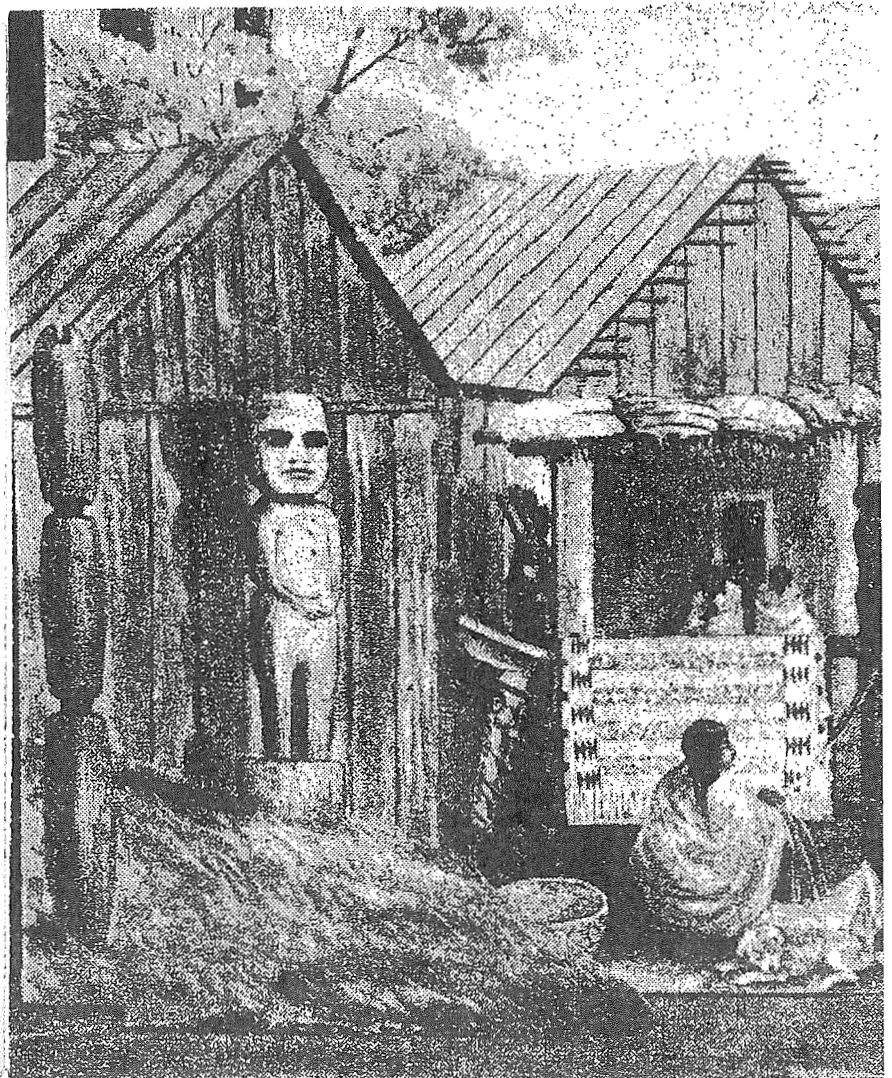


Duncan Longhouse:

The Duncan Longhouse  
had a Welcoming Totem  
at the central door and  
four more along the front.



Archaeologist Len Ham discovered that the Longhouse at Britannia Shipyard  
had one single central door similar to the Duncan Longhouse



