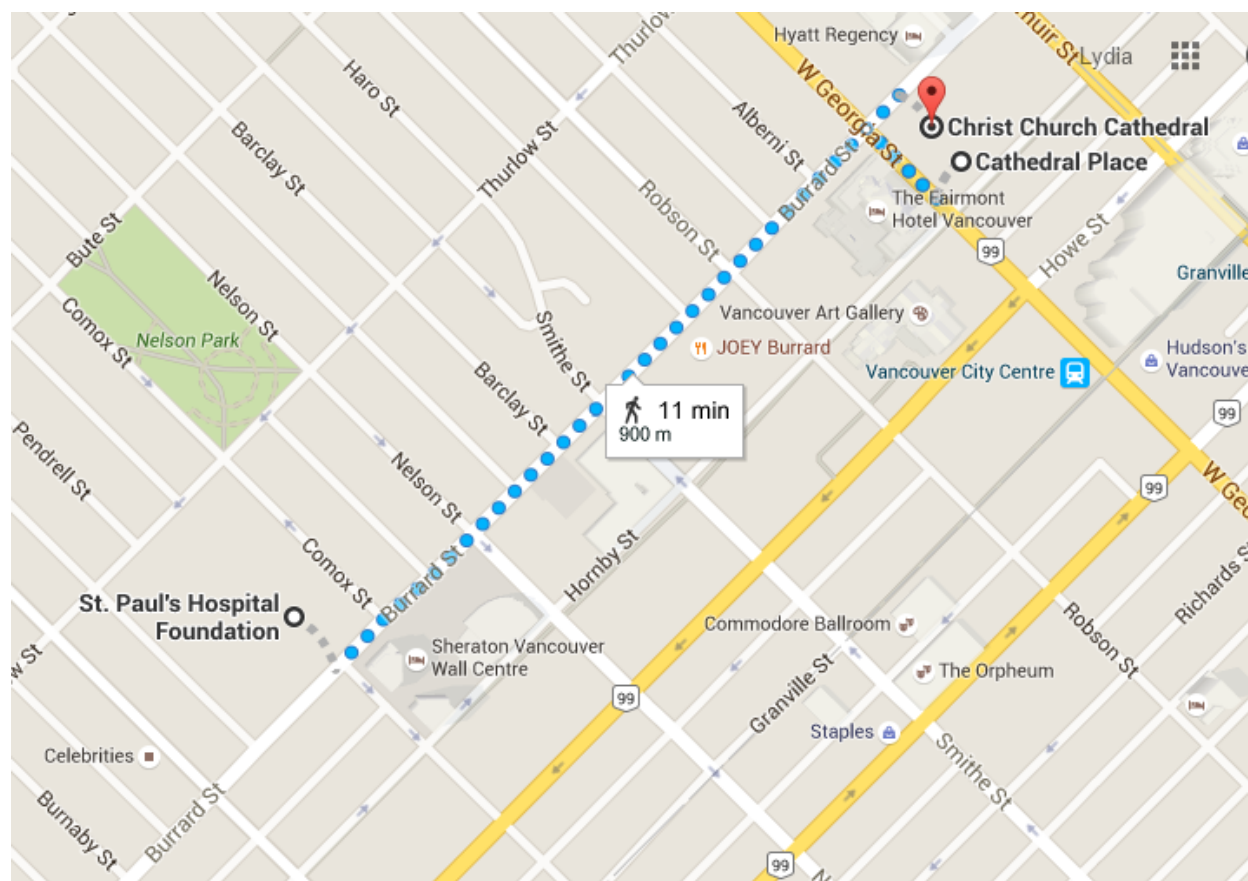


Explore Nursing History through Vancouver Architecture & Monuments

*Compiled by Lydia Wytenbroek, RN, PhD Candidate on behalf of the BCHSN

* The information found in this guide primarily comes from a document prepared by Nina Rumen, with additional information and images provided by Glennis Zilm. Nina Rumen's original document, "Vancouver's Monuments to Nurses," can be found on the British Columbia History of Nursing Society [BCHNS] website under "online exhibits." The BCHNS has had an important role in preserving many of these monuments.

