

VICTORIA

Historic Chinese Clan Association and Society Buildings

Victoria's Chinatown, the oldest in Canada, began in 1858 when Chinese miners and merchants arrived from California to search for gold in the Fraser River valley. Chinese merchants set up businesses in Victoria to supply goods and provide services to miners travelling through and to the rapidly developing local community.

At the same time, clan societies and county associations were formed for people who came from the same regions of China to support each other. These societies acted as agencies to help members in B.C., but also provided means of sending letters between China and Canada and to organize projects such as building schools and hospitals both in Canada and for families still in China. Many of the clan buildings still exist today.

Victoria was the first major port of entry for Chinese into British Columbia and what would later become Canada. Many of Victoria Chinatown's historic buildings and narrow alleys have been refurbished and, in 1995, the district was designated a [National Historic Site of Canada](#). The Province of British Columbia recognized Victoria's Chinatown as a Historical Site of Significance as one of the Legacy Initiatives in 2016.

For more information: <http://chinatown.library.uvic.ca/home>

Clan associations in Victoria: <http://chinatown.library.uvic.ca/node/886>



The Gate of Harmonious Interest, Victoria

VICTORIA

Historic Chinese Clan Association and Society Buildings

Click on the building name or address to learn more about each site:

NAME	MAIL ADDRESS	YEAR BUILT
Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) Bldg.	554-562 Fisgard Street	1885
Chinese Public School	636 Fisgard Street	1909
Fan Tan Alley	10-14 Fan Tan Alley	1912
Finlayson Building	528 Pandora Avenue	1881
First Chinese Empire Reform Association Building	1715 Government Street	1912
Gee Tuck Tong Benevolent Association Building	622-626 Fisgard Street	1903
George Joe Building	564-572 Fisgard Street	1946
Hart's Herald Building	531 Herald Street	1890
Hook Sin Tong Charity Building	658-666 Herald St.	1911
Kong Sin Wing Rooming House	624 ½ Fisgard Street	1913
Lee Block	1620 ½ Government Street	1910
Lee Block	565 Fisgard Street	1910
Lee Cheong Building	533-537 ½ Fisgard Street	1901
Lee Woy & Company Building	557-561 Fisgard Street	1908
Lee's Benevolent Association building	614 Fisgard Street	1911
Lim Dat Building	1617-1623 Store Street	1898
Loo Chew Fan Building	536-544 Pandora Avenue	1884
Loo Tai Cho Building	549-555 Fisgard Street	1893
Lum Sam & Look Den Building	534 Pandora Avenue	1884
Lung Kong Tin Yee Kung Shaw Building	1717 Government Street	1905
Macdonald Building	546 Pandora Avenue	1920
Ning Young Building	4 Fan Tan Alley	1920
On Hing & Brothers Store	546-552 Fisgard Street	1882
On Hing Brothers Building	1706 -1714 Government Street	1897
On Hing Building	538-544 Fisgard Street	1891
Scott & Peden Building	1415-1425 Store Street	1883
Sheam & Lee Building	539 Fisgard Street	1888
Shon Yee Benevolent Association Building	612-614 1/2 Fisgard Street	1935
Tye Chong Building	529 Pandora Avenue	1884
Yee King Yum Building	17-23 Fan Tan Alley	1913
Yen Wo Society Building	1713 Government Street	1911

Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) Building



554-562 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1885

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association Building is a prominent, three-storey brick-clad building on the north side of Fisgard Street in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. The ground floor has retail storefronts while the second and third storeys contain meeting rooms. Doorways lead to the upper floors and a narrow passageway enters onto a rear service space. It is distinctive for its Italianate-style features, including inverted-U window hoods, segmental-arched structural openings, elaborated façade detailing, bracketted cornice, wrought-iron balconies and tall central flagpole.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14891&pid=0>

Chinese Public School



636 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1909

The Chinese Public School is a unique freestanding two and one-half storey building located on one and one-half commercial city lots in Victoria's Chinatown District. It is distinguishable by its spacious set-back situation within the streetscape, a unique pagoda-style roofline and tower, and an eclectic blend of architectural detailing.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=3929&pid=0>

