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| **Building Name** | **Building Year** | **Building Type** | **Address** | **Latitude** | **Longitude** | **Description** |
| Chinatown Millennium Gate | 2002 | Tourism | Pender St @ Taylor St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1R3 | 49.280669 | -123.104940 | Situated at the historical origin of Chinatown, the Millennium Gate opened in 2002, funded by three levels of government and private donations. On its eastern face, the gate says “remember the past and look forward to the future”; while on the western face it says “Chinatown Millennium Gate.” |
| Chinese Freemasons Building | 1901 | Commercial | 9 West Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1R3 | 49.280628 | -123.104755 | The Chi Kung Tong, a traditional Chinese fraternal organization, first appeared in Canada in 1863 to provide welfare assistance to miners in the Cariboo gold rush. Built in 1901, the Chi Kung Tong purchased this building in 1907. The Chi Kung Tong changed its name to Chinese Freemasons in 1920, in order to forge links with European Freemasonry. This building is the perfect headquarters for an organization that sought to form bonds with Europeans because of the way the structure blends the Chinese and Western traditions of architecture. The Pender St. façade, facing Chinatown, has traditional Chinese recessed balconies and ironwork. The Carrall St. side of the building faces the entrance to predominantly Caucasian Gastown and presents a Victorian Italianate façade. The Freemasons supported Dr. Sun-Yat Sen’s attempts to bring democracy to China. During visits to Vancouver to increase support and raise money for his cause (in 1910 and 1911) Dr. Sun-Yat Sen was hosted by this society. The building was even mortgaged to fund Sun-Yat Sen’s 1911 rebellion. |
| Chinese Times Building | 1901 | Commercial | 1 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6B 5K2 | 49.280339 | -123.104000 | The Chinese Times Building was contructed early in 1901 by Wing Sang, a local businessman. From 1939 until the early 2000s, the largest of Vancouver’s several Chinese newspapers was published in this unassuming building. It used to be that one could watch the printing presses through the ground floor windows with their 5,000 different Chinese characters at work. |
| Sam Kee Building | 1913 | Commercial | 8 West Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1R3 | 49.280812 | -123.104675 | An act of defiance in 1913 resulted in the construction of this 6’2” (1.8m) wide building. To widen the road, the city expropriated land on Pender St., demolishing Chang Toy’s grocery warehouse and leaving him with a narrow strip of land. No compensation was offered and the furious Toy, rather than sell his prime location cheaply to his neighbour, hired architects Brown and Hillam to design a building for the site. They designed for him a building of steel-frame construction with a series of bay windows which increase parts of the usable width of the upper floor. The basement, running the length of the building and extending under the sidewalk to double the square footage, housed public baths. The section under the sidewalk was lit with prisms which have been replaced by glass blocks set in the pavement. This was a common way to augment lighting in basements prior to the improvement in electric lighting. The building was restored in 1986 by the current owner, Jack Chow and architect Soren Rasmussen. |
| Shanghai Alley | 1904 | Commercial | Shanghai Alley  Vancouver, BC V6B | 49.280222 | -123.105121 | After 1904, the area south of Pender St. at Carrall St. became the hub of Chinatown. Many of the new buildings had double fronts, one side opening onto Carrall St. and the other onto Shanghai Alley. Life in Chinatown became centered in this location. Restaurants, stores, a 500 seat theatre and several tenements crowded the narrow alley. A similar alley called Canton Alley, ran parallel one block west. There were 2 opium factories here, which were legal until 1908. By the 1920s, Chinatown’s commercial area shifted eastward toward Main St. and by the ’40s Canton Alley and much of Shanghai Alley were demolished when non-Chinese industries moved in. CBA Manor, an assisted housing project sponsored by the Chinese Benevolent Assoc. whose design references d details of the Sam Kee Building, successfully redefines the eastern edge of Shanghai Alley. |
| Lim Sai Hor (Kow Mok) Benevolent Association | 1903 | Commercial | 525-531 Carrall St, Vancouver, BC V6B 5K2 | 49.280337 | -123.104576 | This building was originally constructed in 1903 for the Chinese Empire Reform Assoc., whose focus was to bring about political reform in China. It was the most influential association in Chinatown at the time. Their influence faded when China fell into revolution in 1911 instead of reform within the Imperial framework. They owned the building until 1945 but rented it to the newly formed Lim Sai Hor Assoc. in 1926. The Lim Sai Hor Assoc. finally bought and extensively renovated the building in 1945. Its recessed balconies identify it with South Chinese architecture, but much of the original detail disappeared in the 1945 renovation. It is one of the only original structures remaining in Shanghai Alley. It’s frontage on both Carrall St. and Shanghai Alley provides a glimpse of how the neighborhood looked in the earliest days of Chinatown. The building is home to an ancestral altar, built in 1993 which is used for commemorative ceremonies by society members. |
| The Chinese Cultural Centre | 1980 | Tourism | 50 E Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A 3V6 | 49.280537 | -123.103254 | This centre provides a home for the promotion of Chinese heritage and culture in BC. Offered here are classes in Chinese and English language, traditional arts and crafts and tai-chi as well as an annual Chinese New Year Celebration. The building, a competition-winning design by James K. M.  Cheng Architects and Romses Kwan & Associates, incorporates the elements of traditional Chinese architecture; the north-south axis, courtyard plan, exterior colonnades and covered balconies all with a modern interpretation. In 1998, the Museum and Archives building was added to the NE corner of the complex. It was designed by local architect Joe Wai with traditional motifs including flared eaves, screened windows and post and beam construction. A permanent collection and rotating exhibition highlight Chinese Canadian history. |
