

9. Continue down Main St. to the round-about. Cross Alfred Ave, and take the footpath that runs beside the Smithers Public Library to Railway Avenue. Here you will find the GTP / CN Rail Station.

Built in 1919 by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (GTP), the Smithers station is a rare example of a custom designed "special" station built at GTP divisional headquarter locations. It was the largest station built in the northwest, and was the last one built before the company went bankrupt and became Canadian National (CN) in 1921. The station was a hub on the CN line for rail workers and passengers until it was decommissioned in the late 1990s. The station is federally designated by the Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act. The town is named for Sir Alfred Smithers, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the GTP from 1909-1921.



Local Cultural Attractions

Smithers Art Gallery

1425 Main Street (in the Central Park Building)

Smithers Public Library

3817 Alfred Avenue

Telkwa Museum

Highway 16 in Telkwa, BC

Widzin Kwah Canyon House Museum

(Widzin Kwah Diyik Be Yikh)

Just off Highway 16 in Witset (Moricetown) BC



Supported by the Province of British Columbia

Supported by the Stronger BC: BC's Economic Recovery Program through the BC Arts Council.

Smithers and the Bulkley Valley Museum are located on the traditional territory of the Gidimt'en (Bear/Wolf) Clan of the Witsuwit'en.

BULKLEY VALLEY
museum



Located in the historic Central Park Building at 1425 Main Street in Smithers

Phone: 250-847-5322

www.bvmuseum.org



Hours of Operation

Year Round

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

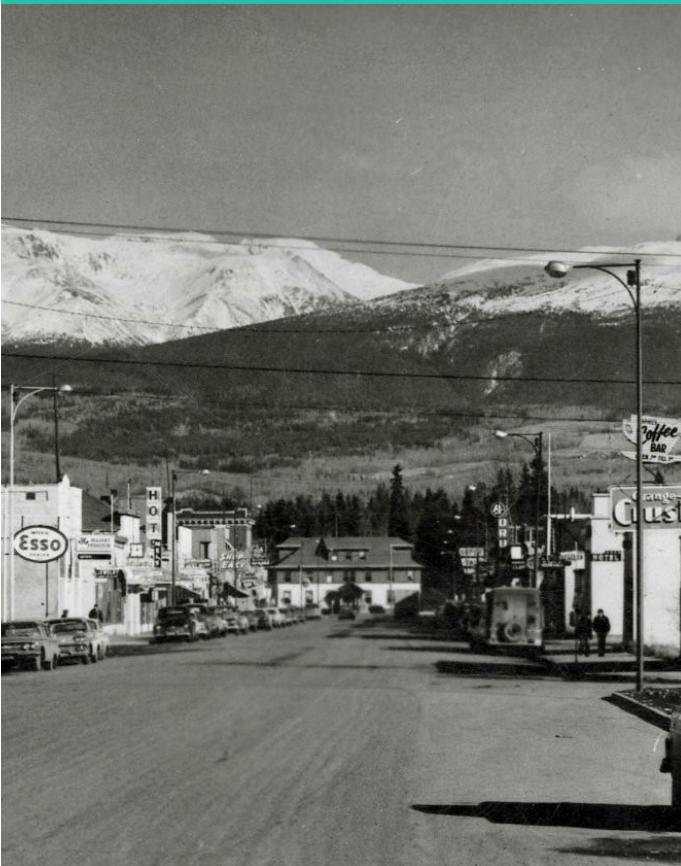
May-August

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturdays 9am - 4pm

SMITHERS
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Historical
Walking
Tour



BULKLEY VALLEY
museum

1. Our tour starts at the Central Park Building (CPB), at the corner of Highway 16 and Main Street.



Built in 1925 by the BC government, the CPB housed the offices of the Government Agent and Mining Recorder, the Court House, a jail, and living quarters for the Chief of Police. In 1981 it was designated as a heritage building, the first and only municipally designated building in Smithers. Today it is a cultural hub that houses the Bulkley Valley Museum, Smithers Art Gallery, a dance studio, and artist spaces.

2. Cross the highway and head down the right side of Main Street for two blocks. Look across the street to two buildings, 1226 & 1232 Main Street (shorter blue building, and tall rectangular building).

Both of these buildings were constructed in 1914 - the shorter blue one (left, Blue Fin Sushi) as the Dominion Telegraph offices, and the taller (right, MP's office) for the short-lived Smithers Tribune, later the Fashion Shoppe, and Beerda's Dry Goods.

