

GONZALES COMMUNITY GREEN MAP

created by the

**Gonzales Neighbourhood Association
(GNA)**

www.gonzalesna.ca

**We welcome you
to get involved in shaping your community.**

Donations gratefully appreciated!

**Please e transfer any amount you are willing to
give to gonzalesneighbours@gmail.com**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Gonzales Community Mapping Project was launched in December 2018 at the St. Jean Baptiste Church with 14 members of the community along with representatives from the University of Victoria Geography Department. There were questions/concerns the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association (GNA) was looking for input on from the community. They included the level of development/density that was preferred by the community, the perceived importance of trees, bike lane usage and the location of a potential wildlife corridor amongst other issues.

Successive groups of students attempted to tease out the answers to these questions with varying degrees of success. For a full description of what took place over three years there are 2 videos on the Gonzales Neighbourhood Association website www.gonzalesna.ca

An interesting side development was interactive sessions with the grade 5 class at Margaret Jenkins School over 2 years. The university students conducted exercises that encouraged students to think about what it was that made their school and their community special as well as asking students to mark down where their special places were located.

There were at least 5 terms in which Geography students assisted us in the creation of the map. We would like to thank each and every one of them for their enthusiasm and efforts for this project. They are Destany Crane, Isaac Dekker, Erin Springnotte, Bilal Mohammed, Julia Carr, Sophie White, Emily Alexander, Nick Gjerdaalen, Landon Matechuk, Lindsay Lalach, Bert Smith, Aiden Cloch, Justin Basille, Bridget Piller, Joshua McStravick, Brittany Boyd, Anastasia Crowther, Shayla Brewer, Donovan Stochhoff and Heidi Pridy. We would also like to particularly thank Mr. Ken Josephson for overseeing our project and providing many resources and assistance. And to the following professors who worked to guide the students in a manner that would provide them with real world experience: Teresa Dawson, Crystal Tremblay and Malea Acker.

Thank you also to the following community members who helped to create content for this poster: Virginia Errick, Rosemary Sleigh, Robin Jones, Sylvia Von Schuckmann, Monique Genton, Lynne Shields, Susanne Rautio and in particular Alan Dibb for creating both of the GIS maps

The road network map data copyrighted OpenStreetMap contributors and available from <https://www.openstreetmap.org>. The CRD provided the digital elevation model used to create the 3D shading, the City of Victoria provided the neighbourhood boundaries, and BC Transit the bus stops.

HISTORIC GONZALES

(Street names from circa 1935)

The North Gonzales Heritage Walking Tour description can be found at the following website: <https://victoriaheritagefoundation.ca>
And a very neat interactive map can be found here:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fad8b511d66e49f98239c1c2cf216ae0>



Pemberton Meadows

Surveyor Joseph Despard Pemberton (July 23, 1821 – November 11, 1893) was one of the first two major landowners in Gonzales in the mid-1800's (besides Isabella Ross). His land stretched from Lillian Rd north to Oak Bay Ave. Like Mrs. Ross, J.D. Pemberton also began to sell off parcels of his land early on. Members of the wealthy merchant class such as A.C. Flumerfelt, Thomas Earle, the McQuades, A.J. Woodward, Angus R. Johnston, John Chandler, William Bayliss and Thomas Shotbolt purchased property in the area (Shotbolt's stunning house "Hollywood" is near the bottom of this map). Pemberton retained large tracts of land for himself, which he used for grazing pastures. This property stretched from Rockland Ave to Chandler St and from St. Charles to Gonzales. This area became known as Pemberton Meadows and a wooded area, Pemberton Woods.

Source: *This Old House Victoria's Heritage Neighbourhoods Volume Four* which can be purchased from the *Victoria Heritage Foundation*



BC Electric Streetcar at the terminus of Foul Bay and Fairfield Road

The "Cemetery-Foul Bay" Streetcar 107 began at 9 AM on March 21, 1909. It headed south on Cook Street, turned left onto May Street, left onto Memorial Crescent and then right onto Fairfield road where it terminated and did a loop in Gonzales at the location of Margaret Jenkins School. The entire streetcar service ended on July 5, 1948. For an interesting look at the rise and fall of Streetcars in greater Victoria consider checking out Victoria's Streetcar Era by Henry Ewert, 1992.



