

2104-2110 COLUMBIA AVENUE - JORDAN BLOCK



Heritage Register – Building

- 1) **Historical Name:** Jordan Block
- 2) **Common Name:**
- 3) **Address:** 2104-2110 Columbia Avenue
- 4) **Date of Construction:** 1896
- 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. The Jordan Block actually includes two adjacent buildings that have different heights, facade treatment and commercial usage. The building on the corner accommodates the Red Pair Shoestore on the second floor with an entrance off Queen Street and “The Grind” on the main floor. Next door, offices featuring oriel windows occupy the second floor while commercial businesses operate on the main floor. Both buildings have gently sloping shed roofs.

Heritage Value:

The Jordan Block is comprised of two commercial buildings built in 1896 that are still used by businesses today. It is the western anchor of one of three 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 periodically by various owners. A comparison of the two photos conveys the enhanced heritage ambience presented by the improved façade renovations put in place by current owner Andy Talbot.

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 1983

HISTORY

The most western portion of the Jordan Block was listed as being owned by Mr. Smith and Mr. Scott in the first 1898 Tax Assessment Roll. Between 1898 and 1900 this corner building was

exempt from taxes because it was the firehall for Rossland. The building was used for storage purposes only.

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.”. The first floor of the western-most building held dining room furniture and bedding while the second floor had kitchen ensembles and the third floor was for storage. The main floor of the adjacent building was used for chesterfields and living room suites, and the second floor was converted into apartments.

In 1933, Mr. McTeer and Dr. Daly bought Jordan’s buildings. McTeer kept the apartments and opened a hardware store on the main floors. Although the hardware business was closed in the mid-1950s, Mr. McTeer remained the owner of the building and continued to live upstairs. From 1956 to 1962, Mr. LaFace opened a pool hall called “Nonis” in the corner building. Next door was the Sears mail order outlet. After the pool hall closed down, Mr. McTeer sold the building to Mr. Wayne Eyres. Mr. William Haden, Mr. Eyres’ father-in-law, opened a photography studio which remained until October 1979. On February 26, 1980, Mrs. Treva Hinchcliffe opened Treva’s Fashions in the corner building. This became a popular women’s boutique. The adjacent building was the Colonial Flower Shop. Subsequently, various other businesses occupied these two buildings. Currently, the corner building is occupied by the Alpine Grind Coffeehouse & Eatery on the main floor and the Red Pair Shoestore on the second floor. The adjacent building is home to various businesses including the Nature’s Den health food store, Century 21 real estate, WSP Engineering & Survey, and Trinity Massage.