

Reference Materials – West Vancouver Architecture & Heritage

District of West Vancouver's Heritage web page

[See: <https://westvancouver.ca/arts-culture/heritage>]

Downs, Barry. *The Poetics of West Coast Modernism in West Vancouver*. West Vancouver: West Vancouver Cultural Services, 2005.

F.G. Architectural & Planning Consultants. *The West Vancouver Survey of Significant Architecture 1945 – 1975*. West Vancouver: District of West Vancouver, 1993.

[See: <https://archives.westvancouver.ca/link/descr13309>]

Foundation Group Designs. *West Vancouver Heritage Inventory*. West Vancouver: District of West Vancouver, 4th ed., 2003.

[See: <https://archives.westvancouver.ca/link/descr13308>]

Luxton, Donald, ed. *Building the West: Early Architects of British Columbia*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2003.

Reference Materials – West Vancouver Neighbourhoods

Hall, Peter. *Place Names of West Vancouver*. West Vancouver, 2004.

Mansbridge, Francis. *Cottages to Community: The Story of West Vancouver's Neighbourhoods*. West Vancouver: West Vancouver Historical Society, 2011.

Ramsay, Bruce. *A Place of Excellence: A Chronicle of West Vancouver, 1912-1987*. West Vancouver: Corporation of the District of West Vancouver, 1987.

West Vancouver Archives. *Destinations Time Walk* (web exhibit with heritage walks).

[See: <https://archives.westvancouver.ca/link/descr39303>]

Specific Property Information – Municipal Hall

Municipal Hall | 780 17th Street | <https://westvancouver.ca>

Requires photographic identification and written permission of owner

Engineering

- Water cards which record utility hook-up dates

Legislative Services

- Documents and agreements, e.g. easements, right-of-way, party-to-party agreements, filed by agreement number

Permits & Inspections

- History cards on individual properties, filed by address
- House plans
- Property search, or Comfort Letter
- Right-of-way plans for Statutory Right of Way (SRW) are available for viewing
- For more on property information, see <https://westvancouver.ca/business-development/building-development/building-permits-inspections/property-information>

Specific Property Information – West Vancouver Archives

Gertrude Lawson House | 680 17th Street | <https://westvancouver.ca/arts-culture/heritage/archives>

Public research hours: Wednesday and Thursday 1:00–4:30, by appointment only

- Clipping files on areas in West Vancouver
- Historical and aerial photographs
- Orthophotographs and other area maps
- Legal plans
- Architectural drawings
- Microfilm and microfiche copies of local newspapers, including
 - *Lions Gate Times*, later the *Times of North and West Vancouver* (1939-1976)
 - *North Shore News* (1976-2002)
 - *West Van. News*, later the *West Vancouver News* (1926-1957) available online at <https://archives.westvancouver.ca/>
- Fire insurance plans (1930, 1938)
- *BC Directory* (1920, 1921, 1935, 1937-1942, 1944-1994):
Directories were compiled by private firms for commercial sale, and include business and residential listings. Listings may include residents' names, spouse names, occupation, and street address.

- Tax Assessment Rolls (1912 to 1974):
These are the official records of property values and taxes owed, dating to the incorporation of the municipality in 1912. The information found in the registers can be used to determine when a house was built, the size and value of the land and structure, and the names of the property owners. To access this information, you will need the property's legal address (District Lot, Block and Lot number). This information can be found using WestMap at <https://westvancouver.ca/business-development/building-development/maps>

West Vancouver Memorial Library

West Vancouver Memorial Library | 1950 Marine Drive | <https://westvanlibrary.ca>

The Library's West Vancouver Collection includes

- Historical photograph collection [See: <https://digital.westvanlibrary.ca/search>]
- Clipping files on areas in West Vancouver
- Books on West Vancouver, heritage, architecture, people, etc.
- Microfilm and microfiche copies of local newspapers

Vancouver Public Library

Vancouver Public Library | 350 West Georgia Street | <https://vpl.ca>

- Historical photograph collection [See: <https://www.vpl.ca/historicalphotos>]
- *BC Directory*, 1860-present [1860-1952 available online, see: <https://bccd.vpl.ca/>]

City of Vancouver Archives

City of Vancouver Archives | 1150 Chestnut Street | <https://vancouver.ca/archives>

- *BC Directory* (1882-present)
- Map, photograph, and topical files collections

Person-to-person

- Discover and interview previous owners/occupants
- Talk to your neighbours and long-time residents
- Go to local history presentations of interest

The house itself

- Look for newspapers in pocket doors, wall lining, dates written under wallpaper during renovations – photograph and document!
- Look for plaques or other mementos in attic and basement rafters
- Research the style of house, the building materials, its fixtures etc.

Related topics to research

- Research the history of your area, to provide general background – you may often serendipitously find references to your house and past owners. Topics include significant businesses and past residents of local renown.