

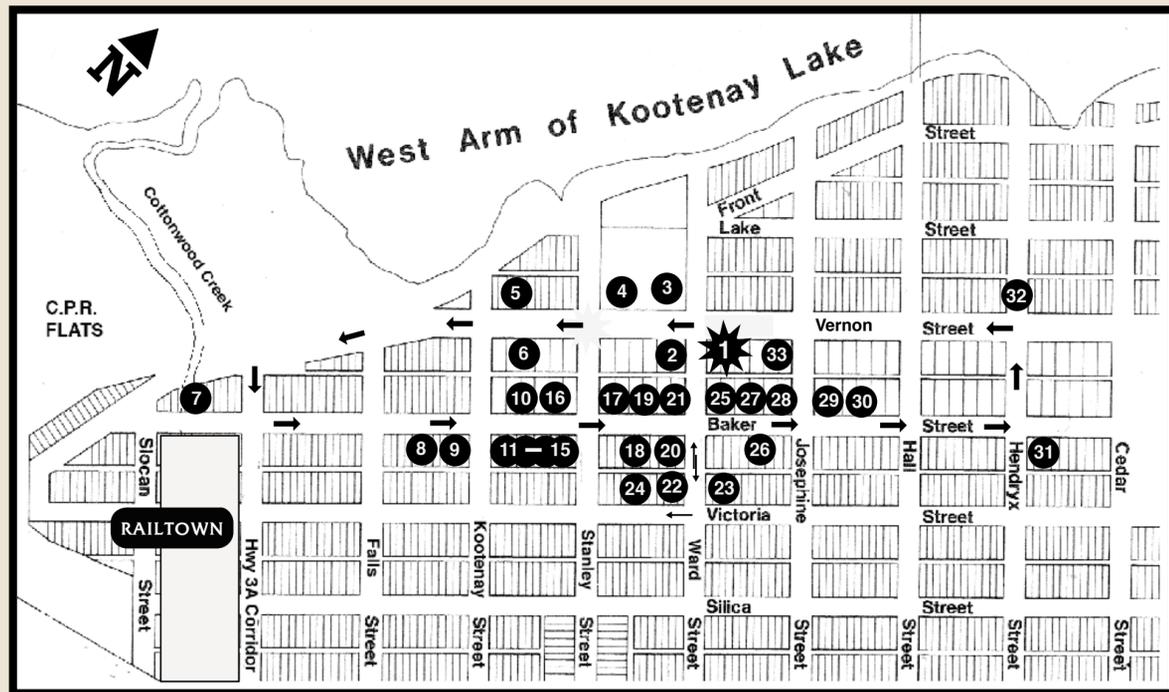


WELCOME TO TOUCHSTONES NELSON HERITAGE WALKING TOUR.

We hope you will enjoy your exploration of our historic downtown core. Please follow the map, at your own pace, and stop at any one of our outdoor spaces to enjoy the streetscape. If you see a building, not on the Tour, which piques

your interest, please make a note of it and ask about it at the museum. Please watch your step and use the marked crosswalks.

Thank you for taking our tour. *Enjoy!*



Richardsonian Arch: semi circular arch supported on a cluster of squat columns.
Voussoirs: wedge shaped pieces so angled as to form an arch or vault.
Practising Architects: H. Cane, A. Carrie, G.D. Curtis, A.C. Ewart, A.E. Hodgins, J.A. MacDonald, F.M. Rattenbury, W.G. Taylor
(S) Supervised plans of a different architect or architectural firm.
**Fast Fact*



1 POST OFFICE
502 Vernon Street
1902, 1910 - MacDonald (S), Carrie

Richardsonian Romanesque with Chateau features. This building was originally pink in colour having been constructed of Spokane pink brick, native brick and Kaslo marble. It has previously been home to the museum and City Hall, but today it functions as Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History. Note the Richardsonian Arch and turret.



