

residence, with front-gabled roof and full-width verandah (now enclosed with windows and a door) supported on four simple Tuscan columns on a solid balustrade. Except for shingles in the top of the gable, the cladding is double bevel siding. A dentil course reinforces the Classical style of the porch columns. The front gable has a shallow cantilevered box bay on simple brackets. The main floor windows have been altered with an arrangement of French doors. Both sides of the roof have large dormers which repeat the dentil course. The back has a hipped-roofed extension. A period garage has been converted by filling the large door with a window and smaller door.

George Horner had this house plumbed in 1906 and owned it until 1907. From 1908-12, Capt. William Davidson and Mary Jane (Reid) Hunter owned the property. Both born in County Durham, England, William came to Canada c.1851, and Mary c.1861. They resided in Lindsay, ON, for many years before coming to Victoria c.1908. William served with the 45th Battalion under Sir Gen. Samuel Hughes during the Boer War. Mary Jane died in 1922 at 70. William died the next year at 77.

Samuel James and Anne (Duff) Drake occupied this house in 1912. Samuel was born in Milverton, ON, in 1874, Anne in Toronto in 1880. They lived in Winnipeg for some time before coming to Victoria c.1904. During the 1910s, Samuel was proprietor of Drake Hardware Co, and by the 1930s was associated with Davis-Drake Motors Ltd until his death in 1940. Anne died in 1962.

Martha Hardy of Calgary owned this property from 1913-18, and rented it. William Lambert, an accountant with Victoria Machinery Depot and his wife, Marie Emilie, lived here from 1917-24. Marie was born in Lithuania and came to Victoria with her husband in 1912. She died in 1925 at 70 and William in 1933 at 80.

By 1933 Arthur and Mary (Meadowcroft) Higham converted this to a rooming house and lived at 50 Government. They owned the property until c.1940. The Highams came to Canada from England in 1910 and lived in Edmonton 20 years before coming here. Mary died in 1944 at 65. Arthur had disappeared from City Directories by this point.

By 1941 Rev. Thomas Naim and Olga Elsie Ritchie were living here. Thomas, born in Lanark County, ON, came to BC in 1902. He married Olga, daughter of William and Marie Lambert, in 1926. Thomas, a Baptist minister, died in 1950 at 80. Olga lived in the house until the mid-1960s. She taught at St. Margaret's School for many years and taught French to students in her home. She died in 1980 at 93.

58 Government St (87 Carr St)

1900

John & Catherine Lewis

Builder: John Lewis

This is a Colonial Bungalow with later changes which very much alter its character. The shingling of the porch balustrade swamps the delicate detail of the porch, and the heavy, combined front dormers with roof-ridge metalwork

