

Heritage Building Scavenger Hunt

Presented by the Creston Museum

We've identified fifteen buildings, in or near downtown Creston, with interesting histories. Below, you'll find photos of an architectural detail that hints at the building's history. Use the photos, and the description and histories, to identify all fifteen buildings.




Take a photo of each building, or note down the name of the business that's in it now. Then, show us your finished scavenger hunt to enter your name in a draw for prizes:

- Post your photos/list to www.facebook.com/CrestonMuseum; or
- Email your photos/list to mail@creston.museum.bc.ca; or
- Show us your photos/list by dropping into the Museum at 219 Devon Street

Finish the scavenger hunt and show us the photos/list **by 4:00 PM on Saturday, February 23** to enter the draw!

The Route:

All the buildings are near downtown, but they're not all on Canyon Street! As an added help, we've presented them here in order, on a route that starts at the Visitor Information Centre (121 Northwest Boulevard). To get to the first building, walk away from downtown Creston on Northwest Boulevard. Then, turn right on Hillside Street and walk up the hill to 10th Avenue North. Turn right, walk down to Canyon Street, turn left, then left again on 11th Avenue North and go back up to Vancouver Street. Then turn right on 15th Avenue North to return to Canyon Street. Cross Canyon Street, turn right, and return to the Visitor Information Centre. You will have passed all the buildings in this Scavenger Hunt!

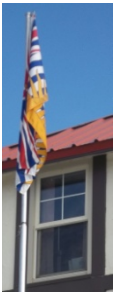
	<p>The oldest, original, operating church in Creston</p> <p>This particular church was built in 1909. It was not the first church in the Valley, but it is the oldest one still operating: all the ones that preceded it have either been torn down or are no longer being used. The bell in use in the church today is the original one, sent by Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick of Toronto, who was visiting Creston at the time the church was built and laid the cornerstone.</p> <p>Of all the churches built in Creston in the early 1900s, only this prominently-located one is still standing and still in use.</p>
	<p>A three-story house that used to be one story</p> <p>The ground floor of this house was built about 1912. At that time, it was a hip-roofed house - all four sides of the roof sloped upward to a central point. This was the first house in Creston to have indoor plumbing.</p> <p>The roof of the original one-story house can still be seen over the front porch.</p>
	<p>A building that has been added on to at least twice.</p> <p>The original part of this building is the middle section, and was built in 1910. An identical section was added on to the west in 1912, and, in 1938, the large front section - now the main part of the building - was added. It's the oldest (and largest) continuously-operating building of its kind in the Creston Valley.</p> <p>Three distinct rooflines clearly show where the three sections are.</p>



The hall of one of the oldest fraternal organisations in Creston

This organisation was established in Creston by 1909, right at the time that Creston was experiencing a building and population boom, driven by the local tree fruit industry. The hall was built in 1939. This group might not have been the very first fraternal organisation in Creston (there are some suggestions that others were active earlier than 1909), but they are the oldest one still active in the community.

This organisation is still active in Creston today, and their insignia appears near the roofline of the building.



The former Provincial Government building

Built in the fall of 1939, this building once housed several provincial government offices: Provincial Police, including courtroom and jail cells; Forestry and Game Warden offices; Public Works (responsible for the maintenance of provincial highways); and the Relief Office (which provided assistance to the unemployed of the Great Depression). The top floor even included living quarters for the Provincial Police officer in charge. It's still a government office, just not a provincial one.

The colour scheme of the building - cream stucco with dark brown timbers and a red roof - has not changed since it was built (though the red shingles on the roof have been replaced with red metal).



A building with a false front

This is one of the oldest surviving buildings on Canyon Street. It was built by the summer of 1908, possibly a little earlier, and started off as a tiny, single-story building. It was gradually enlarged over the years to its present size. Among other businesses, it was once the home of a butcher shop. After being constructed and reconstructed many times, this building now houses a construction company.

In many pioneer towns, false fronts - a large square facade on the front of a small, peak-roofed building - were common. They made the business, and consequently the town, seem larger and more prosperous than it really was.