Downtown Sites: St. Paul's Hospital, Cathedral Place & Christ Church Cathedral
See map below (it takes 10-15 minutes to walk from St. Paul's Hospital to the other two sites)

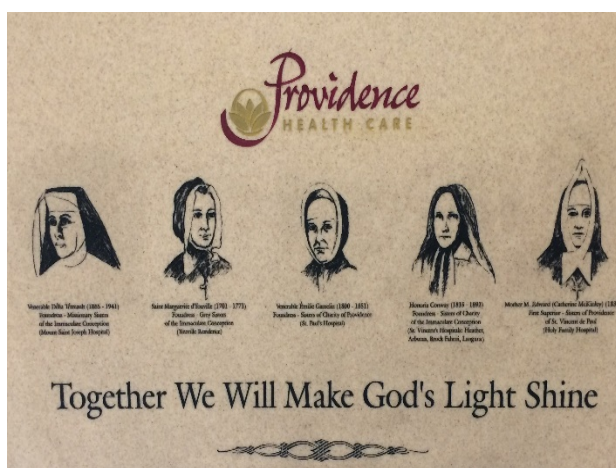


1. St. Paul's Hospital

1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver, V6Z 1Y6

There are several fantastic historical displays at St. Paul's:

a. When you enter the main doors of the Burrard Building, you will see Temptations Coffee Bar. To the left of the coffee bar, you will see a historical display pertaining to the Sisters of Providence and the history of the hospital.



b. There is an extensive display on the history of St. Paul's Hospital, including some encased artifacts, near the Radiology Department. If you enter through the main doors of St. Paul's Hospital, turn left and follow the signs for Radiology/X-Ray (this will take you into the Providence Building). You can't miss it!



c. Gift Shop. The gift shop has several copies of book about the history of St. Paul's Hospital for sale.

d. The Legacy Wall is located at Providence Level 2. This consists of large images that illustrate the history of St. Paul's Hospital and its nurses.

e. Nursing Graduation Photos are on display on Burrard 4. See if you can find the earliest graduation photo!

2. Cathedral Place Office Tower

925 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, V6C 2G3



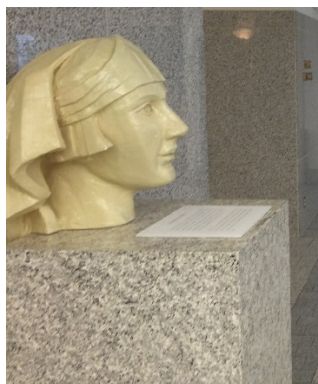
There are three, eleven-foot high, statues of a Nursing Sister wearing a First World War uniform mounted to the outside of the Cathedral Place Tower (one on three corners of the building). The statues are replicas of statues that were mounted to the Georgia Medical-Dental Building, which was built in 1929 and razed in 1989. The Medical-Dental Building was adorned with whimsical ornaments, such as owls, birds, lions and horses, and other medical, religious and mythological symbols. Architects John McCarter and George Nairne had both served overseas during the FWW and McCarter credited the Nursing Sisters with saving his life after he was wounded. When they obtained the contract for the Medical-Dental Building, they decided to honor the Nursing Sisters. When the building was demolished, there was a public campaign to save the original statues but they were too heavy and replicas had to be made. The ones currently mounted on Cathedral place are replicas of the original statues.

There is also a fiber glass replica of the original head on display inside the lobby of Cathedral Place (see image below) next to the Smokehouse Sandwich Co. and a plaque on the outside of the building.

There used to be a chocolate shop that sold chocolates in the shape of the statues, but I was not able to find a store that sold these chocolates. If you are in a chocolate store in the area, take a look in case I missed it!

For a fascinating article on the architecture of medical buildings (the Georgia Medical-Dental Building is mentioned!) see: David Theodore, Stacie D. Burke and Annmarie Adams, "Tower of

Power: The Drummond Medical Building and the Interwar Centralization of Medical Practice,” *Scientia Canadensis: Canadian Journal of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine* 32, no. 1 (2009): 51-68.



3. Christ Church Cathedral
690 Burrard Street,
Vancouver, V6C
2L1



Christ Church Cathedral is currently under construction, but it remains open for visitors from Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Inside the church are multiple stained glass windows. One of the windows is dedicated to the Nursing Sisters of Vancouver. At the top of the window is the crest of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. At the bottom left is the family crest of Major Matthews and at the bottom right is the crest of Vancouver General Hospital.