2 HUME HOTEL
422 Vernon Street
1898 - Ewart and Carrie

Although the exterior is faux the interior is a step back in time. A sensitive renovation in the 1980s resulted in architectural finds, as well as early artifacts. The hotel was situated on the edge of the Ward Street gorge. The hotel has been in almost continuous use since opening her doors in 1898 and it is rumoured some patrons have not gone home!

**Ward Street was originally a gorge spanned by numerous bridges.*



3 COURTHOUSE
320 Ward Street
1908 - Rattenbury, Carrie (S)

Richardsonian Romanesque with Chateau features. The front entrance and foyer were firebombed on 04 February 1962. The fast thinking and actions of local taxi driver, David "Buster" Wigg, prevented the building from being reduced to rubble. The rear of the site contained the gallows which were last in use on 21 November 1902. Note the Richardsonian Arch and voussoirs.



4 LAND REGISTRY OFFICE
403 Vernon Street
1901 - Ewart and Carrie

Late Victorian. This building is constructed of fire retardant materials including retractable metal shutters and a metal roof and door. It was commissioned by J. Fred Hume, a local Hotelier and Member of the Provincial Legislature. Today the building is multifunctional.

**The last man hanged in Nelson was Henry Rose.*



6 MURAL VERNON STREET

D.Dan Morslander created this four paneled mural celebrating Nelson's historic past and her placement in Hollywood North (Steve Martin's, "Roxanne"). Information about Nelson's history is available at Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History.

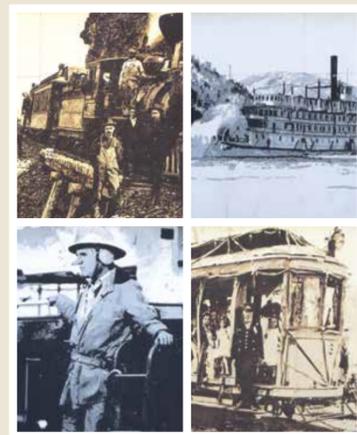
** The movies, "Roxanne" (Steve Martin) and "Housekeeping" (Christine Lahti) were filmed here.*

***Please cross the street using the crosswalk and proceed west (to your right).*



5 MCDONALD JAM FACTORY
303 Vernon Street
1911, 1920 - Carrie

The two storey wooden structure was built in 1911 with the addition of the stone warehouse in 1920. You will note how the two foot thick granite wall serves as Vernon Street's retaining wall. Here James Albert "Long Jim" McDonald processed local area fruit into jam and shipped his product as far East as Winnipeg. Today the building is multipurpose.



Touchstones Nelson
Museum of Art and History
HERITAGE
Walking Tour
Nelson, BC



7 CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE
420 Railway Street
1908-Carrie

Late Victorian. This house has been sensitively restored with an interior harkening back to early Nelson. The house sits on a bit of a rise lending its importance to the area. Note the Tuscan Columns and the absence of decorative details.

**The C.P.R. came to Nelson in 1891.*

7 COTTONWOOD CREEK AND RAILTOWN

This section of the Cottonwood Creek area has been designated as Railtown. Historically the area consisted of: the site of the first hydro electric power plant in B.C. (February 1896), tennis courts, market gardens, houses, a fish hatchery, water diversion for cooling purposes at the Nelson Coke and Gas Works, a place of First Nations' fishing (mouth of the creek) and the C.P.R. Superintendent's House, Depot and rail yards.



8 HAMILTON POWDER COMPANY
280 Baker Street
1905

Queen Anne Commercial. This building replaced the earlier wood frame structure. With mining the prevalent industry this building supplied local and area needs. The powder magazine was located at the rear of the property. The building is in an excellent state of preservation with boldly arched windows and door, voussoirs and lintels.

