



Grelley & Fiterre - Parapet Sign from 1865 Revealed.

We recently passed by the Gold Rush Warehouses (aka Northern Junk), at 1318 Wharf Street and noted that on-site research continues with the removal of stucco and the revealing of the earlier sandstone façade. Of particular interest was the exposure of the sandstone parapet upon which can faintly be seen the names “Grelley & Fiterre”. To the left can be seen the word: “Commercial” At this time the wording on the corresponding stone to the right cannot be made out but may well have been "Agents".

From the Daily British Colonist of March 17, 1866, we note:

“The Wine and Spirit Trade

Messrs. Grelley & Fiterre, wholesale Wine and Spirit merchants, have removed to the fine stores built by Mr. Donald Fraser, on Wharf Street. Among their well selected stock will be found the best brands of every description of English, French and American malt liquors, bitters &c., as enumerated in the advertisement in another column, to which the especial attention of the trade is directed. They are also agents for various houses, including Freeman & Simpson's celebrated American Rye Whiskies.”

From 1865 to about 1870 Grelley & Fiterre were active in the wholesale importation of fine wines and liquors from all over the world to satisfy the demands of the newly rich miners and businessmen of the colonies. Perhaps this will serve as a legacy for whosoever will occupy the space in the coming years



145 Rendall Street to be Designated a Heritage Building

At the City of Victoria Committee of the Whole meeting of April 28, 2022 it was moved and seconded to send the bylaw approving the heritage designation of the house at 145 Rendall Street to a future Public Hearing.

The house was constructed in 1912 for William Barber who, according to tax rolls, was with Heath & Chaney, realtors in the Sayward Block. The longest residents were the Butcher family who occupied the residence from 1929 until 1984 – 55 years. A full history of the house can be seen on the website of the Victoria Heritage Foundation [LINK](#).

With the designation of this building, we now have an interesting cluster of heritage homes, 149 Rendall, 149 Rendall and 160 Rendall are also designated. Are the adjacent property at 403 Simcoe. The hoped-for addition of the fine heritage house at 409 Simcoe could complete the cluster to create a future Heritage Conservation Area, something James Bay needs more of.



145 Rendall Street





The "Cluster" of Heritage Houses at Rendall and Simcoe

Chinese Canadian Museum - in Fan Tan Alley

With the coming of summer and the influx of visitors, we urge you to take the opportunity to explore the new Chinese Canadian Museum in Fan tan Alley.

The museum will only be open until September 30th and offers two fine exhibits "First Steps: Chinese Canadian Journeys in Victoria," and "Gold Mountain Dream!" First Steps relates how the Chinese Canadians settled in Canada while Gold Mountain Dream tells us of the Chinese Canadian experience during the Gold Rush period.

I found an exhibit regarding the early participation of Chinese Canadians in professional nursing particularly interesting as a revelation how determined young ladies overcame educational restrictions and racism to achieve their goals.

It's a free museum and one which you and your visitors will enjoy as you take them down Fan Tan Alley.



Can You "Re-Create" Heritage?

A recent article by Carlito Pablo in the Georgia Straight newspaper relates how a couple rebuilt a house in Vancouver to replicate that which had been destroyed by fire in 1917. In order to do so, they demolished a house on the site that had been constructed in 1949 and added little to the street's ambiance.

No one is pretending that it is a "heritage" house. It is just architecture that is sensitive to it's surroundings.

With a completely modern interior the house recently sold for \$2.4 million. To read the article and see the home's interior go to [LINK](#).



Photos of 517 Union Street, Vancouver, B.C. Courtesy of Georgia Straight Newspaper, Vancouver Archives and Ema Peter Photography



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