

Fernie Heritage Walk

Gold and rose-tinted brick and sandstone buildings line Fernie's Historic Downtown streets, where you will find some of Fernie's most iconic buildings featuring a variety of architectural styles, ghost signs, and historical references hinting at Fernie's community heritage.



← Scan me!



Fernie Heritage Walk Self Guided Tour

Discover more!

The tour ends at The Arts Station, pick up a copy of the Fernie Art Walk and discover galleries and artisans featuring unique local and regional art. Around Fernie, other locations to explore include the **Fernie Oil Derrick**, located at the Fernie Visitor Centre on Hwy #3. This derrick is the last standing wooden oil derrick in BC. The metal components were used to drill the first oil wells in British Columbia in the Akamina and Sage Creek areas of the Flathead Valley from 1907 – 1930. In 1984, salvaged components were used to create this rig.



The Montane Barn on Coal Creek can be accessed from Montane Parkway. The barn was the original home of the horses that delivered coal for the Crow's Nest Coal Company. The Barn now houses miniature therapy ponies and other special animal breeds. Visitors are welcome. The location hosts seasonal events and is a great place to start a day hike.

The Coke Ovens at Hosmer offer a fascinating insight into the valley's coal mining heritage. At its peak, Hosmer was home to over 1,000 people and was expected to be the main community in the Elk Valley. The coke ovens and other mine ruins can be visited from Stephenson Road and Durango Road.

For more information visit:

Tourismfernie.com | Ferniemuseum.com | Sparwoodmuseum.ca



TourismFerne.com | [#ferniestoke](https://twitter.com/ferniestoke)

Fernie & Elk Valley Cultural Guide

The guide includes stories, features, and listings highlighting heritage, art & artisans, food & beverage, and attractions around the Elk Valley along with a calendar packed with live music, festivals, and entertainment for all ages.

Pick up a copy at visitor information centres, coffee shops, and attractions, or visit elkvalleyculture.com.

Fernie Museum

Begin your tour with a visit to the Fernie Museum, located in the historic former Home Bank. The Museum features intriguing displays of historical photographs, artifacts and information depicting Fernie's history, and a second floor gallery with rotating exhibits. The museum offers summer walking tours and engaging events throughout the year.

For more information, visit ferniemuseum.com.





1 THE HOME BANK

491 2nd Ave | ferniemuseum.com

Now in use as the Fernie Museum

Constructed in 1910 to house a branch of the Home Bank and Herchmer-Mitchell law office. The failure of the Home Bank in 1923 cost Fernie depositors \$800,000

and led to a rewriting of Canada's banking laws. Except for the paint, the exterior is in its original configuration.

2 HOW FOON'S LAUNDRY

491 1st Ave - Now in use as The Elks Hall

The Chinese entrepreneur How Foon established several businesses in this building constructed in 1908 including a cafe, laundry, shoemaking shop, and rented apartments. The Fernie Elks Club purchased the building for use as a hall. The exterior surface retains its original outline and advertising mural for 'Royal Crown Soap'.



3 THE IMPERIAL BANK

401 2nd Ave - Now in use as

The Brickhouse

This site was originally the location of the offices of The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. which burned down in 1904. The Imperial Bank building was erected in 1909 and

operated in Fernie until 1963 when the Imperial Bank of Canada merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce to form CIBC. The brick and sandstone exterior retains many striking original features.

4 CROW'S NEST HOTEL & THE MINER'S HALL

301 & 321 2nd Ave - Now in use as The Central Bar & Himalayan Spice Bistro, and The Vogue Theatre

The 'workingman's' hotel first opened on this site in 1901, replaced in 1909 after the great fire with the current building, as The Central Hotel. Next door, the Miner's Hall was built in 1909 on a vacant lot and later renamed as The Grand. It became the Vogue Theatre in 1947.



5 KNOX UNITED CHURCH

201 2nd Ave | fernieheritagetrust.ca

Now in use as a community performing arts space

A wooden church was built on this site in 1898 and replaced with the current

structure in 1910 following the great fire. It was home to church congregations until 2023. The building is now owned and managed by the Fernie Heritage Trust Society as a performing arts venue.

6 WORLD WAR I INTERNMENT MEMORIAL

Elk River - Unveiled 2005

During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920, thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans were imprisoned as 'enemy aliens.' The Fernie Internment Camp was initially set up on this site in the ice rink, later moving to an empty hotel in the then-abandoned community of Morrissey.



