

## Heatley Block Fast Facts

**Original Legal Description:** Lots 14-16 of Block 68, District Lot 196

**Year of Construction:** 1931

**Building Permit Application #:** 36285 March 10, 1931

- Samuel Plastino is listed as the owner
  - Samuel Giovanni Plastino was born in Italy September 8, 1886 the son of Michele Plastino and Maria Patello. He came to Vancouver from Italy around 1922. In 1931 he is listed as the proprietor of the Windsor Hotel at 52 East Hastings.
  - Samuel Plastino bought the property on September 13, 1930
- No architect is mentioned
- No contractor was listed. The block was built with "day labour"
- Estimated cost to build the Heatley Block was \$9000.00

**Water Service Application:** March 27, 1931

- Samuel Plastino applied for an enlarged water service for the property which was originally served in May of 1893 (for a house on Lots 14 and 15) and July 1898 (for a house on Lot 16).

**First Time the Heatley Block appears in the City Directories:** 1932

- Originally four (later five) retail spaces are listed facing Hastings
  - 684 East Hastings: Hastings Millinery (Finnish proprietor)
  - 688 East Hastings: Hastings Bakery (Finnish proprietor)
  - 692 East Hastings: Heatley Market (Irish proprietor)
  - 696 East Hastings: Miss Vera E. Jones, Druggist (Welsh proprietor)
- The 1932 directory lists 12 suites occupied on the second floor. Occupants are mostly working class and range from married couples to single men and women. Half of the residents are of British origin. The other half are of Italian heritage.

## The Businesses

From the 1930s through the 1940s and even the 1950s the proprietors of many of these businesses lived behind their shops. For a number of years there were also businesses facing on the Heatley Avenue side of the Heatley Block. Up until 1942, two of the Hastings Street businesses were run by Japanese families. Many of the early businesses were run by Finns and Italians. The star Fruit Market and the Elite Cleaners were run by Chinese families. The longest continuously running business, Frieda's Beauty Shoppe, had a number of proprietors over the years from a number of ethnic backgrounds but none of them seem to have been named Frieda.

### **684 East Hastings**

1932 - Hastings Millinery

1933 - Vacant

1934-1971 - Frieda's Beauty Shoppe (later "Salon")

1972 - Tami Beauty Salon

1973-1976 - Hastings Used Furniture

1977 - Vacant

1978-1999 Ace Tattoo Shop

### **688 East Hastings**

1932-1933 - Hastings Bakery

1934 - B&K Bakery

1935 - Miss Shizuko Okugawa - Confectioner

1936-1942 - Miss "Dell" Shizuko Okugawa - Barber

1942-1951 - Anne's Women's Clothing

1952-1956 - Iser Shapiro, Sewing Machine & Piano Repairs

1957-1958 - Joe Orsi, Goldsmith

1959 - Vacant

1960 - House of Danish Furniture (Warehouse)

1961 - Vacant

1962-1963 - D. Lee Agencies, Broker  
1964-1984 - Vacant  
1985-1993 - O.K. Graphics (Extra Office Space)  
1994-1995 - Vacant  
1996 - Hastings Pawn Shop  
1997 - Sunderland Inner Space Design  
1998-1999 - John's Pawn Shop

### **692 East Hastings**

1932 - Heatley Market  
1933-1945 - Star Fruit Market  
1946 - R. W. Grant, Meats  
1947-1949 - McMillan Meats & Grocery  
1950 - Vacant  
1951-1955 - Nicolite Advertising System  
1956 - Vacant  
1957-1958 - Harry C. Weinstein, Gas Contractor  
1959-1982 - Custom Camera Reproductions  
1983-1994 - OK Graphics

### **694 East Hastings**

1932-1935 - Not listed  
1936-1941 - Elite Dry Goods & Dressmaking  
1942-1948 - Elite Dry Cleaning  
1949 - Martin Studios, Photography  
1950-1954 - Hors-Have Studios, Photography  
1955 - Greg's Studio Photography  
1956-1957 - Used as a residence  
1958 - Thrift Bargain Store  
1959-1975 - Nick's Shoe Repair  
1976-1979 - Vacant  
1980-1981 - United Signs Ltd.  
1982-1984 - Used as a residence  
1985-1988 - Vacant

1989-1993 - Spring View Realty Ltd.

### **696 East Hastings**

1932-1933 - Miss Vera E. Jones, Druggist

1934 - Vacant

1935 - Harry Fujiwara, Meats

1936 - Sincere Fountain, Confectionery

1937 - Hastings Ice Cream & Candies

1938-1943 - Surrey Meat Market & Delicatessen

1944-1945 - Harold Egley, Meats

1946 - Vacant

1947 - Pacific Realty

1948-1951 - Tiny Tim's Candy Store

1952-1953 - Vacant

1954 - Old Vienna Ice Cream Parlour

1955 - Jimmy & Ernie's Café

1956-1963 - Braun's Burger Bar

1964-1973 - Corner Café

1974-1986 - RSC Installations Ltd., Refrigerator Sales & Service

1987 - Vacant

1988-1991 - Lik Shing Auto Glass

1992 - Vacant

1993-Present - Maurel Enterprises Ltd., Hardware

### **401 Heatley**

1947-1948 - Staminite Co, B.C.

