

2080 Washington Street - Star Theatre



2080 Washington Street in 2019

Heritage Register - Building

- 1) **Historical Name(s):** Star Theatre
- 2) **Address:** 2080 Washington Street
- 3) **Date of Construction:** 1898 (rebuilt in 1908)
- 4) **Design, Style, Architecture, Architect:** Frontier Style

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Description:

The Star Theatre building is a two-storey, flat-roofed, wood framed commercial building with two storefronts at street level dating to 1908. It is part of a grouping of five early

commercial buildings located on the eastern side of Washington Street between Columbia Avenue and First Avenue in the historic downtown of Rossland, B.C.

Heritage Value:

The Star Theatre building is valued as an integral element of Rossland’s oldest intact commercial street front. Together with its four contiguous neighbours to the south, it comprises the only surviving group of pre-fire commercial buildings in Rossland’s historic downtown. It is remarkable that these wood-framed buildings survived the series of devastating fires that essentially decimated all other contemporary buildings of this era in the surrounding blocks prior to 1929.

This historic place holds significant heritage value as modest-scaled wood-frame commercial building in the downtown core. Constructed in 1908 on the site of the former Beverly & Maloney Blacksmith Shop, a modest one-and-a-half-story utilitarian c. 1898 structure that was condemned and demolished in 1904, it is noteworthy that as a second-generation building it was not designed to surpass its predecessor in massing or design.

While this historic place is not grandiose in its aesthetics or presence within the streetscape, its continuous use for a variety of businesses since 1908 speaks strongly of Rossland’s economic adaptability and evolution since the first decade of the twentieth century. With uses such as a moving picture house, dry goods store, church, grocery store, building supply store, and retail and professional offices, this building provides a strong example of how Rossland’s downtown economy has sustained itself for over a century. Together with the other buildings to the south in this historic grouping, this place tells a story of Rossland’s economic continuum since its earliest days as a city.

Significant value also lies with the ongoing use of this place as the Butch Boutry Ski Shop. Butch Boutry, a local skiing champion who was a member and later head coach of the Canadian National Ski Team, the 1963 Western Canadian Men’s Ski Champion, and coach of the Canadian Disabled Ski Team for three Paralympic Games in the 1980s, opened his shop at this location in 1975. The continued use for this purpose is a strong reflection of the strength of Rossland’s ski culture, and its physical and economic connections to Red Mountain Resort.

It is noteworthy that this building was altered in the 1970s, with the street level being divided into two storefronts, and residential units added on the second floor. These changes reflect a desire for a modernization of the city’s downtown core that was typical for former boom-towns at that time.

Character-Defining Elements:

- Commercial use of this lot since c. 1898, and of this building since 1908.
- Its situation on its lot, and its relationship to the sidewalk, street, and back alley.
- Its physical relationship to the other buildings within this historic grouping.

- Its two-storey massing, with flat roof, and rectilinear façade.
- Its wood-frame construction.
- Its mixed use, with storefronts at street level and residential units in upper floor.
- Its association with the Butch Boutry Ski Shop.



Washington Street c. 1900.