7 THE COURT HOUSE

401 4th Ave - Now in use as Provincial Courts and Government Offices

Lauded as one of BC's best buildings (2014, BC Architecture Foundation), the Court House is a spectacular chateau-style building rarely found in

the area. Built in 1909 and opened in 1911 at a cost of around \$100,000. Significant architectural features include six stained glass windows highlighting the history of British Columbia.

8 HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

521 4th Ave

Father J. Welsh was sent from Cranbrook to Fernie in 1898 to hold masses for approximately 200 miners. Some of these miners donated one day's wages every month towards the construction of a place of worship and volunteer parishioners completed this church in 1912. It remains home to Fernie's largest congregation.



9 CROW'S NEST PASS COAL COMPANY

501 3rd Ave | fernie.ca

Now in use as City Hall & The Miner's Walk

Constructed of cement blocks in 1905 as the head office of the expanding coal mining operations. The building served

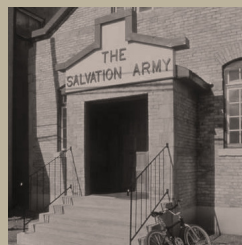
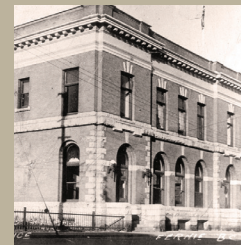
as a place of refuge during and after the 1908 Great Fire. It has served as Fernie's City Hall since 1984. The Miner's Walk reflects Fernie's coal mining heritage through interpretive panels and sculptures.

10 FERNIE POST OFFICE & CUSTOMS OFFICE

492 3rd Ave | fernie.bc.libraries.coop

Now in use as Fernie Heritage Library

This imposing Romanesque Revival building reflects Fernie's importance as a government centre for the region. The 1907 building was gutted but not destroyed in the 1908 Great Fire and later served as the US consul office for the area. An exhibit on the 1908 Great Fire is located on the main staircase.



11 SALVATION ARMY

260 5th St - Now in use as Eye of the Needle Studio & Gallery

In 1904, the Salvation Army acquired this location in a trade for their Victoria Avenue (now 2nd Ave) site, where they had been operating since November 3,

1900. The original building was lost in the 1908 Great Fire and replaced shortly after. The replacement building was the Salvation Army's home until 2001.

12 ISIS THEATRE

531 2nd Ave - Now in use as Nevados Restaurant

In 1910, William Eschwig began construction on Eschwig's Hall at this location, next to his Northern Hotel. It was remodelled and opened as the Isis Theatre in 1911. The theatre was remodelled in 1930 and reopened as The Orpheum Theatre. Moving pictures entertained Fernie residents here until it closed in 1949.



13 THE FERNIE HOSPITAL & NURSE'S HOME

802 3rd Ave & 802 4th Ave

Now in use as the Old Nurse's Residence - short term rentals, and private residences
Doctors Corsan & Bonnell built a hospital on 3rd Avenue shortly before the great

fire of 1908, replacing it in 1909 after it burned down. The Nurse's Home was built one block down on 4th Avenue. The hospital was later replaced by a one-story apartment building and the Nurse's Home became a B&B in 1993.

14 FERNIE SECONDARY SCHOOL

901 2nd Ave - Now in use as

901 Fernie apartments & Spa 901

Fernie Secondary School (formerly Fernie Central School) operated here for 89 years from 1909 - 1998.

Elementary grades were also offered until a new elementary school was opened in 1966. Early photographs show that the façade looked much as it does today, however it was covered with stucco from 1978 until 2006.



15 FERNIE CARTAGE COMPANY

701 2nd Ave - Now in use as Urban Settler & private residences

Following the 1908 Great Fire, the Fernie Cartage Company rebuilt its livery using rubblestone from the banks of the Elk

River, making it unique in downtown Fernie. Before automobiles were commonly used, the Livery delivered milk, coal, and other goods with a fleet of horse-drawn drays.

16 CPR STATION

601 1st Ave | theartsstation.com

Now in use as The Arts Station

The Canadian Pacific Railway station was once the centre of activity in Fernie. Passenger services were discontinued in 1964, however, the train tracks are still in daily use as a freight route. The building was moved and refurbished in 1987 and reopened as a community arts venue.

