

2104-2110 Columbia Avenue - Jordan Block



Jordan Block 2009

Heritage Register - Building

- 1) **Historical Name:** Jordan Block
- 2) **Common Name:**
- 3) **Address:** 2014- 2110 Columbia Avenue
- 4) **Date of Construction:** 1898 - 1901
- 5) **Design, Style, Architecture, Architect:**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Description:

The Jordan Block is located on the northeast corner of Columbia Avenue and Queen Street in downtown Rossland, B. C. (The Jordan Block actually includes two adjacent buildings that have different heights, facade treatment and commercial usage.) The building on the corner has signage for "Feather Your Nest" on the 2nd floor, and an entrance off Queen Street

and “The Grind” occupies the main floor. Next door, with 2nd storey oriel windows, there is a commercial business on the main floor and apartments on the 2nd floor. Both buildings have gently sloping shed roofs. The addresses are 2014 and 2110 Columbia Avenue.

Heritage Value:

The Jordan Block includes two of the commercial buildings built in Rossland’s earliest days (1896) still existing today and still in use with business premises.

The Jordan Block is the western anchor of one of 3 Blocks in downtown Rossland with a dense concentration of heritage buildings that escaped the disastrous fires of 1927 and 1929.

Extensive renovation and restoration efforts have been made over many years by owners to keep and enhance the heritage ambience presented by the facades of the buildings in the Jordan Block.

Character Defining Elements

- original location and building footprint
- A heritage plaque beside the entrance identifies this Block as an important heritage place in Rossland



Jordan Block (building on right) c. 1912

HISTORY

From “The History of Rossland’s Commercial Buildings” compiled by Sheila Corrado in 1985 with the financial support of the Heritage Trust of B. C., we learn the following:

- The most western portion of what we call the Jordan Block today was on the 1898 Assessment Roll as being owned by a Mr. Smith and a Mr. Scott. (Rossland was incorporated in 1897 so the first Tax and Assessment Rolls appeared in 1898)
- Between 1898 and 1900, the corner building was exempt from taxes because it was the Fire/Hose Hall for Rossland before the permanent, brick Fire Hall was established on 1st Avenue in 1900. The building was probably used for that period of time for storage purposes only as volunteer firemen never were housed there.
- In 1911 Mr. J. M. Jordan purchased the two buildings (on lots 1 and 2) and established the “biggest furniture store in the Interior of B. C.” (This is the date for the origin of the name, Jordan Block.) The first (main) floor of the western most building held dining room furniture and bedding and kitchen ensembles were on the 2nd floor with storage on the 3rd floor. The main floor of the building adjacent was used for chesterfield and living room suites and the 2nd floor was converted into apartments.
- In 1933, Mr. McTeer and Dr. Daly bought Jordan’s buildings and McTeer opened a hardware store in both, keeping the apartments.
- The Hardware business was closed in the mid- fifties and the buildings saw a variety of uses thereafter, including: a pool hall called “Nonis”, a Sears mail order outlet, photography studio, Mountain Music Ltd., Treva’s Fashions, Japanese restaurant, Health Food Store, Bedding and Decor, coffee shop.

Heritage Streetscapes – East end of the downtown

Block 42 is part of the original Township of Rossland which was purchased from the Provincial Government, by Ross Thompson in 1894. Block 42 lies between Columbia and 1st Avenues and between St. Paul Street and Lincoln (Queen) Street.

The Insurance Map of Rossland, July 1897, shows the developed Blocks and Lots in the town at this time and provides very accurate and often detailed information about the commercial buildings - their size, construction material used, height and usage.

The southern portion of Block 42, (facing Columbia Avenue), is divided into ten 30’ by 100’ lots and The Insurance Map shows that buildings existed on 9 of these lots as of July, 1897. The buildings were most likely constructed in 1896 or early 1897 and all the buildings were at least 2 storeys in height and several were 3 storey buildings. Anchoring the east end of the Block and on lot 10 is the Montreal Hotel (see separate entry in the Heritage Register). On the west end of the Block, on lots 1 and 2 we have separate commercial buildings - later referred to as the Jordan Block. Lots 3 and 4 are labeled the Lalonde and Rodier Block on the Insurance Map and that building is shown as having 4 separate entrances.

Between the Lalonde and Rodier Block, and the Montreal Hotel, there are buildings on lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 - the Insurance Map labels indicate stores on the main floor and Offices above. Exceptions include Lot 8 labelled as “Sisters Hospital” and the building on Lot 7 tells us that there was “Dancing” on the 2nd floor.

The lots were 100 feet deep and none of the buildings are shown to have been more than 50' deep with a 30' frontage. (Perhaps the steep terrain of this Block explains this.)

The southern section of Block 42 was never affected by the disastrous fires of 1927 and 1929 that destroyed so many of the commercial buildings built in Rossland prior to 1900. Today, we point to this streetscape and that of the one across Columbia Avenue as having the densest concentration of heritage buildings in Rossland's Downtown.



Jordan Block 1983