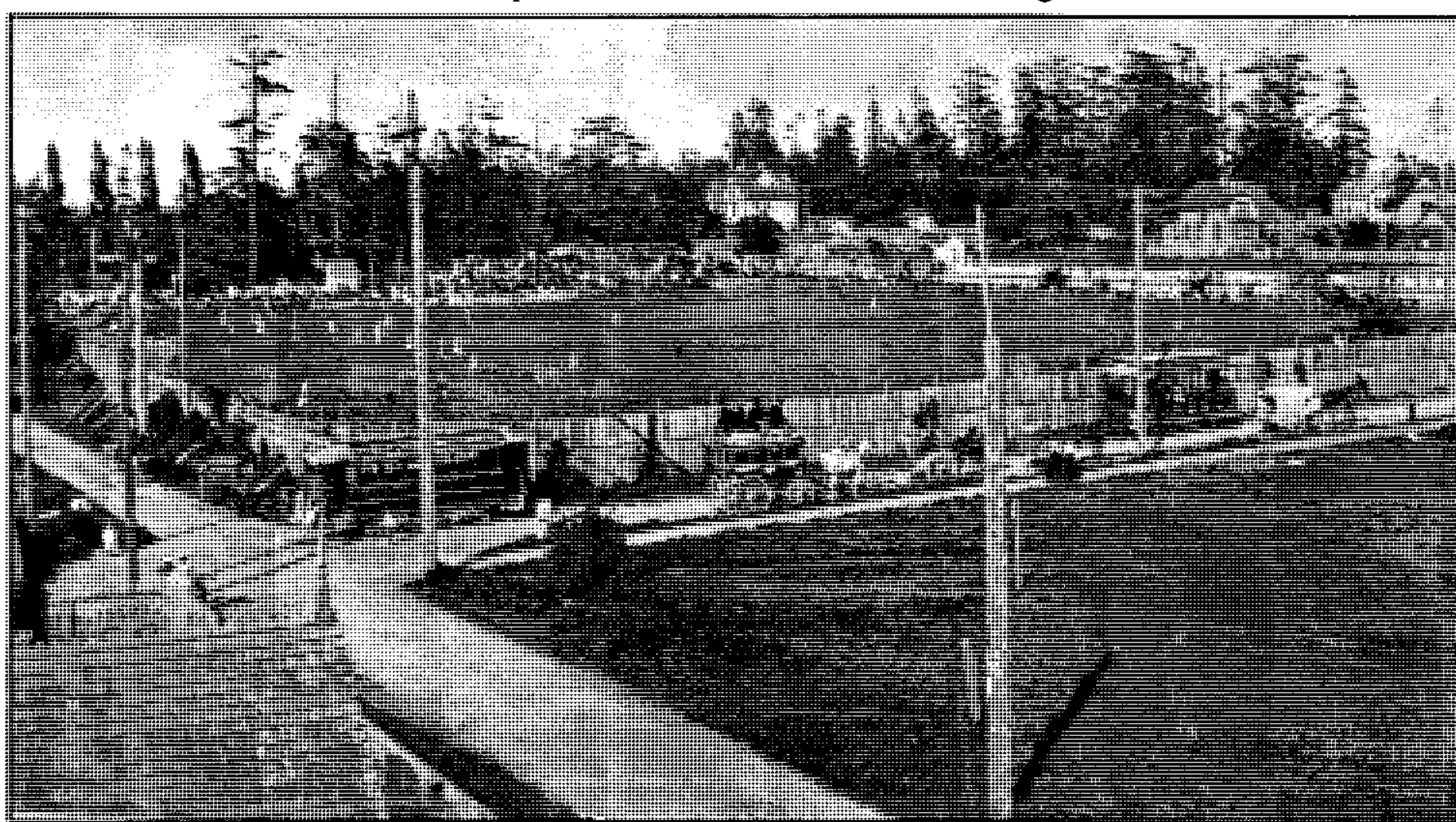


58 Government St, 2003

VHF / Derek Trachsel

are also at odds with the style. The basic square house is clad in drop siding. The right side has a recently-added, hipped-roof dormer and the left, a partially cantilevered box bay with a pedimented-gable roof. John Lewis added a sunroom over a basement entrance with French doors for his extensive woodwork shop. A striped awning and a pair of bronze guardian figures add a distinctive touch at the main entrance.

In the early 1900s family and friends frequently gathered on the wide flat roof on top of the house to watch events on the Caledonian Grounds, now gone, which was bordered by Government, Niagara, St Andrews and Simcoe Streets. John Lewis, a keen amateur photographer, took photos of these events and his neighbourhood.



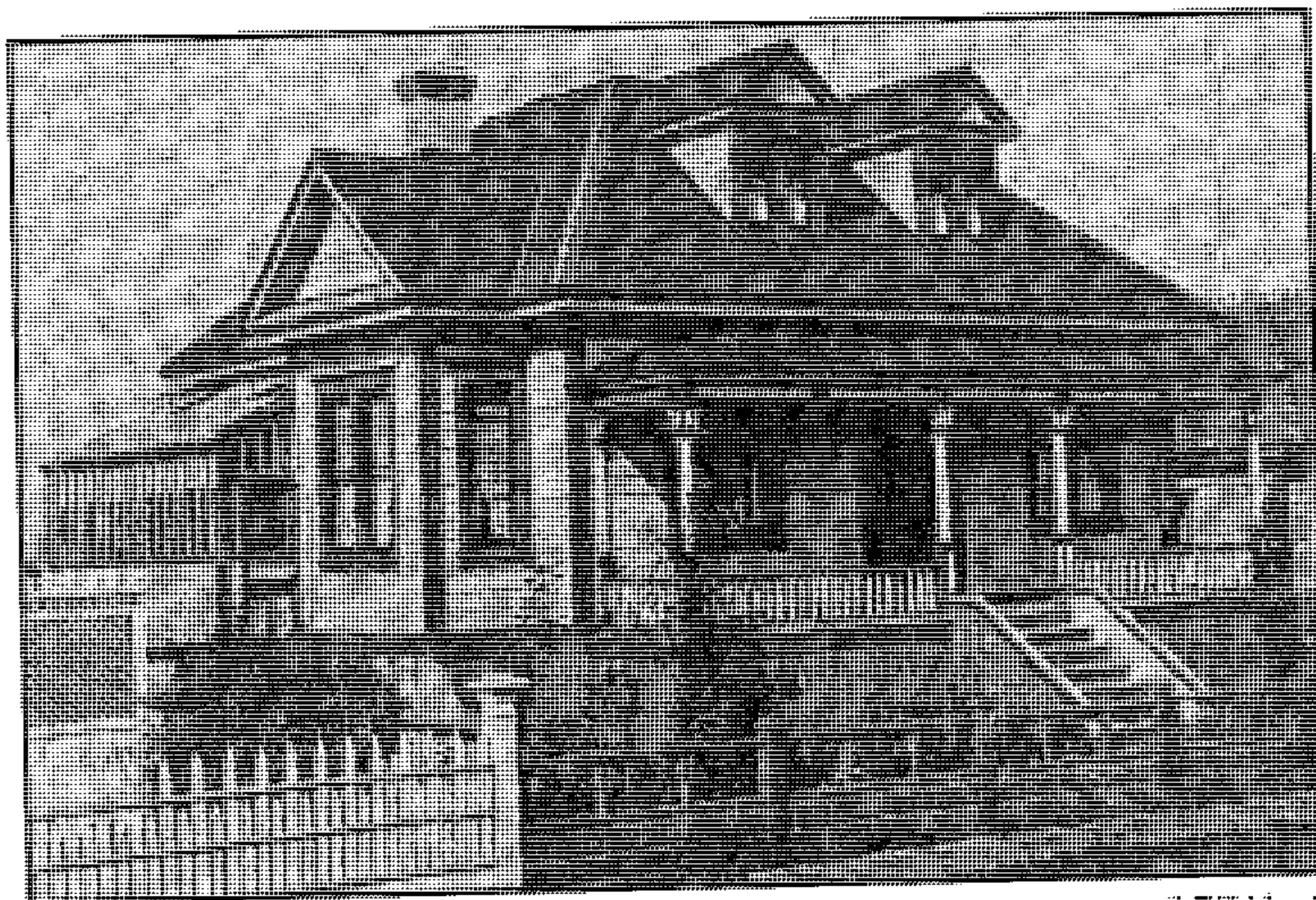
Caledonia Park, looking NE from the flat roof of 58 Government St, watching lacrosse, c.1900.

