

## HERITAGE

## Vancouver

Newsletter

Commemorating the  
lost community of

## MOODYVILLE

by Gary Penway

**M**oodyville was once the largest and most advanced European settlement in Burrard Inlet. Today, it has literally disappeared. No buildings survive. Today, its full history and even its accurate location are only known to a few.

Moodyville was a company town that formed around a saw-mill business on the North Shore of Burrard Inlet. The mill began in 1862 with a pre-emption of 480 acres, comprising all of District Lots 272 and 273 (see map).

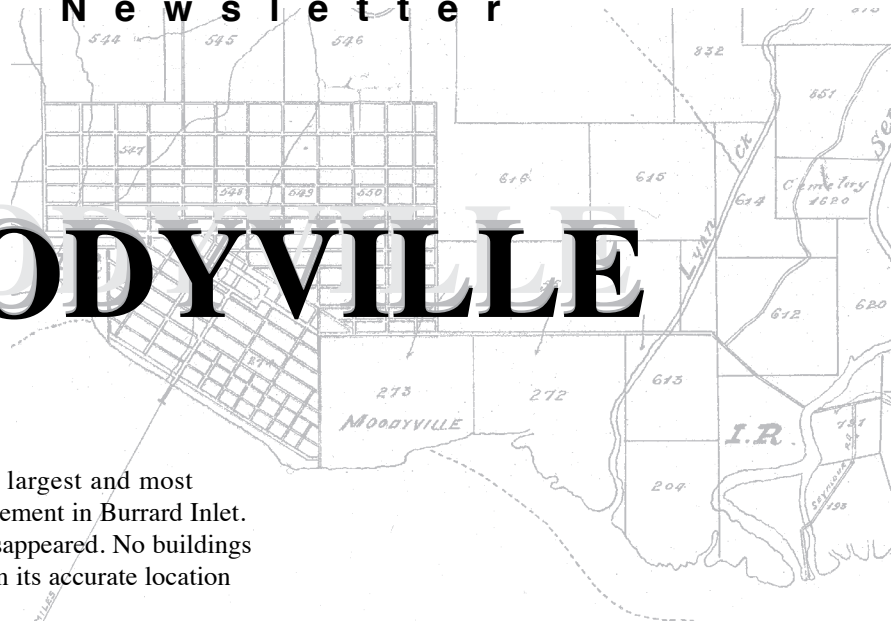
For the next 40 years the mill and community were a landmark on the North Shore. Sewell Prescott Moody is the person most associated with Moodyville, however, Hugh Nelson (BC's 4th Lieutenant Governor, City of Nelson/Nelson Street name-sake) and many others were very involved.

Moodyville was a leader in the settlement of Burrard Inlet, boasting:

- 1ST EXPORT OF LUMBER
- 1ST INTERNATIONAL EXPORT
- 1ST CHRISTIAN SERVICE
- 1ST FRATERNAL CLUB
- 1ST LIBRARY
- 1ST SCHOOL

Moodyville was also the first community north of San Francisco to have landbased electric lights. It was a multicultural community where alcohol and gambling were forbidden. Moody died in 1875 but the Mill operated until 1901.

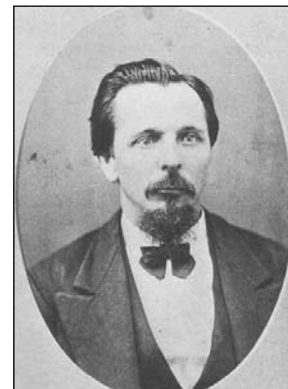
With its closure, development on the North Shore shifted to a new focal point at the Foot of Lonsdale Avenue. That was several blocks west of Moodyville. Most of the history of North Vancouver is associated with this later Lonsdale development. Moodyville was gradually annexed into the City of North Vancouver (1907/1915/1925). Grain elevators now mark the site of the Moodyville dock.



1891 map showing Moodyville (D.L. 272 and 273)



Ships at dock in Moodyville



S. P. Moody

BC Archives

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 17, 2000 8 PM

### Mount Pleasant—Vancouver's Uptown

As one of the first neighbourhoods to receive heritage related zoning we look at how well it has worked. Contrasting the well known houses of 10th Avenue in relationship to the neighbourhood's more recent heritage inspired developments and comment on what the future might hold for the area.

**Walking Tour:** Sunday, May 21st. Heritage Vancouver presents a walking tour of Mount Pleasant with Bruce MacDonald. Call 254. 9411 for info and reservations.

## SUMMER HV Events

**F**or our summer meetings Heritage Vancouver breaks out of the Vancouver Museum and will be meeting in some interesting locations and hosting some interesting meetings.

