



# Heritage on the Heights

South side 3900 Block Hastings Street, 1939.

# Gilmore Avenue School



Gilmore Avenue School, 1920.

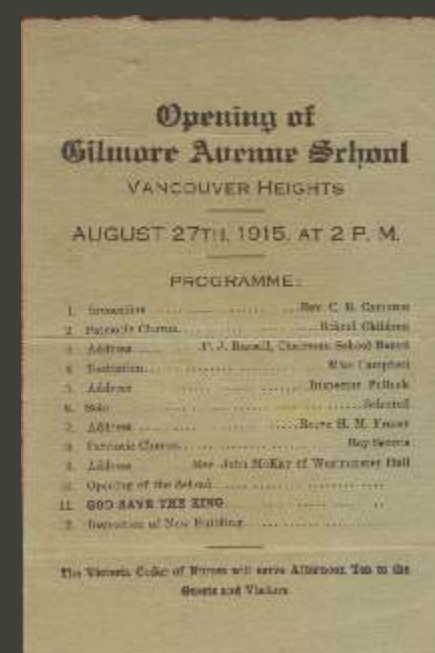
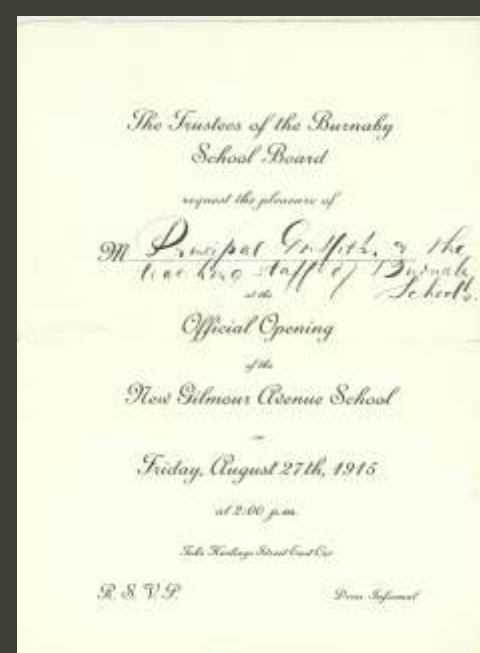
The development of the "Vancouver Heights" subdivision of Burnaby began in 1909 at the height of the Edwardian real-estate boom. Practically overnight, hundreds of new residents were attracted to this fully serviced suburb with its spectacular views. This instant community needed a school and the first classes of the Vancouver Heights School were hastily organized and held in tents in 1911.

The Burnaby School Board opened the first two room school on this site on January 10, 1912 with 53 pupils, ranging in age from 6 to 16, enrolled under one teacher Miss Mary A. Crossan. The school population was ever increasing with two more rooms being added to the first building and tents being used when necessary for all the extra students. Finally a decision was made to build a permanent brick school to ease the overcrowding.

Designed by architect Joseph Bowman, this beautiful Classical Revival styled, eight room concrete and fireproof structure cost \$40,000. It was opened as "Gilmore Avenue School" with a community celebration on August 27, 1915 by Burnaby Reeve Hugh M. Fraser who opened the door with a gilded key. The school's North Wing was built in 1924 and in 1929 the South Wing was completed. In 1981 the school was designated "Gilmore Community School" with the mandate to meet all the needs of the Heights neighbourhood.



Gilmore Avenue School under construction, 1915.



At right: Invitation and Programme for the official opening of the new Gilmore Avenue School, August 27th, 1915.

All historic photographs and materials are from the Gilmore Community School collection.



Classroom, circa, 1915.

This heritage marker was dedicated in 2005 to mark the 90th anniversary of this building's dedication and service as a landmark of the Heights neighborhood.



The original 1912 Gilmore Avenue School.