

WATERTON HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

“Bayshore Convention Center/ Thirsty Bear Social House”
113 - 115 Waterton Avenue

#8 on the History Walking Tour



Parks Canada Collection

This was the site of the original beautiful and famous Waterton Dance Pavilion. Built by Oland and Scott in 1926, it was such a lovely building that they were hired the next year to build the Prince of Wales Hotel. To the town's dismay, the dance pavilion burned down in January 1938, to be replaced by the building before you. It served as a dance pavilion until 1976, when it was sold and incorporated into the Bayshore Inn complex.

BUILT: 1938-1941

BUILDERS: Unknown- built for Pat McLean

PREVIOUS USE: The site of the Lakeside Dance Pavilion built in 1917. That was torn down and replaced with The Waterton Dance Pavilion in 1928.

OF NOTE: The present building was also used as an arcade and roller skating rink in 1976. It was almost demolished in 1984.

Parks Canada Heritage Character Statement:

This building replaced a dance hall that stood on this site from 1928 until 1938 and which was a major recreational focus for the townsite and southwestern Alberta. The building is a link with the development of Waterton's regional role as a resort destination. From the 1920s through the 1940s it was regularly visited by major touring dance bands of the era.

The present building operated through the final phase of the dance band era, finally closing down in the 1960s. It is now operated as a convention centre and pub associated with the Bayshore Inn. The building forms, along with the Kootenai Dining Room, an important supportive element to the heritage character of Main Street.

Character Defining Elements

Character defining elements include the white stucco exterior with half timbering detail, the exposed rafters and porch roof.

Dance Pavilion Photos (1928 to 1938):



Glenbow Archives NA-3910-100

Under construction 1928



Glenbow Archives
PA-3040-188



Glenbow Archives PA-3689-833

PHOTO
BY H.V. CLARKE

DANCE PAVILION
WATERTON NATIONAL PARK.



1st International Legion Convention, Waterton, Pa. 1932

Glenbow Archives ND-27-42