

About James Bay

The fertile flat peninsula across the harbour from Fort Victoria is the neighbourhood we now know as James Bay. When the Europeans arrived, seasonal camps belonging to the ancestors of the Songhees First Nation dotted the cliffs, and a burial ground dominated Laurel Pt. Sir James Douglas had established the Fort in 1843, and he set aside much of the peninsula for Beckley Farm, to supply Hudson's Bay Company personnel. (The home farm stood near the intersection of Menzies & Simcoe.) Douglas built himself a fine home in 1852 on the north shore, facing the fort (now site of the Royal BC Museum). Later, Queen Victoria appointed Douglas as Governor of Vancouver Island, then of British Columbia. Douglas Street and the original James Bay were named for him. His son-in-law, Dr. J.S. Helmcken, the colony's first doctor, built next door the same year, and his home, Arbutus Lodge, survives on its original site, beside the museum, the oldest surviving building in the city.

After construction of the first legislative buildings for the Colony of Vancouver Island in 1858-60, and the first James Bay Bridge in 1859 (now the Causeway), the surrounding area became desirable residential property for Victoria's social and political elite, who built substantial homes nearby. Woodlands, built in 1861, (140 Government) is the oldest surviving residence still in use in James Bay, but many other villas have succumbed to development. Several of the Carr family homes have survived.

During the 1880s and '90s, James Bay's west end became an important industrial area, with a flour mill, grain elevator, shipyard, furniture factory, biscuit factory, woollen mill and fish-processing plant. This prompted further modest residential construction. The increased population led to building the substantial South Park School in 1894 and the Beacon Hill School (now residences) in 1914. The popularity of the area was cemented by the opening of the vast new Legislature in 1898 and the reclamation of the original James Bay for the Empress Hotel in 1901. The "Outer Wharves" at the tip of the peninsula (now cruise-ship docks) and completion of the huge Ogden Point Breakwater (1917), to encourage shipping, also spurred home-building. Grand homes, like 228 Douglas St, continued to be built until the First World War. Whole streets of modest workers' cottages were also added during World War II, to accommodate busy shipyards. Redevelopment and modernization in the 1950s-70s destroyed many historic structures.

Community activism in the 1970s persuaded municipal government to restrict the tide of highrises and to preserve some of James Bay's heritage buildings. But the current building boom is once again taking its toll on James Bay's beautiful old homes and streetscapes.

VICTORIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The City of Victoria has a fine record in the field of heritage conservation in Canada. For over 50 years, Victoria has demonstrated leadership in furthering the preservation of our heritage resources. Since 1978, the City of Victoria has offered funding assistance to owners of Heritage Designated houses, and since 1983, the Victoria Heritage Foundation (VHF) has administered this grants program. Grants are awarded for structural work, seismic upgrading, and rehabilitation and maintenance of exteriors and designated interiors, outbuildings, walls and fences. There are now over 400 Designated houses, the newest being built in 1969; most have received grants. 89 have won Hallmark Heritage Society Awards for rehabilitation. In 1989, the City established Victoria Civic Heritage Trust to extend its successful program of grants to include commercial, institutional, industrial & apartment buildings, and in 1998 the City began a tax incentive program to help fund seismic upgrading in downtown buildings.

If you own or plan to purchase an old house in the City & would like to consider Designating, contact the City of Victoria.

For more information about the residential funding program for Designated houses, contact:

