

SMITHERS

COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER

Final Report | March 2025



Acknowledgements

The Bulkley Valley Museum acknowledges the Witsuwit'en Nation, on whose traditional territory we work. Snecalyegh, thank you, to Witsuwit'en Elders and community members who have shared knowledge of the territory and Smithers' history with us on this and other projects.

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- Mayor Gladys Atrill & Smithers Town Council
- Town of Smithers staff, especially Deepa Chandran
- Crossroads Cultural Resource Management

We dedicate this project to Harry Kruisselbrink, an incredible local historian who helped draw attention to the need for a heritage register in Smithers, and whose Main Street walks, historical writings and photographs were instrumental in the compiling of this report.

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1. Key Terms

There are many definitions to determine what is and what is not heritage. Many people think of heritage as old buildings; however, heritage can be whatever a community, past or present, values and would like to pass on to future generations. This includes heritage we can see and touch, like a site, landscape or building; and heritage we cannot, like the stories, practices or traditions associated with a place. Both are important in shaping community character and identity. Below are key terms to help understand heritage in the context of this project.

Community heritage register is an official list of historic places, specific to a community, which have been identified by the local government as having heritage value or heritage character.¹

Heritage property in relation to Community Heritage Registers is any historic place, which in the opinion of a municipal council has sufficient heritage value or heritage character to justify its conservation.²

Historic place is a structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site, or other place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value by an appropriate authority within a jurisdiction.³

Heritage value is the historical, cultural, aesthetic, scientific or educational worth or usefulness of property or an area.⁴

Real property includes buildings, structures and other improvements affixed to the land.⁵

¹ <https://heritagebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/establishing-community-heritage-register.pdf>

² <https://heritagebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/establishing-community-heritage-register.pdf>

³ <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/pages/about-apropos.aspx>

⁴ <https://heritagebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/establishing-community-heritage-register.pdf>

⁵ https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/r15001_15

2. Overview

In 2022, the Bulkley Valley Museum (BVM), with the support of the Town of Smithers, received funding from the BC 150 Time Immemorial Grant program to develop a “ready to adopt and implement” Community Heritage Register for the Town of Smithers.

The purpose of a Community Heritage Register (CHR) is to formally identify historic places in Smithers. The register is a list of properties that are recognized by a local government for their heritage value or character. It is a planning tool for understanding, educating, and integrating heritage into land use planning processes.

A Community Heritage Register is:

- An official list of historic places
- An education-focus planning tool
- Adopted by municipal council resolution
- Provides access to tools within the *Local Government Act* and BC Building Code
- Created from a new list of historic places or from an existing inventory
- A “living document” where listings can be modified over time

A Community Heritage Register is not:

- A bylaw, designation or regulation
- A tool to protect heritage property
- A way to limit changes a property owner may make to their property
- An agreement with a property owner to include a place as a register listing
- A tool that creates financial liability for the local government

The submission of this report is a key project deliverable that:

- Identifies and documents, through research and community engagement, a list of historic properties for inclusion on the Smithers Heritage Register
- Documents community heritage values, based on community engagement
- Aligns with *Local Government Act* legislation and BC Register of Historic Places documentation standards
- Recommends steps to implement the Smithers Heritage Register and ideas on other ways the Town can integrate heritage into local planning initiatives

A CHR supports the Town of Smithers to:

- Better understand and identify Smithers’ historic places
- Monitor heritage properties for proposed changes
- Share historical information with property owners and the public
- Integrate heritage into Town’s planning processes and policy implementation

Properties listed on the Smithers Heritage Registry are recognized on the BC British Columbia Register of Historic Places and may also be included on the Canadian Register of Historic Places, a register of registers, which is a heritage tool for planners, policymakers, developers, industry, community organizations and schools across Canada.

PROCESS

The Smithers Heritage Register is a result of a three-step planning process that began in January 2023.



Activities:

- Project start-up
- Review background, legislation & municipal practices
- Develop engagement strategy in collaboration with the Town of Smithers

Activities:

- Community engagement
- Identify community heritage values & properties
- Summarize engagement findings and draft list

Activities:

- Draft statements of significance & report
- Property owner & community review.
- Finalize documents & report
- Present to Smithers Council

ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was key to identifying community heritage values, defining aspects and potential properties to include in the CHR. The goal was to listen and learn from a diversity of community members and organizations to create a CHR that reflects a range of heritage values, including stories and histories that are integral to Smithers. The approach included connecting with local organizations through targeted and broad engagement opportunities, as well as working with a trauma-informed Indigenous facilitator.

ACTIVITY	DATE	PARTICIPANTS
COUNCIL INTRO PRESENTATION	Feb. 14, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Smithers council • 9 Town staff
COMMUNITY INFO SESSION	Feb. 22, 2023 at the Old Church Hall (drop-in)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 participants
COMMUNITY SURVEY & NOMINATIONS	Mid Feb. - Nov. 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57 survey participants • 11 property nominations
SMALL GROUP MEETINGS & INDIVIDUAL CONVERSATIONS	Feb. - Nov, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BV Genealogical Society (12) • Witsset Community Meeting (4) • Witsuwit'en Elders Meetings (3) • Crossroads CRM (2) • Chamber of Commerce Board & Staff (9) • Calderwood Realty (6) • Remax Realty (8) • Town of Smithers Staff (2) • Town of Smithers Advisory Planning Commission (6) • Tourism Smithers (1) • Dr. Tyler McCreary / Shared Histories (1) • Smithers Seniors Society (luncheon)
COUNCIL UPDATE	Nov. 28, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Smithers council • 8 Town staff
PROPERTY OWNER REVIEW	Oct - Nov 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 letters sent • 9 responses received
COMMUNITY REVIEW	Feb. 19, 2025, at the BV Museum (drop-in sessions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 participants
COUNCIL PRESENTATION	March 11, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smithers Council • Town staff

The "Engagement Summary Report" (November 2023) is available on the BV Museum's website.

3. Local Context

Understanding Smithers local context provides the foundation for which the Smithers Heritage Register is created. This section summarizes the historical, policy and community context.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The municipal town of Smithers is in C'inulh K'it, the traditional territory of Cas Yikh (Grizzly House) of the Gidimt'en Clan of the Witsuwit'en (Wet'suwet'en). The Witsuwit'en territory is 22,000 square kilometers in northwestern BC. The Witsuwit'en have lived in the watershed of the *Widzin Kwah* (Bulkley River) since time immemorial.

The Witsuwit'en Ancestors, *hibits'ide'ni*, lived on the land. They developed a deep understanding of its seasonal cycles, as they traveled throughout the territory during the year. While the Witsuwit'en live in settled communities on the territory today, that knowledge and understanding continues to be shared.

The Witsuwit'en have five *didikhni* (clans): Gidimt'en (Bear/Wolf Clan), C'ilhts'ëkhyu (Big Frog Clan), Likhsilyu (Small Frog Clan), Tsayu (Beaver Clan) and Likhts'amisyu (Fireweed Clan). Each clan usually has two or three interrelated *yikh* (translates to "house"). Each house is responsible for its own territories or *yin tah*.⁶

The settler community of Smithers was founded in 1913, as part of the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (GTP) through the northwest of BC to its coastal terminus at Prince Rupert. A combined freight and passenger division point between Prince George to the east and Prince Rupert to the west was needed. The area known as the "Bulkley Valley" was identified as the location and the existing settler communities of Hubert and Aldermere were first considered for the divisional point. This increased land speculation in Hubert, substantially driving up costs. A lack of interest in a divisional headquarters on the part of the Aldermere Board of Trade led the GTP to the flat, but swampy area known as *Dzilh C'in* to the Witsuwit'en, which is the base of Hudson's Bay Mountain, as settlers had renamed it.⁷ The townsite was established in 1913 and was named after Sir Alfred Waldron Smithers, then-chairman of the GTP. The first "through train" on the GTP line passed through Smithers on September 3rd 1914.

