

Walking Tour One

West Bay Area

1. 820 Dunsmuir Rd., "Tyn-y-coed," was designed by architect John G. Tiarks in the Queen Anne style for Hans Olgilvie Price in 1892. Price, a clerk in the Naval Dockyard, designed the Macaulay Point Golf Links in the 1890s with the course ready for play by 1893. When it closed in 1941, it was the oldest golf course in BC.



820 Dunsmuir Road

2. At the end of Garrett Place, take the short pathway to the sweeping vistas and viewpoint over the Garry oak meadow (the steep stairway leads down to West Song Way). These 2.4 acres (.9 hectares) of natural habitat were a gift to Esquimalt from Mandalay Development Limited, who built Swallow's Landing. The Nature Conservancy of Canada manages these meadowlands.

3. West Song Way was built as a joint project by the Provincial Capital Commission, the City of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt. Completed in 1980, this beautiful seaside walkway offers spectacular views of the harbour.

4. 507 Head St., called "the Big House," was built by shipwright Alexander Watson for Captain Victor Jacobson in 1893 as a wedding gift for his wife Minnie. Plans for the house, described as in the Italianate style or "Steamboat Gothic," came from Victorian Architecture, a house pattern book, by Bicknell and Comstock. The Captain made his fortune in the sealing industry. For many years the Jacobson family home was the sternwheeler *Distributor* tied up alongside the Captain's wharf in West Bay.



507 Head Street

7. Selected in December 1887 as permanent barracks, Work Point is one of our oldest landmarks. Canada took complete control of the barracks after British Imperial Troops left in 1906. The barracks are now part of CFB Esquimalt.

8. Paradise Street, in the early 1900s part of Mrs. Bridget Potts' dairy farm, was probably named by Captain Jacobson as a reminder that the sailing vessel *Casco*, owned by the Victoria Sealing Company, was chartered by author Robert Louis Stevenson in 1888. While cruising in the South Pacific (paradise) he wrote In The South Seas, published in 1889.

9. 901 Wollaston St., "Seascape," was designed by architect John C.M. Keith for eccentric philanthropist John Dean in 1923. Dean resided here until his death in 1943. John Dean Park on Mt. Newton was developed from 22 acres Dean donated to the Municipality of North Saanich. He served as Councillor (1900) and Mayor (1903) of Rosland, BC. Esquimalt children remember him putting the first 25 children to arrive at his door on New Year's Day on a payroll of 25 cents per month for the year. Those arriving later received \$2 on their birthday, a nice sum in those days! To learn more about John Dean read Blessings in Plenty or Sacred Heart by local author Jarrett Teague.

10. 856 Wollaston St., was built by Herbert Frederick Bourne, CE, the Township's second engineer. A third storey was gained when the Mansard roof was raised in the 1990s. The Waddington family resided in the house for many years. Frederick Waddington, a manual training instructor at Lampson Street School, also organized the school choir that placed first in many local music festivals.

11. 851 Wollaston St. was designed by architect Francis Mawson Rattenbury. His more notable commissions are the Provincial

5. Captain Jacobson Park was officially named and dedicated in 1998. The site, originally the estuary for a small stream, was covered over during the 1950s.

6. Entrance to West Bay and Hidden Harbour Marina. Check at either one for availability of ferries, kayak rentals or water taxis.

7. Selected in December



851 Wollaston Street

Legislature Buildings and the Empress Hotel. The house, an eclectic combination of Chalet, Tudor Revival and Queen Anne style was built in 1908 for Arthur and Amy Coles. From 1916-1919, Arthur Coles was Reeve (Mayor) of Esquimalt. The house, restored by Bill and Debrah Patterson, was designated heritage in 1994.

12. 812 Dunsmuir Rd., built on land originally owned by Henry Mansell, a Victoria boot maker, was the family home for a member of the pioneer Wolfenden family. Arthur and Ethel Wolfenden resided

here until their new home at 622 Head St. was completed in 1910. Wolfenden began work in the Bank of British North America before moving on to the BC Land and Investment Agency where he worked for 45 years.



West Song Way