Fan Tan Alley



10-14 Fan Tan Alley, Victoria, BC
Built in 1912

10-14 Fan Tan Alley is on the west side of Fan Tan Alley in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. It is a two-storey vernacular brick building with segmental-arched upper window openings and is slightly higher but almost identical in style to the adjacent Ning Young Building at 4 Fan Tan Alley. 10-14 Fan Tan Alley features two structural bays separated by brick pilasters and wooden storefronts. It is one of nine interconnected buildings and additions with front facades on Fan Tan Alley, a narrow mid-block passageway that links Pandora Avenue to Fisgard Street. There is another mid-block passageway on the north side of the building that leads to the west.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14929&pid=0>

Finlayson Building



528 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC
Built in 1881

The Finlayson Building consists of a front façade and remnants of the side walls of a two-storey Late Victorian-era brick warehouse. It stands on the north side of Pandora Street on the southern edge of Victoria's Chinatown National Historic Site. It is also located across the street from Market Square, a rehabilitated complex of late nineteenth century buildings with continuous historic street fronts in Victoria's Old Town National Historic Site.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14794&pid=0>

First Chinese Empire Reform Association Building



1715 Government Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1912

This building is valued for its association with the establishment of Victoria's first Chinese political party, the Chinese Empire Reform Association (CERA). The CERA was started during the late Qing Dynasty by former statesman and eminent scholar, Kang Yu Wei (1858-1927). A monarchist organization, his movement was spurred through attempts to save the declining Manchu Empire. Due to groups who opposed his quest, Kang fled to Canada, setting up headquarters in Victoria. After the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1912, the CERA sold the northern half of the building to the clan-based Lung Kong Kung Shaw Association, made of members with the surnames Lau, Kwan, Cheung and Chiu. Such associations, or Tongs, had members with common ancestors and were established to protect the earliest Chinese settlers against Western intolerance and prejudice and opposing Chinese clans. Funding for the association was obtained entirely by membership dues, gambling, opium dens and exiting fees.

Find out more: <http://www.victoria.ca/blog/2015/02/20/chinese-heritage/>

Gee Tuck Tong Benevolent Association Building



622-626 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1903

The Gee Tuck Tong Benevolent Association Building is two stories in height on the north side of Fisgard Street and the periphery of Victoria's Chinatown. It has retail space on the ground floor and multi-paned wooden transoms. The building is distinctive for its slightly asymmetrical façade, which is vertically divided by pilasters into three bays with a tall arched entry to a narrow passageway leading to a separate tenement building at the rear. The second floor features a prominent arcade with recessed balconies. A raised semi-circular plaque is above the parapet and inscribed with the '1903' date of construction, surmounted by a tall flagpole.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14924&pid=0>

George Joe Building



564-572 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1946

Located at the corner of Fisgard and Government Streets in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown, the George Joe Building is a one-storey structure clad in tan iron-spot brick. It features distinctive Chinese decorative elements, including projecting pantiled canopies, and an ornate use of corbelled and herringbone brick. The restaurant use of the building retains its early neon signs and decorative neon ceiling.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14892&pid=0>

Hart's Herald Building



531 Herald Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1890

Description: No information available.

Hook Sin Tong Charity Building



658-666 Herald Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1911

The Hook Sin Tong Charity Building is a three-storey building located on the northeastern periphery of Victoria's Chinatown. This building is distinctive for its recessed upper-floor balcony with white marble columns and surrounds, bracketed cornice, decorative pediment and pressed tin finials. The interior is notable for the stained glass dome in the ceiling of the upper-floor meeting hall.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14792&pid=0>

Kong Sin Wing Rooming House



624 ½ Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1913

The Kong Sin Wing Rooming House is a three-storey brick tenement that occupies the rear of a mid-block lot on Fisgard Street on the periphery of Victoria's Chinatown. The tenement is accessed through a narrow passageway that penetrates the façade of the Gee Tuck Tong Benevolent Association Building at 622-626 Fisgard Street.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14968&pid=0>

Lee Block



1620 ½ Government Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1910

Description: No information available.

