

Walking Tour Two

Fleming Beach - Saxe Point

1. Fleming Beach, named for Harold and Edgar Fleming, well-known photographers, who arrived in Victoria in the 1880s from London, England. They built their house "Viewfield" near the beach. It was the first house in the area to have a telephone installed. Edgar was primarily a portrait photographer. In July 1896 he joined an expedition exploring Vancouver Island led by Rev. William Washington Bolton (see Tour 3) and John William Laing. The Fleming Bros. studio was located at 1014 Government St.

2. Walk past the Esquimalt Anglers' Club House and the rock climbing wall out to Buxton Green, named to honour the family of Percival (Tich) and Phoebe Buxton and their 14 children. Tich and eight sons served in the Canadian Army. Buxton Green was dedicated as a park in 1983.

- Walk out to Macaulay Point named for Donald Macaulay, bailiff (manager) of Viewfield farm, one of four farms established in the Esquimalt District by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company. This land is owned by the Government of Canada and leased by the Township of Esquimalt. Explore old Fort Macaulay.

- First earthwork battery. See Tour 7.

3. Plaskett Place (formerly Armit Road) where astronomer Dr. John Stanley Plaskett built his home in 1926. He helped design and build instruments for the Dominion Observatory on Little Saanich Mountain, including the 72" telescope that was when completed in 1918 the largest in the world. In 1984 Minor Planet No. 2905 was named Plaskett in honour of Dr. Plaskett and his son, Harry H. Plaskett, also an astronomer.



Work Point Barracks



4. 1179 Munro St., a dignified Beaux Arts style house called "Stonehenge," designed in 1909 by architect P. Leonard James, was designated heritage in 1998. James, in partnership with Francis Mawson Rattenbury, designed the Crystal Garden (now Victoria Conference Centre), once the largest saltwater swimming pool in the British Empire. James supervised construction of the first wartime housing contract in Esquimalt, three hundred houses in the Colville Road area.



1179 Munro Street

5. Saxe Point Park on Cape Saxe, named by Lt. Commander James Wood, a member of the crew of HMS *Pandora*, who surveyed the area in 1849. The name Saxe is part of the title of HRH Queen Victoria's husband and consort, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The waters around Saxe Point are considered to be some of the best in the area for scuba diving.

6. When leaving the park, walk north on Fraser to Greenwood Avenue or Bewdley Avenue. Residential lots of one acre were created here in the Viewfield Farm Estate and sold by the Hudson's Bay Company in February 1913. Buyers camped out overnight and sales of \$160,000 were realized during the first two hours on the first day. Councillor George Mathews paid \$8600 (highest price) for property at the corner of Wychbury Avenue and Lampson Street. **(7)** This area was once known as the Lake District of Esquimalt.

8. "Keyton," 1110 Greenwood Ave., was built in 1913 for Richard Orchard. For a number of years it was home for Constable William J. Parry, RCMP who joined the force in June 1935. In 1943 he was one of the crew of RCMP vessel *St. Roch* to receive the Polar Medal given to "those who render extraordinary services in the Polar Regions and Canada's north." *St. Roch*, a wooden schooner, was the first ship to completely navigate North America.

9. "Rosemead," 429 Lampson St., a Tudor Revival style home was designed by architect Samuel Maclure and built in 1908 for T. Harry Slater an early realtor and developer. Despite the many additions and alterations, it was given heritage designation in November 2013. Formerly the Old England Inn (established by Sam and Rosina Lane in 1948), it is now known as the English Inn. Maclure designed Hatley Castle, now part of Royal Roads University in Colwood.



English Inn

Further discovery

For more information about earlier photographers read *Camera Workers, BC Photographers Directory 1858-1900* by David Mattison.

To learn more about P. Leonard James read *The Life and Times of Victoria Architect P. Leonard James* written by his daughter Rosemary James Cross.