Victoria Heritage Foundation

☎ 250 383-4546

vhf@victoriaheritagefoundation.ca

www.victoriaheritagefoundation.ca

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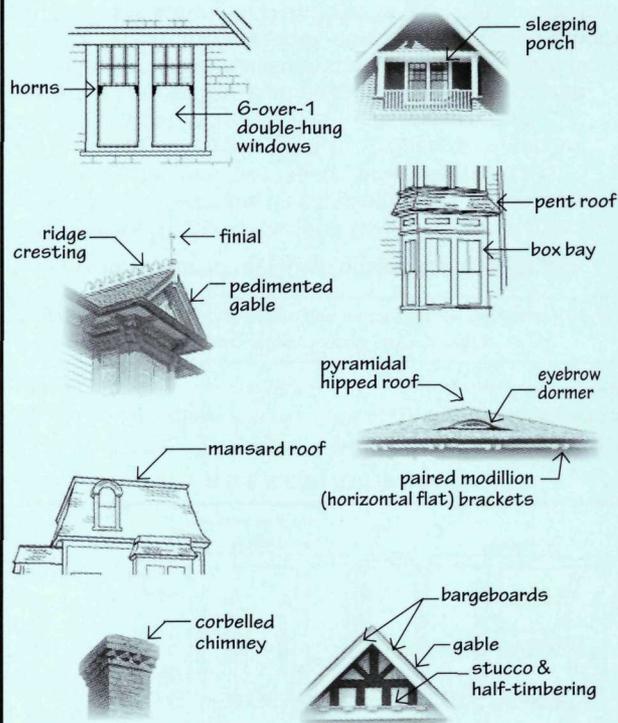
JAMES BAY HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

EMILY CARR WALK

James Bay is Victoria's oldest neighbourhood. This self-guided walking tour briefly describes some of its history and selected buildings along a route that begins and ends at the corner of Government and Superior Streets, just south of the Inner Harbour. The walk includes many of the streets where writer and artist Emily Carr lived and members of the Carr family owned several homes. The route covers approximately 3.2 km (2 miles), taking about 2 hours to complete. You may want to take a break in James Bay Village or have a picnic in Beacon Hill Park or by the Dallas Road cliffs where Emily liked to sketch.



ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES



Victoria Heritage Foundation (VHF) in partnership with the City of Victoria, has produced *Neighbourhood Heritage Walking Tour* brochures for parts of the James Bay, North Park, Fernwood, Hillside-Quadra, Fairfield & Burnside neighbourhoods. These are available from Victoria City Hall, the Tourist Info Centre on the Inner Harbour, VHF and locations throughout the neighbourhoods. The VHF website includes the walking tours, complete with photos of all buildings.

Detailed architectural information on James Bay buildings listed on the City of Victoria's Heritage Register, with a great deal of social history & many photographs, old & new, can be found in the Victoria Heritage Foundation's publication

This Old House, Victoria's Heritage Neighbourhoods, Volume 2: James Bay

All four volumes of *This Old House* are available at Victoria City Hall & local independent booksellers

TYPICAL JAMES BAY HOUSING STYLES



Italianate

(1860-1900)

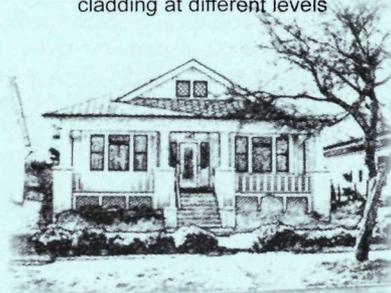
Cubical, symmetrical façade with low-pitched roof
Typical features: • small front porch • overhanging eaves with decorative brackets • angled & box bay windows often 2-storeys • tall, narrow double-hung windows • no beltcourse



Edwardian Foursquare

(1900-1920)

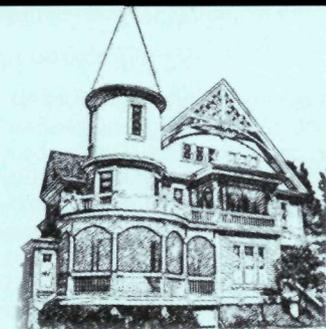
Low-pitched hip-roofed 2-storey box
Typical features: • 4 rooms on each level • wide eaves • prominent front porch • horizontal features such as belt course & contrasting cladding at different levels



Colonial Bungalow

(1905-1925)

Economical 1-storey, hip-roofed (often bellcast) bungalow
Typical features: • at least 1 dormer • wide projecting eaves • inset verandah • Classical columns or posts with simplified capitals



Queen Anne

(1880-1910)

Asymmetrical façade with steeply-pitched roof
Typical features: • a variety of surface treatments • turrets, finials, decorated cornices and bargeboards • prominent front porch with spindlework • cutaway angled bay windows • double-hung windows



Edwardian Vernacular Arts & Crafts

(1904-1914)