After the townsite was established, new residents and business owners began to settle to the new town, including those relocating from the neighbouring communities of Telkwa, Aldermere, Hubert and the Hazeltons. These early residents and business owners represented a variety of

⁶ Proceeding paragraphs compiled from Morin, Mélanie. *Niwhts'ide'ni'hibi'it'e'n* The Ways of our Ancestors, 2nd edition. (Smithers BC: School District 54, 2016).

⁷ For a full exploration of the history of the GTPR and the selection of Smithers as the divisional point, please see Krusselbrink, Harry. *Smithers: A Railroad Town*, revised edition.

cultural, social and economic backgrounds, including Chinese Canadian men and Japanese Canadian families. In the 1920s and 1930s, a small cluster of homes and businesses on Railway and Broadway avenues between Main Street and Dominion Street was known locally as “Chinatown.”⁸ Witsuwit’ en people, including those displaced from their farms and territory elsewhere in the Valley by colonial policies and land seizures, also moved to Smithers. These Witsuwit’ en residents were largely gathered in the area along Fifth Avenue (today, Highway 16) and between Queen Street and Bulkley Drive, then known as “Indiantown.” While “profound inequalities”⁹ and racism within the dominant white settler community shaped the lives and history of Witsuwit’ en and other minority settlers in Smithers for many decades, these community members continued to participate in and contribute to the growth of the town, building homes and businesses, and raising families.

The GTP had laid out an entire townsite in numbered blocks and lots, that are still used today to refer to real property in the town. The townsite plan included street, neighbourhood and park names still used today, including Chandler and Riverside Park. Much of the initial development in the community focused on Main Street, and the avenues and streets immediately adjacent to it. Main Street was developed as the retail centre of the community, and remains so to this day. Service businesses such as hotels, industrial-type businesses and family homes filled the avenues and streets that ran perpendicular to Main Street, such as King, Queen, and Columbia streets. Some of the oldest homes in Smithers, including “kit” homes ordered from the Aladdin Company and Eaton’s, exist in this downtown core and adjacent streets. Several can trace their origin to a 1921-22 local “building boom” documented in the Interior News.¹⁰

The First World War, the Depression of the 1930s and the Second World War all contributed to the lower-than-anticipated population growth of Smithers. While early residents had expected and proclaimed a population of “5000 by 1915,” this milestone was not achieved until 1991.¹¹ Substantial post-WWII immigration, particularly from the Netherlands, Italy, Germany and Switzerland doubled the population of the community in ten years, from 1204 in 1951 to 2487 in 1961. By 1966, the population had grown again to 3135.¹²

In addition to being the divisional headquarters for the railway, Smithers also became a regional centre for provincial government services; culminating in the construction of a two-story government building at the corner of what was then Main Street and Fifth Avenue (now Main Street and Highway 16) in 1925.

⁸ McCreary, Tyler. *Shared Histories: Witsuwit’ en-Settler Relations in Smithers, 1913-1973*, (Smithers, BC: Creekstone Press, 2018), pg. 121. Also, research compiled by the Bulkley Valley Museum for its 2022 “Off Main Street” downtown heritage walk.

⁹ McCreary, pg. 22

¹⁰ “Smithers Building Program is Heavy”. Interior News, November 8th 1922.

¹¹ Kruisselbrink, pg. 100.

¹² Kruisselbrink, pg. 112, pg. 153.

For many years, Smithers' infrastructure was quite limited, particularly in regards to water supply, sewage/sewer systems, roads, sidewalks and drainage. Having been established by a corporation, the GTP, the community was caught between the railway and the province, with neither fully taking responsibility for the needed services. Local fundraising by citizens helped to maintain the town. Many projects, like schools and hospitals, were largely self-funded, with grants and other supports from provincial and federal governments. The ability to leverage taxes for improvements, after the community officially incorporated as a village in 1921,¹³ helped to further development and infrastructural upgrades.¹⁴ Until 1951, a large and rather infamous drainage ditch ran the length of Main Street. Fire was a constant threat, destroying many buildings in the first four decades of the town's history. Two particularly devastating fires, that burned down large sections of Main Street in 1944 and 1945, led to a community referendum that allowed the municipality to borrow funds to construct a gravity-fed water system.

Since its first decades, Smithers has expanded from what is the current downtown core to both sides of Fifth Avenue, now Highway 16. Zoning bylaws enacted in the 1950s and 1960s prescribed how development could proceed, building the foundation for later bylaws and official community plans. In 1972, Smithers adopted the "Alpine theme" to guide architectural form and character through Resolution No. 127; while first voluntary, the theme later became part of "Official Community Plans."¹⁵

Smithers officially became a town in 1967. That year, the Centennial Library and Museum was constructed in Alfred Park. The earliest archival and artifact collections of the Bulkley Valley Museum date to this time.

The railroad that had been the impetus for Smithers' founding, continued to be an important industry for decades, and Canadian National (which succeeded the GTP in 1921) remains a major regional employer today. Mining, forestry, agriculture, government services and tourism have been important local industries throughout the community's history.

LOCAL POLICY & BYLAWS

The Town of Smithers currently has two protected heritage buildings designated by bylaw. These are the Central Park Building, designated in 1981, and the GTP/CN Rail Station, designated in 1997 (also [Federally designated](#) in 1990).

The recently updated Town of Smithers "Official Community Plan" (2022) contains a range of policies related to heritage in Section 9.2 (Indigenous Heritage) and Section 9.3 (Built Heritage). These sections are shown below.

¹³ Smithers was the first community in BC to petition to incorporate, and to officially incorporate under the 1920 Village Municipalities Act

¹⁴ It is important to note that until 1948 both Asian Canadian and Indigenous taxpaying landowners in Smithers, as in other BC municipalities, were ineligible to run for office, or vote in municipal elections.

¹⁵ Kruisselbrink pg. 154.

9.2 Indigenous Heritage

- Objective: To recognize Smithers is located on Witsuwit'en territory and to increase awareness of the Witsuwit'en's long history.
- Policy 1. Support reconciliation, equity, inclusion and diversity through arts, culture and educational opportunities for residents of Smithers.
- Policy 2. Continue to honor the Protocol Agreement between the Town of Smithers and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, as a basis for discussing items of mutual interest.
- Policy 3. Work with the Witsuwit'en Nation to modify the character of Smithers to better reflect the history and culture of the Witsuwit'en people.
- Policy 4. Support the use of public spaces, such as parks, facilities and public plazas as venues to express Witsuwit'en history, culture and art. Work in collaboration with Indigenous-led organizations on these initiatives.
- Policy 5. Explore opportunities to share the Witsuwit'en Nation's history and culture through events and gatherings in Smithers.
- Policy 6. Support initiatives by the Witsuwit'en Language and Culture Society, Smithers Public Library and the Smithers Bridging Committee that build community awareness and education of Witsuwit'en history.¹⁶

9.3 Built Heritage

- Objective: To protect, maintain and increase the awareness and appreciation of Smithers' built heritage and historical features.
- Policy 1. Support the creation of a community heritage register.
- Policy 2. Support the active use of provincially designated heritage buildings for community benefit and encourage the adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of older buildings as a method of retaining a legacy of locally significant heritage buildings.
- Policy 3. Encourage initiatives by private owners to preserve the heritage characteristics of their sites through grants or tax incentives.

¹⁶ As of 2025 the Witsuwit'en Language & Culture Society is defunct.

- Policy 4. Provide support for the preservation of heritage through grant funding and other available incentives.
- Policy 5. Support the efforts of the BV Museum to preserve and promote historically significant features and knowledge of Smithers.
- Policy 6. Make use of provincial heritage legislation, including related programs as a means of preserving heritage features within the Town.
- Policy 7. Be open to discuss areas of significant cultural value that may warrant extra consideration and protection.
- Policy 8. Publicly celebrate the designation of heritage properties, keep the public apprised of heritage conservation and restoration projects, and involve and consult the public on heritage matters.