| Dr Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden | 1986 | Scenic | 578 Carrall St, Vancouver, BC V6B 5K2 | 49.279803 | -123.104091 | This classical garden, named for Dr. Sun-Yat Sen, was the first of its kind outside of China. Designed by Joe Wai and Don Vaughan in 1986, it is a re-creation of a Ming dynasty scholar garden. Unlike the western garden tradition, which tries to impose order on nature, Chinese gardens seek harmony between the man-made and natural worlds. They are landscapes in miniature; each element believed to encourage a different immortal spirit to inhabit the garden. The cloudy water symbolizes tranquility; the zigzag paths deter evil spirits and the controlled interplay between water and sky (yin and yang) promotes good health and longevity. The garden subtly conceals then reveals views, allowing the visitor to enjoy the relationship of parts to the whole. The organization and placement of structures within gardens developed into the science of feng shui. Access to the public area of the gardens is off Columbia St. For a guided tour, enter off Carrall St. |
| Wong’s Benevolent Association | 1910 | Commercial | 123A East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A 1T6 | 49.280430 | -123.101469 | A mutual assistance association based on a common surname, the Wong Benevolent Association built this structure in 1921 as their headquarters. The architects, J.A. Radford and G.L. Southall, significantly altered an existing 1910 building by demolishing the top floor for the new addition. Since 1925 children have attended after-school Chinese language classes on the second floor. In 1947, the school began offering the first high school-level Chinese classes in Canada. Look for the the stained glass window incorporating Chinese characters. The building was designed by architects. |
| Yue Shan Society | 1920 | Commercial | 33- 39 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A 1S9 | 49.280860 | -123.103572 | The Yue Shan Society is an organization for people from Poon Yue County near Guangzhou. Originally formed in 1894 under the name Chong Hoo, the society underwent a number of name changes. By 1943, it took its present name and raised money by share sales to buy this building. Influenced by the South China shop house style, this building was designed and constructed in 1920 by Chinatown architect W.H. Chow. Although not recognized legally as an architect because of his Chinese origin, Chow worked on many Chinatown buildings. The Yue Shan Society also owns the 2 story building next door which is one of the oldest existing in Chinatown (from 1898) and the building on the back of the headquarters building facing, Market Alley. These three buildings simulate a central courtyard structure common in China at the turn of the 20th century. The Market Alley building was used as a dormitory for members visiting Vancouver, especially in the post-war period and continues as a rooming house today. Yue Shan is now more focused on recreational and social affairs. |
| Cheng Wing Yeong Tong Benevolent Association | 1926 | Commercial | 79 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A 1S9 | 49.280458 | -123.102833 | The Cheng Wing Yeong Tong Society Building has value for illustrating renovations and additions made to a decade-old existing structure during Chinatown's boom years of the 1920s, which added space to accommodate a Tong and to adapt the building to the newly dominant 'Chinatown style' of architecture, and thereby express its 'Chinese-ness'. The renovations also illustrate the intense development that took place along East Pender Street during the 1920s, when Chinatown's population was growing. |
| Lung Kong Kung Shaw Ltd | 1911 | Commercial | 102 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A | 49.280429 | -123.102133 | Built in 1911 for Loo Gee Wing, a leading Chinatown merchant who made his fortune in the Gold Rush, the building has been owned by a clan society since 1926. First called, the Lung Kong Kung Shaw Association this society was later known as Lung Kong Tien Yee. The building now houses the Sun Ah Hotel, whose top three stories were lodgings for Chinese labourers early in the 20th century. On ground level was the famous Ho Ho restaurant. For many years the Ho Ho Restaurant’s 4 story high neon sign served as a landmark, but 8 years after the restaurant closed, the sign was removed. The building was designed by R.T. Perry and White and Cockrill with no apparent Chinese architectural influence. |
| Chinese Benevolent Association | 1910 | Commercial | 104-108 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A | 49.280311 | -123.101984 | Although Vancouver’s branch of the CBA was formed in 1895, it found a home when this building was completed in 1910. An organization was needed to support destitute railway workers and teach them English. It evolved into a vocal representative of the Chinese community, organizing protests against repressive legislation as well as advocating for community social and physical well-being by sponsoring Chinese language schools and a medical clinic. The CBA building is one of the most impressive and oldest examples of the architectural style imported from southern China, with recessed balconies, ornate ironwork, and decorative tile. The stone fire walls and imposing four floors topped with a pediment wall add to the prominence of the structure. The CBA continues to be active in Chinatown through sponsorship and support of CBA Seniors residence as well as acting as an umbrella organization, uniting the community. |