A common builder's style in Victoria. 1½-storeys, steeply-pitched roof, belt course, symmetrical main floor, symmetrical upper,
Typical features: • front-gabled • side dormers • inset corner porch balanced by bay window • contrasting cladding at different levels

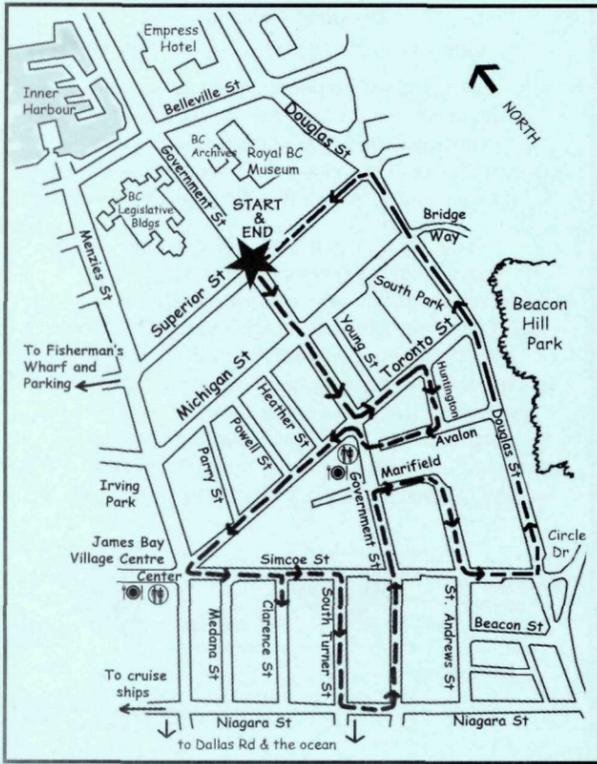


British Arts & Crafts

(1905-1930)

Vernacular building types from British regions/periods
Typical features: • asymmetrical design • Tudor references such as stucco with half-timbering • informal, functional plan • prominent chimney

JAMES BAY HERITAGE WALKING TOUR



ABBREVIATIONS

DHeritage Designated	A&C.....Arts & Crafts
RHeritage Registered	EV.....Edwardian Vernacular
arch.....architect	QA.....Queen Anne

• Please respect residents' privacy

• Many buildings described are not on the City's Heritage Register

Start at SE corner of Government & Superior Sts

601 Superior **R** 1878 arch. John Teague, many alterations. Owners Dennis & Martha Harris, daughter of Sir James & Lady Amelia Douglas. (see "About James Bay", over)

563 Superior SW corner **R** 1926-28 *Queen's Printer*, Art Deco style, arch. LW Hargreaves for BC Government.

507 Government **D** left side 1890s, right side 1911, arch. Wm Ridgway Wilson, Italianate style, heritage colour scheme. Moved in 1996 from Michigan St, now *Abbeyfield* seniors' home.

514, 506 1885 Italianate, arch. John Teague; note brackets, bay windows. **506** **R** owners Susan & John Robson, BC Premier 1889-92. **514** **R** owners daughter Francis (Robson) & Joseph Hunter.

501 **R** 1915 *Bird Cages Confectionery*, Kleanthes "Pete" & Orsa Metro ran the corner store.

400-block Government: From the 1860s, this was the centre of Naylor-McConnell farm. North of this block was Bird Cage Walk, south was Carr St. (after Richard Carr, **207** Government) When the street was put through in 1907, all sections became known as Government St.

432-34 1912 side-gabled Craftsman Bungalow.

424 1934 designer/builder James Fairall for widowed Emma Naylor as an investment property, this lot still owned by family after almost 150 years. Large modern addition on roof.

433, 429, 427 originally 4 (**431** was demolished in 1979) vernacular 1880s houses facing Young St. In 1908 they were given Government St addresses.

← Turn left on Toronto St

601, 603, 609 Toronto 1891, owners Margaret & William Garnham; houses all raised. **601** **R** & **603** **R** QA-style cottages. **609** **D** Second Empire style, Mansard roof. 2001 owners won Hallmark Heritage Society & Heritage BC Awards.

608 1904 A&C. Martha Sheppard, McConnell granddaughter, built on SE corner of Naylor-McConnell farm property.