COMMUNITY WORK

The Smithers Heritage Register is intended to build on heritage work done by local organizations and community groups in Smithers. These include:

- Bulkley Valley Museum
- Dr. Tyler McCreary and Shared Histories Project/Shared Histories Advisory Committee
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en and local Indigenous organizations
- Bulkley Valley Genealogical Society (2013 publication *Chronicles of Smithers* and cemetery documentation)
- School District #54 Bulkley Valley (*Nihwh'ts'ide'ni' Hibi'it'ën: The Ways of Our Ancestors*, Walnut Park Totem Pole project, curriculum resources available on SD54 website)

4. Regulatory Framework

The *Local Government Act* provides the authority for local governments to identify and protect historic places. Community Heritage Registers are one of several heritage conservation tools found in Part 15 (Heritage Conservation) of the *Local Government Act*. Understanding these different tools provides context for the function of CHR. Key points of each tool are summarized below.

Table 1. Summary of Heritage Regulatory Tools

Heritage Conservation Tool	Level of Protection	Notice on Title	Implementation
1. Community Heritage Register <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of properties with heritage value. Properties in the Register have been researched with a Statement of Significance (SOS) for each property. 	Low	No	Council resolution
2. Heritage Conversation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage areas designated in an Official Community Plan. May require a Heritage Alteration Permit before changes. 	Moderate	Only if listed in a schedule to the OCP	OCP Designation
3. Heritage Revitalization Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiated legal agreement (site specific) between the property owner & local government. May vary bylaw or permits. 	High	Yes	Council approval (similar to rezoning) & have owner authorization
4. Heritage Designation Bylaw <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bylaw to protect heritage property. Regulates future alterations of the building. Local government can prohibit demolition of properties designated. 	Highest	Yes	Bylaw (public hearing required)

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Section 598 (1) of the *Local Government Act* (LGA) specifies the regulations for a community heritage register as:

A local government may, by resolution, establish a community heritage register that identifies real property that is considered by the local government to be heritage property.

The LGA defines “real property” as “real property includes buildings, structures and other improvements affixed to the land.” Section 598 (2) of the LGA provides further clarification on registers:

- 1) *A community heritage register*
 - a. *must indicate the reasons why property included in the community heritage register is considered to have heritage value or heritage character, and*
 - b. *may distinguish between heritage properties of differing degrees and kinds of heritage value or heritage character.*

The LGA requires a local government to give notice to both the owner of the property and to the province within 30 days of including or removing property in a community heritage register.

IMPACT TO PROPERTY OWNERS

A property listed on a register is not considered protected heritage property. Generally, a listing does not prevent owners from altering the property in accordance with existing bylaws and regulations. A register listing does authorize the Town to access three (3) main legal tools to:

1. Require a heritage inspection for the purpose of assessing heritage value and character.
2. Adopt a bylaw to temporarily withhold issuance of approvals of listed properties, if required, and referred to the next regular Council meeting for review.
3. Adopt a bylaw to temporarily withhold demolition permits until a building permit and other approvals have been issued with respect to the alteration or redevelopment of the site.

The LGA limits any temporary protection on a listed property to a maximum of 60 days in length and not more than once in a two (2) year period unless there is agreement from the property owner.

An owner with a listing can:

- Access historical property information.
- Alter the property in accordance with existing Town bylaw and regulations.
- Make the final decision whether to conserve, alter, or demolish a property.
- Qualify for BC Building Code [Alternative Compliance Methods for Heritage Buildings](#) (only available to properties listed on a Community Heritage Register).

A local government can:

- Use the register to flag properties for the purpose of sharing historical information.
- Monitor (but not prevent) changes to listed properties.
- Adopt bylaws to temporarily delay demolition permits and approvals.
- Require additional heritage information be provided.

ELIGIBILITY

In addition to *Local Government Act* legislation, a historic place to be included on the Register must meet documentation standards established by the BC Register of Historic Places (BCRHP), as captured in a Statement of Significance for each property that includes:

1. Meets the definition of “heritage property” as any historic place which is legally protected, or, in the opinion of a municipal council, has sufficient heritage value or heritage character to justify its conservation.
2. Specifies the reasons why the site is considered to have heritage value or character.
3. Meets BCRHP standards, including identification, formal recognition, location, description, documentation, and administration.

COMMUNITY EXAMPLES

It is common for communities that have identified heritage as a community value to have a CHR, in addition to other heritage strategies. Below are some examples of other small-to-medium size communities with CHRs.

Table 2. Examples of local governments with Community Heritage Registers

Community	Year Adopted	Number of Listings	Examples of Other Heritage Strategies Used
1. City of Terrace	2006	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Heritage City Sites • Heritage Conservation Plan (draft) • Heritage Advisory Commission
2. City of Prince George	2007	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Strategic Plan • Heritage Commission • Heritage Inventory & Conservation Areas • Heritage Covenants & Agreements • Community outreach & education
3. City of Revelstoke	2004	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Advisory Commission • Heritage Alteration Permit • Heritage Management Plan (draft) • Heritage Register Admission Policy • Heritage Conservation Area
4. City of Armstrong	2007	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Inventory • Heritage Designation & Alteration Permits • Heritage Grant Program
5. City of Quesnel	2006	56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum & Heritage Commission
6. Town of Ladysmith	2006	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Strategic Plan
7. Town of Rossland	2009	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Commission
8. Town of Qualicum Beach	2010	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Designation Bylaw • Heritage Alteration Permit
9. Village of Cumberland	2017	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Management Plan • Heritage Committee • Heritage Alteration Permit • Heritage Conservation Areas
10. Regional District Kitimat Stikine	2008	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Advisory Committee

5. Register List

The Smithers Community Heritage Register identifies 24 historic places, representing a mix of commercial, residential, and cultural sites. Developed by the BVM, this initial list reflects community engagement, historical research, and input from property owners and residents.

1. 3815 Railway Avenue: Grand Truck Pacific / CN Railway Station
2. 1089 Queen Street: Hankinson / Kilpatrick House (current use: private residence)
3. 3891 Broadway Avenue: Hoskins House (current use: private residence)
4. 1107 Main Street: Hanson Lumber & Timber Company (current use: Smithers Sausage Factory)
5. 3771 Broadway Avenue: McRae Hotel / Smithers Hotel (current use: Fitness Northwest)
6. 3752 Broadway Avenue: Aida Tailor & Laundry (current use: mixed commercial/residential)
7. 3704 First Avenue: St. James Anglican Church (the "Old Church")
8. 3692 First Avenue: First Nurses Residence (current use: private residence)
9. 1176 Main Street: Goodacre's Store (current use: mixed commercial/residential building)
10. 1201-1211 Main Street: Adams Drug Store & Post Office (current use: Central Square Medical/Pharmasave)
11. 1226 Main Street: Smithers Tribune, Beerda's Dry Goods (current use: NDP Office)
12. 1425 Main Street: Provincial Courthouse / Central Park Building
13. Indiantown (multiple properties): 3920, 3932, 3984, 4086, 4140, 4160, 4180, 4190, 4220 Highway 16 (including undeveloped parcels between these properties) and part of 4092 Mountainview Drive
14. 4408 Third Avenue: Smithers Secondary Totem Pole
15. 1958 Dominion Street: Smithers Municipal Cemetery
16. Chinatown (multiple properties): 1070 Main St.; 3772, 3726, 3704, and 3668 Alfred Ave; 3659, 3667 Broadway Ave
17. 4092 Mountainview Drive: Walnut Park Totem Pole
18. 1188 Main Street: Old Post Office (current use: Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre)
19. 4204 Third Avenue: Heritage Park
20. 3908 First Avenue (current use: private residence)
21. 1425 Main Street: CN Railcar (current use: Smithers Community Radio)
22. 3817 Alfred Avenue: Veterans Peace Park
23. 1201 Queen Street: Old Elk's Hall (current use: mixed commercial/residential building)
24. 3732 Second Avenue (current use: private residence)

The *Local Government Act* requires that a CHR must indicate the reasons why property included in the register is considered to have heritage value or heritage character, as well as distinguish between heritage properties of differing degrees and kinds. This information is included in the statement of significance (SOS) documentation for each property in Appendix A, following the BC Register of History Places requirements.