**Nelson has had 3 cemeteries; the corner of Falls and Baker Streets (North side), High Street (campgrounds) and the present day Memorial Park.*



Bank of Montreal



9 BANK OF MONTREAL
298 Baker Street
1899 - Rattenbury

Beaux Arts Classical Revival. Although not formally trained in the Beaux Arts form of architecture Frances Rattenbury designed a lovely building in this style. The building reflects a sense of security and stability in a time of growth. The bank first opened, in a barber shop, in 1892. Note the decorative scroll bearing the bank insignia.



10 MASONIC BUILDING
321-329 Baker Street
1923 - Carrie

Late Victorian Commercial. The second floor lodge is in active use for the membership, while the first floor contains retail shops. The lodge has changed very little since its completion. Note the lintels, Masonic insignia and decorative cornice.

**The Letters of Incorporation for the City were signed on 04 March 1897.*



11 ROYAL HOTEL
330 Baker Street
1912

Edwardian Classical. Originally named the Reid Building it was constructed for the amount of \$22,000. It was not renamed the Royal Hotel until a later date as a hotel of this name already existed. Although the feature is no longer in use it is one of the last remaining structures in the Province which has a designated male and female with escort entranceway. Note the decorative cornice on the first storey and the recessed entranceways.



12 BELLAMY'S GROCERY
334 Baker Street
c. 1897

Boomtown Wooden False Front. This building was constructed during the time of the City's Incorporation. It served as a grocery store until 1972. Note the sunburst motif, decorative shingles and cornice.



13 J.M. LUDWIG LEATHER GOODS
338 Baker Street
c. 1897

Boomtown Wooden False Front. This building was constructed at the time of Incorporation for William Goepel, the acting Government Agent and Inspector of Government Offices. It is one of the last remaining wooden structures in the historic core. This building was cast as "All Things Dead" in the movie, "Roxanne". Note the mansard roof and recessed entranceway.

**The term "Queen City of the Kootenays" was coined, in the early 1900s, by a visiting journalist from eastern Canada.*



14 MCKILLOP BUILDING
364-370 Baker Street
1897 - Ewart

Queen Anne Commercial. This structure was built for Alexander McKillop, a Mineral Assayer and local Alderman. Note the cornice, finials, the Spokane Iron Foundry stamp and the other uses of iron elements on the facade.



15 MAGLIO BLOCK
378 Baker Street
1914

Edwardian Classical. This building was constructed, in stages, for Carmen Maglio. Although much of the ground floor façade has been lost due to extensive renovations the building still appears imposing. Note the rusticated stone emphasizing the flat lintels, arched doorway, windows and an east fire wall made entirely of rubble.

**Greyhound Bus Lines originated in Nelson.*



16 MCCULLOCH BUILDING
371-377 Baker Street
1912 - Carrie

Edwardian Classical with Richardsonian Romanesque features. This structure was built for Andrew McCulloch for the sum of \$27,000. The building features a rugged masonry façade with a unique use of rusticated stone. Note the pilasters, cornice, recessed entranceway, lintels and sills.





17 MARA BARNARD BUILDING
421-431 Baker Street
1897

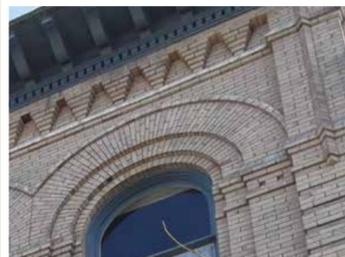
Queen Anne Commercial. This structure was built for entrepreneurs E.S. Barnard and J.A. Mara. It was the first home of the Merchant's Bank of Halifax and later became one of the Province's first branches of the Royal Bank. Note the second storey bay windows, recessed entranceways, lintels and pilasters.

**One of the first by-laws enacted was to ban wood frame construction in the City core.*



18 LAWRENCE HARDWARE STORE BUILDING
446 Baker Street
1898 - Ewart and Carrie

Italianate with Richardsonian Romanesque features. This is Baker Street's first three storey building. The building originally housed a hardware store with a plumbing contractor. Note the arched windows, brickwork, the high parapet wall and the shelf cornice supported by sheet metal modillions.