Our June meeting will be in Yaletown, where on Wednesday the 21st from 6:30 to 7:30, you are invited to a members only reception at **Councillor Gordon Price's** Yaletown condominium. Here's a chance to take in the view of this former industrial neighbourhood and talk to Councillor Price about heritage, urbanism, bikes and living downtown. It's a fundraising event for HV (tickets are a reasonable \$5.00) and space is limited. For reservations call the HV line at 254.9411.

At 8 pm, everyone is invited to join Councillor Price and John Hunt, president of Yaletown Business Improvement Association, at the Roundhouse Community Centre for a walking tour of Yaletown. See how this area is still evolving from its industrial warehouse past into one of this city's trendiest neighbourhoods.

Our July meeting takes place in Strathcona. On Wednesday July 19th, we're going to look at some recent heritage projects in Vancouver's oldest neighbourhood. Recent developments in Strathcona have included restorations, new construction and infill buildings. For this meeting we'll meet two people working in the neighbourhood and tour their projects. We'll learn first hand about the challenges involved in working with heritage in this neighbourhood. Meet at 921 Princess Avenue at 7.30pm.

In August, we'll meet outside the Vancouver Museum on the 16th at 7.30pm for a walk in the neighbourhood, it will give us a chance to meet the members of Heritage Vancouver as we take a ramble looking at buildings and landscape. Its a perfect way to relax before we begin our regular program in September.

Look for Heritage Vancouver's Fall Walk and Talk Series: Vice and Heritage!

## Vancouver Modern

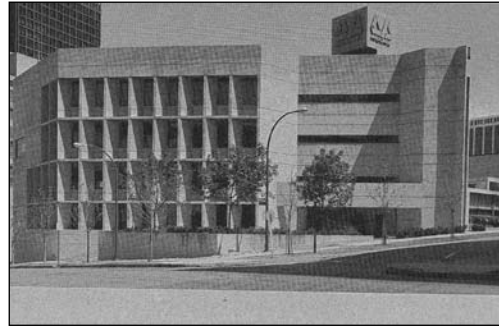


Photo: Carol Moore Ede, 1969

## Moore office hardly brutal

by *Robert Moffat*

Moore office  
626 Bute Street  
McCarter, Nairne & Partners 1968

**B**rutalism is probably the most reviled form of modern architecture today. Widely popular during the 1960s and 70s, the styles massive, sculpted concrete walls and rough textures were pioneered by Le Corbusier and championed in Vancouver by Arthur Erickson. But in the hands of some practitioners, Brutalism became well, brutal. Overbearing and oppressive are the more polite terms used to describe some examples. And Vancouver's damp climate tends to stain and darken the concrete, exacerbating the effect.

The Moore Business Forms office is Brutalism at its best. Relatively small in scale, the building nonetheless anchors a difficult sloping corner site in a surprisingly delicate and well-integrated manner. Architect Blair MacDonald covered barely half the site with the structure, inserting a

slanted, stepped pedestrian walkway and a triangular-shaped garden in the front corner. Mixed deciduous trees provide shade in the summer and cast intricate patterns on sunny winter days.

MacDonald also used natural light to best advantage. Concrete sunscreens shield the deeply recessed front windows from the strong western sun, while slit windows opposite the elevator bank and down the side stairwell provide interesting illumination effects. Glass skylights brighten the low, cavelike entrance. Textured concrete paving seamlessly enters the reception area, bisected only by the smooth glass of the entrance window wall.

No longer the home of its original owners, the Moore office was recently under pressure by a development scheme involving the construction of additional stories and other modifications. Those plans thankfully seem to be shelved for now, leaving the building in its original state.

**General Meeting  
third Wednesday  
of each month**

Vancouver Museum  
Ray Whittick Lounge  
(business meeting 7:30,  
speaker's program 8:00)  
There's plenty of free  
parking—please join us!

Non members are  
welcome by a suggested  
donation of \$2.00

## For Sale

Digital answering machine.  
No tapes, accessible remote.  
HV is now on a voice mail  
system and no longer needs  
it. Was \$90, asking \$45.

Phone Susanna at 734-2933

## Mark Your Calendar

### SYMPOSIUM 2000

#### The Conservation of Heritage Interiors

May 17 to 20, 2000  
Ottawa ON \$400

Symposium 2000 will emphasize the kinds of professional collaboration required to plan and execute successful conservation projects in historic interior spaces. This international symposium, organized in collaboration with the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) and the Heritage Conservation Program of Public Works and Government Services Canada, will offer a chance to share information about current examination and treatment practices, problems and solutions in project management, and the innovative use of materials that will benefit those who are responsible for the preservation and rehabilitation of heritage interiors.

For more info:

christine\_bradley@pch.gc.ca.