6. Implementation

The *Local Government Act* specifies the requirements and process for the Town of Smithers to formally establish a Community Heritage Register with the BC Heritage Branch. Steps include:

1. **Pass a Council resolution to establish a CHR.**

Resolution Example:

THAT the Smithers Community Heritage Register, including the statements of significance, be adopted by Council pursuant to Section 598 of the Local Government Act.

AND THAT staff submit all the required documentation to the BC Heritage Branch & notify property owners within the next 30 days.

2. **Submit prepared documents to the BC Heritage Branch submission.**

- Cover letter (PDF format), addressed to the minister responsible for the Heritage Conservation Act (example provided in Appendix B)
- BC Register Historic Site Form for each property (PDF format)
- Up to 3 images of each site (JPG format)
- Copy of the Council resolution adding the sites to the CHR (PDF format)
- Map(s) indicating the boundaries of each recognized site (PDF format)

The documents are required to be sent to the Heritage Minister within 30 days of the Council resolution, in accordance with Section 595 of the *Local Government Act*. Documents can be emailed to bchistoricplacesregister@gov.bc.ca. A provincial file transfer service is also available.

3. **Inform property owners that their property has been added to the register.**

Letters are required to be sent within 30 days of the Council resolution, in accordance with Section 592 of the *Local Government Act*. Note the BVM sent letters to all property owners in November 2024 as part of the review of the CHR.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The creation of Smithers' first Community Heritage Register has sparked discussions on additional ways the Town can support local heritage. Key considerations include:

1. Maintain the Community Heritage Register as a Living Document

Develop a Town webpage with general information on the register, linking to the BVM website for further details and nomination forms (see Appendix C for the nomination form). Assign the BVM the responsibility of bringing future recommendations to Town Council, including updated Statements of Significance for new listings.

2. Enhance Heritage Designation

Explore amending the existing Central Park Building designation bylaw No. 591 (1981) by adding additional detail, as listed in the statement of significance documentation. Work with the BVM and the Central Park Building Society on this.

3. Expand Heritage Recognition & Awareness

Work with the BVM to explore signage and recognition projects, such as:

- Plaques or markers to acknowledge the value and significance of buildings or places in Smithers. Information can share a building's history or tell a story of a person, place, or event. They are visual tools to raise awareness for both residents and visitors.
- Displaying old photographs as part of interpretive signage.
- Interactive online maps / kiosks.

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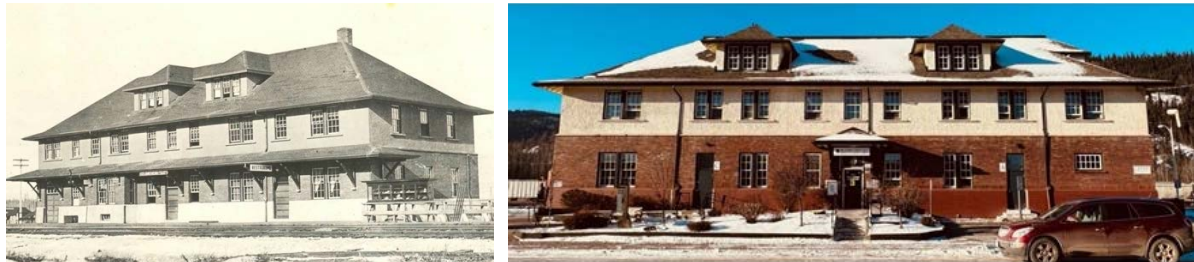
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Appendix A: Statements of Significance

3815 Railway Avenue

Grand Truck Pacific / CN Railway Station



DESCRIPTION

The CN Railway Station is located in downtown Smithers, prominently sited at the head of Main Street and adjacent to the railway tracks. The historic place is confined to the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

The CN Railway Station has historic value due to its association with the settlement of Smithers and the aesthetic value of its architecture.

The Smithers railway station was built in 1919 by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. It is a rare example of a custom designed "special" station, built at a divisional headquarter location, half-way between the major centres of Prince George and Prince Rupert (terminus of the GTP line). It is the largest GTP station in the northwest and was the last one constructed before the company went bankrupt and became Canadian National Railway (CNR) in 1921. The station typifies the GTP, both in terms of the quality of the station but also the high costs that led to its demise. At the time of its construction, the station was one part of the larger complex of railway buildings in this section of Smithers that included a roundhouse, switching yards, storehouses and water tower. The station was federally designated as a heritage building in 1990. The municipality followed suit in 1997.

In addition to its heritage and architectural value, as outlined by the "Heritage Character Statement, Smithers Canadian National Railway Station" (December 22, 1989) and "Heritage Assessment Report RSR-007" (1989), the station is valued by the community for its modern use as a community services building. Indigenous community members also recognize its historical significance, related to the removal of children by train to Lejac Indian Residential School in Fraser Lake. The station is emblematic of the dispossession of Indigenous peoples in the path of the railway, and the corresponding loss of traditional territory due to the influx of settlers and the implementation of the reserve system throughout the Northwest of British Columbia.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that define the heritage character of the CN Railway Station include:

- Irregular rectangular footprint, 2.5 storey massing & medium-pitched, hipped bell-cast roof with projecting dormers and chimney.
- It's substantial scale, symmetrical proportions, and cottage-like appearance.
- Layered balance in its vertical definition reinforced by the use of contrasting colours, materials, and forms.
- Rhythmic but irregular placement of its apertures in single and double forms of similar height.
- Prominence of its roof definition from all four perspectives.
- Smooth aesthetic integration of special railway features such as a projecting telegrapher's bay and platform canopy to provide passenger shelter.
- Picturesque inspiration of its details: dormers and bellcast eaves, multi-paned windows of varying width, the presence of a platform canopy softening its vertical lines.
- Varying colours and textures of its original materials: concrete foundation, red brick walls, stucco second storey walls and dormers, roof and platform cover shingles, smooth glass windows, wooden doors and trim.
- Station's platform frame construction.
- Any original fabric surviving inside the station.
- Continued legibility of its original interior functional and spatial configuration.

The above characteristics are outlined in the Heritage Character Statement, Smithers Canadian National Railways Station, December 22, 1989, and Heritage Assessment Report RSR-007, 1989.

See: <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=6493&pid=0>

1089 Queen Street Hankinson / Kilpatrick House



DESCRIPTION

The Kilpatrick House is located at 1089 Queen Street, on an existing residential property. The historic place includes the house and its property.

HERITAGE VALUE

The house at 1089 Queen Street is an Eaton's "Eagerville" model home. It is one of four remaining mail-order or "kit" homes in Smithers, and the only Eaton model. It was built in 1921 by Smithers' first permanent doctor, Dr. Cecil Hankinson, and his wife Lucretia. It was bought by Norman and Jean Kilpatrick in 1929 and later became known as the "Kilpatrick House." Norman Kilpatrick was Smithers' second postmaster from 1928-1963.

The property has aesthetic value as an example of a 1920s kit-style home in the Arts and Crafts style. It has social/cultural value as a rare remaining example as a residential home located one block from the retail centre on Main Street. It also has historical value due to its connection to Smithers first doctor and the Kilpatrick family.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- 1.5-storey bungalow residential home in the Arts and Crafts (Craftsman) style
- Front-facing, gabled dormer window
- External red brick chimney
- Gabled roof
- Covered front verandah
- Side bay window

3891 Broadway Avenue

Hoskins House



DESCRIPTION

The "Hoskins House" is a two-storey, Foursquare style residential home located at 3891 Broadway Avenue in Smithers, BC. It is one of the oldest remaining buildings and one of the longest occupied residential homes in Smithers.

