

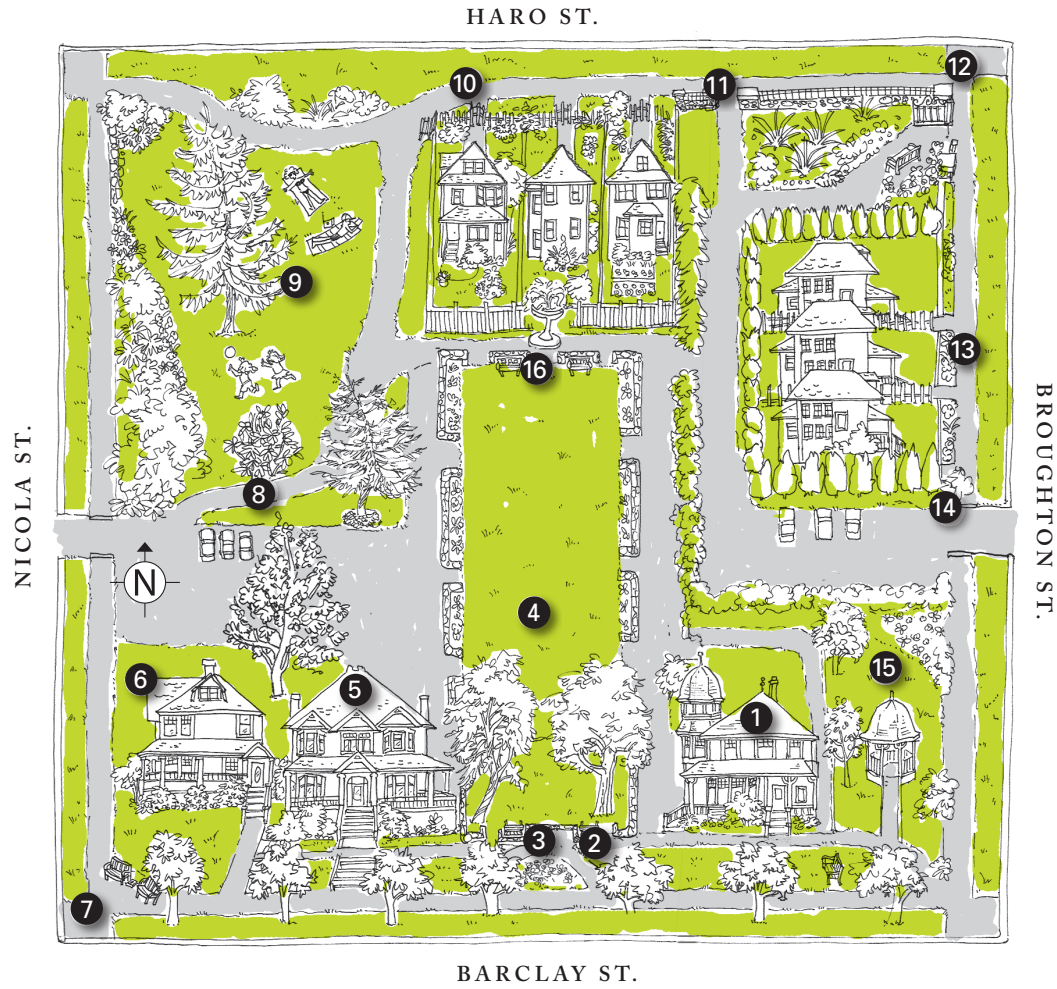
Use the map for a self-guided tour following the numbered landmarks.

1 **Roedde House Museum, 1415 Barclay Street**, was built in **1893** by Gustav Adolph Roedde and his wife Matilda. The family of six children and two St. Bernard dogs occupied the house for 32 years after which it became a rooming house. Gustav Roedde, born in Nordhausen, Germany, studied the art of bookbinding, emigrated to Cleveland, Ohio, married and moved to California. With two daughters the Roeddes journeyed to Victoria, B.C., and in 1888 settled in Vancouver, opening their first **Bookbinding & Printing Company** at 36 Cordova Street. When they built their home, fir and cedar were abundant and cheap but had to be hauled through the bush. Styled as Queen Anne Revival with its uneven distribution of windows, verandas, front door and turret, the house is attributed to the Roeddes' friend, architect **Frances Mawson Rattenbury**, designer of the Parliament Buildings and the Empress Hotel in Victoria and Vancouver's Courthouse (now the Art Gallery). In 1980 exterior restoration of the house was undertaken by the **City of Vancouver**. The Roedde House Preservation Society was then formed to restore and furnish the interior and to manage the house. Victorian-Edwardian furnishings from a large collection of period pieces depict family life at the turn of the century. Guided public tours of City owned **Roedde House Museum** are offered. Phone: 604 684 7040.

2 **Barclay Street** runs past Roedde House, with an old **Sycamore maple** on the right and a row of **Cappadocian maples** on the boulevard - planted in the 1890s. Their yellow leaves make a spectacular showing in autumn. Perennial beds around the park entrance are planted with **hellebores, rhododendrons, viburnum and spring bulbs**.

