

## Fifth Street

New Westminster boasts a city plan reflecting back to the times of the Royal Engineers. In 1859 Colonel Moody was charged with the task of designating, surveying and planning a site for British Columbia's capital. His final design included a series of broad streets entering the city from the north and continuing down to the Fraser. The widest of which was Fifth Street, then called St. George's. The street did not continue to the water, rather it ended at St. George's Square behind a large space designated to hold the colony's government buildings. When our capital status was lost to Victoria, in 1868, St. George's Square was all but forgotten until the mid 1880s. City council then sold it to raise money for a branch line from New Westminster to the CPR terminus in Port Moody. The streets of Lancaster, St. George and Liverpool all cross through the space which was once St. George's Square. City Hall now resides in the space designated for the colonial government buildings.



**Fifth Street looking north at Blackford, ca. 1915.**

Notice the direction the cars are facing.

*NWMA IHP1803-05*

During the second decade of the twentieth century, New Westminster's City Engineer John Blackman redesigned Fifth Street. He placed a broad boulevard up the middle and imported trees from England to plant along its length. Today this design remains and many of the trees planted along Fifth Street have grown tall, creating one of New Westminster's most tranquil and beautiful streets.



**Fifth Street looking north at Blackford, 2009.**

*Image courtesy of NWMA*