HERITAGE VALUE

One of the first homes built on Broadway Avenue (and in Smithers), the Hoskins House was built in 1914 by W.F. "Bill" Boyer. In 1918 Boyer leased the house to Edwin Ernest Orchard, who turned it into a rooming house with a public dining room. E.E. Orchard also owned the Bulkley Hotel on Main Street and served as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Village of Smithers from 1924-1929. The house was also briefly occupied by Allan Kilpatrick, District Superintendent of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. In 1923, the house was bought by BC Provincial Government Agent Stephen Hoskins and his wife Muriel. Hoskins had served in a variety of government roles including mining recorder, assessor, stipendiary magistrate, marriage commissioner and coroner in Hazelton, beginning in 1913. Stephen Hoskins then sold the house to his son Oswald in 1931. Oswald Hoskins founded Hoskins Garage (also called Hoskins Service and later Hoskins Ford) in 1933.

The Hoskins House is considered to have aesthetic value as a rare example of Foursquare style home in Smithers. It has historic value due to its early construction date and its association with provincial government agent Stephen Hoskins, who played an important role in the early administration of provincial matters in Smithers and the region. Connections to prominent citizens, including Edwin Orchard, Allan Kilpatrick and Oswald Hoskins, add to its historic value and interest.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Two-storey, Foursquare (Arts and Craft vernacular) style home
- Low, hipped, pyramidal roof on a square or boxy frame
- Covered verandah, extending the full width of the original house, with three supporting columns
- Internal red brick chimney, protruding slightly above roof
- Bay window on Queen Street side

1107 Main Street Pioneer Block, Hanson Lumber & Timber Co.



DESCRIPTION

1107 Main Street is a commercial building located in downtown Smithers. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

The building once known as the "Pioneer Block" at 1107 Main Street was constructed between 1925-1926 (dedicated in 1926) for Olaf Hanson, owner of the Hanson Lumber & Timber Co. and Member of Parliament for Skeena, from 1930-1945. The building was for many years divided to accommodate two businesses; in its first years it was occupied by the Hanson Lumber & Timber Co. and the Royal Bank of Canada. Smithers Sausage Factory has been in the building since 1984. The building survived both the 1944 and 1945 fires that destroyed several buildings at this end of Main Street.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Boomtown style, square block building
- Symmetrical, front windows on each side

3771 Broadway Avenue McRae Hotel/Smithers Hotel



DESCRIPTION

This property is located downtown Smithers at 3771 Broadway Avenue. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

This property has historic value due to it housing prominent businesses during Smithers settlement history.

While the exact date of building construction is unknown, the property at 3771 Broadway Avenue was constructed by 1923 and was purchased by Duncan and Susan McRae that year. In the fall of 1929, they added a 42-foot, two-storey extension onto a pre-existing building to accommodate their hotel business, the McRae House (later McRae Hotel). The name of the hotel changed to the Smithers Hotel in 1955. It remained open until 2001, despite surviving both the 1944 and 1945 fires that destroyed much of this end of Main Street, including adjacent buildings at the corner of Broadway Avenue and Main Street.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Line of 10 upper floor windows on the Main Street side, consistent with the original building

3752 Broadway Avenue Aida Tailor & Laundry



DESCRIPTION

3752 Broadway Avenue is a two-storey, Boomtown style commercial building. The historic place is the building, which was formerly a laundry/tailoring business.

HERITAGE VALUE

Believed to be the original building that existed by at least 1920, this was the site of the Aida tailoring, laundry and dry-cleaning business. Japanese Canadian immigrants Kintaro and Sadako Aida operated their business at this location from 1920-1945. It was then taken over by their son Tat and his wife Elsie until 1951. The business and building were purchased by Milly and Claude Symes in 1951 and became Canadian Cleaners. Multiple retailers have occupied the building since 1963.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Two-storey, Boomtown style, commercial building
- Two symmetrical front windows on second storey, front facing to Broadway Avenue.

3704 First Avenue

St. James Anglican Church (the "Old Church")



DESCRIPTION

The "Old Church" is located at 3704 First Avenue in downtown Smithers. The historic place includes the building and gardens.

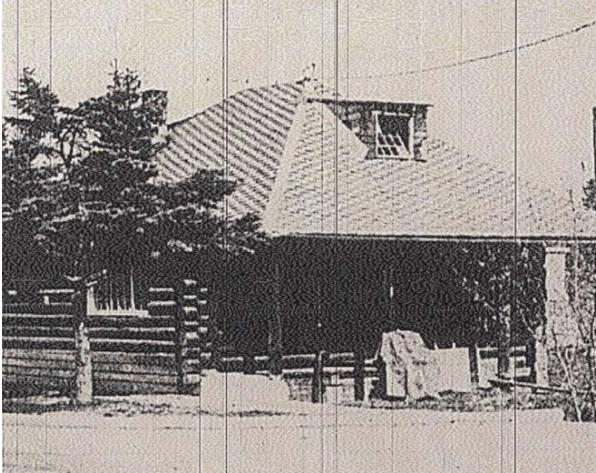
HERITAGE VALUE

The community event space known today as the "Old Church" was constructed in 1913 as the St. James Anglican Church. Sir Alfred Smithers, President of the Board of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company and namesake of the town contributed a donation of \$250 toward its construction. The first service in the building was held on December 7th, 1913 by Reverend Henry Kingstone, with twenty-five people in attendance. It remained the parish church until 1975. The Old Church has historic, social-cultural and spiritual value as a former church and in its current life as a community events space. Of the three earliest churches built in Smithers between 1913-1915 (the Methodist Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church being the other two), it is the only one to have survived to the modern era. From 2003-2005, the de-consecrated church was rehabilitated into a community events space with public garden.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Modest one-storey, wood frame and wood-sided church with steep gabled roof
- Front-facing, arched window
- Cedar shake front triangle over front window, below roofline
- Square steeple/bell tower with triangle gable roof at south-west corner (1913 configuration)
- Rear and north side gardens
- Lychgate at entry to rear garden on north side
- Rear pointed arch window with stained glass feature

3692 First Avenue First Nurses' Residence



DESCRIPTION

3692 First Avenue is a residential home built as a nurses' residence, adjacent to the location of the first hospital in Smithers. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

This 1.5 storey log residence was built between December 1922 and February 1923 as a residence for nurses working at the first hospital in Smithers, which was located just behind the home on King Street between First and Second avenues.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- 1.5-storey log home
- Front and rear gabled dormers

1176 Main Street Goodacre's Store



DESCRIPTION

1176 Main Street is a two-storey, vernacular Boomtown facade building, located in the heart of downtown Smithers. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

The building was constructed in 1922 for Vina Eby's "Ladywear" shop. After Mrs. Eby retired in 1934, the building became Goodacre's Grocery store from 1937-1960. The building has historic and social-cultural value as a retail and business building, and particularly as a grocery store. The Goodacre's store is remembered by Witsuwit'en community members and new immigrants to the community as a welcoming business. It has historic value for its connections to the Goodacre family, including former Smithers town councillor and MLA for Bulkley Valley-Stikine, Bill Goodacre.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Two-storey building with vernacular Boomtown facade and square roofline.
- Three front-facing, second-storey windows (pattern of single, double, single window).
- Front-facing, first-storey windows (display windows).

1201 and 1211 Main Street Adams Drug Store and Post Office, Central Clothing



DESCRIPTION

1201-1211 Main Street is a vernacular Boomtown facade, commercial building, located in downtown Smithers at the corner of Second Avenue and Main Street. The historic place includes the two-storey building and the adjacent, connected one-storey building beside it.