### **403 Heatley**

1947 - Empire Distributors, Manufacturers Agents

## The Houses

Prior to the construction of the Heatley Block two houses stood on the property. 668 East Hastings stood on Lots 14 and 15, while 676 East Hastings stood on Lot 16. Rather than demolish the houses, Samuel Plastino had them moved to the back of the property so they faced Heatley Street. 668 East Hastings became 417 Heatley. 676 East Hastings became 407 Heatley. When they were moved they were also split into two suites. For example, 407 Heatley was downstairs and 407½ was the address for the upstairs suite. Later on, these suites were further subdivided.

### 668 East Hastings/417 & 417½ Heatley

668 (originally numbered 634) East Hastings was built in 1889 and is one of very few houses of that vintage still standing in Vancouver. Though no building permit records exist for that year, it was likely built by the new owner of Lots 14, 15, and 16, Ontario-born carpenter Charles C. Park, then residing at 721 Westminster Avenue (now the west side of the 700-block of Main Street).

Charles C. Park disappears from the Vancouver directories for a few years. When he reappears he is listed as a commission agent, then a dealer in patents, and from 1896 onward, as a police constable. There is an 1899 picture of Charles C. Park in uniform with his bicycle on patrol in Stanley Park at the City of Vancouver Archives. The photo code is CVA 480-74. By 1900, Charles C. Park and his family had moved to 306 East 6th Avenue. According to the 1901 census, Charles C. Park was born in rural Ontario on May 25, 1858.

**Residents of Local Historic note include:**

- 1889-1891 - Foundry worker and later owner, **Hugh Orr**
  - **There is a photo of Hugh Orr in the City Archives**
- 1892 - BC Sugar Refinery Accountant **Henry Thomas Lockyer**. Henry went on to become a store manager for the Hudson's Bay

Company then eventually the manager for the Hudson's Bay Company in all of British Columbia. In 1903 he was elected president of the Vancouver Board of Trade. From 1920 to 1922 he was president of the Vancouver Exhibition Association.

- **There are several photos of H. T. Lockyer in the City Archives.** In many he is shown accompanying Lord Strathcona and Sir MacKenzie Bowell (Canada's fifth Prime Minister from December 21, 1894 to April 27, 1896) during their 1909 visit to Vancouver

Other residents from 1893 to 1930 include wholesale druggists, rooming house operators, plumbers, sawmill workers, lumber company employees, coopers and miners. From 1909 to 1911, the house was run as a rooming house.

- **Water Service** was only applied for on May 1st 1893 by wholesale druggist and later real estate broker Christopher W. Ford. Therefore the house had water from a well and there was an outhouse from 1889 to 1893.

### **676 East Hastings/407 & 407½ Heatley**

676 East Hastings was built in 1898, during the height of the Klondyke Goldrush by retired miner **William Cameron McCord**. McCord was born in Scotland on October 5, 1837 the son of Benjamin and Margaret McCord. He came to Canada in 1840 and was instrumental in guiding and outfitting CPR surveyor Walter Moberly in 1872 through the Yellowhead pass through the Rocky Mountains during his search of a usable rail route over the mountains. In a paper penned by Moberly for a presentation made in Vancouver in 1909, Moberly is quoted:

"Previous to my leaving Victoria I had engaged and instructed Mr. William Cameron McCord, an able, trusty and experienced mountaineer, miner and frontiersman, to equip a party of axemen and a pack train, and open a pack trail by the valleys of the North Thompson and Abreda Rivers to and through the Yellowhead Pass, where I promised to meet him as soon as I could get away from the Columbia River."

From what can be gleaned from the 1901 census, McCord was single and a Presbyterian.

**Residents of Local Historic note** include:

- 1900 - 1902 pioneer school teacher and principal **Thomas A. McGarrigle**. According to the 1911 census, Thomas' mother, the family matriarch, the widowed Margaret McGarrigle, was born in Ireland in October of 1829. Thomas A. McGarrigle, was born in New Brunswick in November of 1863. McGarrigle was one of the first teachers of the West (later called Dawson) School at 935 Helmcken Street.
  - **There is a photo of Thomas A. McGarrigle in front of Dawson School at the City Archives**
- From 1944-1945, **Samuel Plastino**, the former owner and builder of the Heatley Block lived downstairs at 407 Heatley with his wife Janet.
- From 1972 to 2000, Mr. **Hon G. Lee**, one of the founders and benefactors of the Lee Clan Benevolent Society, lived downstairs at 407 Heatley.

Other residents from 1903 to 1930 include a grocer, a sugar refinery bookkeeper, a peddler, a blacksmith, a tailor, a lumber company saw filer, a millwright, a Hastings Shingle Mill sawyer, wholesale druggists, rooming house operators, plumbers, a logger, a construction worker, and a general labourer.

- **Water Service** was on July 29th 1898 by William Cameron McCord.