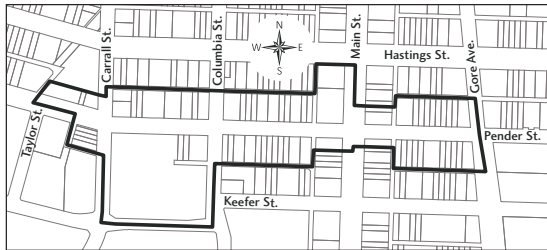
HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY!

## Proposal to Nominate Vancouver's Chinatown as a National Historic Site of Canada

You are invited to attend an open house to learn more about the proposed nomination of Chinatown as a National Historic Site of Canada. City of Vancouver staff and consultants will be on hand to answer your questions and receive your comments.

### OPEN HOUSE:

Saturday, February 7, 1 – 3 pm  
Chinatown Plaza (mall atrium), 180 Keefer Street



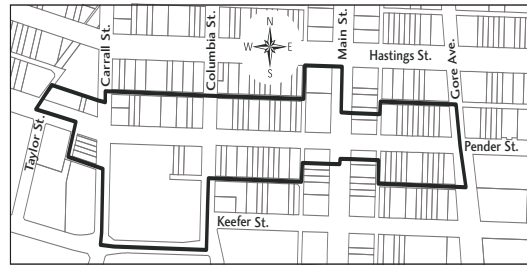
FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner  
604.871.6448



vancouver.ca

表達您的意見!

## 建議提名 溫哥華華埠 為加拿大國家古蹟



誠邀閣下出席有關提名華埠為加拿大國家古蹟的諮詢會。溫市市府職員及顧問將會現場解答您的問題及聽取意見。

### 諮詢會

2月7日(星期六)下午1至3時  
華埠廣場(商場中央), 180 Keefer Street

### 資料查詢:

Zlatan Jankovic, 傳統古蹟規劃師  
604.871.6448



vancouver.ca

2009年2月8日 星期日

A7 星島日報 SINGTAO DAILY

PROVINCIAL / CITIES 省市  
本版編輯: 朱國強

## 諮詢會收集意見及簽名

# 民眾支持華埠列國家史跡

溫市政府和華埠社區, 就提名把溫哥華華埠列為加拿大國家史跡 (National Historic Site of Canada) 計劃, 周六在華埠廣場舉辦諮詢會, 解答市民提問以及聽取意見。現場有大批民眾出席, 大多表示支持該提名計劃。

圖文: 本報記者鄭一峰

周日下午1時, 在華埠廣場中央大堂, 舉辦了一個由市政府傳統建築計劃員揚科維奇 (Zlatan Jankovic) 和華埠僑團傳統建築協會理事馬威廉等出席的諮詢會, 收集市民意見和簽名。將連同計劃書提交聯邦政府。希望政府聽取市民意見, 令溫市華埠得以成為加國其中一項史跡。

揚科維奇表示, 當華埠成為國家史跡, 可以提升這個社區的文化價值, 以吸引遊客到本地旅遊, 刺激經濟。

馬威廉說, 華埠一旦成為史跡, 可以保留本區歷史悠久的建

築物, 並加以修葺。古老的商店和大廈糅合了獨特風格, 可突出華埠的氣質。

參加諮詢會的王容倫說, 溫市華埠是他所見過的最好的唐人街。而居住滿地實的勞里 (Bill Lawrie) 夫婦, 更專程駕車前來支持申請計劃。

雖然很多市民都支持提名華埠列為加拿大國家史跡, 但並非每個人都認為有助提高商業機會。來自葡萄牙的卡羅斯 (Stam Carlos) 相信, 把華埠列為加拿大國家史跡會吸引市民參觀, 但遊客不一定對商店有興趣。



現場多位市民, 不分種族, 都表示願意簽名支持申請計劃。

Newspaper advertisements for the Open Houses in Chinese and English (above)

Newspaper coverage in the local press, including Sing Tao Daily (left)



## VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC CHINATOWN

### 歷史悠久的溫哥華華埠

## The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving and Enduring Culture

與時並進、恆常不朽的文化，匯萃於活力充沛的繁華中心

The City of Vancouver and the Chinatown community propose to nominate Vancouver's Chinatown as a National Historic Site of Canada.

溫哥華市政府與華埠社區共同建議，將溫哥華華埠提名為加拿大國家史蹟 (National Historic Site of Canada)。

This exhibit provides information about National Historic Sites of Canada, and about reasons for the nomination.

本展覽提供有關加拿大國家史蹟的資訊，並解釋提名理由。

歡迎您向我們表達意見。

*We welcome your comments.*

### How are National Historic Sites Chosen?

Nominations are made to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Assisted by research from Parks Canada, it reviews nominations of places, persons, and events of potential national historic significance. The Board makes its recommendation to the Minister of the Environment, who makes the final decision.

If Chinatown is approved there would not be more development controls or costs. All the properties in the proposed National Historic Site have been protected heritage properties since 1971.