| Wong Benevolent Association | 1904 | Commercial | 121 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A | 49.280428 | -123.101498 | A mutual assistance program based on the most common Chinese surname, the Wong Benevolent Association built this structure in 1921 as their clan headquarters. The original building was built in 1904 with a first, mezzanine and upper floor. When it was purchased by the Wongs, they knocked off the top floor and added 2 new floors. Since 1925, Chinese children have attended afterschool Chinese language classes on the first floor. In 1947, after the repeal of the Exclusion Act and the reunification of many families, the school began offering the first high school-level Chinese classes in Canada. The building is notable for its typical recessed balconies coupled with its projecting finials atop the structural piers and decorative glass above the entrance. |
| Lung Kong Kung Shaw | 1923 | Commercial | 135 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A | 49.280431 | -123.101045 | Built in 1923 to the designs of local English-Canadian architect A. Ernest Henderson for Chinese-Canadian owners, and replacing a building of 1914 by Chinese-Canadian architect W.H Chow, the historic place, originally called the 'Business Building', is typical of many that show the features of the Chinatown architectural style that had developed a decade earlier, and was, by this time, the accepted manner for new and renovated buildings along East Pender Street. The present building is less flamboyant in its design than many others of the type. |
| Mah Society of Canada | 1913 | Commercial | 137-139 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A 1T5 | 49.280508 | -123.100940 | The Mah society was informally established in Vancouver in 1919 and purchased its building two years after. Constructed in 1913, it has retail space at grade, and 3 floors for 39 rental rooms above. Like other successful clan associations, the Mahs used rental income to finance most of their operations. Unlike others however, it rented out to non-members as well as members. Because it housed both North American headquarters as well as a local branch, an additional floor to accommodate a meeting hall was added in 1921. Its recessed balcony is the only reminder of an elaborate traditional Chinese design. The additional story, which bears the Society’s name at the top, also increased the status of the building by making it the tallest on the block. In recent years the Mah Society has undertaken new activities, the most notable of these being the sports club. |
| Chin Wing Chun Tong Society of Canada | 1925 | Commercial | 158 – 160 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A | 49.280381 | -123.100970 | Smaller Clans sometimes joined forces to build a headquarters for their society. This enabled them to build a substantial structure that would show their importance in the community. This building, erected in 1925, is a perfect example of this type of co-operation. It is also a demonstration of the blending of influences in Chinatown’s architecture. The architect, R. A. McKenzie, who worked for more than 5 years in China, incorporated the recessed balconies common to tropical southern China in the building design. However, the crowning pediment supported by columns is a neo-classical Western idea. The interior of the assembly room is pure Arts and Crafts. The imposing awning was added in the 1970s. |
| Soo Yuen Society | 1880 | Commercial | 152 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A | 49.280408 | -123.101150 |  |
| Hoy Ping Benevolent Association | 1939 | Commercial | 434 Main St, Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7 | 49.280843 | -123.099655 |  |
| Shon Yee Benevolent Association | 1946? | Commercial | 254-262 East Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6A | 49.280336 | -123.098153 | Shon Yee was established in Vancouver in 1914 to provide support and aid for immigrants from the town of Shek Kei in Zhongshan county. An unusually active society, Shon Yee began in 1922, through the sale of shares, to purchase Chinatown properties including this late Edwardian building in 1946. The association, which moved its headquarters to 408 Jackson Ave in 1977, is engaged in a wide variety of activities and initiatives. These include seniors housing finished in 1988, as well as various social activities, educational endeavours and the establishment of an athletic club in 1975. This building is home to the May Wah Hotel, a three storey building with 40 rooms which has had various names over the years. In the past it has served mostly single men, but has also housed single women and families. |
| Chinese Nationalist League of Canada | 1919 | Commercial | 529 Gore Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6A 2Z6 | 49.280093 | -123.097451 | The architecture of this building, designed by Scottish architect W.E. Sproat for the Kuomintang (KMT) in 1919, is similar to many structures in Hong Kong and Macau. Observe the enclosed recessed balconies on the top floor. However, its significance lies in the political life and aspirations of the Chinese community. For years before the building’s construction, the KMT worked to raise money for the overthrow the Qing Dynasty and bring democracy to China. Chinese in BC, who had few rights in Canada whether they were new immigrants, naturalized or born here, hoped that a democratic China would help their situation here. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, the international leader of the KMT became the provisional leader of China in 1911 when a revolution was finally successful. His time as president lasted only until 1913 when infighting in the leadership led to Sun’s exile. |
| Lung Jen Benevolent Association Building | 1933 | Commercial | 240 Keefer St, Vancouver, BC V6A | 49.279462 | -123.099498 |  |
| Yee Fung Toy Society | 1910 | Private Club | 222-226 East Georgia St, Vancouver, BC V6A 1Z6 | 49.278501 | -123.098792 |  |