

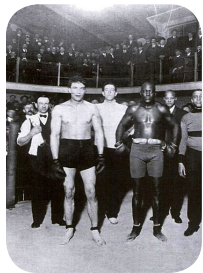
1166 Main Street: (at Thornton Park) **Marker of Change monument.** On December 6, 1989, 14 young women at Montréal's Ecole Polytechnique were systematically hunted down and shot to death in what became known as the Montréal Massacre. With the aim to create "something loving, something permanent" for all women murdered by men, a band of Vancouver feminists set out to create Canada's first national monument to name and remember the 14 engineering students, killed solely because they were female. Over 6,000 individual donors contributed to the monument before it was completed.

1019 Seymour St: The Penthouse Club was built and owned by the Filippone family. When the Hotel Vancouver was refusing to house black American artists, the Penthouse not only booked them, but they housed them too. Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald and Sammy Davis Jr. were some of the folks to be found there. Whether or not they performed at the Penthouse, it was a sure thing that the afterparty, featuring impromptu performances by some of the artists was there.



Granville & Davie Sts: (at the corner) A Scottish recipient of the Victoria Cross, **Robert McBeath** and his wife moved to Canada after the war, where he eventually joined the Vancouver Police Department. On October 9, 1922, while walking the beat on Granville and Davie Streets with his partner, Detective R. Quirk, McBeath stopped and arrested a man named **Fred Deal**, a black sleeping car porter, for impaired driving. Passed out drunk in the seat beside him was Marjorie Earl, the owner of both the car and the revolver Deal was packing. While escorting the prisoner to the nearest call-box, Deal allegedly pulled a handgun from his pocket and shot both officers. McBeath's partner survived, but McBeath died almost instantly. Fred Deal was arrested later that day and was subsequently sentenced to death. The sentence was reduced to life imprisonment on appeal because Deal had been beaten while in custody. The congregation of the Fountain Chapel mobilized to ensure that the likelihood Deal was racially targeted by police was accounted for in the verdict.

Beatty Lane: (alley between Beatty and Cambie) ran from the Cambie Street Grounds (now the parking lot across from the Beatty Street Drill Hall) and the old Vancouver City Hospital. A small cluster of black people lived/worked there in the early 20th century, several of them played important or interesting roles in local history. One such person was **George Paris:** heavyweight boxing champion of Western Canada and Canada's first professional Jazz musician at the turn of the 20th century. Paris eventually went back to his career as an athletic trainer, teaching the Vancouver Police force how to fight. Paris also ran the Vancouver Athletic Club situated there.



280 Keefer St: This is where the **Mother Prior restaurant** was, where people like **Al Cobbs**, Vancouver's first black police auxiliary officer worked.

544 Main St.: (at Keefer) Was the **New Delhi Cabaret** - Another popular place for dancing and music in Vancouver's historic entertainment scene. It was a live music venue that focused mostly on R&B and was in operation from 1956 to 1973, run by Leo Bagry. They had a house band and also had feature bands and novelty acts. Durius Maxwell played there as a novelty act as a teenager. Tommy Chong's (as in "Cheech and Chong") band "The Shades" played there frequently in 1959-1960. They had burlesque dancers. Marcella "Choo Choo" Williams started her 12-year dancing career at the New Delhi Cabaret.

102 E. Georgia St: The Lincoln Club was an underground black social club in Vancouver in the late 1910s and early 1920s. It was boxed in by the Avenue Theatre on the east and the original Georgia Viaduct on the north, and so was only accessible from below the viaduct and from the alley. During its six-year existence, it took on the role of the city's earlier railway porters' clubs as a social hub for Vancouver's small black community and for performers passing through town on the vaudeville circuits.

209 Union St: Vie's Chicken & Steak House was around from 1950 until 1976. Run by Vie and Bob Moore, Vie was from a pioneering B.C. family who were descendants of free blacks from California. Bob was from Alabama and never lost his accent. Vie was famous for never burning a steak or forgetting an order, even as she talked with customers about sports, politics and horse racing. Nora Hendrix, notably, was the cook there. Many hungry entertainers who performed in nightclubs such as The Cave and Isy's showed up at Vie's after their show. They included Louis Armstrong, Lena Horne, Cab Calloway, Mitzi Gaynor, and Sammy Davis Jr.