According to Parks Canada, a historic site of national significance must have a *"sense of history"* and *"a special sense of time and place through buildings, structures and open spaces modified by human use."*

National Historic Sites include:

Victoria's Chinatown



Stanley Park

Quebec City Fortifications



Gulf of Georgia Cannery

Find out more at Parks Canada's site: [pc.gc.ca](http://pc.gc.ca)

### Key Steps

#### Community Consultation

Vancouver City Council has supported community initiatives to bring greater recognition to Chinatown's heritage value.  
The public is consulted through an Open House.

Individuals or Groups prepare and submit nominations

Parks Canada staff provide further research on the nomination

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada reviews the nomination and makes a recommendation

The Minister of the Environment approves the recommendation

If determined to be of national historic significance, then a commemorative plaque is installed.



## VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC CHINATOWN

### 歷史悠久的溫哥華華埠

## The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving and Enduring Culture

與時並進、恆常不朽的文化，匯萃於活力充沛的繁華中心

### Why Nominate Chinatown?

Chinatown is one of the original ethnocultural communities in Vancouver. It epitomizes the core value of contemporary Canadian society - cultural diversity.

Recognizing Chinatown as a National Historic Site increases the national and international awareness of this culturally significant community, creates opportunities for tourism and business, and brings a renewed sense of spirit and pride of place.

### 為何提名華埠？

華埠是溫哥華其中一個最早期的族裔文化社區，體現出加拿大現代社會的核心價值觀 — 多元文化。

將華埠列為國家史蹟，能提升這個深具文化價值的社區在本地與國外的知名度，締造旅遊及商業機會，並為華埠風格與自豪感帶來鼓舞。

### Some Key Dates

- 1880s - at the end of Canadian Pacific Railway construction sojourners attracted by the opportunities in the newly established city, arrive in what is to become Vancouver
- 1885 - a federal head tax of 50 dollars is instituted
- 1887 - the presence of a "China Town" at the south end of Carrall Street is noted in local papers
- 1889 - the construction of the first brick building in Chinatown
- 1903 - head tax is increased to 500 dollars
- 1907 - a mob charges through Chinatown and Japantown after a meeting of the Asiatic Exclusion League. Subsequent reports lead to immigration quotas for the Japanese and ultimately to the Chinese Exclusion Act
- 1911 - Vancouver's Chinese population of approximately 3500 had surpassed Victoria's
- 1923 - immigration to Canada closed for the vast majority of Chinese with the passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act on July 1st
- 1947 - through the efforts on behalf of Chinese war veterans, the 1923 Act was repealed and Canadian citizenship was granted to Chinese Canadians. (Wong Foon Sien declared a National Historic Person in 2008)
- 1947 - 1966 - Chinatown flourished with new and popular restaurants along with businesses attracting citizens from across the city
- 1957 - Canada's first Chinese-Canadian MP, Douglas Jung, is elected representing Vancouver Centre
- 1960s and 70s - Chinese organizations fight redevelopment and a proposed freeway through Chinatown
- 1971 - Chinatown is protected as a historic district along with Gastown under provincial legislation
- 1981 - construction of the Chinese Cultural Centre begins
- 1986 - Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Classical Garden is completed
- 2002 - the Millennium Gate is built at the western end of Chinatown

In recognition of Chinatown's important history and the benefits of National Historic Site status, a nomination is being prepared by the City of Vancouver with the participation of:

Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association

Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC

Chinese Benevolent Association (representing 80 Chinatown groups)

Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee

Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee

Vancouver Heritage Commission



Pender and Carrall Streets looking north west. 1912 and 2009

National recognition according to Parks Canada, "helps focus the public's attention on the site's importance to Canadians..."



## VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC CHINATOWN

歷史悠久的溫哥華華埠

The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving and Enduring Culture

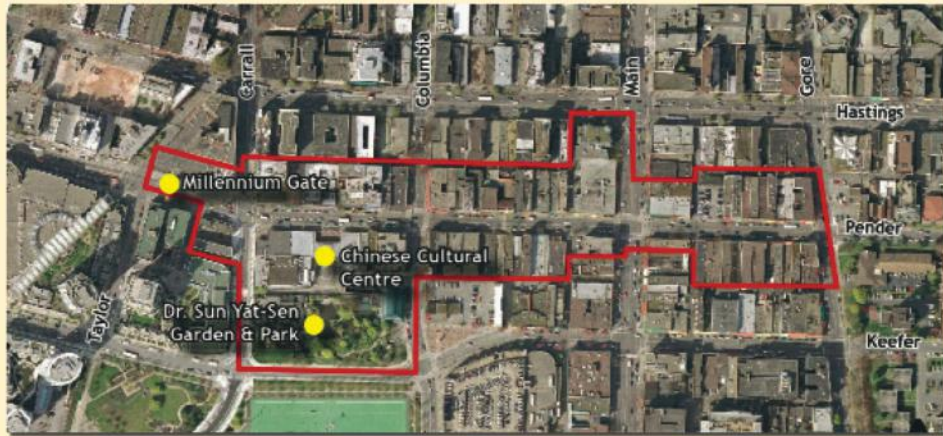
與時並進、恆常不朽的文化，匯萃於活力充沛的繁華中心

### What is being Nominated?

The historic area of Vancouver's Chinatown within the boundaries of the City's existing HA-1 zoning district is being nominated.

