

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 1931.

About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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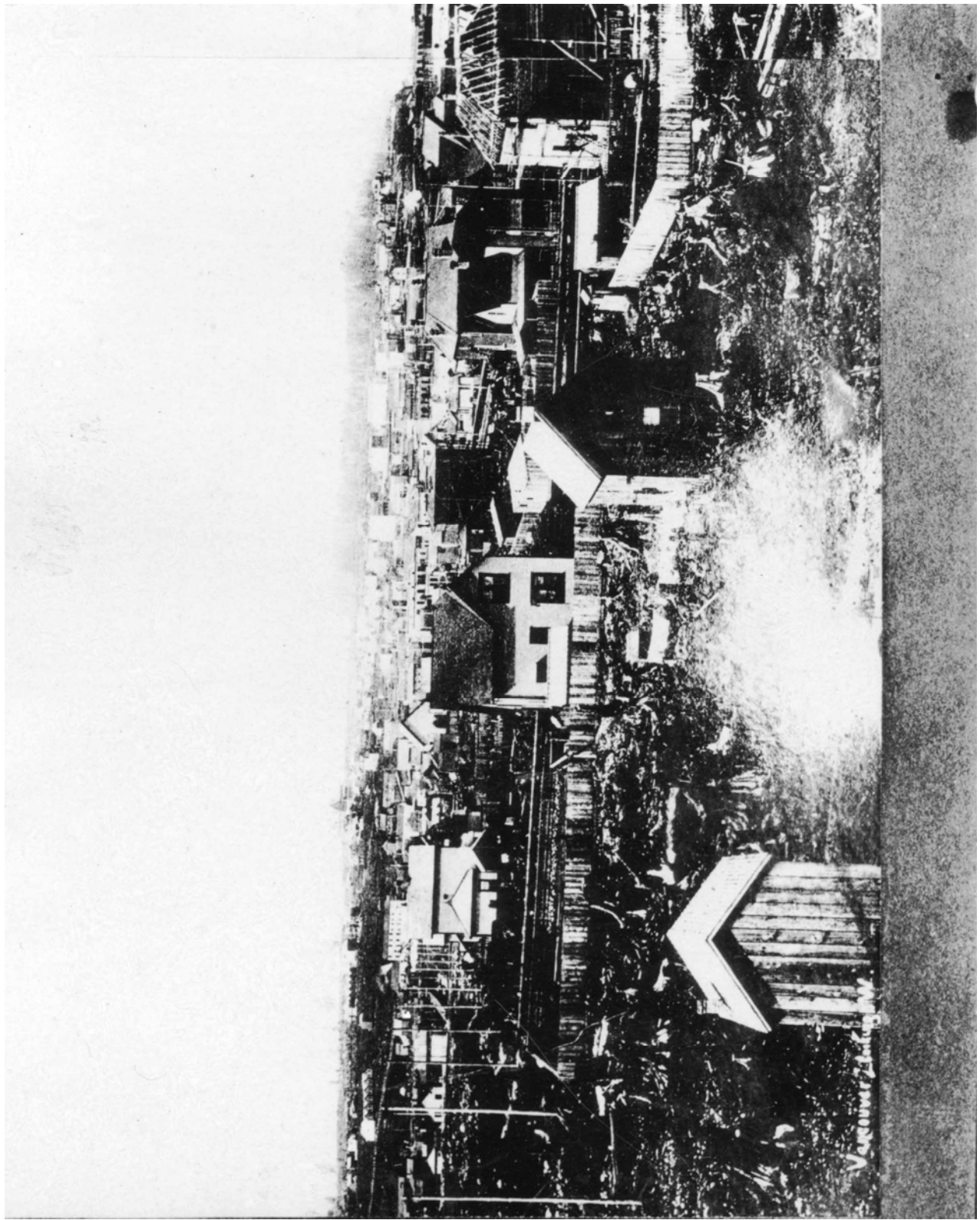
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THE MOST PRETENTIOUS BUILDING IN VANCOUVER, 1889. CORDOVA STREET, 1889. THE DUNN-MILLER BLOCK. THOS. DUNN, JONATHAN MILLER.

J.S. Matthews, 1932. The building, still standing in 1932, was commonly known as the Dunn-Miller Block, and is at the east end, south side, Cordova Street West, a few steps from Carrall Street. In 1932 the ground floor store shown in the photograph taken at the time it was being built in 1889, is numbered 26 and 28 Cordova Street West, the first used as the Crown Saloon at one time, the second now used as a second-hand store. The remainder is used for a cheap café, rooms upstairs, etc., etc.

At the time this building was erected it was the largest and most pretentious in Vancouver, much more so than the Bell-Irving Block at the southeast corner of Richards and Cordova streets (demolished July 1932 to make way for an automobile parking ground for David Spencers Limited) which was erected the same year (see photograph).

The Dunn-Miller Block was the westerly continuation of the Lonsdale Block, also built 1889, which it resembled almost exactly in design. "Modern" in 1889, it was without basement, no central heating, nor elevator although three storeys, but was the largest brick building at the time.

Part of the block was owned by Jonathan Miller, afterwards our postmaster for so many years, and part by others, among them said to be Lord Lonsdale. At one time the building was the centre of mercantile activity. Thos. Dunn and Co., hardware merchants, the largest in Vancouver, were located in it, Stark's Glasgow House (dry goods) and Wm. Ralph, ranges.

MCDONOUGH'S HALL (SEE PHOTOGRAPH). ST. ANDREW'S CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. COLUMBIA STREET.

W.F. Findlay, 1 April 1932. "McDonough's Hall, on the southwest corner of Columbia and Hastings streets was built in 1887 by Mr. McDonough, afterwards for a short time proprietor of the Oriental Hotel; it still stands, practically the only very early building on Hastings Street; I know of no other so early although there is at least one other wooden original building—next door, between Main Street and Carrall Street; no wooden buildings now exist west of Carrall Street on Hastings; all gone.

"The St. Andrew's Caledonian Society held their first ball in the McDonough Hall on November 30th 1887; this society is the oldest of its kind in Vancouver.

"At the time it was built, and for a long time, it stood alone as the only building in the bushes of Hastings Street; there were some Chinese shacks on Dupont Street near it, but on Hastings Street it was the only building." (See *Early Vancouver*, Matthews, 1931.)

CENTRAL SCHOOL. COURT HOUSE. CAPT. E.S. SCOLLAR.

Capt. E.S. Scoullar, 31 October 1932. "The architect for the Central School facing Victory Square was Mr. Sorby; the contract was let to Turnbull and Co. by the provincial government together with the first Court House on Victory Square, and which, after the present Court House on Georgia Street was built, was demolished. The firm of Turnbull and Co. consisted of E.S. Scoullar, William Turnbull and Thomas Grey, both deceased. I was then head of the firm, and financed it. The bricks in the building were made in New Westminster, where the firm had a large brick yard. The contract was completed in 1889; the superintendent of construction was the late Joseph Dixon of the firm of Dixon and Murray. The foreman carpenter was Hugh Wilson. The heating and plumbing was done by E.S. Scoullar and Co., Cordova and Water Street, Vancouver and Columbia Street, New Westminster.

1932 – BIG TREES. H.P. MCCRANEY.

"The biggest cedar I ever saw stood close to W.H. Gallagher's office at the corner of Pender Street West and Richards Street. I came here on January 29th 1885—Water Street was planked then. When I first came out I walked with Mr. Patterson—he was afterwards lieutenant governor—from Chemainus to Victoria, and on the way we passed a big fir and measured it. It was fifty-four feet in circumference, and