Hogan's Alley: According to the city's first archivist, Major Matthews, the name originally referred to Park Lane. That's the alley just east of Main Street and included what's now Station Street before it was severed by the viaducts. By the 1920s, the East End had become the undisputed geographic centre of the city's black community, particularly after the Fountain Chapel, opened. The name Hogan's Alley is likely a reference to the 1890s newspaper comic strip featuring the Yellow Kid in a wild, largely Irish slum area in New York City. It was also a nickname for a campsite on the beach at English Bay, where families spent summer months in the 1890s. Invoking the name Hogan's Alley implies campers were "slumming it."



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534 Cambie St: After Hiram passed, **Martha Scurry** made her residence a boarding house. Before settling into his idyllic cabin on English Bay, **Joe Fortes** lived here and considered the Scurry family his own. According to the biographical data taken from many sources, Seraphim (Joe) Fortes, who was born in Barbados, came to Vancouver in 1885. He worked as a porter, bartender, and later as an unofficial swimming instructor and lifeguard at English Bay. He was eventually officially made a special constable by the City of Vancouver. There have been frequent reports and accounts of the many lives he saved from drowning. Testimonials to his popularity and the reminiscences of those taught to swim by Joe when they were young, have been numerous. In 1910, the citizens of Vancouver presented him with a text thanking him for his services; a gold watch and a sum of money. When he died in 1922, the city gave him a large public funeral. Several years after his death, a children's drinking fountain was erected in memory of Joe Fortes.



25 Abbot St: **Hiram Thomas Scurry** ran his barbershop in Gastown, which his son took on after his death. He was also Barbara Howard's grandfather. Scurry was a pioneer Vancouverite, arriving just before the city was incorporated.

231 E Cordova: The **Sullivan's Hall** appeared on Cordova (half way between Abbott and Carrall). This hall, established by Josephine and her family, was used for various musical performances, community union meetings and other civic and entertainment purposes. It was even briefly used as a courthouse with the infamous Judge Begbie presiding.



Water Street: Accounts suggest that the **Sullivans settled here**, with First Methodist services being held in the family kitchen, Josephine is known for having established the first church of the African Methodist Church.

109 E Hastings St: The Railway Porters Club (now The Smilin' Buddha Cabaret). One of Hiram and Martha's sons, Elijah "Lige," was one of the best players on Vancouver's lacrosse team. Known for being exceptionally fast and aggressive on the field, Lige was so good and the competition so fierce in BC's three-team lacrosse league that the Victoria and New Westminster teams colluded to implement a "colour bar" that ended his lacrosse career. Lige's next pursuit was to open the Railway Porters' Club. As the occupation of sleeping car porter was one of the few open to black men, Lige saw the need for a place where porters could socialize and rest during stopovers in Vancouver, and black people in town generally needed a social hub to call their own. Unfortunately for Scurry, police raided the club in 1904 on the grounds that black prostitutes were frequent visitors. Police found no evidence, but Scurry was nevertheless convicted of selling liquor without a license.



Railway Porters in front of a train

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343 E Hastings: Harlem Nocturne was Vancouver's only black nightclub on Hastings Street, co-owned by showgirl Marcella "Choo Choo" Williams and her husband, trombonist and band leader Ernie King. The Nocturne offered burlesque acts including "Lottie the Body" and performers such as Ike Turner; it drew locals, American sailors in port and even regulars from Seattle.



Ernie King: When his band "Five Guys Named Mo" had nowhere else to play, King bought the building at **343 E Hastings** and made it the Harlem Nocturne club. The club was famous for three things: being the only black-owned nightclub in Vancouver, bringing famous musicians and featuring shows with his wife, **Marcella "Choo Choo" Williams**. After 10 years, the Harlem Nocturne's doors shut. However, with his successful record in entertainment and not wanting to work for anyone else, King opened Vancouver's first black theatre, The Sepia Players. A true artist and entrepreneur, Ernie King was a legend.

"Mrs. Sullivan's House": Located at the **NW corner of Gore Avenue and Oppenheimer**. Josephine actually lived there with her son Arthur's family. Josephine was one of the earliest black residents in the Lower Mainland. Arthur established a general store, in 1882, when the city was still called Granville.

