

In 1951, it was converted to the Robleda Apartments by Miss May Ethel Cherry, who operated a number of converted mansions in Rockland.

1385 Rockland Avenue, William d'Oyly Rochfort, 1911: Andrew Bechtel, an American who came to Victoria in 1873, was a local hotelier. His house combines Tudor and Georgian Revival elements. In 1943, it was converted to a 6-suite unit.



1393 Rockland Avenue, James and James, 1912: This Edwardian Georgian/Tudor house was built for James T. Reid, an investment banker. It was converted to suites in 1969.

Turn right to Lotbiniere Avenue

This steep winding lane was named after Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière (1829-1908), lawyer, politician, and Lieutenant Governor from 1900-06. He moved into Government House in 1903 after it was rebuilt from a fire in 1899.

1369 Rockland Avenue – Stoneyhurst, 1884: Built for Rout Harvey, an importer and manager of a wholesale company, access is now off Lotbiniere Avenue. The Tudor look was added in 1912 and the house was converted to suites in 1977.

548 Lotbiniere Avenue, William Ridgway Wilson, 1909: Wilson incorporated Tuscan columns in this Tudor Revival home built for Charles V. Spratt, President of Victoria Machinery Depot.

Return to Rockland Avenue

1401 Rockland Avenue - Government House: The official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor, is

located on 36 acres. The original structure, erected in 1852, burned to the ground after three months. It was rebuilt in 1860 as Cary Castle, the residence of George Hunter Cary, first Attorney General of British Columbia and Vancouver Island. In 1865, it was purchased by Elizabeth Miles, who sold it the following year for \$19,000 to the Province as the official residence of the Governor of Vancouver Island. When BC entered Confederation on July 20, 1871, Cary Castle became Government House. In 1899, it was again destroyed by fire. The second residence, designed by Francis M. Rattenbury and Samuel Maclure in 1901-03, burned down in April, 1957, and was rebuilt two years later at a cost of \$1.6 million. The present residence was officially opened on May 19, 1959.

1398 Rockland Avenue, 1957-59: This residence was built for Wesley R. Bentley, the president of Douglas Building Supplies and owner of Wescraft Windows. At the time it was built, it was a rare example of modernism in Rockland.



1442 Rockland Avenue, Elmer E. Green, 1912: This large Craftsman bungalow was designed for Eric and Harriet Ulin. It features a full-width verandah with the entrance set back to the right. Eric Ulin was the long-time manager of Taylor Mills. It has had a number of owners and residents over the years.

1462 Rockland Avenue - Duval Cottage, 1861: This Gothic revival house was built for John and Elizabeth Miles. Mrs. Miles was known as the "Virgin Bride" as it was said that her husband died on their wedding night. She purchased Cary Castle in 1864 and moved across the street. In 1870, Duval Cottage was bought by Francis Jones Barnard, owner of the Barnard Express Cariboo Stage Line. The Barnard

family lived at Duvals for eighty-five years and included many notable politicians and senators. Frank Barnard, son of Francis Jones Barnard, became Lieutenant-Governor in 1914, moving to Government House across the street.



1470 Rockland Avenue, Thomas Dealtry Sedger, 1912-13: The architect was praised by the magazine *The Architect, Builder & Engineer* for this house that he designed for A.E. Evans, a civil engineer. The building features a two-storey front verandah with massive masonry columns. It is now known as *Abbeymoore Manor*.

End of tour

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Committed to preserving Rockland's unique urban environment.

Rockland Heritage Walking Tour #1



Rockland, a historic neighbourhood in Victoria, is located on an escarpment overlooking Juan de Fuca Strait and the Olympic Mountains. Its first subdivision plan was registered in 1865.