3 **The Entrance to Barclay Heritage Square** consists of granite salvaged from a turreted vintage home originally on the southeast corner of Broughton and Barclay, which was demolished in 1984 as the development of the park was starting.

4 **The Big Lawn Area**, edged with its walls in the same granite, was the first landscaping



undertaken according to the Park Plan. The lawn, which is used for community concerts, croquet games and picnics, replaced an 1895 house not considered for retention because of its poor condition.

5 **Barclay Manor Seniors Centre, 1477 Barclay Street**, is the site of an **1890** small house owned by Lucy and Charles Tetley. It was sold in 1905 to Frank Baynes, owner of the Dominion Hotel in Gastown. Baynes replaced the small house with the present impressive family home, then added a large hospital building to the north side of the house which became **Miss Clermont's West End Hospital**. In the twenties the complex was a boarding house for men, known as **'Barclay Manor'**, costing \$23 a week shared and \$30 single with two meals a day and maid service! Its handsome Edwardian

presence, with fretwork-trimmed gables, was reinstated when the house was restored and the deteriorating north addition was removed as part of the Park Plan. The large **Robinia pseudoacacia (black locust) tree** at the southeast corner of the house helps to maintain the character of Barclay Street. Stained glass windows and the original front parlour fireplace were also retained to provide a cozy parlour setting for older adults' activities. The building is operated jointly by the West End Community Centre and the Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation. The West End Seniors' Network Society also has offices in the building. Phone: 604 257 8349.

6 **The George Weeks House, 1459 Barclay**, was built in **1895**. Now the **Diamond Centre for Living**, it is run by the Friends for Life Society. The house anchors the southwest corner of the

park with its inviting wrap-around veranda and windows facing both Barclay and Nicola Streets. George Weeks served as a factor in the trading posts of Yale and Hope, then became the manager of **Vancouver's first Hudson's Bay store** on Cordova Street. He lived in his Barclay Street house until he died in 1948. The house remained in the Weeks family for another 40 years, resulting in its good condition and making it a candidate for retention. In 1911 George Weeks built a two storied apartment, the Shaftsbury Apartments, on Nicola behind his house. Unfortunately the Shaftsbury was not included in the Park Plan. Park Board gardeners transplanted the large **rhododendron in the front garden** from a nearby demolition site. Phone: 604 682 5992.

7 **The Barclay & Nicola Corner** has benches facing West End **heritage houses** now with ground floor stores. On Nicola one block south, the tower of the City's 1906 Firehall is visible. Its firemen came to the rescue at Roedde House in January 1913 when the family's Christmas tree burst into flames. A plaque between the benches honours **The Garden Club of Vancouver** that donated the front garden rockery at Barclay Manor and a rose bed within the park.

8 **The Winding Path off Nicola** starts just beyond the parking area. A children's play area and a grove of **Southern Magnolias** (in memory of City Properties Manager Pat Wolfe) are to the left. Through the branches of the magnificent spreading **Diadora cedar** you will see brick paving planned for outdoor performances.

9 **The Sunbathers' Lawn** back on the winding path to the left is a popular spot with apartment dwellers. A curving sidewalk and boulevard planting were designed to emphasize that this is no ordinary city block!

10 **The Edwardian Builder Houses, #1436 (1908), #1430 (1901) and #1416 (1905) Haro Street**, typify the middle-sized, single-family homes with gable or hipped roofs which once lined West End streets. The first house in the group of three, #1436, was the home of Levi Stone, Manager of the Vancouver Singer Sewing Machine Company, and his wife Sadie. Next door #1442 (now gone) was the home of a well-known local photographer George Edwards. Up the street lived John Ahlers, who worked at a creamery, as well as homeowner Thomas Smith, Superintendent of BC Land & Investments. Now these Haro houses provide suites for families.

11 **An Entrance off Haro Street** takes you into a narrow garden area once the site of a house on this corner lot surrounded by the **old stone wall**. Behind the corner bench **wild rose bushes** bloom each summer as remnants of a small garden.

12 The **Leckie Gate** at the corner of Haro and Broughton belonged to pioneer R.J. Leckie who lived further down Haro near Denman Street. Family members donated the gate from their old home to the Park Board. It is permanently open as a welcoming park entrance.

13 The **Triplet Houses, #883 (McLean's), #889 and #891 Broughton**, were designed by the Vancouver architectural firm, **Parr & Fee, in 1903**. Possibly these identical flat-front houses with hipped roofs were built for the speculative house market of the day with their spacious front verandas as a feature. These, and the Haro houses, lost their chimneys due to a building code regulation during their 1980's renovations. All were successfully raised four feet allowing a third suite to be developed at ground level in each house. Residents tend the gardens surrounding these houses. 883 Broughton, now known as "Mrs. McLean's House", has an interesting story. A Scottish Canadian poet by the name of Robert Service dedicated a book of poetry, "Song of a Sourdough", to Mrs. McLean's daughter Constance in 1908. In 1912 he visited with Connie while on holiday and they became engaged, perhaps in the home at 883 Broughton. He sailed back to the Yukon writing love letters en route but, alas, the two never married. Mr. Service went on to become one of the most widely read and wealthiest poets in the English language, although he referred to his writing as verse, not poetry.

