

**New Westminster's Power House  
88 Tenth Street**



**Royal City power house, ca. 1895-1908**

Royal City Electric Light Station, which supplied electricity to the city, on Tenth Street at the foot of Agnes Street, with three unidentified men.

*IHP1577*

In 1891 the City of New Westminster completed the first municipally-run power utility on North America's Pacific coast. The power generators were steam driven; the boilers being fired by sawdust brought from the nearby Royal City Planing Mills. The plant was successfully operated by the City until they began purchasing power from the BC Electric Company in the early twentieth century.



**Workers in front of Westminster Ironworks Limited, 1920s**  
IHP2658

In 1907 the steam plant building was purchased by the Westminster Iron Works Company who operated out of this location until they moved to Twelfth Street in the 1940s. The steam plant was later demolished to make way for the construction of a new Safeway in 1950. The foundations of the electric light station were not dismantled but buried instead.



**Workers with Tugaway gasoline locomotive at Westminster Iron Works, ca.1927**  
*IHP2659*

In September 2008, Columbia Square Plaza Ltd. began excavation for a new development at 88 Tenth Street. During the excavation, they uncovered the brick foundations of an old building along with several iron, glass and ceramic objects. Local residents saw these remains and brought them to the attention of the City which determined that they were from the original municipally-owned electric light station. The City and Columbia Square Plaza Ltd. began to work together to ensure no items of heritage value were lost through the course of the excavation. Bricks uncovered during this excavation are being incorporated into four plaques soon to be installed at the plaza.