### 獲提名的範圍包括哪些地區？

獲提名範圍位於溫哥華市現有的HA-1分區內的溫哥華華埠歷史區。



This boundary has been in place since 1971 when both Chinatown and Gastown were protected as heritage districts by the province of British Columbia. The HA-1 zoning district was established in 1974. The proposed boundary for the Chinatown National Historic Site is shown in red above.

The proposed boundary matches the heritage area drawn in 1971 when Chinatown was protected after freeway proposals were defeated.

National Historic Site recognition is an honour and doesn't create any additional burden for the property owners.

#### 24 City of Vancouver Heritage Register Listed Buildings within the Proposed Boundary

433 - 445	Gore		127 - 133	East Pender	
525 - 545	Gore	Chinese Nationalist League of Canada	135	East Pender	Lung Kong Kung Show
401	Main	Carnegie Centre	137 - 139	East Pender	Mah Society of Canada
501	Main	Bank of Commerce	158 - 160	East Pender	Chin Wing Chun Tong Society of Canada
1 - 21	East Pender	Chinese Times Building	166 - 168	East Pender	
23 - 25	East Pender	Ming Wo Building	254 - 262	East Pender	Shon Yee Benevolent Association (May Wah Hotel)
27 - 29	East Pender	Wong's Benevolent Association (Han Shen Building)	3 - 5	West Pender	Chinese Freemasons
33 - 47	East Pender	Yue Shan Society	2 - 14	West Pender	Sam Kee Building
51 - 69	East Pender	Wing Sang Building	509-511	Carrall	
78 - 80	East Pender		488	Carrall	West Hotel
79 - 83	East Pender	Cheng Wing Yeong Tong Benevolent Association (Jong Building)	525 - 531	Carrall	Lim Sai Hor (Kow Mock) Benevolent Association
104 - 108	East Pender	Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver			
121 - 125	East Pender	Wong Benevolent Association (Mon Keong Chinese School)			



## VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC CHINATOWN

歷史悠久的溫哥華華埠

The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving  
and Enduring Culture

與時並進、恆常不朽的文化、匯萃於活  
力充沛的繁華中心

### Why is Chinatown Nationally Significant?

Chinatown is potentially nationally significant because it illustrates a cultural tradition, a way of life, and ideas important in the development of Canada, as summarized below.

#### Cultural Tradition and a Way of Life

- Chinatown's Societies and Benevolent Associations have provided cultural, social, educational and recreational services to the community for over 100 years and continue to serve the changing needs of their members.
- Many of the Society-owned heritage buildings are a unique blend of eastern and western architectural styles.
- Chinatown is a complete, working neighborhood where the sounds of mahjong, music, and diverse languages mix with the sights of people shopping at sidewalk stands, and the smells of barbeque, herb and tea shops.
- Special annual celebrations and traditions, such as the Spring Festival Parade (New Years), are long standing events in the city.

#### Importance in the Development of Canada

- Chinatown represents important themes in the development of Canada: immigration and settlement, the formation of cultural identity, and the physical expression of social and cultural history.
- Many of Chinatown's earliest residents were railway workers, whose efforts in building the trans-continental railway are recognized as a National Historic Event.
- In the 1880s, Vancouver became Canada's main Pacific port and an important point of immigration for many Chinese-Canadians. As a result Chinatown grew quickly.
- Chinatown's merchants and entrepreneurs contributed to the development of British Columbia's many industries.
- Many Societies and Benevolent Associations established branches in communities throughout British Columbia, Canada and North America.
- In 1957, Douglas Jung was elected as Canada's first Chinese-Canadian Member of Parliament, representing Vancouver Centre (including Chinatown).
- In the 1960s, the Chinese community was instrumental in stopping the proposed freeway that would have destroyed much of historic Chinatown and Gastown. These efforts resulted in significant changes to federal policies.
- Chinatown has a "spirit of place" and an evolving and enduring culture, making it unique in Canada and worthy of National Historic Site recognition.





## VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC CHINATOWN

### 歷史悠久的溫哥華華埠

## The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving and Enduring Culture

與時並進、恆常不朽的文化，匯萃於活  
力充沛的繁華中心

### 華埠對加拿大來說有何重要性？

華埠對全國可能具備的重大意義，在於能展示以下簡介的文化傳統、生活方式和對加拿大發展非常重要的思想。

#### 文化傳統及生活方式

- 華埠的僑團和會館在過去百多年來一直為當地社區提供文化、社會、教育及文娛康樂服務，並配合區內居民的需要而與時並進。
- 許多由僑團擁有的傳統建築物，都洋溢東西合璧的獨特建築風格。
- 華埠是個一應俱全的社區。麻將、音樂與多種語言混雜的聲音，加上路邊購物的景象和燒臘店、中藥店及茶葉店傳出的各種氣味，帶出華埠的獨特氣氛。
- 華埠每年的各種特別慶祝活動和傳統節日，例如新春大遊行，都是溫哥華市歷史悠久的盛事。