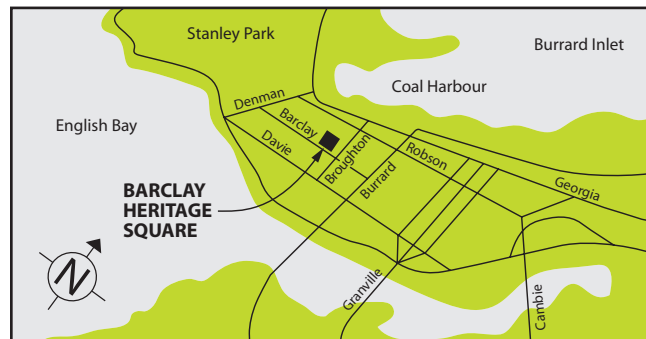
14 Along Broughton towards Barclay Street a parking lot was designed to occupy the former back lane which divided the block from east to west. When the 1925 Broughton Apartments at #899 was removed, **Roedde Gardens** took its place. At the corner entrance beneath a lilac tree, a **plaque** commemorates **British ballerina Margot Fonteyn**. It was donated by **The Vancouver Ballet Society**.

15 The **Gazebo** was built by **Capilano College students** studying heritage carpentry. A plaque commemorates this, including the donor of materials **Marion Hawley**. Surrounding perennial beds received plants, including the splendid trellis rose '**Ballerina**', from members of **The Garden Club of Vancouver**.

Ornamental pear trees, a crabapple and an old-fashioned **Rose Margin beech tree** were Park Board additions to the garden. The **Elizabeth O'Kiely and Janet Bingham Bench**, beside a mauve-flowering **hibiscus**, is in memory of two founding members of the Roedde House Preservation Society.

16 The **Centennial Fountain**, in the middle of the park at the far end of the Fine Lawn, was donated by the **Wilkinson-Brighthouse Family** as "A Tribute to West End Pioneers". It also commemorates **Sam Brighthouse**, a resident in the West End wilderness, who arrived in 1862.

Visitors to **Barclay Heritage Square** are invited to sit on the nearby benches and take time to enjoy the surroundings. The mountains, the high-rise buildings and the maples on Barclay Street enclose the park. Occasional traffic sounds and the urgency of a siren break through the hum of the City a few blocks away. In this public garden the old trees and houses stand guard.



Location

Barclay Heritage Square is two blocks south of Robson Street and is bordered by Broughton, Barclay, Nicola and Haro Streets. For further information call Roedde House Museum at 604 684 7040.



Roedde House
MUSEUM

Brochure produced by Roedde House Preservation Society
Funding: Marlena Roedde Swall
Text: Janet Bingham
Design and illustration: Sheila Kirkman and Henrich Design

Printing: G.A. Roedde Printing

BARCLAY HERITAGE SQUARE

"A West End Park with Houses"

WALKING TOUR



Barclay Heritage Square, a gem in Vancouver's roster of magnificent parks, is formed by Barclay, Nicola, Haro and Broughton Streets in Vancouver.

Welcome to Barclay Heritage Square

This 2.23 acre park includes heritage houses and old trees combined with shrubs, stone walls, a fountain, a children's play space, a gazebo, paths, lawns and flower beds. Vancouver Park Board gardeners maintain the grounds.

After Vancouver's disastrous fire in June 1886, settlement moved west from the Gastown area. The arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway a year after the fire meant more trade and commerce and an optimistic course for the new City of Vancouver. Land was cleared, building lots were in demand and single family homes were built in a residential area that became known as the West End. Today the area stretches west from Burrard Street towards Stanley Park and north from English Bay to Burrard Inlet.

The **Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation** acquired the block of Barclay, Nicola, Haro and Broughton in 1966, which included 15 houses and 2 apartment buildings. Known as Parksite 19, this block was earmarked to eventually become a flat, open park. In the mid-seventies Vancouver citizens reacted against the demolition of heritage buildings. Roedde House on Barclay Street was given a Heritage Designation by the City of Vancouver, making it illegal to demolish, move or alter this 1893 pioneer home. It became the catalyst, drawing the community together in an effort to save more houses within the block. The Park Board, with cooperation from the City, then agreed to a Park Plan allocating two-thirds of the block to parkland and the remaining third to heritage houses.

Planners, architects and landscapers worked out a plan for this "park with houses" as a way to save some examples of the original West End homes and their streetscapes. By 1980 the concept for **Barclay Heritage Square** was developed. The Park Plan was carried out over a ten year period with the gradual removal of buildings, restoration of others and additional landscaping.

The selection of houses to be saved was based on their condition and the possible future use of each. **Nine houses** dating from the 1890s to 1908 were chosen. The **three** houses on **Barclay Street, Roedde House Museum, Barclay Manor Seniors Centre and Weeks House (The Diamond Centre for Living)**, have public uses. **Six** houses (in two groups of three) on **Haro and Broughton** each contain three suites and are rented by the City to families. The nine houses received exterior restoration and their interiors received varying degrees of restoration and renovation.