

ATTACHMENT A

NANAIMO PIONEER BAKERY BUILDING HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Believed to have been built in the 1870s, the Nanaimo Pioneer Bakery building is significant as a very rare surviving example of the predominant form of commercial architecture in Nanaimo until the turn of the 20th century. Until the erection of more sophisticated buildings later in the 19th century, commercial buildings in Nanaimo were carpenter or owner built, wood framed and clad and false-fronted. These boomtown fronts made buildings appear more substantial and provided a convenient area for signage. Although there have been alterations to the building over time, its essential frontier character is very much intact.

This property was owned by William E. Webb, an early Nanaimo settler, and City Councillor in 1887. There is some indication that this structure was original Peck's Hotel, catering to the crews of sailing ships that docked across the street; it was located on the waterfront at a time when the other side of Victoria Crescent had not yet been filled in. If so, the building may date from as early as the 1870s. Webb owned this property as early as 1887, and appears to have established a bakery in the eastern half of the site as early as 1889. By 1895 the eastern half was occupied by Smart & Thorne's Nanaimo Bakery, and the adjacent storefront by George Whitfield, Boots & Shoes.

The Nanaimo Pioneer Bakery building illustrates the very early importance of Victoria Crescent as a commercial district and is part of a significant grouping of historic buildings in this area.