HERITAGE VALUE

This central location on Main Street was specifically selected by druggist J. Mason Adams, who first pitched a tent on the site before constructing the two-storey building, which was completed in 1913. The smaller building (right, 1211 Main) was Smithers' first post office and Adams was its first postmaster (1913-1927). 1211 Main Street remained the primary post office until the 1950s. The main building (1201) was a drug store until 1960, after which it became Central Square Clothing until 2008. This building has aesthetic value, retaining much of its original character and design. It has historic and social-cultural value as one of Smithers' oldest remaining buildings, due to its Main Street location and its longstanding connection to retail and health. It also has historic and cultural value as one of the few remaining, original Main Street buildings constructed in the first two years of the town's settlement.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

1201 Main Street:

- Vernacular Boomtown facade with staggered descending roofline towards rear
- Flat roof below roofline
- Raised, square detailing at roofline corners
- Second-storey windows: two at the front and four along the Second Avenue side with sloped, wood strutted decorative awnings
- Lower-level wood-shake canopy extending over entryway (1960s)

1211 Main Street:

- Physical connection to 1201 Main Street
- Single storey with flat roof

1226 Main Street Smithers Tribune, Beerda's Dry Goods



DESCRIPTION

1226 Main Street is a two-storey, vernacular Boomtown facade commercial building, located in the heart of downtown Smithers. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

The building was constructed in 1913 or 1914 as the office of the "Smithers Tribune" newspaper. The Smithers Tribune had previously been called the "Telkwa Tribune," with Joseph Coyle (inventor of the egg carton and founder of the "Interior News" newspaper) as a partner. In 1931, Margaret Dunlop moved her Fashion Shoppe business into the building. The Fashion Shoppe business was resold twice between 1947 and 1959, after which it was purchased by the Beerdas and became "Beerda's Dry Goods" for 57 years until 2016. The building has aesthetic value due to its retention of the Boomtown facade. It has historic and cultural value as the home of the Beerda's business, a long-standing retail space (for over half of the building's life) on Smithers' Main Street. It also has historic and cultural value as one of the few remaining, original Main Street buildings constructed in the first two years of the town's settlement.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Vernacular Boomtown facade with flat roof
- Recessed central front door, bordered by large windows on each side
- Matching second-storey windows

1425 Main Street

Provincial Government Building (Central Park Building)



DESCRIPTION

The Central Park Building is a three-storey building located at 1425 Main Street. The historic place includes three sides of the building, excluding the rear 1980s addition.

HERITAGE VALUE

What is today known as the Central Park Building was constructed in 1925. It has historic value as the former provincial government building and courthouse. The building was designed by Henry Whittaker of the Department of Public Works, with construction completed by the Hanson & Shockley firm of Prince Rupert.

On the first floor of the building was the government agent's office, the BC Provincial Police office, a walk-in vault safe and jail cells. The courtroom and (at various times) offices for the departments of Highways, Agriculture, Lands and Settlement, Forestry, as well as Fish & Wildlife were located on the second floor. On the third floor was a residence for a policeman and his family. The building's design, including its two-toned colouring, complimented the look of the Canadian National Railway Station at the opposite end of Main Street. The two buildings were often called the "bookends" of Main Street.

In 1974, the building was decommissioned by the Province and ownership was transferred to the Town of Smithers. It became the first municipally designated heritage building in Smithers in 1981. It has been a hub for arts and culture, including the home of the Bulkley Valley Museum and the Smithers Art Gallery, since the late 1970s. It has aesthetic value for its heritage architectural features, and social and cultural value as a former public government building, as well as a current arts and culture building.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Hipped roof outline with shed dormers on third floor, north and south sides
- Shed dormer with three windows on third floor of west (Main Street) side of building

- Matching symmetrical lines of windows on the first and second floors on the north, south, and west sides of the building
- Original, single hung windows with colonial style window grille (grid) of six panes on north, south, and west side
- Wood shake siding on second and third storey, including dormers
- Pattern of lighter and darker colouring between the storeys to differentiate the first from the second and third.
- Gable over front (Main Street facing) door
- Internal red brick chimney protruding from roof

Internal features:

- Metal walk-in vault safe door
- Original baseboards
- Square, decorative window and door frames

Indiantown



DESCRIPTION

The area of Smithers formerly known as "Indiantown" was located across lots 3920, 3932, 3984, 4086, 4140, 4160, 4180, 4190, 4220 Highway 16 (including undeveloped parcels between these properties) and part of 4092 Mountainview Drive.

HERITAGE VALUE

From Smithers' earliest days until the 1960s, a small community of Witsuwit'en families referred to as "Indiantown" stood across Fifth Avenue (later Highway 16) from what was then the Smithers fairgrounds. The story of Indiantown is part of the complex history of Indigenous-settler relations in Smithers. These early Smithers residents contributed to the development of the town, but struggled to overcome the discriminatory ways that settler society sought to limit Indigenous participation in community life in Smithers.

Former residents of and visitors to Indiantown have complex memories of their time there; remembrances of the hardships they faced as they struggled to carve out space to live and work in Smithers, but also fond memories of a small community of closely-knit families—including the Josephs, Toms, Tommys, Davids, Thomases, Nikals, Isadores, Michells, Halls and others.

The community of Indiantown existed in spite of decades of efforts by Smithers municipal authorities to remove the people living there from their homes—through denial of land title, evictions, unfair taxation, refusing to extend municipal services (such as roads, sewage collection, and water), and condemning and burning houses. Property owners in this area were denied residential municipal services, despite the fact that they paid property taxes, as documented in the 1923-1930 Town of Smithers assessment rolls. In the 1940s, the municipality sought to remove the residents either to the Witset (Morictown) reserve, or to a new location at Riverside Park. After decades of attempted removals, the last residents of Indiantown, Louie and Mary Bernadette Joseph, were evicted and their house burned in 1967.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Due to the way Indiantown residents and their homes were removed over time by the municipality and settler policies, there are no remaining structures or heritage elements. The landscape of the area - bounded by Highway 16, Queen Street and Bulkley Drive, along the current Frontage Road - has changed dramatically. The memory of Indiantown lives on through the families who lived and visited there, and through a 2018 book *Shared Histories*, which documents both its history and the broader history of Indigenous-settler relationships in Smithers.

4408 Third Avenue

Smithers Secondary Totem Pole (Healing Totem Pole)



DESCRIPTION

The Smithers Secondary Totem Pole, also known as the Healing Pole, is located in front of Smithers Secondary School. The historic place is the totem pole structure.

HERITAGE VALUE

Raised during an all-clans feast, attended by over 1000 people, on June 18th 1999, this totem pole was the first to be erected in Smithers in over two decades. It was carved by Warner Naziel and James Madam, under the guidance of Gitksan Master Carver *Delgamuukw* Earl Muldon. The twenty-four-foot, red cedar pole is carved with the five Witsuwit'en clans crests (Big and small frogs, bear, killer whale, beaver).

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Twenty-four-foot, red cedar pole carved with the crests of the five Witsuwit'en clans

1958 Dominion Street Smithers Municipal Cemetery



DESCRIPTION

The Smithers Cemetery is an historical landscape and non-denominational burial ground located at 1959 Dominion Street. The historic place is the cemetery area including the landscape, views, gravestone, walkways and natural setting.

HERITAGE VALUE

The cemetery's first burial dates to 1917. The cemetery has never had a specific religious affiliation, and was first operated and maintained by the Bulkley Valley Cemetery Company from 1921-1933. In 1933, the Cemetery Company disbanded and the deed to the cemetery, plot map, and all administrative records turned over to the Village of Smithers.

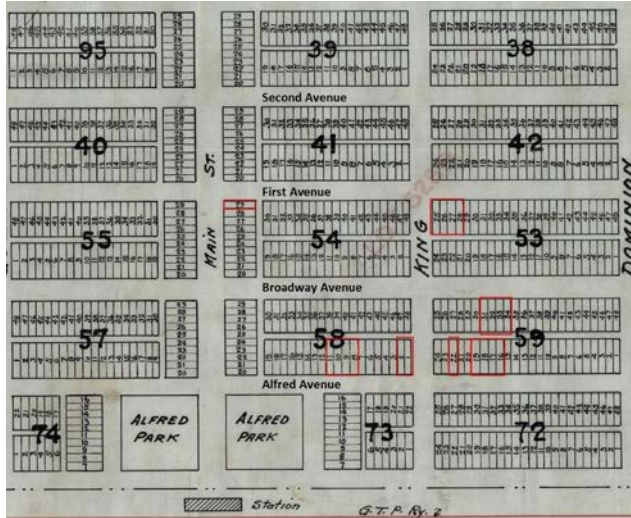
The cemetery has historic, cultural, social and spiritual value as the final resting place for many former residents of the community. Its location is some distance from the older, core area of Smithers. Its park-like setting and gravestones styles, found in the oldest sections (especially Blocks 1, 2, and 4, as well as some stones in the Legion and Masonic sections), are reflective of early twentieth century cemetery design traditions.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Park-like landscape setting, including mature trees that create boundaries on Dominion Street, 18th Avenue and the backyards of adjacent houses that front 16th Avenue
- Mature trees lining the walkway/road from Dominion Street entrance
- Line of trees marking 18th Avenue entrance (between Blocks 2 and 3)
- Unobstructed views of Hudson Bay Mountain
- Upright gravestones and their inscriptions, as well as features such as stone enclosures, marking certain plots, especially for individuals interred between 1917-1950 in Blocks 1, 2,

4

Broadway Avenue & Alfred Avenue Chinatown



DESCRIPTION

The area locally known, during the 1920s and 1930s, as "Chinatown" was primarily located on Broadway and Alfred avenues, between Main and Dominion streets. According to Village of Smithers assessment rolls, from 1923-1930 lots 1-2, 8, 9-11 on Block 58 and lots 16-19 and 31-34 on Block 59 were owned by Chinese Canadian men.