1650 Earle Street greenhouses

Isabella Ross was an important figure in the shaping of Gonzales in the 1800s. She is one of two landowners who held large parcels of land at that time. The other was Joseph Despard Pemberton. Isabella was a remarkable, resilient woman who survived and overcame much hardship in her life. Born in what is now Ontario (Mackinac Island) in 1808 to Ojibwa and Saulteau parents, she was married at the age of 14 to Charles Ross who was 28 and an HBC clerk. The couple travelled extensively throughout Western Canada for many years during which time Isabella had 9 children. Her children were born in various Forts, from Selkirk to Fort Vancouver, WA; along the fur trade routes. They arrived in Fort Victoria in 1843, lived in a tent, so that Charles could supervise the building of the Fort. When he died in 1844, she had nothing but personal belongings. After William was born, she went to farm in Ft Vancouver, WA until she returned in 1853 with enough money to purchase Fowl Bay farm independently. She was the first registered, independent female landowner in BC under the Colonizer law. She owned 99 arable acres in addition to other rocky land around King George Terrace and Trial Island, about 150+ acres. Her house was in the section of the cemetery by the pathway to the sidewalk on Dallas Rd. Her grave is in the lower poor section of the cemetery, close to the water. To learn more about Isabella consider reading "In Her Own Footsteps" by DJ Richardson. Written with permission by Fern Perkins, great, great great granddaughter of Isabella.

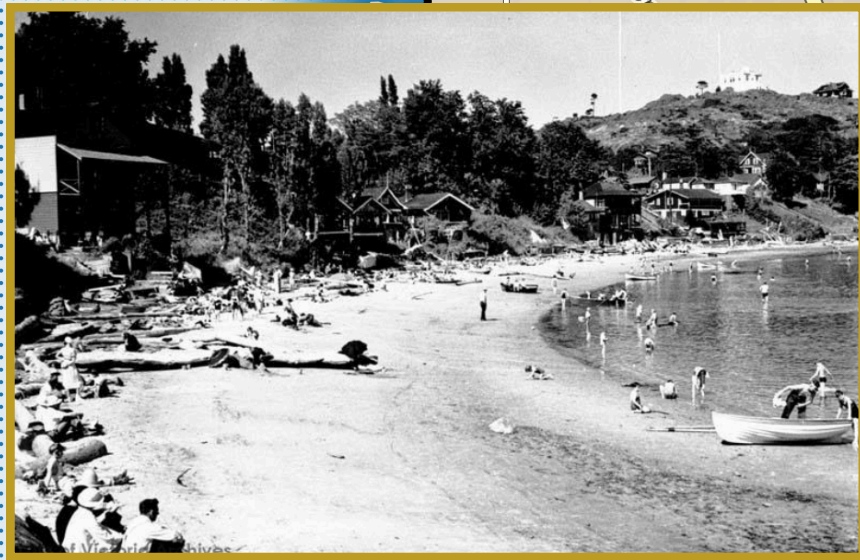
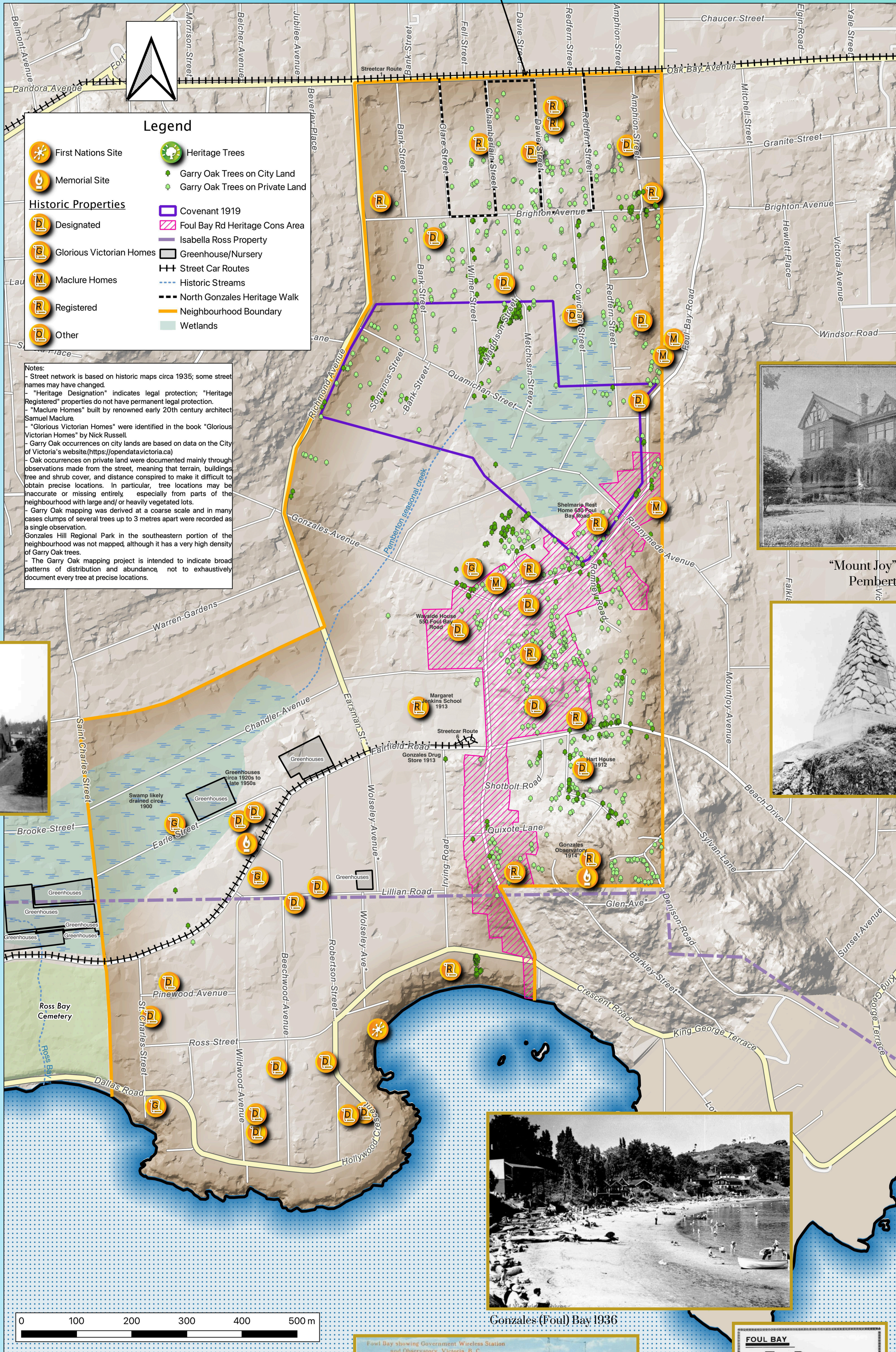