Lee Block



565 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1910

The Lee Block is a prominent building located at the corner of Fisgard and Government Streets in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. The building displays the influence of the Classical Revival style, prevalent during the Edwardian era for commercial buildings. Divided into symmetrical structural bays, with regular fenestration, the Lee Block contains storefronts on the main floor and tenements and space for volunteer associations on the second and third storeys.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14893>

Lee Cheong Building



533-537 ½ Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1901

The Lee Cheong Building is a two-storey, brick-clad commercial and residential building located in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. The front façade retains original storefront elements, including 'cheater' mezzanines. The upper storey is residential, and features segmental-arched window openings, brick corbelling, second floor doors and a central coloured glass door surround. A narrow passageway located between two of the storefronts connects to an internal courtyard and a brick tenement building behind.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14887>

Lee Woy & Company Building



557-561 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1908

The Lee Woy & Company Building is a brick-clad two-storey (plus 'cheater' mezzanine) commercial and institutional building located on the south side of Fisgard Street in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. The façade has minimal ornamentation with a later metal balcony at the second floor level and retail storefronts at the ground level. The Dart Coon Club and Chih Kung T'ang occupy the second floor of the building.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14926&pid=0>

Lee's Benevolent Association building



614 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1911

The Lee's Benevolent Association building at 614 Fisgard Street was designed by architect C. Elwood Watkins in 1911. There are shops on the first floor, offices on the second floor and the Lee Association's meeting hall is on the third floor behind the balcony, which is fronted by columns and arches. At one point, the Nationalist League occupied the second floor of this building.

Find out more: http://chinatown.library.uvic.ca/lee_association

Lim Dat Building



1617-1623 Store Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1898

The Lim Dat Building is a two-storey red-brick building with retail space on the ground floor and offices on the upper floor. It is prominently situated at the corner of Store and Fisgard Streets in an industrial area at the western periphery of Victoria's Chinatown and across the street from the Inner Harbour. The building is distinctive for its round-arched façade openings with a repetitive series of bays that display an unusually high ratio of glazing versus wall surface.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14870&pid=0>

Loo Chew Fan Building



536-544 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC

Built in 1884

Description: No information available.

Loo Tai Cho Building



549-555 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Built in 1893

The Loo Tai Cho Building is a three-storey, brick-clad commercial and residential building located on the south side of Fisgard Street in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. The building also extends south and marks the northern entry to Fan Tan Alley. The corner of the building is bevelled at the entrance to the Alley, and has a distinctive Juliet balcony at the second floor. One of the more imposing buildings on Fisgard Street, it is embellished with sheet metal ornamentation.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14925&pid=0>

Lum Sam & Look Den Building



534 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC
Built in 1884

The Lum Sam & Look Den Building is a two-storey, Late Victorian-era brick commercial structure. It stands on the north side of Pandora Street on the southern edge of Victoria's Chinatown. It is also located across the street from historic Old Town and Market Square, a rehabilitated complex of late-nineteenth century buildings with continuous streetfronts. The ground floor has a large storefront window and two doors, the one to the east at 534½ providing access to the upper level. The second storey has two windows flanking a door to the full-width balcony. The exterior is richly articulated with stringcourses and corbelled brickwork.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=15618&pid=0>

Lung Kong Tin Yee Kung Shaw Building



1717 Government Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1905

The building is part of a three-storey structure built in 1905 for the Chinese Empire Association, which sold the northern half (1717 Government Street) in 1912 to the Lung Kong Kung Shaw Association.

Find out more: http://www.sfu.ca/chinese-canadian-history/victoria_chinatown_en.html

Macdonald Building



546 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC
Built in 1920

The Macdonald Building is two-storey brick commercial building facing Pandora Avenue at the corner of Fan Tan Alley; the Lim Ging Building is a later extension to the north that fronts onto Fan Tan Alley. The two buildings are located in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown National Historic Site. The Pandora Avenue façade of the Macdonald Building is completely rebuilt, but the form, scale and brick side walls remain intact. The Lim Ging Building is one of nine interconnected buildings and additions with front façades on Fan Tan Alley, a narrow mid-block passageway that links Pandora Avenue to Fisgard Street.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14795&pid=0>