→ Turn right on Huntington Pl

314 **D** & **310** **D** **Huntington** 1890 QA, builder Eli Beam. Fancy shingles, brackets, spindles, balusters. **310** John Fullerton, engineer on HBC's SS Beaver. 1974 owners won National Heritage Award.

→ Turn right on Avalon Rd

634 Avalon **D** 1890 QA, 1980s roof addition on west side.

623 **D** 1899 QA, shed-roofed dormer, 1950s asbestos siding.

624 **D** 1904 EV A&C, arch. Samuel Maclure. Owners Christina (Lorimer) & Fred Widdowson; Christina taught at *South Park School*.

619 **D** 1891 Italianate, 2-storey angled front bay, 3 types of brackets. Owners Elizabeth (Lorimer) & Frederick Jackson.

616 **D** 1907 & **614** **D** 1908 EV A&C, finials in apex of gables, oriel (hanging) bay windows, unusual multi-over-1 windows. Builder Bert Knights. **614** *Withernsea*, original owners Lydia & John Margison, grandparents of tenor Richard Margison.

613 **D** 1890 *Rose Thorp*, QA cottage, coloured QA glass, 5 types of brackets, widow's walk on roof, Eastlake-style porch details, period colour scheme.

610 **D** 1891 unusual QA, arch. John Teague. House was moved here from Superior St in 1914; stuccoed over original drop siding, which was steamed to go around inset tower.

Corner of Avalon Rd & Government St

303 Government **D** 1889-90 QA cottage, note eyebrow dormer, spiral molding in gables, bay windows, glass & brackets. Owner/builder George Bishop was partner of Frederick Sherborne who built **255** (on SE corner) **D** 1892, with many millwork details, not in period colours.

270 James Bay Inn 1911 2-storey rooming house; oriel bay windows, recessed upper verandahs, metal faux-pantile roofs. Arch. C Elwood Watkins, owners/builders Parfitt Bros, prolific Victoria contractors. Originally part of the property owned by Edward (Bishop) Cridge. Emily Carr (see **207** Government) spent her last days here in 1945 when it was St. Mary's Priory Guest House.

Cross Government St, ← turn left on Toronto St

589 Toronto **D** built 1903 to north on Government, moved 1910, then 1927 to here. Edwardian Classical Revival/QA, pedimented entrance, Corinthian columns, tower balanced by 2-storey bay.

588 **D** 1892 QA cottage, steep hipped roof with front & side gables over large bays with cutaway corners & brackets, fishscale shingles, scrollsawn cutouts in gable bargeboards.

585 1912 Colonial Bungalow with A&C details.

582 1892 vernacular worker's cottage with later porch hood.

583, 577 1909 EV A&C, **583** stuccoed over original siding.

574-76 1911 EV A&C, owners Wm Lorimer & daughter Annie, built on Lorimers' original 1870 farm property. Wm & Annie died a day apart in Nov 1918, victims of the Spanish flu.

569 1911 Edwardian Foursquare, bellcast roof, original garage.

548 1910 Colonial Bungalow of concrete brick, concrete block base & steps, slate roof, segmental arches over windows, sidelights & transom original front door; newer dormer.

526 **D** 1904 Colonial Bungalow; its mate **522** demolished 2007.

Five Corners intersection, centre of historic & present-day James Bay village.

← Turn left on Simcoe St

512 Simcoe **R** 1885 *Bent Mast Restaurant*, 1911 additions by arch. Crawford Coates. Classical entrance porch, later stucco siding. 1975 owner won Hallmark Society Award.

• look across street on Menzies St corner

141-143-145-147-159 Menzies 1911 arch. Thomas Hooper, built for Windsor Grocery; round corner tower, angled oriel bays.

Continue on Simcoe St

507 Simcoe 1910 built as private school, Mansard roof; modern stucco over original siding.

521 1899 Italianate, arch. Thomas Hooper. New windows, modified front porch after 1970s fire.

