

Main Street's Midcentury Landmarks



In early 2019, the Bothell Landmark Preservation Board was awarded a grant from 4Culture's Preservation Special Projects program to conduct a study of downtown Bothell to determine how many buildings in the DSRA are eligible for the Bothell Register of Historic Landmarks either individually or as part of a district and whether enough properties remain to warrant the creation of a historic district.



In the years since World War II, Bothell has expanded exponentially in both population and land area but the downtown core, particularly along Main Street, has retained much of its pre-war character. Bothell's downtown commercial core began to take shape around Main Street in the early twentieth century after two fires early in the decade forced the construction of brick buildings. By 1932, Main Street was beginning to fill in with commercial building facades abutting the sidewalk in a continuous line between the Everett highway and 103rd Ave. NE.

In the 1980s, Main Street was redesigned as a curvilinear roadway with angled parking and then realigned again to its original straight path in 2018.

Developing over a sixty-year period, Bothell's downtown core features buildings from both the early 20th century and the post-World War II period as well as early buildings that were "modernized" during the mid-20th century. The earliest extant buildings were constructed near the time of Bothell's incorporation in 1909 and are typical of early 20th century commercial blocks (brick with glass storefronts, recessed entries and transom windows). Later examples were built as pared-down examples of Streamlined Moderne, Art Deco and Googie styles or simple one-part blocks with enframed window walls. Buildings built in the late-1960s and 1970s exhibit characteristics of the Northwest Regional, Contemporary and Brutalist styles. Many of the buildings that were modified in the post-World War II period now qualify for the Bothell Register of Historic Landmarks based on their "modernized"



storefronts which represent popular mid-20th century styles.

If you are a property owner interested in BRHL nomination or creating a historic district, contact Sarah Desimone in Community Development at 425-806-6404 or by email: sarah.desimone@bothellwa.gov

