The 2017 MDR SAH conference was held in Victoria, B.C., Canada, celebrating the theme of Commemorations, especially Canada 150 (the 150th anniversary of Canada’s confederation), the U.S. National Park Service’s Centennial (1916-2016), the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966-2016), and the Centennial of Canada’s National Historic Sites (1917-2017). We also celebrated Victoria’s Centennial (1962-2012) by reflecting on the enduring significance of Victoria’s Centennial Square.

Friday afternoon we toured Old Town and Chinatown, led by our knowledgeable host, Martin Segger. Starting at the Union Club on Gordon Street, we passed through Old Town and Chinatown, through the downtown and past the historic Rogers’ Chocolate Shop, which is a National Historic Site, and we passed Old Morris Tobacconist and Munro’s Books of Victoria. We then toured the historic Masonic Temple, Odd Fellows Hall, Centennial Square, and ended the tour at the University of Victoria’s Legacy Art Gallery Downtown, where the evening reception was held. The gallery is in an old bank building in Old Town that was donated to UVIC by prominent businessman and art collector, Michael Williams. The gallery hosts changing exhibits, programs, and events. The architectural exhibition, *Survival by Design: Use, Contemporary Architecture* treated to the keynote “Centennial Celebration

Conference registration and muffins at the Street. The Villa is a reused home owned by listed in the Canadian

*Abuse and Rescue of Early in Victoria* was on display. We were presentation by Martin Segger on Architecture in Victoria.”

began Saturday morning with coffee Wentworth Villa (1863) on Fort restored/rehabilitated, adaptively Magdalena and Stefan Opalski, and Register of Historic Places (CRHP).
The building was designed in the Carpenter Gothic style of Gothic Revival and is now an architectural heritage museum operated by the Pacific North-West Heritage Homes Foundation. The day kicked off with an overview of conference activities, an introduction and tour of the Villa by Managing Director, Ben Schweitzer. After the tour, we settled down in our chairs for the first Paper Session. Hussein Keshani, who was an Elisabeth Walton Potter research grant recipient, discussed his work, “Doctrine and Design: Two Islamic Centres in Burnaby, Canada.”

Next, we heard from Menno Hubregtse, who presented “Recalling Vancouver’s Past: Public Artworks and Commemorations at Concord Pacific Place and YVR’s International Terminal.” Our third presentation was by David Rash, who expounded on his research, “Elizabeth Ayer’s Early Impact on the Office of Edwin J. Ivey.”

We then took a short break before the second Paper Session began. Laurie Matthews opened the session with her paper, “Revealing Spirit of Place: A Cultural Landscape Report for Willamette Falls,” followed by Kira Leslie presenting “The Multnomah County Poor Farm.” Hayli Reff shared with us her paper, “Anchors of History: A Case Study Analyzing the Waterbourne Relocation of Historic Houses from Oak Bay, B.C. to Friday Harbor, WA.”

Hayli was followed by Harley Cowan, who put forth his work, “Making History: Preservation Photography of National Historic Landmarks.” The session wrapped up with Phil Gruen, a recipient of an Elisabeth Walton Potter research grant, sharing an update on the Washington State Archipedia project, that he co-coordinates with Robert Franklin. We then enjoyed a delicious catered lunch, during which we held the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting covered the general business of the organization including the Treasurer’s Report, Nominating Committee’s Report, nominations to the Board and voting on the slate, discussions of the Awards, and a discussion of the 2018 conference. It was announced that Dave Pinyerd and Bernadette Neiderer were jointly awarded the MDR Chapter Service Award.
After the meeting wrapped up, we headed out for a walking tour to explore the architecture of the Rockland neighborhood, known as Victoria’s Nob Hill. Led by Martin Segger, we viewed homes designed in a number of architectural styles and periods, including late Victorian, Edwardian, and Mid-Century, and observed homes designed by architects including E. E. Green, John Teague, P.L. James, Thomas Hooper, W.R. Watson and Ralph Berill. A special part of our tour was Craigdarroch Castle (1887-90), which was built for coal baron, Robert Dunsmuir. We wrapped up the walking tour with an exploration of a portion of the exquisite grounds and public rooms of Government House, the official residence of the Lt. Governor of British Columbia and the ceremonial home of all British Columbians. An earlier Government House, which was designed by Francis Rattenbury and Samuel Maclure, was built in 1903. It replaced the former House which had burned in 1899. Tragically, in 1957, the 1903 House also burned—only the porte cochere survived. The current Government House was designed by Chief Provincial Architect, C. D. Campbell, honoring the design of the previous building. Construction was completed in 1959. We were honored to be treated to tea and a private tour.

We met up for Saturday evening’s banquet at the Union Club. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and later toured the Club with Martin Segger, who regaled us with insightful commentary on the building’s history and recent restoration. The Club was founded in 1879 in downtown Victoria and, in 1913, after outgrowing two earlier Club buildings, the Club hired San Francisco architect Loring P. Rexford to design the building that houses the Union Club today. Inspired by the classic clubs of London, the building was designed in the Renaissance Revival style by Rexford with prominent local architect, Francis Mawson Rattenbury.

The following morning, we wrapped up the conference with a boat tour of Victoria’s Inner Harbour and Gorge Waterway. The boat trip offered unique views of the city and was a wonderful way to bring the 2017 conference to a close.

Available links to presenters:
Hussein Keshani - https://fccs.ok.ubc.ca/faculty/hkeshani.html#publications

Menno Hubregtse - https://www.uvic.ca/finearts/ahvs/people/sessional/bios/MennHubregtse.php


Laurie Matthews - https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1794/22472/Paper_RevealingSpritOfPlace_Matthews_062017.pdf?sequence=1

Harley Cowan - https://www.harleycowan.com/blog/2016/8/17/research-fellowship

Phil Gruen - http://sdc.wsu.edu/blog/professor-leads-team-to-determine-states-iconic-architecture/

Links to sites in Victoria, BC:

The Union Club - https://www.unionclub.com/


Rogers’ Chocolates - https://www.rogerschocolates.com/


Munro’s Books - https://www.munrobooks.com/?q=p.about_munro_s


Centennial Square - http://uvac.uvic.ca/Architecture_Exhibits/Victoria_architecture/Centennial%20Square/

UVIC Legacy Art Gallery Downtown - http://uvac.uvic.ca/Locations/legacy.html


Rockland neighborhood - http://www.rockland.bc.ca/walking.html

Craigdarroch Castle - https://thecastle.ca/

Government House - http://www.ltgov.bc.ca/gov-house/history/history.html#

Inner Harbour - https://www.tourismvictoria.com/see-do/activities-attractions/statues-landmarks/inner-harbour