• look right on Clarence St at 2nd house on right

146 Clarence **D** 1883; 1893 north part, arch. Samuel Maclure. 1907-12 owner Wm Wallace Gibson built, in back yard, first Canadian-built aeroplane to fly in western Canada: 8 Sep 1910, 200' over Lansdowne field. 1977 owners won Hallmark Heritage Society Award.

Continue on Simcoe St, → turn right on South Turner St

161 South Turner **D** 1911 A&C Edwardian Foursquare, designer/builder Alex McCrimmon for Elizabeth & George Sangster.

155 1911 British A&C Bungalow variation, heavy hipped roof; also by McCrimmon for Sangsters.



154 **D** 1896 QA, inverted columns, weathervane, eyebrow dormer, (original siding covered with asbestos shingles), original carriage house at rear. Arch/builder/owner George C & Janet Mesher; Briggs family owned 1904-2004.

141 1914 California Bungalow, characteristic low-pitched, front-gabled roof, 1990s Japanese-style gateway.

133 **D** 1903 Eclectic QA, Willemetta & Cowper Wm Newbury.

132 **D** 1889 QA. Steep-pitch gabled dormer with sleeping porch, elaborate bargeboard, posts and brackets. 1990 owners won Hallmark Heritage Society Award.

126 1906 A&C cross-gabled with returns on ends of gables; original inset corner porch filled in, wrap-around verandah with gazebo added.

122 **D** 1907 A&C Bungalow, garage studio built 1997. Owners Elsie (Arthur) & William Lorimer, assistant city treasurer. His sisters lived at **619, 624 Avalon, 574-76 Toronto**. Elsie taught at *South Park School* before marriage; daughter Jean taught there 16 years.

121-23 1890s, renovated in 1970s, new windows & siding.

117-19 **D** 1893 Italianate, 2-storey box bays. Built for Mary Walker, matron of BC Protestant Orphanage.

116, 112, 106, 102 1890-95 Italianate, note different trims to order from the millwork factory: **116** **D** Andrew Schnoter, manager, Victoria & Vancouver cigar factories. **112** covered in vinyl siding & windows, brackets removed. **106** **R** full-width hipped roof with appearance of narrow balcony serves as porch roof & cover for angled bay. **102** **D** pedimented porch & two 2-storey bays.

← Turn left on Niagara St

570 Niagara **R** 1908 A&C Edwardian Foursquare, well-detailed, unusual windows, rustic twig fencing, brilliant garden. Owner/builder Herbert T. Knott.

576 1905 Colonial Bungalow, brick & stone foundation, terracotta-coloured tuck pointing on granite, unusual arched window. Walter & "Peep" Luney's 1st house. He was a bricklayer, then partner in Luney Brothers, major Victoria contractors.

584 1890s QA cottage, simple brackets.

606 **D** 1907 British A&C cottage, *Aelia Cottage*, arch/builder George C Mesher for Rosabella & George Jennings Burnett, composer, organist & choirmaster. Parlour held 486-pipe organ. Built-in garage added for family's first motor car.

← Turn left & proceed north on Government St

East side 100-block Government:

9 A&C houses of various types in a row: **107** 1907 A&C Colonial Bungalow; **115** 1910, architect Thomas Sederger.

119-21 1908 built to plans in *Seattle* magazine, note triple-gabled dormer; **123-25, 127, 133, 143, 145** 1905-07 EV A&C, front-gabled roof with dormers, 1½ storeys, asymmetrical main, symmetrical upper, inset porch balanced by bay window. Builders Wm Y McCarter & Wm Drysdale.

151 **R** 1909 Edwardian Foursquare, classical modillions (flat brackets), bellcast hipped roof; beaded, bull-nosed, double-bevelled siding.

West side 100-block Government:

118 1911 Edwardian Foursquare variation, arch. Thomas Hooper for widow Frances Mansell & family.

124 1919 Craftsman Bungalow, bellcast gables, leaded lights.

128 **D** 1936 English Revival cottage, arch. Hugh Nalight for Frances Mansell's (**118** Government) daughter Alice & younger brothers after Frances died; note subtle curves of front catslide gable, steps & balustrade, 1930s windows.

130-32 **D** 1905 Claremont Edwardian Foursquare, note metal roof ridges; arch. Samuel Maclure for Henry & Jessie Martin, sister of John & Cowper Newbury (**133** S Turner). 1994 owners won Hallmark Heritage Society Award.