#### 對加拿大發展的重要性

- 華埠代表著加拿大發展的重要主題：移民及定居、文化身份的形成，以及社會與文化歷史的實質體現。
- 許多華埠早期居民都是鐵路工人，他們對興建洲際鐵路的貢獻獲表揚為國家歷史大事 (National Historic Event)。
- 溫哥華在1880年代成為加拿大首要的太平洋港口及眾多加拿大華人的主要移民地點，造就了華埠的迅速發展。
- 華埠商戶和企業家對卑詩省多種行業的發展貢獻良多。
- 多個僑團、會館在卑詩省、加拿大以至北美洲的各地社區都設有分會。
- 鄭天華 (Douglas Jung) 在1957年獲選為加拿大首位華裔加拿大國會議員，代表溫哥華中區（包括華埠一帶）。
- 1960年代曾有一項興建高速公路的建議，會令深具歷史意義的華埠和煤氣鎮的大部份地區消失。華人社區在成功阻止該建議上有很大功勞。當年所作的努力，使聯邦政府政策出現重大改變。
- 華埠擁有別具一格的氣質和與時並進、恆常不朽的文化，在加拿大擁有獨特的地位，值得列為國家史蹟。





## VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC CHINATOWN

歷史悠久的溫哥華華埠

The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving and Enduring Culture

與時並進、恆常不朽的文化、匯萃於活力充沛的繁華中心

### Society Heritage Buildings in Chinatown

華埠僑團的傳統建築物

*"The leadership in Vancouver's Chinatown was the most nationally significant among Chinese in Canada. Some of its buildings set architectural standards that influenced the entire country. These buildings, and the life that went on within them, illustrate the involvement of Vancouver's Chinese in the affairs of Chinatown, Canada and China."*

Dr. Edgar Wickberg, *Core Buildings of Vancouver Chinatown's Early History 1901- 1911*

Benevolent Societies and Family Associations represent extensive social and cultural networks that have been central to Chinatown's early development, and continue to contribute to the development of Chinese-Canadian culture in Vancouver and Canada. There are 11 Society-owned buildings within the proposed National Historic Site.



Chinese Freemasons building interior



Lim Sai Hor Benevolent Association



Wong's Benevolent Association (Han Shen Building)



Yue Shan Society



Cheng Wing Yeong Tong Benevolent Association



End of the dance



Wong Benevolent Association



Chin Wing Chun Tong Society of Canada



Chinese Benevolent Association



Shan Yee Benevolent Association (May Wah Hotel)



Wong Benevolent Association stairwell window



Mah Society of Canada



Chinese Nationalist League of Canada



Lung Kang Kung Shaw

Society buildings identified as part of the City of Vancouver's Society Buildings Rehabilitation Strategy



## VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC CHINATOWN

歷史悠久的溫哥華華埠

The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving  
and Enduring Culture

與時並進、恆常不朽的文化，匯萃於活  
力充沛的繁華中心

### Questions and Answers

**Q: Is National Historic Site status an additional burden to the property owners?**

A: No. It doesn't add any more development controls or costs. All the properties in the proposed National Historic Site have been protected heritage properties since 1971. Owners wishing to alter the exterior of a building or to develop a site that is a "protected heritage property" will need to obtain a Heritage Alteration Permit as part of the normal permitting process.

**Q: Who is making the application?**

A: The community initiated the application and the City is coordinating the process.

**Q: Do all the property owners have to agree?**

A: No. Because Vancouver's Chinatown is already a municipally protected heritage area, it is sufficient that the City of Vancouver is one of the nominators.

**Q: Why is this good for Chinatown and the City?**

A: Recognizing Chinatown as a National Historic Site increases the national and international awareness of this culturally significant community, creates opportunities for tourism and business, and brings a renewed sense of spirit and pride of place.

**Q: What are the proposed boundaries for the National Historic Site?**

A: The proposed site is the existing HA-1 zoning district shown on this map. All of the properties within HA-1 are already protected and have been since 1971.



**Q: How can I comment on this proposal?**

A: You can fill in a comment card, send e mail to the City Heritage Planner [zlatan.jankovic@vancouver.ca](mailto:zlatan.jankovic@vancouver.ca) or write to Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner, Vancouver City Hall, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver V5Y 1V4

**Q: How can I find out more about National Historic Sites and Chinatown?**

A: Parks Canada's web site: [pc.gc.ca](http://pc.gc.ca)  
City of Vancouver's Chinatown web site: [vancouver.ca/chinatown](http://vancouver.ca/chinatown)



## VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC CHINATOWN 歷史悠久的溫哥華華埠

The Vibrant Centre of an Evolving  
and Enduring Culture

與時並進、恆常不朽的文化，匯萃於活  
力充沛的繁華中心

### 問答

問：國家史蹟的地位，會不會為華埠業主帶來額外負擔？

答：不會。華埠業主不會因此而面對任何額外的發展管制或費用。  
建議中的國家史蹟內的所有物業，早在1971年已列為受保護的歷史建築物。  
業主如想改變建築物外觀或開發「受保護歷史建築物」的所在地，  
必須申領改變傳統建築物許可 (Heritage Alteration Permit) 作為正常許可程序的一環。

