

## **Sandon Historical Society Museum**

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An on-site attendant is available to answer questions and accommodate guided tours for groups of all sizes. For more information, contact us at (250) 358-7920.

Built after the great fire of 1900, which razed the entire downtown core of the city, the Slocan Mercantile Block was the only brick building ever constructed in Sandon.

Originally known as the Hunter-Kendrick Block, it was a general store. The original owners were Mssrs. Hunter and Kendrick, then it passed on into the hands of the Slocan Mercantile Co. Ltd. Its last incarnation as a general store was under the ownership of Mssrs. Tattrie and Greer.

During the 1940s, it served as an apartment building for Japanese-Canadians interned in Sandon during World War II. Later, it served as a bunkhouse for various mines, and still later as a warehouse. Over the years, there was more than one fire that started within the old general store, but Hunter and Kendrick had built well; the interior was damaged, but the old brick building still stood.

By the 1980s, however, it had become dilapidated, bricks were crumbling and falling from the walls, and the entire structure was in imminent danger of collapse. Donated to the Sandon Historical Society by Dickenson Mines Ltd., it was designated an historic monument by the British Columbia Provincial Government in 1991.

Restoration work on the building was begun by the Sandon Historical Society in 1992. The BC Provincial Government aided in this restoration project with a one-time grant that covered part of the costs. Bricks were made to match the original brickwork as closely as possible, the foundations were shored up, and an underground drainage system was installed to carry seepage away from the structure. Tons and tons of silt, rubble, boulders, mud and garbage were excavated from the basement, largely through hard work with picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. The interior was gutted and reconstructed, featuring a spacious mezzanine area, and new plate glass windows were installed.



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