

~ Pipeline Houses ~

Streetscape Award 2018

Location:

Eleven properties on 9th and 10th Ave between Grand and Alder

Prepared By:

Mission Community
Heritage Commission

Streetscape Description:

The Pipeline Houses of Mission are unique in that they are all structurally identical. In an area full of houses of all shapes and sizes, these eleven properties stand out as being almost exactly the same besides having a different shade of paint, a unique assemblage of greenery in the garden, or maybe an extended front patio. These minor differences within a rigid structure creates a unique blend of individual character and flair within a distinctive historical style, forming an irreplaceable streetscape of Mission with an ambiance and charm like no other. With the Pipeline Houses, every home has its own story to tell within a shared history.

Significance:

The streetscapes on 9th and 10th Ave. are significant first and foremost for their unique architectural design. They preserve a post-WWII era style of housing design, often known as Victory or Wartime Houses, where each home was pre-fabricated in a factory and assembled on-site. This allowed for both quick and cheap construction but also meant that each house had an identical layout. Victory Houses were generally built to provide affordable housing for veterans and their families by the Canadian government. Although they had a different purpose, the Pipeline Houses were built using this architectural style.

What further makes these eleven homes significant is their current condition. Many such neighbourhoods have either been torn down or extensively renovated past the point of recognition. The Pipeline Houses are one of only a handful of Victory streetscapes that continue to exist in the Lower Mainland, especially at this level of preservation. Because of this, these houses are an important and fascinating glimpse into Mission's past.

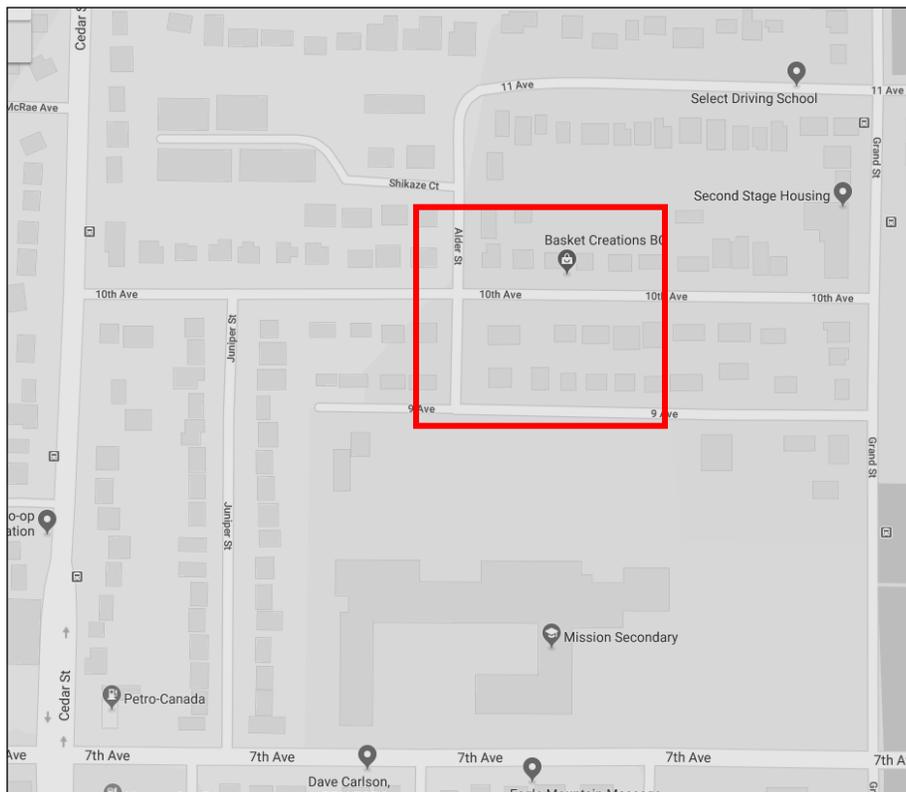


Mission's 'Pipeline' houses utilize designs common to Canada's wartime housing. The pipeline houses are one of the best intact collections of houses using these designs. These houses, however, including the two shown here, were built by the Trans Mountain Housing Ltd.

Image source: Google Streetview 2012.

History:

These eleven properties were built by Trans Mountain Housing Ltd., a subsidiary of Trans Mountain Pipeline, in 1954. While some land in neighbouring areas was taken from Japanese-Canadians during WWII, these properties in particular belonged to either George Gibbard or Florence Emily Plumridge prior to the War. The properties switched hands multiple times before Trans Mountain Housing Ltd. took ownership, and TMHL were the first to put houses onto the lots. Interestingly, Trans Mountain Pipeline never operated out of Mission, so the purpose of these houses in this area is still unclear. Despite a lack of clarity surrounding the purpose of these homes, their connection to the oil company has persisted as they have become known locally as the Pipeline Houses.



All 11 of Mission's 'Pipeline' houses are found on 9th and 10th Avenues between Grand and Alder, behind Mission Secondary School.

The builders, Trans Mountain Housing Ltd, was a subsidiary of Trans Mountain Pipeline.— hence, the nickname the 'pipeline houses'. The company purchased the land in the early 1950s, before the Trans Mountain Pipeline was built south of the Fraser. It is not known at this time why they decided to purchase and build in Mission.

Contact Us with Further Info!

We would love to know more about the history of these homes, and any information or photographs would be greatly appreciated. If you know anything about the past ownership, sale history, construction or renovation of the properties or their history with Trans Mountain Housing Ltd., please contact or visit the Mission Community Archives. We would love to hear from you.