

MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS

BY-LAW NO. 945-2016

**A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS, TO
DESIGNATE**

COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL LOCATED AT LOTS 1-2, BLOCK 4, PLAN 3319I

AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE

WHEREAS Section 26 of the *Historical Resources Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, c.H-9, as mended, permits Council to designate any historic resource within the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass whose preservation Council considers to be in the public interest, together with any land in or on which it is located, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

AND WHEREAS the preservation of the Cosmopolitan Hotel in the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass appears to be in the public interest;

AND WHEREAS the owner of Lots 1-2, Block 4, Plan 3319I has agreed to waive compensation now and in the future;

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS, DULY ASSEMBLED, HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

The Cosmopolitan Hotel, located on Lots 1-2, Block 4, Plan 3319I in the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, is hereby designated as a Municipal Historic Resource. Refer to Schedule A – Statement of Significance and Schedule B – Location Map.

This Bylaw shall come into effect on the date of the final passing thereof.


Read a first time this 12th day of January, 2016

Read a second time this 26th day of January, 2016

Read a third and final time, this 26th day of January, 2016



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer

COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL

13001 20 AVENUE
Blairmore, Alberta



Description of Historic Place

The Cosmopolitan Hotel is an impressive 1912, three-storey, Early Commercial, brick building located on a corner lot on the main commercial street in downtown Blairmore. The upper level brick cornice has elaborate brick detailing, and there is a concrete band that runs around the street and avenue sides of the structure between the first and second floors. There is an angled corner entrance, and a projecting neon "HOTEL" sign on the front of the building.

Heritage Value

The municipal heritage value of the Cosmopolitan Hotel lies with its association with urban commercial development; in its design and construction; and in its status as a landmark in the community.

The Cosmopolitan Hotel was originally built in 1904 during the first years of Blairmore's boom period. The owner of the first hotel, Harry Howard, made such a profitable business selling liquor to the haggard miners at days end that he supplied liquor outside the legal time and days policed by the local Board of Liquor Commissioners. His liquor license was revoked in 1911, after which he sold the original hotel to Abraham A. Sparks, who also owned the Alberta Hotel just down the street. However, a fire in 1912 destroyed a number of buildings, including the original hotel. Sparks hired contractor E. Morino to rebuild the hotel and work began immediately to replace it with "a solid brick structure" that was completed by November of the same year. The Cosmopolitan Hotel was the most impressive hotel in the area, and contained 50 rooms with hot and cold water, and some had private baths. Those who stayed at the hotel were often Blairmore residents, as permanent accommodation in the growing community was hard to find. Hotel rates ranged from \$35 per month to \$40 with meals. The building continues to operate as a hotel today.

The brick Cosmopolitan Hotel is one of the most imposing buildings in downtown Blairmore. Three stories in height gives the structure a sense of permanence, stability, and durability. The time of its construction is significant because it was at a time when the initial boom was affected by the defeat of the federal Liberal government under Laurier. Reduction in investment, mine closures, unemployment, and falling land prices were all occurring at this time. The hotel, on the other hand, was a sign of strength. Built flush to the sidewalk on a corner lot by contractor E. Morino, this Early Commercial building is built with a brick stretcher bond pattern. The hotel has an angled corner entry with the angle continuing the full height of the building, to a plain parapet roofline with a corbelled brick entablature. A tall flagpole still exists on the southwest angled corner of the roof. The original window fenestrations on the top two floors have concrete sills and lintels, and there is a raised concrete belt course below the second floor windows that runs

SCHEDULE A

along the street and avenue sides of the building. These same sides have recessed wall planes with decorated brick along their upper edge. The main street side of the building carries a vertical projecting neon "HOTEL" sign..

The Cosmopolitan Hotel is considered a landmark in the community. "The Cos," as it is known locally, is the tallest and largest building on the main street. When constructed, it was described as the most impressive building in Blairmore. The building is very imposing in terms of its size and its location, and speaks to confidence investors had in the community at that time.

Character-Defining Elements

The key elements that define the heritage character of the Cosmopolitan Hotel building include its:

- Mass, scale, and form of the three-storey building;
- Continued use as a hotel;
- Brick superstructure with a stretcher bond brick superstructure cover;
- Plain parapet roofline with a corbelled brick entablature;
- Recessed wall plane on street and avenue sides, and on the angled corner, with decorated brick along their upper edge;
- Fenestration openings on all levels;
- Concrete sills and lintels;
- Concrete belt course below second floor windows, running along street and avenue sides;
- Neon "HOTEL" sign;
- Angled corner entry, with angle continued on second and third floors;
- Flagpole;
- Location on a primary corner in the downtown, and proximity to other commercial buildings; and
- Abutment to the public sidewalk.

Sources:

1. Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Walking Tour "Blairmore."
2. Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Plaque, "The Cos."
3. Crowsnest Pass Historical Driving Tour: Blairmore, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, 1990.

SCHEDULE B

13001- 20 Ave, Blairmore - Plan 3319I, Block 4, Lots 1 & 2