1827 Fairfield Road Grocers



Gonzales Beach 1907

Even though much time was spent trying to determine how First nations used the land in Gonzales, the only verifiable reference was found in the book *A Fairfield History* by Ken Roueche 2005 in which he wrote that there is "evidence of settlements in the northwest corner of Gonzales Bay".



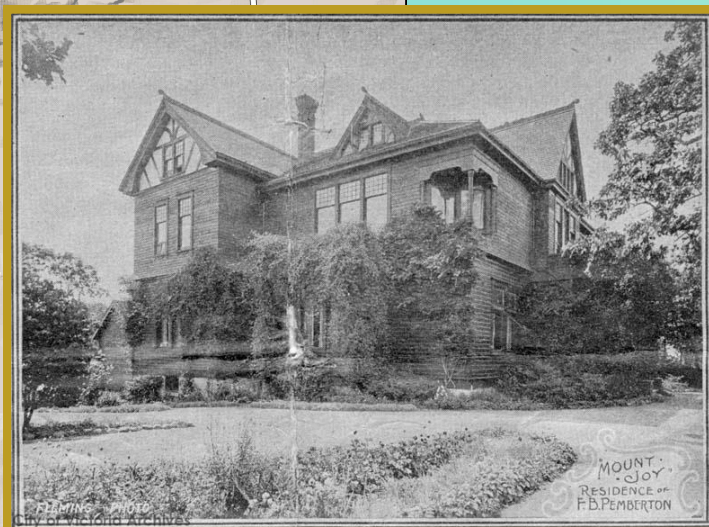
Gonzales Beach 1936



View from Gonzales Hill

Island Investment Co. Ltd Covenant in North Gonzales (area outlined in purple)