問：該項申請由什麼人提出？

答：由社區提出申請，市政府統籌有關程序。

問：是否全體物業持有人都要贊成？

答：不是。由於溫哥華華埠本身已是市級的受保護傳統地區，  
只要溫哥華市政府擔任其中一個提名者就已足夠。

問：對華埠和本市有什麼好處？

答：將華埠列為國家史蹟，能提升這個深具文化價值的社區在本地與國外的知名度，  
締造旅遊及商業機會，並為華埠精神與自豪感帶來鼓舞。

問：建議中的國家史蹟範圍包括哪些地區？

答：建議中的史蹟範圍是地圖中顯示的現有HA-1分區。凡在HA-1分區內的物業，  
早在1971年已受到保護。



問：我怎樣對這項建議提出意見？

答：您可以填寫意見卡，寄電郵至 [zlatan.jankovic@vancouver.ca](mailto:zlatan.jankovic@vancouver.ca) 給市政府傳統建築規劃師 (City Heritage Planner)，或將信件寄往 Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner, Vancouver City Hall, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver V5Y 1V4

問：我如何能夠找出更多關於國家史蹟和華埠的資訊？

答：加拿大公園管理局網站：[pc.gc.ca](http://pc.gc.ca)  
溫哥華市華埠網站：[vancouver.ca/chinatown](http://vancouver.ca/chinatown)

VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We hereby endorse the nomination of the

**"Historic District of Chinatown - Vancouver, British Columbia"**

as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Organization: Lim Sai Hor Kow Mok Benevolent Association

Name: Orville Lim



Position: PRESIDENT

Signature: Orville Lim 

Date: FEB. 19, 2009

VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We hereby endorse the nomination of the

"Historic District of Chinatown - Vancouver, British Columbia"

as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Organization: CHINESE CANADIAN HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF B.C.

Name: GORDON MARK

Position: PRESIDENT

Signature: Gordon Mark

Date: FEB. 3, 2009

VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We hereby endorse the nomination of the

**"Historic District of Chinatown - Vancouver, British Columbia"**

as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

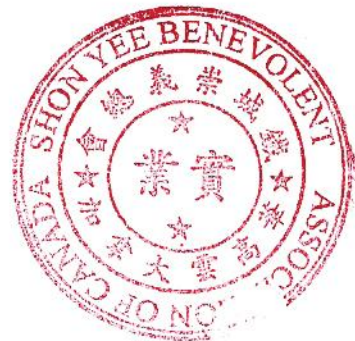
Organization: SHON YEE BENEVOLENT ASS OF CANADA

Name: HARRY LEE

Position: PROPERTY DIVISION SECRETARY

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: Feb 15 - 2009



VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We hereby endorse the nomination of the

**"Historic District of Chinatown - Vancouver, British Columbia"**

as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Organization: SHON YEE BENEVOLENT  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Name: GARRY JANG

Position: ATHLETIC CHAIRMAN

Signature: Garry Jang

Date: Feb. 14, 2009





VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We hereby endorse the nomination of the

“Historic District of Chinatown - Vancouver, British Columbia”

as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Organization: MAH SOCIETY OF CANADA

Name: FRED MAH

Position: PRESIDENT

Signature: 



Date: 19 FEBRUARY 2009



402 - 510 WEST HASTINGS ST.  
VANCOUVER BC  
CANADA V6B 1L8  
TEL 604-264-9642  
FAX 604-264-9643

mail@vancouverheritagefoundation.org  
vancouverheritagefoundation.org

February 19, 2009

Zlatan Jankovic  
Heritage Planner, City of Vancouver  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Zlatan:

On behalf of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the City of Vancouver nomination of the "Historic District of Chinatown" as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Conferring National Historic Site status on Chinatown will pay tribute to the historical importance of this culturally vibrant and evolving community. It will help to give the area a renewed sense of pride and spirit.

The increased awareness both home and abroad that National Historic Site status will bring to Vancouver's Chinatown will enhance the attractiveness of the area to tourists.

The Vancouver Heritage Foundation endorses the nomination of Vancouver historic Chinatown district as a National Historic Site.

Yours truly,

Diane Switzer  
Executive Director

HONORARY PATRONS

Mayor and Council  
of the City of Vancouver

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Project Manager, Kindred Construction

Allan Diamond, MAIBC  
Principal, Allan Diamond Architect

David Dunnison  
Principal, David Dunnison & Associates Inc.

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Mollie Massie  
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Sally Reukauf Warren  
Principal, srw communications inc.

Margot Keate West  
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Robert Lemon & Robert Ledingham  
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Virginia O'Brien Bentzen  
Sally Reukauf Warren

Mrs. Gwyneth Rogers  
Joseph Segal

Mrs. Gordon T. Southam  
Mrs. Mary M. Young

Josef Wosk

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diane Switzer

*Supporting the conservation of Vancouver's built heritage*



**LIBBY DAVIES, MP**  
Vancouver East



February 11, 2009

Zlatan Jankovic  
Heritage Planner  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my strong support to designate Vancouver's Chinatown as a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Vancouver's Chinatown has been a vibrant hub for commercial, social and cultural activities for the Chinese community since the 19th century. It is one of the original ethnocultural settlements in Vancouver. The area has significant buildings of historical and cultural value, which reflect the social environment and history of Chinese migration to Canada. The history and legacy of the Chinese Canadian community in British Columbia is unique, and Vancouver's Chinatown is a testament to the vast contribution of Chinese Canadians.