19 CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE
459 Baker Street
1907 - Carrie (S)

Beaux Arts Classical Revival. This structure, faced with Kootenay marble and displaying ionic pilasters with strong Greek Classical Revival features, is striking in its sense of grandeur. The upper floor contained sleeping quarters at one time used by resident staff. The building emanated an aura of confidence in the economic stability of the Queen City.

**There were originally 4 turrets on the corner of Baker and Ward Streets.*



20 K.W.C. BUILDING
488-498 Baker Street
1900 - Carrie

Queen Anne Commercial with Romanesque Revival features. This structure was built for John A. Kirkpatrick, Charles J. Wilson and A. H. Clements. Originally the first floor contained a drug store and other retail spaces while the second contained offices and the third sleeping quarters. The clock was placed in the turret in the 1950s. This building exhibits the only remaining turret on Baker Street.



21 WAIT'S NEWS
499 Baker Street
1937

Vernacular. This building was constructed upon the foundation of the Griffin Block. The Griffin Block was a large, wooden structure, with a turret, that was destroyed by fire in the mid 1930s. It was this fire that led to the edict by the Fire Chief that all wooden turrets in the City be removed. Wait's has operated, under the same name, since opening.

**Charles J. Wilson of the K.W.C. Block was a Great Uncle of the actress, Margot Kidder.*



22 GREEN BLOCK
554-556 Ward Street
1909 - Carrie

Richardsonian Romanesque. This building was constructed by F.C. and A.H. Green. It offered a first floor of commercial space, with the upper storey containing living quarters. The corner door allows for a more rounded appearance to the building. Note the arched windows and lintels.



23 ANNABLE BLOCK
551-579 Ward Street
1912 - Carrie

Queen Anne Commercial. This structure was built for former Mayor, J.E. Annable, for the sum of \$30,000. The first floor consisted of retail space and offices while the upper storey contained sleeping rooms. Note the sills, lintels and bold facade highlighting its massive bearing.

**Nelson has connections to 3 Victoria Cross recipients: Roland Bourke, Robert Hampton Gray, and Frederick Peters.*



24 CAPITOL THEATRE
421 Victoria Street
1924

Mission Revival. Originally the Central Garage this building opened as a theatre on 05 September 1927 at a cost of \$75,000. After years of faltering attendance and disrepair it was closed. Many energetic volunteers along with the City of Nelson recognizing the potential of the building, restored it and reopened for live performances in 1988. The original entranceway, with glass ticket booth, was on Ward Street.



25 MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING
503-511 Baker Street
1930

Mission Revival with decorative elements. Built for Progress Buildings Limited this building consisted of retail stores, office and living spaces. Note the recessed and arched doorways, sills, date stone and the bold facade highlighting its massive structure.

**The Ladies of the Evening were moved from East Baker Street to Lake Street ca. 1899.*



26 BURNS BUILDING
556-560 Baker Street
1899 - Carrie, Hodgins and Rattenbury

Italianate Sullivan-esque. This building served as the Kootenay headquarters of "Cattle King," Patrick Burns. Mr. Burns began his career selling meat to the rail crews during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Contrary to local myth Francis Rattenbury only designed the cold storage unit. Note the steer head referencing the business within, terracotta panels, fluted cast iron columns, decorative cornice, brick pilasters and archways.



27 ABERDEEN BLOCK
571-579 Baker Street
1898

Queen Anne Commercial. This building was constructed for George Beer and was originally known as the Beer Building. Although the ground floor facade has been renovated one can still see the recessed entranceways and display windows. The former high ceilings of the interior spaces can be seen in the space which separates the top of the display window with the first floor cornice. At one time, this area contained small paned transom windows. Note the pilasters and lintels.