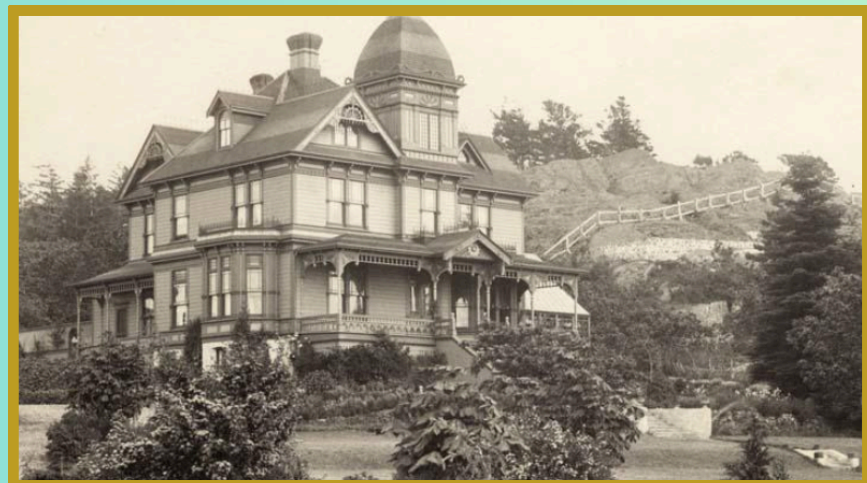
Roughly 100 properties in this area are subject to a restrictive covenant dated 1919 which states: *No building is to be erected upon any lot other than a private dwelling house with suitable outbuildings; and no dwelling house to be erected upon any lot adjoining or fronting on Foul Bay Road shall cost less in erection thereof than Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) and on other lots not less than Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).* Unfortunately in 2024, City Council chose to ignore this Covenant and approved an 18 unit townhouse on one lot. Additionally this lot not only had the Covenant but it was designated heritage from the house to the trees to the rock wall. Both the Covenant and the heritage status were removed in order for the development to proceed. As the Covenant is old with no known living persons to ensure it is adhered to, it requires individuals to enforce it.



"Mount Joy" 601 Foul Bay Rd. Pemberton Res. c. 1903



Cairn on Gonzales Hill, commemorating exploration of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, 1787-1792



"Hollywood" Shotbolt Residence - 1901 Fairfield Rd.
Thomas Shotbolt was born in England in 1842 and after moving to Victoria, opened up his own chemist shop in 1864. He was a very successful businessman and built the stunning "Hollywood" mansion at 1901 Fairfield Road sometime in the late 1800's to early 1900s. Built on 10 acres with Gonzales Hill as its backdrop, it was an amazing location with fish ponds, fountains and summer cottages. A conservatory on the south aspect had purple, amber and mauve paned bay windows. Shotbolt was probably instrumental in having the street car system extended to his very doorstep (A Fairfield History by Ken Roueche 2005) and was reported in the Times Colonist by direct descendant Cheryl Orr that his wife Lavinia drove one of the electric cars (June 30, 2017). Regrettably the house fell into a state of disrepair and was demolished in 1950.



1777 Ross St. Tasty Fish 'n' Chips 1959-74



A bench made of stone and a plaque dedicated to Isabella Ross's husband Charles were once located at Little Ross Bay Green. It was erected in 1967 to honour Charles as he was tasked on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company to build Fort Victoria. The bench and plaque were removed in April 2023 without any notice given to the community. According to the city neither the plaque or bench will be displayed anymore.

Water movement in Gonzales

Gonzales did not have a river basin but rather a large wetland where water collected (around Earle Street and Chandler). The basin was completely surrounded by higher ground, so no standing water could escape the basin on the surface until it filled up to the 10.5 metre elevation, at which point it would overtop the basin at the two low points along Fairfield Road near Arnold Road and Fairfield Plaza, then run down through the cemetery to Ross Bay. Using height of land data, one can see a possible path upstream from the large wetland, following roughly Richardson Street and Maddison Street (Pemberton seasonal creek). Halfway along that first block of Maddison, an interesting thing happens: higher terrain pinches in from the NW and SE so the hypothetical creek would likely have had to flow through this "canyon". Just above this pinch point the drainage opens up into a small basin covering portions of the east side of Quamichan Street, east to Redfern Street and south to Richardson Street. We believe this is what was once call the Pemberton Bog.

Thank you to the City of Victoria for a Strategic Grant to allow us to print this map

We welcome donations to continue our work for the neighbourhood.

Donations can be made via e-transfer to: gonzalesneighbours@gmail.com

This map was created in March 2025 using the most up to date information we could find.

We apologize if things were missed or forgotten. If you see anything incorrect please contact us at the address above..

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