

# P. Burns & Co. Butcher Shop

2419 Clarke Street 🏠 Protected Heritage Property

## Description

The **P. Burns & Co. Butcher Store** is a two-storey wood-frame commercial building that stands in a grouping of similar small scale commercial buildings along Clarke Street, the original commercial and retail centre of Port Moody.



## Heritage Value of Historic Place

The **P. Burns & Co. Butcher Store** has community value for its association with the early commercial activity of the city, and for its ties to a prominent retailing chain. It is of historical importance as it served a growing population drawn by an economy that stabilized around the lumber industry at the turn of the nineteenth century and was part of the growing commercial area that at the time serviced the community.

The store is significant as part of the successful western Canadian industrial and retail empire developed by Patrick Burns. Built for P. Burns & Co. around 1908, it formed part of the company's extensive chain of retail butcher stores. Patrick Burns (1856 – 1937), was born in Oshawa, Ontario, and with little formal schooling, he began to freight goods from Winnipeg

## Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the **P. Burns & Co. Butcher Store** include:

- landmark siting at the edge of a remaining cluster of historic commercial buildings along Clarke Street
- two storey form, with relative scale increased through the use of a false-front parapet and paired second floor front bays
- mixed uses, with retail at ground level and residential above
- inset central storefront entry; offset entry to upper floor
- front gable roof with side gable wall dormers
- original exterior features such as lapped wooden siding, cornerboards and trim
- double-hung wooden-sash 1-over-1 windows on the second floor
- rectangular storefront opening with maximum glazing including transom windows
- surviving original interior features such as wooden floors, and wooden door and window trim

and trail neighbours' cattle to the Winnipeg market. By 1885 he was buying cattle full-time. His business grew with the railway boom and he expanded his interests into ranching, packing, and the retail meat trade. In 1890 he settled in Calgary and built an abattoir, supplying beef from his own ranches. He expanded into British Columbia in 1895. By the time of the First World War he was established internationally and had become one of Canada's most successful business people. Burns was appointed as a Canadian senator in 1931.

The store is of value as a rare surviving example of a 'Boomtown' or false-front commercial building. Once typical, there are now few surviving examples in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. Built with an extended front

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# P. Burns & Co. Butcher Shop *continued*

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parapet to increase the apparent size of the building and to provide increased opportunity for signs, these vernacular structures proliferated in early communities throughout western Canada. This is a very sophisticated example of the style, with paired projecting front bays on the second floor that increase the scale and prominence of the building, and side gable wall dormers that open onto a second floor residential suite. The large storefront opening uses the maximum amount of glazing both to increase display space and also take advantage of natural lighting.

The **P. Burns & Co. Butcher Store** survives in virtually original condition and has been completely and authentically restored, and provides an important link to the early commercial history and development of Port Moody. 📍