This self-guided walk features several homes of interest designed by leading architects and builders of the last two centuries. The tour starts on Linden Avenue, continues east along Rockland Avenue, down a few side streets, north on Pemberton Road, along Fort Street, south on St. Charles Street, along Rockland Avenue, left on Terrace Avenue, a short walk to McGregor Avenue, and finally along Oak Bay Avenue to Rockland. The final tour is of the area surrounding Craigdarroch Castle. The entire walk may take a few hours.

The walk has been divided into 4 sections. With the first 3 tours, each succeeding tour starts where the previous one leaves off. The fourth tour can be reached by a short 10-minute walk from the end of tour 3. Please respect the owners' privacy and do not enter the properties.



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Start of Tour: Linden Avenue

Hitching Post

The tour begins at the hitching post outside 721 Linden Avenue. This location was the western boundary of the historic estate. It is a reminder of the days when horses were used as transportation.

721 Linden Avenue, George C. Mesher, 1910: This home was built for Albert E. Todd, son of the well-known merchant Jacob Todd of J. H. Todd & Sons, salmon canners, financial and commission agents. This Arts and Crafts residence features half-timbering in the gables and Tudor style windows.

727-729 Linden Avenue, Percy Leonard James, 1911: W. S. Drewry, a government inspector, was the first owner of this house. It features a bell cast, hipped roof with front dormer and many multi-paned windows.

805 Linden Avenue, Charles Elwood Watkins, 1913: This home was built for Arthur Kent, proprietor of the Pacific Transfer Co. It is a classical Edwardian residence with a full width front verandah with a dramatic central curved staircase and two-storey front octagonal bays. His wife lived here until 1955.

809 Linden Avenue, Kendrick Sharp, 1910: The first resident was Charles Cross, a prominent real estate agent who served as president of the Real Estate Exchange, Board of Trade, and the Chamber of Commerce. This Edwardian Arts and Crafts residence has an attached conservatory to the south.

815 Linden Avenue, Samuel Maclure, 1909: This Arts and Crafts home was built for druggist John Cochrane. It features long English Arts and Crafts brackets and leaded glass windows. The inset corner front porch has 14 x 14 posts. It was converted to suites in 1956.

821 Linden Avenue, 1910: Reverend William L. Clay, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, had this English Arts and Crafts home built. This imposing building has a corner front entrance and front and side hipped roof dormers. It was converted to a 6-suite apartment in 1946.



903 Linden Avenue, 1905: This is a rare brick bungalow, built by master mason William Heatherbell. His work can be seen at St. Ann's Academy, the B. C. Legislative Buildings and Hatley Park.

911 Linden Avenue, Francis Rattenbury, 1904: This prominent corner residence is known locally as the Hunter house after Dr. Joseph Hunter who lived here for many years.

Turn right onto Rockland Avenue

1221 Rockland Avenue – Harnham, 1911-14: This imposing residence was built for Herbert Macklin, the assistant manager of Simon Leiser & Co. Ltd. It was converted to suites in the mid-20th century. At that time, the porch was closed in to provide more internal space. The original gates remain.

Turn right onto Langham Court

805 Langham Court: These buildings were originally the carriage house and stables for the Laurels. In 1930, they housed the Victoria Operatic Society and in 1938-40, the Victoria Little Theatre and Dramatic School. In 1950, the facility was renamed Langham Court Theatre and the buildings were joined in 1951. Today, it remains a successful community theatre. (See www.langhamcourtheatre.bc.ca/)

Return to Rockland Avenue

1249 Rockland - The Laurels, possibly Thomas Sorby, 1890: This neo-Gothic mansion was designed for businessman Robert Ward. He was an entrepreneur, with interests in insurance, import-export, realty, and salmon and sealing industries. He left Victoria at the height of his career and never returned. Renowned in the 1890s for its luxury, the *Laurels* has undergone substantial renovations, resulting in the loss of several architectural features. From 1903-12,

the *Laurels* was used as the Collegiate School for Boys; it became St. George's School for Girls in 1913. It now consists of 17 one-bedroom apartments.

Hitching Post outside 1255 Rockland Avenue marks the northern boundary of the historic estate.