A former boarding house

Built in the summer of 1908 (the date on the building is a little bit off), it was originally Scott's Boarding House for travelers, newcomers, and short-term residents. It was one of two boarding houses on Canyon Street at the time. In the 1920s, this building housed the Imperial Bank (site of the famous bank robbery in October 1925), then became the temporary home to S.A. Speers' Imperial Groceteria. Beginning in 1933, it housed the local office and appliance store of West Kootenay Power, and boasted Creston's first neon sign. Today, you can find all the latest news in this building.

Although the building has been modified since it was built, the three original windows on the upper story still hint at its original purpose.



A former grocery store, built in 1933

S.A. Speers' first general store, established in 1907, was located in a building below the tracks. In 1919 it was moved to the building that now houses ReMax and Blackbear Books. In 1932, he split his business - the dry goods and hardware departments remained in the ReMax building, while the grocery division moved across the street. He called this the Imperial Groceteria, because its first location was in the former Imperial Bank building. In 1933, he built a brand-new building next door, where the Groceteria remained until the early 1960s. It's still a store, where you can buy everything from candies to flowers to antiques.

The date of the building's construction is visible above the upper-story windows.



A monument that is found in every community, but which is also unique to Creston

This structure was unveiled in 1922, replacing an earlier wooden monument that had been erected in 1916 - and then added to as required. The stone monument originally stood at the foot of 11th Avenue, and was later moved to what is now Town Hall, before being moved to its current location - back on 11th Avenue. The stone monument was made by J.S. Wilson & Sons of Kuskanook.

Every community has a monument like this, though the shape and size - and the writing on it - differ.



A building that used to be a church

The first Holy Cross Church was built in 1907, on the corner of 10th Avenue North and Hillside Street. By 1937, the congregation had outgrown the building, and the second Holy Cross Church was built. It served for two decades, until the third Holy Cross Church was built in its current location on 16th Avenue North. The steeple of the church was once hit by lightning.


It's now used as a hotel, but the front facade of the building still resembles the original entry and steeple of the church.



One of the best art-deco buildings in town

Built in 1938, this building originally housed one of two movie theatres in town. The theatre stayed here until 1985, then the building became a bingo hall, and then a theatre again - with the same name as the original one. This building was built by Poole Construction, the same company that built the dykes on Nick's Island, West Creston

The uniquely-shaped roofline of this building makes it an excellent example of art-deco style architecture.

	<p>A building that has been extended to the west</p> <p>This building has only ever housed a single business - the one it was built for in 1948, and which still occupies it today. The business currently in this building was established in 1947, following the merger of two rival banking companies - the Imperial Bank of Canada, and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.</p> <p>On the east side of this building's entry, the granite frame, where it meets the brick of the front wall, is continuous. On the west side of the entry, the granite frame is broken up by pieces of brick - the result of adding onto the structure.</p>
	<p>A building built by Robert Sinclair Smith</p> <p>Robert Sinclair-Smith built this building in 1937, and it was occupied by Russ Joyce Men's Clothing from then until 1944. Many long-time residents will remember Perry's electrical contractors and appliance shop, which occupied this building for more than forty years.</p> <p>The builder's initials can be seen on the upper part of this brightly-coloured building's facade.</p>
	<p>Two buildings that used to be one</p> <p>Both buildings once belonged to S.A. Speers. The one on the left (viewed from the street) was built below the tracks, then dragged up to the main street in 1920 and joined onto the building on the right. The wall between was opened up to form one large store - Speers' General Store. When that store was closed in 1937, the opening between the buildings was walled back up.</p> <p>Most buildings on Canyon Street are separated by a narrow gap (covered over, in most cases, by a sheet of siding, but still visible if you look at the upper parts of the buildings). These two have no gap in between.</p>
	<p>A building that has shrunk by ten feet</p> <p>Erected in 1911, this was the first building in Creston purposely-built for a bank - the Canadian Bank of Commerce. After the bank moved into its new building farther up Canyon Street, this building was turned into the municipal offices, then housed a series of different businesses. Although the original bank moved out of this building, it once again houses financial services.</p> <p>This building has a concrete foundation, so when Canyon Street was widened in 1947, it could not be simply moved back. Instead, ten feet were taken off the front. That's why the original main entrance, which faces Northwest Boulevard, is no longer in the centre of the building.</p>