

ATTACHMENT B

HALSE BLOCK HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1909, the Halse Block building is a very good example of Edwardian era commercial design, typified by its symmetrical façade, vertical proportions, and restrained ornamentation. This style was very popular after the exuberant eclecticism of the Victorian era. The building is substantially intact with notable features including pressed metal cornice with brackets, and unique wooden sash, second floor pivot windows with transoms. Some later alterations have been made to the building including a stucco treatment over the original horizontal lapped wooden siding, installation of a wooden canopy and other modifications to the building's original storefront.

Significant as a key commercial location in the downtown core, the building was originally occupied by the Royal Bank and a drug store, and later by the Red House store. In 1957, the building was purchased by the Thompson family who operated the Ken Thompson Menswear store from the location for many decades.

Well positioned on Nanaimo's main downtown thoroughfares, the Halse Block forms part of a significant cluster of heritage buildings located at the intersection of Bastion and Commercial Streets, and has a prominent street presence due to its corner location flush with both streets.