475 Powell St.: Country Club Inn, was run by **Leona and Sylvester Risby**, parents of **Thelma, Chic Leonard and Cy**. The food was good, but even better were the performances put on by Thelma, Leonard and Cy. Leonard, the eldest became an award-winning dance, choreographer and teacher, studying in New York, touring Europe and eventually starting his own dance school in Toronto. His biggest contribution was choreographing, dancing and singing in CBC Vancouver's variety TV series, "Bamboula - a Day in the West Indies." Thelma went on to tour Europe and taught Afro-Cuban dance, while Chic continued to perform, and became the first black man to work for BC Hydro and join the Vancouver Junior Chamber of Commerce. The fourth son, Cy, became a staple and star of Vancouver's strong R&B music scene.



403 E Hastings St: George Paris was also a pioneer of Jazz music in Canada. At some point, Paris also took up drumming, and was recruited to put together a jazz band for the Patricia Café. When the cabaret opened on 7 October 1917, Paris's band was followed by the Empress Jazz Orchestra.

Militant Mothers of Reymur: At Keefer and Campbell Streets there stood railway tracks blocking clear passage for the children of the Reymur Housing Project (now Stamps Place) to get to their school, Seymour Elementary. It was common for children to roll under cars or jump over couplings - one child reportedly having had his feet crushed. The mothers asked for an overpass to be built for safe crossing and their pleas went ignored. Having had enough, 25 mothers, many of whom were single from the Housing Project, staged a protest by standing on the tracks and blocking the trains. It took several stand-ins as well as a court case until the overpass was built.



827 E. Georgia: Zenora "Nora" Rose and Ross Hendrix traveled to Vancouver looking for work after their vaudeville review was stranded in Seattle. They settled at this address and lived there from 1938 until 1952. Jimi Hendrix often lived with his grandparents, even attending Grade 1 at Sir William Dawson Annex. Nora was a pillar of the black community in Vancouver, co-founding the Fountain Chapel Church and showing off her own musical talents by leading the church's choir.



Barbara Howard: at **592 E Pender** is Lord Strathcona School, one of the schools where Barbara Howard taught physical education for over forty years. If you were taught by her, you were lucky - Barbara was at one time the fastest woman in Canada. That wasn't her only achievement: in 1938, at the age of 17, she was also the first black woman to represent Canada in an international sporting competition (British Empire Games in Sydney, Australia), and; she was the first visible minority to teach in Vancouver (1948). Barbara was also recognized for her excellence in teaching and inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2012 and the Canada Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 - she was well into her 90s by then and passed at the age of 96 in 2017.



522 E Georgia St: Robert Tait, 32, a drug addict, police informant and pimp from Detroit lived in a rundown apartment over the grocery store at this location with his girlfriend Frankie Russell. Russell later became notorious in the press as the "white girl of the underworld." After months in unpaid rent, the landlord decided to evict them. What ensued was a violent shoot-out, which killed and injured several police officers, including the popular Vancouver Police Chief Malcolm McLennan. Caught in the line of fire was also George Robb, 9, who was walking from his house to buy candy at the nearby store. Four hours after police first entered the building they found that Tait had also shot and killed himself.

823 Jackson St: African Methodist Episcopal Church (Fountain Chapel) was located here from 1918 until 1985 and was co-founded by Nora Hendrix in order to serve Vancouver's black community. Prior to the establishment of the Fountain Chapel, black Christians held services in rented halls around town, and eventually a small group decided they should have a permanent church of their own. They set out to raise funds for the project and arranged for the AME to match the amount raised locally. Once financing was secured, they purchased the building on Jackson Avenue that was built in 1910 and had served as a Lutheran church for German and Scandinavian immigrants.

Leonard Lane: his residence was at the **corner of E Georgia and Gore**. Lane moved to Vancouver after WWII, commencing his long tenure as a community builder. He was an active member of the African Fountain Chapel in various capacities, lending his talents to the choir, dance troupes and even organizing sports for black youth. After being refused service in restaurants, Lane turned to the broader community and was a founding member of the BC NAACP, eventually becoming part of their full-time staff. His first among many accomplishments was taking on the BC Ministry of Education on the use of racist language in textbooks. Lane also became part of the BC Unity Credit Union, providing loans to members of the black community and served as their treasurer for 8 years.