**Notre Dame University (N.D.U.) of Nelson, B.C. was the first university in Canada to offer athletic scholarships.*



28 WOOD VALLANCE BUILDING
593 Baker Street
1896

Mission Revival. Built for A. H. Clements and C. Hillyer this was the first brick block building in the Queen City. The building was originally Queen Anne in style, but the facade has been so extensively renovated that its style definition has changed. Wood Vallance Hardware commenced at this location on 23 April 1904. The date on the facade refers to the business, not the building. Note the lintels, recessed doorway and decorative cornice.



29 HOUSTON BLOCK
601-607 Baker Street
1899 - Hodgins

Queen Anne Commercial. This structure was built for Nelson's first Mayor, John Houston. It originally housed a bank and still maintains two large walk in vaults. The ground floor originally consisted of the Imperial Bank and retail space while the second floor offered office space. Note the pilasters, decorative cornice, brick string course, lintels, arched side window and double arched entranceway with a column of local marble.

**The Canadian National Ski Team was headquartered at N.D.U.*



30 EAGLES HALL
639-641 Baker Street
1909 - Carrie

Late Victorian Commercial. The Nelson Aerie was the fourth to be established in Canada. The building is constructed of local brick and granite. The ground floor originally offered retail space while the upper floor housed the meeting hall. Little has changed in the meeting hall since its completion and it is still in use by the membership. Note the decorative eagle, name and date block, lintels, string and decorative cornice.



31 SCANDINAVIAN CHURCH
802 Baker Street
1933

Mission Revival. Originally known as the Scandinavian Lutheran Mission Church the structure was built for the North Pacific Missionary Conference. The Church was designed by local resident Leonard Nelson. The first service, in Swedish, was held on 10 September 1933; and, in English, on 17 September 1933. The exterior has been so extensively renovated that it bears little resemblance to the original facade. Note the sunburst motif, gabled roof, sills, cornerstone of Kootenay Granite with gold lettering and arched windows.



32 CIVIC CENTRE
719 Vernon Street
1935-1936 - McCarter and Nairn

Art Deco. The Centre was constructed with federal funding during the Depression years offering local employment. The ice rink opened in 1935 with the auditorium and theatre opening in 1936. It is the oldest, still operating, hockey rink in British Columbia. In 1943 the Centre was used as a production facility for Boeing Aircraft parts and as a site for Red Cross Disaster Relief. Note the entranceway and stairs, two paned rectangular windows, paint scheme and its massive bearing.

**Nelson was home to hockey's famous Patrick brothers, Frank and Lester.*

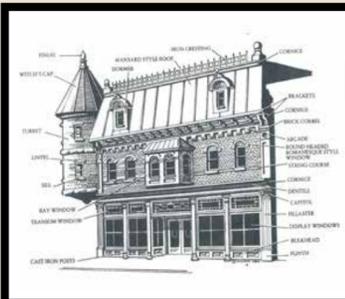


33 A. MACDONALD BUILDING
524 Vernon Street
1898

Victorian Utilitarian. This structure was originally built for A. (Annie) Macdonald and Company of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The company eventually became Canada Safeway Limited. The building was later purchased by local merchant, A.S. Horswill by the lively Dixie (Shelley Duvall), in the movie, "Roxanne". Note the recessed entranceways and stone foundation.



ARCHITECTURAL TERMINOLOGY



For architectural terms used in this brochure please visit:
[www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_architecture)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richardsonian_Romanesque
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missionary>
<http://architecture.about.com/od/greatbuildings/g/GreatBuildings.htm>

For a history of Nelson or queries regarding other buildings please visit TOUCHSTONES NELSON MUSEUM, number one on this walking tour, or visit:
www.touchstonesnelson.ca

For access to the HERITAGE REGISTER UPDATE, a short history of Nelson and an online version of this Tour please visit:
www.nelson.ca

For a listing of all local events and tours please contact:
NELSON AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
225 Hall Street, Nelson, BC
250.352.3433 - www.discovernelson.com

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