1287 Rockland – Gisburn, 1891: Only the granite wall and iron fence are left of *Gisburn*, 1287 Rockland, the home built for Captain Robert Irving. The mansion, costing \$40,000 to build, was destroyed by fire in 1937.

Turn left onto Moss Street

1015 Moss Street, James and James, 1912: Built for Dr. James D. Helmcken, son of pioneer doctor and politician, Dr. J. S. Helmcken, this house combines Tudor Revival and American Shingle styles.

1025 Moss Street, Samuel Maclure, 1912: This half-timbered Neo-Georgian house was built for George Richardson, a dry goods merchant. Maclure's most severe Georgian Revival, this house is very balanced and symmetrical in form.

1040 Moss Street - Gyppeswick, William Ridgway Wilson, 1889: This complex includes the Italianate home designed for A. A. Green, a wealthy local banker. Named for Mrs. Green's ancestral home, *Ipswich*, it was built at a cost of \$24,000 by contractor G.C. Mesher on a large property that ran from Fort Street to Rockland Avenue (then Belcher Avenue). David Spencer, owner of David Spencer's Department Stores, bought it in 1903 and renamed it *Lan Dderwen*, Welsh for 'under the oaks'. His daughter, Sara Spencer, donated it to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in 1951 and it became one of Canada's finest art galleries with over 15,000 pieces in its collection. (www.aggv.bc.ca)

Return to Rockland Avenue

1302 Rockland Avenue, 1931: This 7-room residence was built for Mrs. Florence Fraser. It features a steeply hipped roof with a decorative shingle pattern.

1310 Rockland Avenue, C. N. Gore Home Planning Service, 1939-41: This Georgian revival residence was built for Wilhelmine Wenger, a widow who managed the Rosedale Manor Apartments. It was built by P. R. Berthe, contractor.

Turn left onto Gillespie Place

1021 Gillespie Place, Highwood, 1871: The original Bank of British Columbia built this Italianate house for

its first manager, William Curtis Ward. It became the residence of banking officers and was used frequently for bank social functions. George Gillespie, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, moved into *Highwood* in 1901 (the street bears his name). The house is one of the oldest in Rockland. The building has been extensively changed since its construction.

1015 Gillespie Place, 1924: This 2-storey residence was built by the Star Bungalow Construction Co. on land subdivided from the Highwood property at 1021 Gillespie. The original owners were Frederick William and Augusta Pollard. It was occupied by Brigadier Frederick Cabeldu in 1946, and in 1977 served briefly as the headquarters for Malvern and Westerham School.

Return to Rockland Avenue

1320 Rockland Avenue - Galt House, Samuel Maclure, 1913-14: This mansion was designed for Frederick Nation, a Manitoba department store owner and director of the Great West Life Assurance Co. It was named for a subsequent owner, John Galt, who commissioned Maclure to design alterations. It was divided into a 9-suite apartment in June 1943.

1321 Rockland Avenue - Ellesmere, L. B. Trimen with J. G. Tiarks, 1889: This rare Victoria example of the American Stick Style was built for merchant James Angus at a cost of \$10,000. The Angus family lived here for 70 years.

Rockland Cairn, on boulevard by 1322 Rockland Avenue: This time capsule celebrates the Millennium and will be opened in 2100.

1322 Rockland – Schuuum, William Ridgway Wilson, 1894: Wilson continued the Tudor Revival style with this Queen Anne house that he designed for Hewitt Bostock, who started *The Province* newspaper. *Schuuum* is an Indian word for "windy spot." James D. Prentice, MPP, lived here in 1908. In 1950, Kathleen Agnew donated the property to the Anglican Church to be used for the elderly (the former Caroline Macklem home).

1337 Rockland Avenue, Ralph Berrill and Jameson Parker, 1928: This rambling residence was built to replace *Robleda* which had burned in 1927. The original owners were Edward and Grace Pooley.