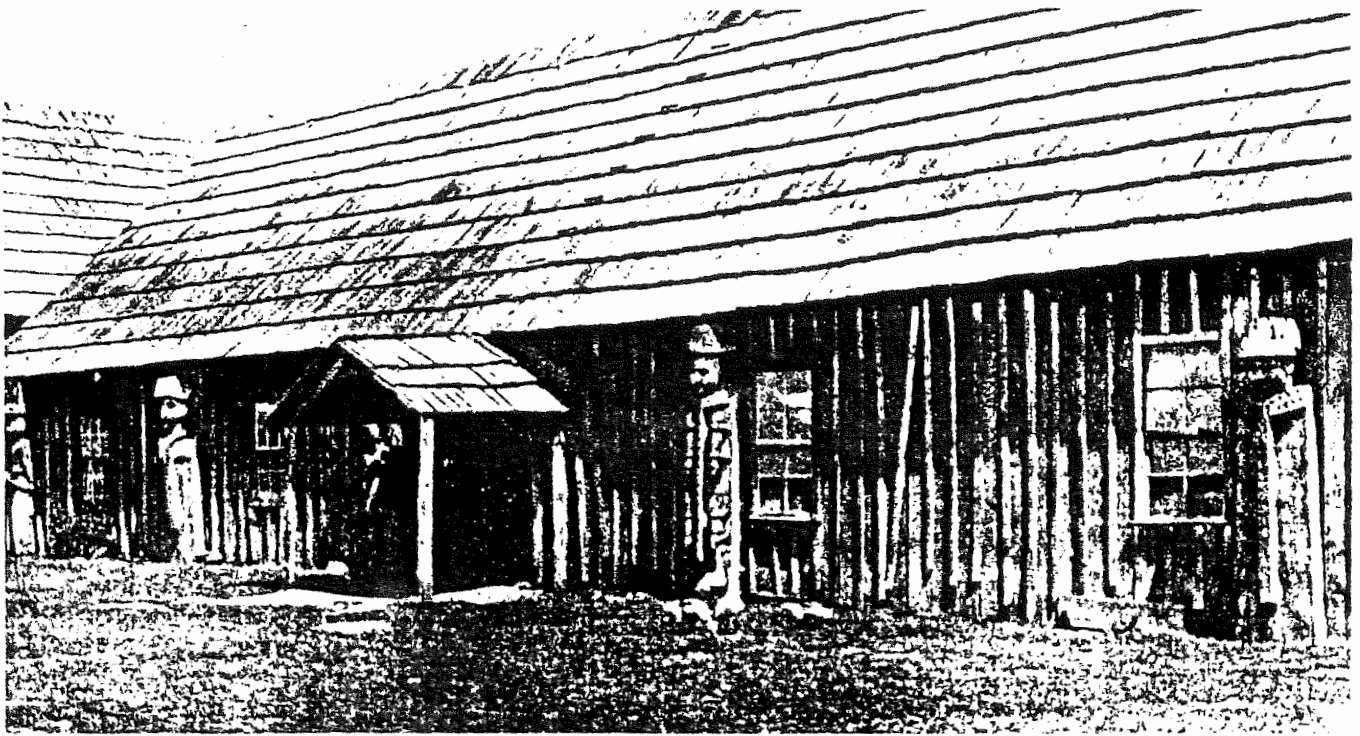
Duncan  
Potlach



H Steves  
collection



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A Salish long house early in this century. Although modifications had been made in the form of building by adding windows and a gabled roof, the carvings were similar to those seen by Simon Fraser a century before.

tively small in regional terms (usually between fifty and sixty feet long, a little less wide, and between twelve and fourteen feet to the ridge pole); but they made up for this compactness in the splendour of their decoration, which among the Haida, who added massive carved portal and corner posts and wall paintings, became the Coast Indian equivalents of Gothic or baroque church facades, except that they were dedicated not to the glory of God (the Coast peoples had no temples as such or the kind of worship for which they might be necessary) but rather to the glory of the resident chiefs and their ancestors and through them to the glory of the clan they headed.

The southern type of house, which existed in a modified form among the more southerly groups of the Nootka and which appears to have

been the older pattern, used frameworks of dressed timber but differed from the northern form in a number of basic features. Instead of the gabled roof, it had a simple shed roof (supported on poles) that sloped almost imperceptibly downward — because the frame at the front of the house was a foot or so higher than that at the back. The walls of the northern houses consisted of upright planks which fitted into slotted sills; those of the Salish houses consisted of overlapping horizontal planks lashed to upright poles, which actually formed a kind of outer shell separate from the framework that supported the roof, which also was made of overlapping cedar planks.

But the great difference lay in the dimensions and the divisions of the house. The Salish houses were far larger than anything built in the north-

*E.S. Curtis - print at Special Collections UBC*

*from George Woodcock, (1977). Peoples of the Coast. Indiana University Press*