### Until June 10

#### Picturing the Past

This photography-based exhibition chronicles the many architectural, social and economic changes that West Vancouver communities have undergone over the past one hundred years, since Model T Fords rambled down dirt streets and women with parasols strolled across wooden sidewalks. West Vancouver Museum and Archives, 680 17th St., West Vancouver. Tuesday — Saturday 12:00 - 4:30 PM.

### Art Deco in British Columbia: NURSES AND TOTEMS

*The Roaring Twenties and the Dirty Thirties*

Donald Luxton

Thursday, May 25, 2000, 7 PM

British Columbia's economy boomed during the 1920s, and the stylish influence of Art Deco rapidly found its way to the West Coast. We see the first stirrings of this new style as early as 1928, but its lavish expression was short-lived, as the onset of the Great Depression caused a shift to simpler, more modernistic designs. Throughout the province we find examples of Art Deco and Streamline Moderne structures, sometimes in the most surprising regional adaptations. This talk will bring into focus the wide range of our Art Deco legacy, from the gigantic nurses of the Medical Dental Building to the stylized totems of Prince Rupert City Hall.

### Donald Luxton

Donald Luxton is a heritage consultant, educator, author and preservation advocate based in Vancouver.

### Lectures at the

Vancouver Museum

1100 Chestnut Street

Admission for Deco Society and Heritage

Vancouver Members: \$6 - Non-Members \$8



## Paws Off the Prospect Point Bridge!

*Banner drop on the Prospect Point Overpass*

Saturday, April 15, Heritage Vancouver demonstrated their concern with the Provincial Highways Ministry replacement plans for the 1938 Art Deco Prospect Point Bridge, at the South end of Lions Gate Bridge. The concern is that a utilitarian, highway-style overpass is to be built to accommodate causeway widening. Heritage Vancouver unrolled two giant "Paws Off!" banners from the top of the endangered bridge. Our HV media spokesperson for this demonstration was Don Luxton.

Since this demonstration we have started discussions with the Ministry and hope to come to an amicable solution.



Don Luxton interviewed for TV news coverage



Some of our HV demonstrators

# Words from the President

Dear Members,

Take the time to observe, walk a different route to the grocery store or drive through a different area of the city, you'll be amazed at what you'll find. And guess what? That creates awareness which contributes to the success of heritage advocacy. Politicians and bureaucrats hate it when people are aware of the issues. It means the pat answers they're used to giving won't work. Remember their original responses to the Stanley Theatre, Mole Hill or the Lions Gate Bridge?

Last week I walked past the Stadium Hotel on Cambie Street (the old El Cid) and I noticed that the fake paneling across the ground floor was gone. Underneath was the original stone work, columns and arches. I don't know what the owners plans are but this looks like a good first step. Its easy to notice and act on big issues and projects but small things such as this can easily be missed. Heritage Vancouver tries to keep you up to date with what's happening in heritage throughout the city but you can play a role too by letting us know when you've seen something of interest, good or bad.

Now, I hope you are having as much fun as I am with our programming. We had an excellent evening in April with the topic of Gastown. It was great to hear how for once business, the City and heritage advocates were all on the same page. There are two more walks and talks in the current series check the upcoming events column. For the summer, we have a couple of fun things planned. Wednesday July 19th, we're going to look at some recent developments in Strathcona. We'll learn first hand about the challenges involved in working with heritage in this neighbourhood. Meet at 921 Princess Avenue, 7:30pm.

In August, we'll meet outside the Vancouver Museum on the 16th at 7:30pm for an informal walk through the Kitsilano neighbourhood. A perfect way to relax before we begin our regular program in September with the Fall Series: Vice and Heritage!

Lastly, hats off to everyone who worked on the Paws Off demonstration

Cheers



John Atkin  
Interm President, Heritage Vancouver

from **Moodyville** cover

Remarkably little has been done to commemorate Moodyville or its accomplishments. The City of North Vancouver is now considering several initiatives, including:

- ❶ an enhancement of Moody Park;
- ❷ return the name *Moodyville Road* to Low Level Road;
- ❸ adding a Moodyville insignia to all street signs within DL 272 and 273;
- ❹ installing roadside markers along *Moodyville Road*.

If completed, these initiatives should help bring back an identity for Moodyville. Hopefully, it will also end the well-meaning but misguided attempts to apply the name Moodyville to the much later development in Lower Lonsdale.

Moodyville is an excellent example of the need for heritage conservation. Without it, the history and very identity of an entire community can be lost.

*Gary Penway is a Planner with the City of North Vancouver*

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<http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

## Join Heritage Vancouver

Annual membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members receive a monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' programs and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Charitable donation #1073758-52. Membership fees are not tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: \$25                       Supporting (no newsletter) \$5  
 Family: \$30                               Corporate: \$50  
 Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_               Patrons: \$100

Please send cheque or money order to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3