

2038, 2044, 2054, 2070 & 2080 Washington Street – Washington Street 1890's Buildings



Washington Street 1890s grouping in 2019

Heritage Register - Buildings

- 1) **Historical Names:** Collins Hotel, Hoffman House, Bodega Hotel, Steen & Co., Star Theatre
- 2) **Common Names:**
- 3) **Addresses:** 2038, 2044, 2054, 2070 & 2080 Washington Street
- 4) **Date of Construction:** 1896-1897
- 5) **Design, Style, Architecture, Architect:** Victorian Commercial

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Description:

The Washington Street 1890s grouping comprises five two and three-storey historic wooden commercial buildings, dating from the late 1890s, located on the eastern side of Washington Street between Columbia Avenue and First Avenue. These attached buildings all have a flat-roofed or false-fronted appearance, and have commercial storefronts at street level.

Heritage Value:

The heritage value of this place lies in the fact that this is the only surviving intact block of first-generation commercial buildings in Rossland's historic downtown. This grouping of five wood-framed buildings in downtown is rare and significant for not having been affected by a series of devastating fires prior to 1930 that essentially decimated many other contemporary buildings of this era in the

surrounding blocks, leaving only isolated examples of buildings from Rossland’s earliest development period.

This group of buildings is important to Rossland’s heritage because it provides a snapshot of the original saw tooth characteristic of the earliest commercial streetscapes during the early boom period of the city. The wooden construction of these buildings is a reflection of the rapidly-gained wealth afforded speculators, businessmen, and citizens, who desired to build a city as quickly as the gold was mined in the surrounding hillsides. The false-front appearance of these buildings reflects the design trends of the day that strove to convey a sense of permanence, sophistication, and emulate the success of larger, established urban centres.

This group of buildings also holds value as a reminder of the economic and social diversity that were commonplace in mining boomtowns of western Canada. With early purposes ranging from hotels, cafes, furnished rooms, a wholesale liquor distribution warehouse, a movie house and a US consular office, these buildings together demonstrate the agglomerate nature of businesses, people, skills, and experiences that came together in the 1890s to build a city upon hills of gold.

There is also heritage significance in the story of the occasional internal consolidation and separation of some of these buildings for a variety of commercial and social purposes throughout their histories. This value is evident in the history of long-term ownership and operation by a number of individuals, families, and organizations over time.

Character-Defining Elements:

- Original location on the 2000 block of Washington Street in Rossland historic downtown
- The contiguous relationship of the five structures.
- The saw tooth appearance of the roofline of the buildings.
- The commercial design, form and wooden construction of all five structures, each with a flat-roofed or false-fronted appearance.
- The relationship of each building to the street, with no setbacks.
- Surviving or evidence of commercial storefronts at street level on all buildings

Historical Information – Chronology

Collins Hotel – 2038 Washington Street

Year	Event
1897	<p>A.J. McMillan listed as owner. McMillan (and in later years with his son) owned this property until about 1926.</p> <p>City Directory: 11 – Henry Graham & Chas. O. Washburn, props, Hotel Collins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15½ – Hamman Turkish Bath (doesn’t specify N or S Washington)
1898	<p>City Directory: 11 Collins Hotel, Jerry Spellman (also proprietor of Rossland Hotel)</p>

Year	Event
1927	Henry Wilken listed as owner.
1934	Samuel Hackney is operating Hackney's Hardware here.
1944	Samuel Wise is listed as operating Wise's Hardware here.
1957	Samuel A. Wise listed as owner.

Hoffman House – 2044 Washington Street

Year	Event
1897	City Directory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 – Darby Featherston, bartender. • 17 – Jame McGaughey & Duke McKellar, props. Hoffman House
1898	J.D. McGaughey & Duke McKellar listed as owners. City Directory: 17 – Edwin G. Farnsworth, barber 17 – Thomas Dillon Hayden, beds 17 – Hoffman House, Harry McIntosh 17 – Douglad Stewart McInnes, bookkeeper, Pacific Tea Co., rooms 17 – Robert J. McKenzie, agent Trail Saw Mill, C&W Ry. "Y", res. 17 – Allan Robert McPhee, contractor and builder, Commercial Alley, bds. Edward A. Seaton, clerk, R.M. Ry, bds.
1899	R.J. Moffat listed as owner.
1900	Harry McIntosh listed as owner. There is a "Hoffman Café" listed here this year. The proprietor is August B. Strobe.
1901	Harry McIntosh, Mary J. McIntosh listed as owners.
1902	Harry McIntosh listed as owner.