John Lewis photo, CVA M07158

John Lewis built this house for his family, which is confirmed by the quality of workmanship in the house. John and Catherine (Jones) Lewis emigrated from Wales to Victoria in 1891. John, an expert cabinetmaker, worked for Jacob Sehl, John Weiler, and David Spencer during his 30 years in the business. His skills also extended to building houses, as he built a house on Belmont Av in Fernwood. He died in 1943 at 79.

Catherine was an active charity worker during the many years she lived in James Bay. She continued to live in this house until 1948 when she moved to Vernon to live with her daughter Anne and son-in-law, Stephen Temple. She died there in 1957 at 97.

Thomas Llewellyn Lewis inherited this house from his parents. He was born in Victoria in 1893, and married Gertrude Alice in 1915. Gertrude was born on the Isle of Man in 1889 to John and Alice Watterson. She came to Victoria shortly before her marriage. Thomas was employed as a machinist at the Victoria Machinery Depot



58 Government St, c. 1902

John Lewis photo, coll Bill Huot

during the 1940s. Gertrude died in 1978 and Thomas continued to live here until he died in 1986.

The house was sold to Bill and Patty Huot, who with their daughters Gillian and Wendy won a Hallmark Society Award for restoration work on the house. This included removing asbestos shingles which had covered the house for many years. Bill worked for many years in the Heritage Branch of the BC Government. He was one of the main persons involved in the development of BC's current heritage legislation which was adopted by the Legislature in October 1993.

65 Government St

1902

Mabel & William Champion

A late Victorian Queen Anne cottage with a combination of gable, hip and shed roofs, this house has a cutaway bay flanked by cutaway corner brackets with fretwork applique under the front pediment-gabled roof. Decorative shingles fill the gable. To the left is a recessed porch with turned posts and different brackets. Leaded art glass fills the entrance transom as well as the angled bay transom (possibly not original). The right side has a box bay under a gabled extension just in front of a shed-roofed sunroom. Most of the exterior is clad in drop siding. The front chimney has impressive corbelling.

William and Mabel Champion lived here until c. 1912. William was born in Ontario and came to Victoria in 1896. Mabel Matheson was born in Ladner, BC, and came to Victoria in 1897. She married William in 1901. He established a furniture store on Fort St, and operated it for many years. Mabel died in 1946 at 64, William in 1952 at 73.

In 1916 the house was owned by M.S. Pringle. From 1917 until the early 1920s the residents were William and Belle McDonald; they then moved to **554 Niagara**. William was born in Teeswater, ON, and graduated from Guelph Agricultural College in 1912, then came to Victoria. He was Provincial Livestock Commissioner for the BC Department of Agriculture for 12 years. He also taught Animal Husbandry at Washington State College. William died suddenly in 1924 at 43.

In the mid-1920s Robert and Florence Elworthy lived here. They were born in Victoria, Robert in 1884, Florence Dickinson in 1892, and married in 1914. During the early 1920s, Robert ran R.B. Elworthy, a drygoods store. He and Florence likely divorced during the 1920s; by 1925 he was a salesman for Prudential Insurance and lived on Leilani Island, BC. He remained with Prudential until his death in 1950. Florence lived in Vancouver when she died in 1978.



65 Government St, 2003

VHF / Derek Tracey