140 **D** 1861 *Woodlands*. The oldest surviving residence still in use in James Bay. Italianate Villa style, built of California redwood, note chimneys, variant on Palladian window, 1860s colour scheme. Arch. Wright & Sanders for James Bisset, HBC. 1909 alterations by arch. Samuel Maclure for John & Emma Newbury. 1992 owners won Hallmark Heritage Society Award.

203-05 (on corner) **D** 1929 Mission style, intended as garage, but neighbours protested, so it became a house.

207 **D** c.1863 *Richard Carr House* (photo on cover), arch. Wright & Sanders for Richard Carr, commission merchant. Italianate Villa style, note chimneys, finials, drops & urns, battened-wood verandah roof, 1860s colour scheme. It is now a museum celebrating youngest daughter, Emily Carr, renowned artist & writer; born here, she lived in **642-6** Simcoe, then with sister Alice in **218-20** St. Andrews. She died at **270** Government. The original Carr estate was 10 acres of Beckley Farm and extended roughly between Government, Marfield, Douglas & Simcoe Sts. In 1911 the estate was subdivided into 20 lots, 5 of these went to the 5 Carr sisters.

229 1905 *Westview*, Edwardian Classical, now stuccoed; note wall dormer, elegant verandah, granite foundation.

→ Turn right on Marfield Av

614 Marfield 1893 arch. JCM Keith, unusual house.

→ Turn right on St Andrews St

232 St Andrews 1912 A&C, long banks of double-hung multi-diamond-paned leaded lights over single panes; arch. EW Arnold B Stoten, builders Wm Dunford & Son.

231 **D** 1913 *Edith Carr House*, Edwardian Foursquare, half-timbering & shingle siding. The house was built for eldest sister Edith, sister Lizzie also lived here. By 1917 they both moved back to 207 Government to care for their mother.

218-20 **D** pre-1903 *Alice Carr House & School*, vernacular Edwardian cottage with many additions. Alice Carr operated a private school at this location. Emily had a studio here from 1919-22. After a heart attack in 1940, she moved in with Alice in a separate flat at the back at **220** & taught painting here. She died in 1945. Emily is buried along with the Carr family at Ross Bay Cemetery.

204 1927 English Revival cottage, arch. Percy Fox; original roughcast stucco, tapered chimney, chimney pots, oval windows.

← Turn left on Simcoe St

634-36 Simcoe 1911 Edwardian Foursquare, concrete block wall.

638 1923 1½-storey Craftsman Bungalow, builder Alex McCrimmon; heavy battered piers, deep verandah, trellis. Refinished.

642-46 **R** 1913 *The House of All Sorts*, British A&C, symmetrical façade, main level now covered in stucco; arch. John Wilson for Emily Carr, as boarding house; she described her trials & tribulations in book of same name; Emily painted two First Nations-style eagles in attic that are protected by Provincial Heritage Designation. (The house is private.)

← Turn left on Douglas St

Beacon Hill Park **D** Across street: 220 acres set aside in 1849 as "Park Reserve" by James Douglas. In 1953 Alice Carr had a stone bridge built at the south end of Goodacre Lake as a memorial to her sister Emily. Bridge is located just a few steps inside the park, near the corner of Douglas and Avalon.

228 Douglas **D** 1907 arch. Samuel Maclure. British A&C Tudor Revival, large corbelled chimneys, stucco & half-timbering, recessed sleeping porch. This is the last remaining large mansion facing Beacon Hill Park.

South Park School

508 **D** 1894 *South Park School*, arch. Wm Ridgway Wilson, QA style based on red brick schools in London, England, with Dutch Baroque & Classical features. It is the oldest continuously functioning school west of Montreal.

← Turn left on Superior St

649 Superior **D** 1897 A&C cottage, arch. Samuel Maclure for Robert Porter whose family lived here until mid-1990s; symmetrical façade, pair of box bays either side of open porch, bellcast gable-on-hip roof.

Return to starting point at Government & Superior Sts

photo 1907, Barber Bros.

photo c. 1905, collection Briggs family