The window was designed and funded by Major J. Matthews, Vancouver City Archivist, as a memorial to his wife, Emily Eliza Edwards Matthews, who was a military nurse during the First World War. Emily Matthews was born in 1879 and she graduated from the Vancouver City Hospital training school in 1905. From 1915 to 1919, she was a nurse with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served in England, Egypt and Salonika.

The Canadian Nurses Association met in Vancouver in 1950 and attended the unveiling of the memorial window.

The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association has numerous artifacts and documents on display in the central lobby of Jim Pattison Pavilion at VGH. There is also a stained glass window.



This stained glass window, dedicated May 2, 1999, was donated to the Vancouver General Hospital by the School of Nursing Alumnae Association as a tribute to the School.

The central figure represents a graduating student surrounded by five students in uniforms from 1918 to 1998. The school crest and motto are incorporated into the design.

2. BC Children's Hospital/BC Women's Hospital 4500 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC, V6H 3N1

There are two carved stone panels, measuring about 5x8, by sculptor Beatrice Lennie. They are located at what was the entrance to the 1940 Shaughnessy Military Hospital (The hospital no longer exists and the original entrance is now a second floor entrance to an internal courtyard at Women's Hospital). They are difficult to find as the courtyard is currently under construction. However, if you enter at the main entrance of Women's Hospital, go past the cafeteria, take the elevator to the 2nd floor and out onto the doors to the landing, you can view the friezes. One of the panels shows a nursing sister with an injured soldier, with a crest of the Canadian Medical Corps at the bottom. Another panel shows a doctor holding up a wounded soldier.



A portrait of Nursing Sister Jean Matheson (1872-1938) is on display in the lobby of Brock Fahrni Pavilion (on the BC Women's Hospital Site).

Jean Matheson received the Mons Medal, the Victory Medal, the Royal Red Cross and the King George Jubilee Medal for her wartime service. Following her service overseas as a matron of the FWW No. 5 General Hospital, she became the second matron of Shaughnessy Hospital, serving from 1919 to 1937.

Vancouver Museum of Military Medicine

4050 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, V6R 1P6

*The Museum may be visited by appointment only. Contact the Curator, LCol. Adrian French, at (604) 734-0745 for more information. There is no admission charge and free parking is available.

Find more information here: <http://www.vancouver-mmm.ca/tour.htm>

University of British Columbia Sites

2329 West Mall, Vancouver, V6T 1Z4

See map below (UBC is a 30 minute drive/40 minute bus ride from St. Paul's Hospital)

- a. Marble Sculpture of Student Nurse
Woodward Memorial Library at UBC (in the building beside the hospital/SON)



Vancouver sculptor Hebert Apt made this life-sized, marble sculpture of a student nurse. The sculpture used to be outside St. Paul's Hospital, but was moved to UBC during hospital reconstruction.

Woodward Memorial Library has a collection of medical texts in the Charles Woodward Memorial Room (within the library). More information can be found here:

<http://wiki.ubc.ca/images/f/f1/HistoryOfCollection.pdf>

- b. The UBC School of Nursing is located on the 3rd Floor of UBC Hospital. There are historical display cases located in the hallways.
- c. Technology Enterprise Facility
6190 Agronomy Road (at the corner of East Mall and Agronomy Road)



Replicas of the nurse statues on Cathedral Place Tower (see above) have been installed on the Technology Enterprise Facility.

Vancouver Churches with Nursing Windows

1. Canadian Memorial Church
1825 West 16th Ave., Vancouver, V6J 2M4

The Vancouver Unit of the Canadian Nursing Sisters Association erected this window in 1928. It is one of 15 windows in Memorial Church and was erected as a "Memorial to Peace."





2. St. Mary's Anglican Church

2940 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver, V6M 1P5

This stained glass window of Florence Nightingale was dedicated in 1986 by Anglican Rector Canon Whinefield Robinson in memory of his wife, Doris Comley Robinson.

Doris Comley Robinson graduated as a nurse from Ladysmith General Hospital in 1929. She did her pediatric and obstetric rotations through VGH.