Street addresses: 1070 Main St.; 3772, 3726, 3704, and 3668 Alfred Ave; 3659, 3667 Broadway Ave

HERITAGE VALUE

The former "Chinatown" area, which existed between at least 1921-1930¹⁷, in Smithers' downtown core has historic and cultural heritage value. Chinese Canadians had established businesses and homes in Smithers as early as 1913, the first year of the community's existence, relocating from the nearby communities of Telkwa and Hazelton. By 1921, there were 35 Chinese Canadian men living and working in the immediate Smithers area, including 30 living in town. According to property tax registries and census data, most of these men appear to have resided together in a few buildings owned by Chinese Canadians located on Broadway and Alfred avenues, between Main and Dominion streets. This area was called Chinatown by local residents, and was referred to as such in the local newspaper, the Interior News.

Many of these residents worked as labourers, cooks, clerks, dishwashers, or in laundries. Some, like Sam Kee, Quoy Chong, Lee Tong, and Mah Yoke Tong and his nephew Mah Chong, owned and operated their own businesses including rooming houses, general and grocery stores, cafes,

¹⁷ Dated based on 1921 census, and 1923-1930 Smithers tax roll.

and in the case of Mah Yoke Tong the Smithers Bakery on Main Street. Wing's Café was also located in this area. While they do not appear to have interacted often with white settler society in a social way, their contributions to local charitable causes, including the Bulkley Valley District Hospital, are well documented. Chinese Canadian owned businesses were also remembered by Witsuwit'en community members as welcoming spaces.

While there is no known documentation that suggests that the Smithers Chinatown was actively removed, or that settlement by Chinese Canadians in Smithers was actively discouraged on the part of the municipal government, the eventual reduction of Chinese Canadian population in Smithers reflects the broader attempts by provincial and federal governments, including the Head Tax and the Chinese Immigration Act (Chinese Exclusion Act), to discourage and prevent Chinese immigration and settlement in Canada. Long time Smithers resident and business owner Mah Yoke Tong's death certificate indicated that he still did not have Canadian citizenship at the time of his death, despite living in Canada for over 60 years. By the time of the 1931 census, the Chinese Canadian population in Smithers had dropped to just 13 individuals.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

No original buildings or elements of "Chinatown" remain. Collectively the area where the buildings were located speak to this settlement history, the hardships that were overcome by Chinese Canadian community members, and their contributions to the growth and development of Smithers as a town.

4092 Mountainview Drive Walnut Park Totem Pole



DESCRIPTION

The Walnut Park Totem Pole, erected in 2023, is in the front of Walnut Park School (School District 54). The historic place is the totem pole structure.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Walnut Park Totem Pole has historic value for its association with Witsuwit'en culture, history (Indiantown) and as a symbol of reconciliation. The Walnut Park Totem Pole stands as a symbol of the Smithers community's acknowledgement of Witsuwit'en territory and its commitment to honor the story of the land. This includes working towards reconciliation, equity and mutual respect, while addressing past mistakes.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Bear with two faces (bear and wolf), representing the territory that the pole sits on
- On the back of the wolf-bear, there is an open walnut with children climbing out of its centre.
- The children grow and change into other creatures (crests).
- As they grow, they become wise until they reach the potential of an eagle - all-knowing and all-seeing.

1188 Main Street Old Post Office (Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre)



DESCRIPTION

The Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre is a three-storey, modern style building, located in the heart of downtown Smithers at 1188 Main Street. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Dze L Kant Friendship Centre building has historic and cultural value as it was once a federal government building, housing the community's second post office (1954-1998), federal government services, R.C.M.P station and jail. The Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre has occupied the building since 2003. It has become a major cultural and social community centre on Main Street. The Friendship Centre is an anchoring organization for Indigenous community members.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Three-storey, flat-roofed, asymmetrical building with elements of modern architectural design
- Brick facade corner (Main Street and Second Avenue)
- Symmetrical line of windows on the second and third storeys, on the Second Avenue side
- Large front "verandah" feature on Main Street
- Front-facing wall of panel windows on main (second) storey facing Main Street
- Overhanging roofline on non-brick Main Street section

4204 Third Avenue Heritage Park



DESCRIPTION

Heritage Park is a 15.1-acre park and recreation complex area that incorporates the Smithers Civic Centre, the "New Arena," as well as park areas with various community recreation functions. The historic place is the park area bounded by Highway 16, Third Avenue, Toronto Street and Manitoba Street, and one specific building, the Smithers Civic Centre. It does not include the 1316 Toronto Street property (PID: 014-424-215) owned by the Regional District (BV Pool).

HERITAGE VALUE

Heritage Park has historic, cultural and social value as a prominent park area along Highway 16 (formerly 5th Avenue) has been used for community events and community recreation since 1921. It was the location of the first Fall Fair grounds (1921-1974) and has been the location of the Smithers Civic Centre since 1958.

The property was purchased by the Bulkley Valley Agricultural and Industrial Association in 1921 and the first fair held at that site was in 1922. The site formerly included cattle pens, a racetrack and a grandstand.

The Smithers Civic Centre was built from an airport hangar formerly located in Terrace, BC that was disassembled and moved to Smithers. The Civic Centre was a major post-war construction project for the community, which took several years of significant community fundraising and effort to complete. The building has been the home of the Smithers Minor Hockey Association and the Smithers Figure Skating Club since the early 1960s, and has over its history been the home arena of the Smithers Totems, Smithers Chiefs, Smithers Nats, Smithers Bruins and Smithers Steelheads hockey clubs. The building also housed indoor events and exhibits for the Fall Fair (which was held outside in the park) from 1958-1974.

Additional recreational facilities including the curling rink, "new" arena, skate park, dog park, which have been added to the space since the Town of Smithers took over ownership of the land in 1974.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Multi-purpose, recreational space, including outdoor park areas
- Civic Centre: curved roof profile and wooden trusses (internal feature)

3908 First Avenue (Private residence)



DESCRIPTION

This residence is located at 3908 First Avenue. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

3908 First Avenue has historic value as an example of early Smithers settlement. The property has aesthetic value as an example of a 1920s kit style home and has social/cultural value as a rare remaining example as a residential home within one block of Main Street's commercial/retail centre.

This kit home is an Aladdin Brunswick XVI model, constructed during the building boom that occurred in Smithers in 1921-1922. It is one of the three identified, remaining Aladdin Company kit homes in Smithers. It was originally built in 1922 for Joseph and Alice Stephens. Preserving these heritage buildings reminds people of the history, achievements and transformations that have shaped this community over time.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Two-storey residential home in the Arts & Crafts (Craftsman) style
- Steep gable roof
- Matching front and rear shed dormers; front-facing dormer has two windows
- External brick chimney on Queen Street side
- Enclosed front verandah

1425 Main Street CN Railcar (Smithers Community Radio)



DESCRIPTION

The train car is in Central Park at 1425 Main Street. The historic place includes the train car structure.