Recognizing Chinatown as a National Historic Site will increase the national and international awareness of this culturally significant area and create opportunities for business and tourism that will enhance the local community and British Columbia at large, and the country.

Recognizing Vancouver's Chinatown as a National Historic Site will bring the community's initiative to nominate Vancouver's Chinatown as a UNESCO World Heritage Site one step closer. The UNESCO initiative has already generated considerable community interest and the support from all levels of government will be a cornerstone to ensuring the success of the nomination.

I respectfully urge the federal government to be proactive and support the community's quest to recognize and preserve the rich legacy of Vancouver's Chinese Canadian community, through the establishment of a National Historic Site.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Libby Davies, MP  
Vancouver East

Room 551-S, Centre Block, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Telephone (613) 992-6030 Fax: (613) 995-7412  
E-mail: [daviel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:daviel@parl.gc.ca)

2412 Main Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V5T 3E2  
Telephone (604) 775-5800 Fax: (604) 775-5811

VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We hereby endorse the nomination of the

“Historic District of Chinatown - Vancouver, British Columbia”

as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

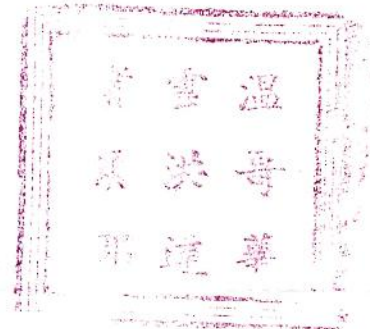
Organization: THE CHINESE FREEMASONS  
OF CANADA.

Name: HILBERT YIU.

Position: CHAIRMAN

Signature: *Hilbert Yiu*

Date: Feb. 26/09





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## Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden

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19 January 2009

Mr. Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner  
Vancouver Planning Department  
453 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mr. Jankovic:

### **Nomination of Chinatown as a National Historic Site**

On behalf of the Trustees of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society, I am please to write this letter of support for the nomination of Chinatown as a National Historic Site.

The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden opened in 1986, as the first full-sized Ming Dynasty garden constructed outside of China. Nine of the gardens in Suzhou, which inspired our Garden, are World Heritage Sites. Our Society is a registered not-for-profit organization. One of our important objectives is to "maintain and enhance the bridge of understanding between the Chinese and Western cultures."

Chinatown's history is as long as that of the city of Vancouver. After more than a century, Chinatown remains a vital home for the Chinese community, its social life, its business life and culture. The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden, which is located within the proposed National Historic Site, is evidence of the on-going enrichment of the cultural value of Chinatown.

At a meeting of the Garden Society on January 19, 2009, the Trustees unanimously agreed to support the nomination of Chinatown as a National Historic Site. We hope that the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada will agree to honour Chinatown with this designation.

Sincerely,

Doug Halverson  
President

華埠僑團傳統建築協會會議

**CHINATOWN SOCIETY HERITAGE BUILDINGS ASSOCIATION**

C/O 118 KEEFER STREET EAST VANCOUVER, BC V6A 1X4 (604) 879-5550

**RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF  
VANCOUVER CHINATOWN AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE**

**DULY PASSED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

---

**WHEREAS** the Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association is an organization in the community of the Historic District of Vancouver Chinatown, comprised of member organizations focused on the preservation of their society buildings that are of cultural, architectural and historical value for the benefit of the community at large,

**WHEREAS** the Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association mandate includes the preserving and conserving of Chinese Canadian Culture and Heritage and the promotion of heritage preservation and conservation to the public,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association supports the signing of the Statement of Support for the National Historic Site Designation of the Historic District of Vancouver Chinatown as proposed by the Board of Directors and authorizes the Association President and Vice-President to sign the Statement as representatives.



President

Fred Mah



Vice-President

Kan Yu



大溫哥華中華文化中心  
CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE OF GREATER VANCOUVER

City of Vancouver  
“Historic District of Chinatown – Vancouver, British Columbia”  
as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of  
Canada

February 28, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Nomination of the “Historic District of Chinatown – Vancouver, BC**


It is broadly accepted that the above-mentioned project is valuable in introducing the national historic sites in Canada.

As a non-profit organization established in 1973 in Chinatown, Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver (CCC) has been serving the Chinese community and the mainstream for more than 35 years with the mandate of promoting Chinese culture and multiculturalism. With the Headquarters located in Chinatown and a branch office in Richmond, we have cumulatively served millions of members and local residents in the past. We also have five Chinese school campuses at five different cities in the Lower Mainland. We provide the community with various cultural programs and educational courses every year.

We support the nomination of “**Historic District of Chinatown – Vancouver, British Columbia**” as a **National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.**

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

  
Mike Jang  
Chairman, CCC

VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We hereby endorse the nomination of the

"Historic District of Chinatown - Vancouver, British Columbia"

as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Organization: THE CONFEDERATION OF CANADIAN  
WUSHU ORGANIZATIONS, WESTERN CANADA.

Name: FRED KWOK.

Position: PRESIDENT



Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: FEB 28 / 2009



VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We hereby endorse the nomination of the


“Historic District of Chinatown - Vancouver, British Columbia”

as a National Historic Site with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Organization: CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER  
108 EAST PENDER ST. VANCOUVER, B.C. V6A 1T6

Name: MARY QUAN,

Position: VICE-PRESIDENT.

