

Hogan's Alley

Hogan's Alley was the first and last neighbourhood in Vancouver with a substantial concentrated black population. Hogan's Alley was the local, unofficial name for Park Lane, an alley that ran through the southwestern corner of Strathcona in Vancouver during the first half of the twentieth century.

Hogan's Alley and the surrounding area was an ethnically diverse neighbourhood. It was home to a number of black families, black businesses, and many Italian, Chinese and Japanese Canadians. Their choice of this area was due to its proximity to the railroads where many of them were employed, its cheapness and the fact that it was traditionally the home of many non-white groups. The city's only black church, the African Methodist Episcopal Fountain Chapel, was also located there.

The neighbourhood was home to Nora Hendrix, grandmother to rock legend Jimi Hendrix. Nora Hendrix was involved in the community from the 1920s through to the 1960s. As a child, Jimi Hendrix lived and attended school in Hogan's Alley. Another performer from the community who achieved notoriety was Eleanor Collins, the first Black woman to host a national television show in Canada.

In the 1960s, a plan to build a freeway caused the demise of Hogan's Alley. Most tangible remnants of this historic neighbourhood are long gone but the legacy of its community and its place in the story of Vancouver is, thankfully, still remembered and celebrated.



Jimi Hendrix's grandmother, Nora Hendrix, is featured on a new Canada Post stamp that celebrates Hogan's Alley, where Vancouver's black community lived from the 1920s to the 1960s.

The other person on the stamp is Fielding Williams Spotts Jr.



Eleanor Collins



February is Black History Month



Jimi Hendrix



Ernie King
Musician, actor and entrepreneur



Frank Collins
President, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (Canada)



Caroline Jerome
Led a group of militant mothers to victory



Barbara Howard
One of the fastest women in the world

Fountain Chapel picnic, 1935