HERITAGE VALUE

The train car has historic value because of its ties to Smithers/Canada's rail history. The local landmark was originally a 1929 executive lounge car named "Quesnel," that worked the tracks between Montreal and Toronto. CN Rail provided the old dining car to the Smithers Lions Club in 1975. They then towed it from the rail yard to its current location in Central Park across rail laid by down logging-loaders – a process that took two weekends to complete. The train car was previously used as a seasonal, summer tourism information centre from 1979-1995. It has been the home of Smithers Community Radio Society since 2013 and is owned by that Society as of 2020.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- 1929 CN Buffet-Parlor-Solarium ("the Quesnel") design

3817 Alfred Avenue Veterans Peace Park



DESCRIPTION

Veterans Peace Park is located at the terminus of downtown Smithers Main Street. The historic place is the park landscape and cenotaph structure.

HERITAGE VALUE

The park has historic, cultural and social value as a park space that has existed since the town map was drawn in 1913. Formerly known as Alfred Park (1913-1995), the park space has shrunk significantly over time. The remaining portion is known as Veterans Peace Park. Its historic value lies in remembering world war history, local veterans, as well as community social value as the location of the cenotaph monument since 1971.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Cenotaph
- Unobstructed view of Hudson Bay Mountain
- Open space park like setting

1201 Queen Street Old Elk's Hall



DESCRIPTION

The Old Elk's Hall is a two-storey, vernacular building located in downtown Smithers at 1201 Queen Street. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Old Elk's Hall has historic value associated with community belonging and community organizations. The hall was built between 1951-1952, and was originally owned by the Elks of Canada, a volunteer organization of men and women that serve many communities across Canada. Throughout its years, it was a base of operations, but it was also used for a variety of events held within the community, from dances to fundraisers, community breakfasts and dinners. Residents remember countless parties, celebrations and events hosted throughout the years.

The historic hall was recently restored by its current owners. It has been refurbished through repurposing and using original elements in the redesign.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Flat, front face and flat roof
- Square roofline

3732 Second Avenue (Private residence)



DESCRIPTION

The residence is located at 3732 Second Avenue. The historic place includes the building.

HERITAGE VALUE

3732 Second Avenue has historic value as an example of an early Smithers settlement. The property has aesthetic value as an example of a 1920s kit style home and has social/cultural value as a rare example of a residential home within one block of Main Street's commercial/retail centre.

The kit home is an Aladdin Wabash model constructed during the building boom in Smithers in 1921-1922. It is one of three identified remaining Aladdin Company kit homes in Smithers. It was constructed in 1922 for Harold J. Kelly, a dispatcher for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (and later Canadian National Railway). Preserving these heritage homes reminds people of the history, achievements, and transformations that have shaped the community over time.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

- One story bungalow residential home in the Arts & Crafts (Craftsman) style
- Gabled roof
- Front facing, gabled dormer window
- Covered front verandah with decorative woodwork pillars
- External red brick chimney
- Hung windows with colonial style window grille (grid) of 6 panes on the upper. Two are side-by-side on each side of the house.

Appendix B: Cover Letter Template

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY: BCHistoricPlacesRegister@gov.bc.ca

BC Register Office
Heritage Branch
P.O. Box 9818 STN GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9W3

RE: Town of Smithers Community Heritage Register

This letter serves as official notification, in accordance with Section 595 of the *Local Government Act*, of Council's decision (RESOLUTION #) on DATE to include 24 historic places on the municipality's Community Heritage Register, as listed below:

1. CN Rail Station, 3815 Railway Avenue, PID: 24-124-672
2. Hankinson / Kilpatrick House, 1089 Queen Street, PID: 013-634-844, 013-634-852, 013-634-879
3. Hoskins House, 3891 Broadway Avenue, PID: 013-641-875
4. Hanson Lumber & Timber Company, 1107 Main Street, 017-361-940
5. McRae Hotel / Smithers Hotel, 3771 Broadway Avenue, PID: 007-770-642, 007-770-669, 007-770-677, 007-770-685, 007-770-715
6. Aida Tailor & Laundry, 3752 Broadway Avenue, PID: 012-164-496, 012-164-500
7. St. James Anglican Church, 3704 First Avenue, PID: 013-658-115, 013-658-123
8. First Nurses Residence, 3692 First Avenue: PID: 013-566-121, 013-566-130, 013-566-148
9. Goodacre's Store, 1176 Main Street: 013-659-618, 013-659-626
10. Adams Drug Store & Post Office, 1201-1211 Main Street, PID 013-569-406, 013-569-414
11. Smithers Tribune, Beerda's Dry Goods, 1226 Main Street, PID: 012-111-112
12. Provincial Courthouse / Central Park Building, 1425 Main Street: 016-275-055
13. Indiantown (multiple properties): 3920, 3932, 3984, 4086, 4140, 4160, 4180, 4190, 4220 Highway 16 (including undeveloped parcels between these properties) and part of 4092 Mountainview Drive, PID: 023-913-371, 009-020-845, 010-710-132, 010-441-522, 010-441-557, 010-441-697, 010-441-786, 010-556-648, 018-895-476, 010-843-272, 012-345-237, 012-647-632, 010-556-788, 010-556-796, 010-556-800, 010-556-788, 010-556-796, 010-556-800, 010-620-869
14. Smithers Secondary Totem Pole, 4408 Third Avenue: 016-376-811
15. Smithers Municipal Cemetery, 1958 Dominion Street: 005-680-891, 005-885-205
16. Chinatown (multiple properties): 1070 Main St.; 3772, 3726, 3704, and 3668 Alfred Ave; 3659, 3667 Broadway Ave, PID: 006-996-582, 013-699-334, 013-699-342, 013-699-35, 013-637-118, 013-637-126, 013-637-134, 013-637-142, 013-628-321, 013-628-356, 013-628-364, 013-628-381, 013-629-999, 013-630-008, 013-641-891, 013-637-100, 026-907-861, 013-628-623, 013-628-658, 013-628-585, 013-628-607
17. Walnut Park Totem Pole, 4092 Mountainview Drive, PID: 010-620-869

- 18. Old Post Office, 1188 Main Street: 013-662-058, 013-662-066, 013-662-074
- 19. Heritage Park, 4204 Third Avenue: 010-399-712
- 20. Private residence, 3908 First Avenue, PID: 013-582-356, 013-582-364, 013-582-372
- 21. CN Railcar, 1425 Main Street, PID: 016-275-055
- 22. Veterans Peace Park, 3817 Alfred Avenue, PID: Unknown
- 23. Old Elk's Hall, 1201 Queen Street, PID: 030-695-333
- 24. Private residence, 3732 Second Avenue, PID: 013-669-206, 013-669-214, 013-669-222

For further information please contact NAME at EMAIL or 250-847-1600

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

Appendix C: Nomination Form



Thank you for nominating a property for inclusion in the Smithers Community Heritage Register. Heritage sites and features can include buildings, structures, landscapes, art, streetscapes, and even memories. Vacant sites where buildings once stood may also have heritage value. The information you provide will help us evaluate the site for potential inclusion in the register.

The Community Heritage Register is a living document that evolves over time, with nominations accepted on an ongoing basis.

Nominator Name: _____ **Contact Information:** _____

Submission Date: _____

- 1. Name & location of the heritage site/feature. If you know the street address, please include.**

- 2. Describe the heritage site/feature. This can include age, construction and material, scale and style, and condition.**

- 3. Describe the heritage site/feature's significance (i.e., what makes it unique). This can include its setting, history and cultural associations with people, groups, or events, architectural and aesthetic elements.**

- 4. Who is the current owner of the site (if known)?**

5. What does this heritage site/feature mean to you and/or the community?

Please provide photographs and other supporting information along with this nomination.

Please return this form and any photographs/supporting information to the Bulkley Valley Museum (1425 Main St) or email curator@bvmuseum.org. Thank you for your submission! We look forward to reviewing your information as we consider your nomination for inclusion in the Community Heritage Register.