

ATTACHMENT A

QUEEN'S HOTEL HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1892, the Queen's Hotel is a good, rare surviving example of the Italianate style, one of the most popular architectural styles of the nineteenth century. Although the hotel was substantially renovated in the 1980s, and many of the original architectural elements were lost, the essential form and mass of the building are intact.

The Queen's Hotel is a tangible reminder of the historic importance of hotels in Nanaimo's history. Early Nanaimo, subject to the boom and bust economic cycle typical of mining towns, had a large population of single, often transient men. As affordable housing alternatives, hotels functioned as living quarters and, in the saloons and restaurants typically located on the ground floor, as social centres.

The Queen's Hotel is significant as a reminder of the importance of Victoria Crescent as an early commercial strip. Most of Nanaimo's oldest surviving commercial buildings are located on this street. The Queen's Hotel has been in continuous use as a drinking establishment for over 100 years.

Located mid-block, the Queen's Hotel is prominent on the street and is part of a grouping of historic buildings in this area.