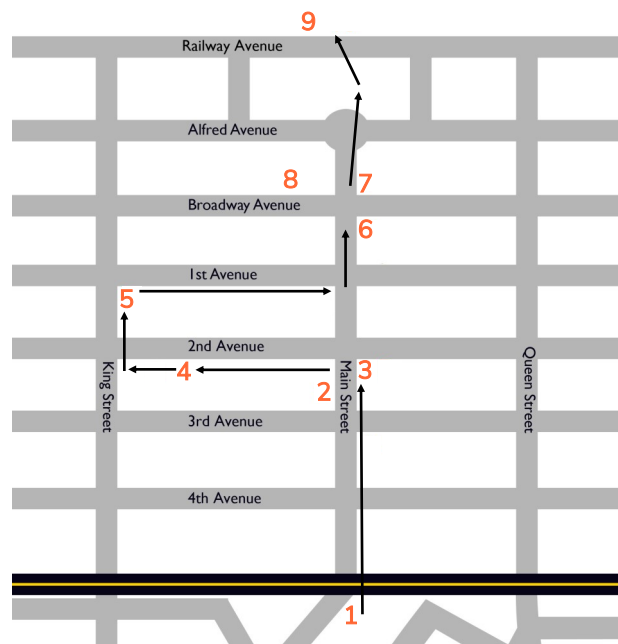


3. Continue down Main to the corner at 2nd Avenue, where you will see the Central Square Medical Clinic and the adjoining small building to the right.



Built in 1913 as J. Mason Adams' Drugstore (left in image) and the first post office (right), these structures are two of the oldest standing buildings in Smithers.

Smithers first permanent doctor, Dr. Hankinson, had his first office on the second floor in 1919. The building has been a drugstore (1913-1960), clothing store (1960-2008), and doctor's office (2008-present) over its 100+ year history.



As you walk, keep an eye out for murals! Several downtown buildings feature murals or public art, such as the characters featured on the side of Central Square Medical Clinic.

4. Cross Main Street, and go left down 2nd Avenue, to house #3732 (left side). This house, built in 1921, is a mail order "kit" home.

"Kit homes" were sold in Canada in the 1910s and 1920s by the Eaton's Department Store and the Aladdin Company. Almost 8000 were shipped to locations across Canada, with an estimated 40% remaining recognizable as kit homes today. There are four in Smithers, including this Aladdin Wabash XVI model. Others can be found at 3908 First Ave, 1089 Queen St., and 3991 Alfred Ave.

5. Continue on 2nd Avenue until you reach King Street, and then turn right. At the corner of King Street and First Avenue is the Old Church and Gardens.



Constructed in 1914, the St. James Anglican Church was the first church built in Smithers. In 2005 the aged building was rehabilitated by volunteers into a community events facility and public garden. Today the much loved "Old Church" is managed by the Bulkley Valley Museum.

6. Continue up 1st Avenue back to Main. Turn left down Main and walk to the corner of Main & Broadway Ave, location of the Smithers Sausage Factory.

This building was constructed in 1926 for the Olof Hanson Lumber & Tie Company (also housing the Royal Bank for several years). In addition to operating his lumber company, Olaf Hanson served three terms as Member of Parliament for Skeena riding (1930-1945). The building miraculously survived two catastrophic fires at that end of Main Street in 1944 and 1945. It changed hands a number of times between 1959 and 1984, when the current owners opened the Sausage Factory.



7. Look across Broadway Ave to Bovill Square.

Named for Bovill Motors, which operated at this corner from 1947-1969, the public square was constructed to mark Smithers' Centennial in 2013. It is a cultural venue that hosts concerts and other community events throughout the year. Adorning the top of the stage are crests representing the five **Witsuwit'en d'idikhn'i (clans):** **Gidimt'en, C'ilhts'ekhyu, Likhsilyu, Tsayu, and Likhts'amisyu.** An information stand in front of the square on Main Street provides more information.

8. Look left across Main Street to Fitness Northwest

This building was originally constructed in 1929 as the McRae Hotel, later the Smithers Hotel. The building is a survivor of both the 1944 and 1945 fires that twice devastated this end of Main Street. These fires were an important catalyst for improving fire fighting services in Smithers; in 1948-49 water lines and fire hydrants were finally installed. The Smithers Hotel closed in 2001, ending over seventy years of operation of a hotel on this site. While the building has undergone some significant changes in its 90+ years, the line of second story windows remain similar to the original building.



Turn over for stop #9 →