Ning Young Building



4 Fan Tan Alley, Victoria, BC
Built in 1920

The Ning Young Building is on the west side of Fan Tan Alley in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown National Historic Site. It is a two-storey vernacular brick building with wooden storefronts with cast-iron columns, arched upper-floor window openings and two doorways to second-storey tenements. This building is slightly lower but almost identical in style to the adjacent building at 10-14 Fan Tan Alley. It is one of nine interconnected buildings and additions that front onto Fan Tan Alley, a narrow mid-block passageway that links Pandora Street to Fisgard Street.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14928&pid=0>

On Hing & Brothers Store



546-552 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1882

The On Hing & Brothers Store is a three-storey, brick-clad commercial and residential building located on the north side of Fisgard Street in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. The ground floor has retail storefronts, while the second and third storeys are residential, with symmetrical massing and regular fenestration.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14890&pid=0>

On Hing Brothers Building



1706 -1714 Government Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1897

The On Hing Brothers Building is a brick-clad, two-storey plus 'cheater' mezzanine, commercial and residential building located on the west side of Government Street in Victoria's Chinatown. The building features two original wooden storefronts with multi-paned transoms; the upper floor is residential use.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14894&pid=0>

On Hing Building



538-544 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1891

The On Hing Building is a two-storey brick-clad commercial and residential building, located on the north side of Fisgard Street in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. The ground floor contains commercial storefronts; the upper floor is residential and features segmental-arched window openings. The eastern storefront retains its 'cheater' mezzanine, and large signs advertise Chinese businesses.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14888&pid=0>

Scott and Peden Building



1415-1425 Store Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1883

The Scott and Peden Building is a Victorian Italianate masonry commercial building, located on the east side of Store Street, adjoining the rear of the Grand Pacific Hotel. Two storeys in height facing Store Street, it has a full lower level exposed to the rear courtyard. It is part of Market Square, a rehabilitated complex of late nineteenth century buildings that comprise the western half of a full block, with continuous historic streetfronts along three major streets and a central courtyard behind, in Victoria's Old Town.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/fr/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=6065>

Sheam and Lee Building



539 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1888

The Sheam and Lee Building is a two-storey, brick-clad commercial and residential building located on the south side of Fisgard Street in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. The building also extends south and marks the northern entry to Fan Tan Alley. The building is distinguished by its symmetrical segmental-arched windows on the upper floor and distinctive storefronts.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14889&pid=0>

Shon Yee Benevolent Association Building



612-614 1/2 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Built in 1935

Description: No information available.

Find out more: http://chinatown.library.uvic.ca/shon_yee_benevolent_association

Tye Chong Building



529 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC
Built in 1884

The Tye Chong Building is a two-storey, Italianate commercial building located midblock on the south side of Pandora Avenue in Victoria's historic Old Town, and across the street from Chinatown. The building's narrow front façade is accented with round-arched ground floor window openings, elaborate window crowns and a heavy bracketed cornice at the parapet. It is adjacent to Market Square, a rehabilitated complex of late nineteenth century buildings that comprise the western half of a full block, with continuous historic streetfronts along three major streets and a central courtyard.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=15617&pid=0>

Yee King Yum Building



17-23 Fan Tan Alley, Victoria, BC
Built in 1913

The Yee King Yum Building is on the east side of Fan Tan Alley in the heart of Victoria's Chinatown. It is a three-storey vernacular brick building with continuous ground-floor storefronts and segmental-arched upper-floor window openings and one of nine interconnected buildings and additions with front facades on Fan Tan Alley, a narrow mid-block passageway that links Pandora Avenue to Fisgard Street. There is another mid-block passageway on the north side of the building that leads to the west. It is internally connected to the Loo Tai Cho Building at 549-555 Fisgard Street.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14927&pid=0>

Yen Wo Society Building



1713 Government Street, Victoria, BC
Built in 1911

The Yen Wo Society Building at 1713 Government Street is a tall, Edwardian-era building on a narrow lot, three storeys in height plus a 'cheater' mezzanine that displays Classical influences as well as typical Chinese features such as a prominent flagpole and recessed balconies on upper floors. At the periphery of Victoria's Chinatown, it is the original location of the Yen Wo Society and the Tam Kung Temple, which still exist on the top floor. The building is contiguous with the Lung Kong Kung Shaw and the First Chinese Empire Reform Association Building at 1715-1717 Government Street.

Find out more: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=14971&pid=0>