Signature: 



Date: FEB. 25, 2009



# 加拿大溫哥華中華會館 一九〇六年成立

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER

108 E. Pender St., Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6A 1T3 TEL: (604) 681-1923 Fax: (604) 682-0073

Established 1906

- |    |  |              |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1  | KIN FONG ATHLETIC CLUB                               | 北少林劍風體育館     |
| 2  | ACUPUNCTURE ASSOCIATION OF B.C.                      | 卑詩省針灸協會      |
| 3  | CHAU LUEN SOCIETY                                    | 昭倫親義公所       |
| 4  | CHENG WING YEONG TONG                                | 鄭榮陽總堂        |
| 5  | CHEUNG'S ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION                        | 張氏體育會        |
| 6  | CHIN WING CHUN TONG                                  | 陳穎川總堂        |
| 7  | CHINESE CANADIAN FISHERIES WORKERS' ASSOCIATION      | 華人漁業職工聯誼會    |
| 8  | CHINESE CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER          | 溫哥華華人消費者協會   |
| 9  | CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE OF VAN.                      | 溫哥華中華文化中心    |
| 10 | CHINESE FREEMASON – VANCOUVER BRANCH                 | 洪門民治黨支部      |
| 11 | CHINESE RESTAURANT WORKERS ASSOCIATION               | 餐館業華人職工聯誼會   |
| 12 | CHINESE UNIVERSITIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER | 溫哥華中國大專院校校友會 |
| 13 | CHING LIAN ASSOCIATION                               | 青聯會          |
| 14 | CHUNG AI PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB                           | 中藝攝影學會       |
| 15 | CHUNG SAN HOO TOW SOCIETY                            | 中山濠頭僑所       |
| 16 | DR.SUN YAT-SEN GARDEN SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER           | 中山公園         |
| 17 | FONG LEUN TONG SOCIETY                               | 鳳倫堂          |
| 18 | FRASER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION                         | 富里沙河區商會      |
| 19 | GEE FRATENAL SOCIETY                                 | 朱氏宗親會        |
| 20 | GEE HOW OAK TIN ASSOCIATION                          | 至孝篤親公所       |
| 21 | HON HSING ATHLETIC CLUB                              | 漢升體育會        |
| 22 | HOY FUNG ASSOCIATION                                 | 海鋒會          |
| 23 | HOY PING BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION                      | 全加開平總會館      |
| 24 | HOY PING MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIETY ALUMNI                | 開平各中學校友會     |
| 25 | HOY SUN ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER                     | 溫哥華台山同鄉會     |
| 26 | HOY YING ASSOCIATION                                 | 台山海晏總公所      |
| 27 | JIN WAH SING MUSICAL ASSOCIATION                     | 振華聲藝術研究社     |
| 28 | KONG CHOW BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION                     | 岡州總會館        |
| 29 | KWANGHAI SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER                        | 台山廣海同鄉會      |
| 30 | L.M. INDEPENDENT GROCERS' ASSOCIATION                | 平原獨立什貨同業商會   |
| 31 | LEE KWONG KAI ASSOCIATION                            | 李崗溪公所        |
| 32 | LEUNG'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION                       | 梁氏宗親會        |
| 33 | LEW MOW WAY TONG                                     | 廖武威堂         |
| 34 | LIM SAI HOR (KOW MOCK) BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION        | 林西河堂九牧公所     |
| 35 | LUNG JEN BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION                      | 中山陸鎮同鄉會      |
| 36 | MAH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER                  | 馬氏公所         |
| 37 | MAH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY – ATHLETIC DIVISION           | 馬氏體育會        |
| 38 | MAH SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA                         | 加拿大馬氏宗親總堂    |
| 39 | NAM YUNG TONG ASSOCIATION                            | 旅加南陽總堂       |
| 40 | S.M.C.C.E.S.S  | 中僑互助會        |
| 41 | SAM SOCIETY  | 岑氏宗親會        |
| 42 | SAM YAP SOCIETY                                      | 南番順三邑同鄉會     |
| 43 | SHAR DOEY MUTUAL SOCIETY                             | 沙堆僑安總堂       |
| 44 | SHON YEE BENEVOLENT ASS'N – ATHLETIC DIVISION        | 崇義體育會        |
| 45 | SHON YEE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER         | 鐵城崇義總堂       |
| 46 | SOO YUEN SOCIETY OF CANADA                           | 溯源總堂         |