Year	Event
1905	Harry McIntosh listed as owner. Samuel McElnea – bartender.
1907	Harry McIntosh & G. Green and A.W. Smith listed as owner.
1908	George Green and A.W. Smith listed as owner.
1925	Alonzo Brown listed as owner and proprietor of the Hoffman House.
1930	Adella Brown listed as owner.
1934	Samuel Hackney is operating Hackney's Hardware here.
1935	City of Rossland listed as owner.
1936	Samuel J. Hackney and Rose H. Hackney listed as owner.
1944	Samuel Wise is listed as operating Wise's Hardware here.
1953	Apartments are listed in upstairs. Residents are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francois James Beinder • William and Ruth Powell • Robert and Georgiana Glover
1957	Bessie Wise listed as owner.

Bodega Hotel – 2054 Washington Street

Year	Event
1897	City Directory: Bodega Hotel, John Box prop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 – Daniel Thomas, Thomas & Greiger wholesale liquor & cigars (doesn't specify N or S Washington)
1898	BC Town Property Syndicate & Hector McPherson listed as owners. Sidney Hobbes is listed as the proprietor of the Bodega Hotel.

Year	Event
	City Directory: 21 – Hector McPherson, rooms
1901	BC Town Property Syndicate listed as owner.
1903	BC Town Property Syndicate & Harry McIntosh listed as owner.
1907	Katie D. Green & Harry McIntosh, George Green and A.W. Smith listed as owner.
1908	Katie D. Green and George Green and A.W. Smith listed as owner.
1909	George Green and A.W. Smith listed as owner.
1930	John Muller listed as owner.
1957	Rossland Aerie No. 10 Fraternal Order of Eagles listed as owner.
1983	Rossland Light Opera purchases the building.

Steen & Co. – 2070 Washington Street

Year	Event
1897	Miss Olive Steen & Co. Lee Coombs. Steen & Co. was a wholesale liquor company. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colin E. Brown was a clerk for Steen & Co.
1898	Olive Steen & Co and Lee Coombs listed as owners. City Directory: 25 – Fred Blockberger, US Consular Agent
1899	R.T. Gardner listed as owner. He purchased building from Steen & Co. this year. City Directory: 27 – Prof. F.R. Blockberger, L.L.B. , agent, United States Consulate
1900	R. Tomlinson Gardner listed as owner. Tomlinson owned the building until 1917.

Year	Event
1908	C.R. Hamilton listed as owner. Hamilton owned the building until 1929.
1928	Wong Eng, Wong Wing, Wong Quon listed as owners.
1931	James Wright purchased building from Wong Eng, Wong Wing, Wong Quon
1932	Edward Francis Vetere listed as owner. Vetere owned the building until at least 1957
1953	Empire Confectionery is listed at this address
1957	Edward Francis Vetere listed as owner.

Butch Boutry – 2080 Washington Street

Year	Event
1897	E.J. Noel listed as owner.
1898	BC Town Property Syndicate & Hector McPherson listed as owners. Sidney Hobbes is listed as the proprietor of the Bodega Hotel. City Directory: 21 – Hector McPherson, rooms
1901	John A. Collett listed as owner.
1902	The Bishop of Ottawa listed as owner.
1903	The Bishop of Ottawa, C.R. Hamilton listed as owner.
1908	Samuel Hackney is operating the Star Theatre at this location, likely until 1923 at least (see 1912 fire plan and 1923 newspaper ad for star theatre)
1925	C.R. Hamilton listed as owner.
1933	William James Weir listed as owner.
1937	Henry Maxwell Vasey purchases the building from Weir.
1938	Henry Maxwell Vasey listed as owner.

Year	Event
1957	Nancy J Plotnikoff (executive) listed as owner.
1965	Nancy J. Fiddes (formerly Plotnikoff) listed as owner.
1966	Nancy Fiddes (Executive) listed as owner.
1970	Gustav and Beatrice Rosner listed as owner.