47	STRATHCONA CHINESE DANCE CO.	士達孔拿中國舞蹈團
48	STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION	士達孔拿社區中心委員會
49	TSANG SUM SANG CLAN SOCIETY	曾三省堂宗親會
50	TSE CLANSMEN ASSOCIATION	謝氏宗親會
51	VANCOUVER CHINATOWN BARBECUE MERCHANTS ASS'N	溫哥華華埠燒臘商會
52	VANCOUVER CHINATOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION	華埠商會
53	VANCOUVER TAI CHI CHUAN ASSOCIATION	溫哥華太極拳社
54	WESTERN CANADA CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATION	加西中國國術總會
55	WONG HA ATHELETIC ASSOCIATION	黃蝦健身會
56	WONGS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION	黃氏宗親總會
57	YEE FUNG TOY SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER	溫哥華余風采堂
58	YIN PING BENEVOLENT SOCIETY	恩平總會館
59	YUE SHAN SOCIETY	禺山總公所
60	OY-QUANG SOCIETY	愛群總社
61	SAM DUCK SOCIETY	三德書社
62	HUNG HSING CHOY LEE FUT FED. OF CANADA	加拿大雄勝蔡李佛總會
63	SHAOLIN HUNG GAR KUNG FU ASSOCIATION	少林洪拳國術總會
64	ADVANCED GUANGDONG MUSIC ACADEMY	俊華曲藝粵劇中心
65	SING JEW LEW CHINESE SCHOOL	廖盛炤中文學校
66	ING SUEY SUN TONG ASSOCIATION	伍胥山公所
67	LEE'S ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER	雲埠李氏公所
68	THE NATIVES OF TOI SHAN SOCIETY	溫哥華台山會館
69	VANCOUVER FUJIANESE ASSOCIATION	溫哥華福建同鄉會
70	BEIJING FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION OF CANADA	旅加北京聯誼總會
71	TEO CHEW SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER	溫哥華潮州同鄉會
72	KEN LOW'S SHAOLIN KUNG FU INSTITUTE	劉勁錚少林功夫學院
73	CHIU CHOW BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF B.C.	加拿大省潮州會館
74	JIANGSU BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF B.C.	加拿大江蘇同鄉會
75	CANADA-CHINA SOCIETY OF SCIENCE AND TECH.	加拿大中國科學技術協會
76	CHEE DACK GEN TONG SOCIETY	至德總堂
77	THE ASSOCIATION OF LAU CLANSMEN OF CANADA	加拿大劉氏宗親總會
78	CANADA UNITED HAKKA ASSOCIATION	全加客屬聯誼會
79	TAM'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION	譚氏宗親會
80	NATIONAL CONGRESS OF CHINESE CANADIAN	全加華人聯會太平洋區分會
81	ZHONGSHAN SECONDARY SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	中中校友會
82	KO LUI BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF CANADA	加拿大湛江，茂名同鄉會
83	ZHONGSHAN ALLIED ASSOCIATION	溫哥華中山同鄉會
84	DART COON CLUB	雲埠達權支社
85	SENIOR CHINESE SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER	溫哥華老年華人協會
86	CANADA - CHINA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	加拿大中國商會
87	HESHAN ASSOCIATION OF B.C.	溫哥華鶴山同鄉會
88	OY-LIN KONG SHAW SOCIETY	周愛蓮公所
89	MING SUN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY	民星總社
90	CONFEDERATION OF CANADIAN WUSHU ORGANIZATIONS (WESTERN)	加拿大武術團體聯合總會
91	HOY CLANSMAN ASSOCIATION	許氏宗親會
92	SHUNG YING MARTIAL ART	崇英健身會
93	CHOY LAI FUT MARTIAL ARTS HALL	雄勝功夫學院
94	QUAN LUNG SAI ASSOCIATION	關隴西堂

## 24 City of Vancouver Heritage Register Listed Buildings.

Register records, including Statements of Significance, have been prepared for all listed buildings, according to required Provincial documentation standards. The records have been provided to the Provincial Registrar and are in the process of being added to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

433 - 445	Gore	
525 - 545	Gore	Chinese Nationalist League of Canada
401	Main	Carnegie Centre
501	Main	Bank of Commerce
1 - 21	East Pender	Chinese Times Building
23 - 25	East Pender	Ming Wo Building
27 - 29	East Pender	Wong's Benevolent Association (Han Shen Building)
33 - 47	East Pender	Yue Shan Society
51 - 69	East Pender	Wing Sang Building
78 - 80	East Pender	
79 - 83	East Pender	Cheng Wing Yeong Tong Benevolent Association (Jong Building)
104 - 108	East Pender	Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver
121 - 125	East Pender	Wong Benevolent Association (Mon Keong Chinese School)
127 - 133	East Pender	
135	East Pender	Lung Kong Kung Show
137 - 139	East Pender	Mah Society of Canada
158 - 160	East Pender	Chin Wing Chun Tong Society of Canada
166 - 168	East Pender	
254 - 262	East Pender	Shon Yee Benevolent Association (May Wah Hotel)
3 - 5	West Pender	Chinese Freemasons
2 - 14	West Pender	Sam Kee Building
509-511	Carrall	
488	Carrall	West Hotel
525 - 531	Carrall	Lim Sai Hor (Kow Mock) Benevolent Association



Undated postcard showing Carrall Street looking south from Pender c. 1906

*“Canada’s largest and most dynamic Chinese community”*

**Paul Yee (Saltwater City)**

*“I was very lucky because my book, [The Jade Peony] was a popular book as well as a critically successful one. But the point is they also said that it was an Asian story, an Asian Canadian story. Now I tell everybody, it’s a Canadian story, period.”*

**From an interview with Wayson Choy in *asian CANADIAN* (2002)**