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We hope you have enjoyed this tour. For further information about heritage conservation in Calgary contact:

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# The Connaught-Beltline District A Heritage Walking Tour

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## Introduction

Fort Calgary was established in 1875 at the confluence of the Elbow and Bow Rivers. The Canadian Pacific Railway arrived in 1883 and within a decade Calgary's city limits had expanded south and west to encompass the area we now know as the Connaught or Beltline District.

Calgary experienced a period of intense development from 1905 to 1914. Most of the older buildings in Connaught-Beltline were built during this pre-World War One boom. Twelfth and 13th Avenues S.W. became fashionable residential streets. The privacy and exclusive character offered in the area, combined with its proximity to downtown Calgary, made it an attractive location for the homes of the business elite. Around these large homes there developed a comfortable, predominantly middle-class, neighbourhood. Wood-frame houses and small brick apartment blocks were built in large numbers to accommodate Calgary's rapidly growing population.

Today, Connaught-Beltline is an inner-city neighbourhood rather than a quiet suburb. High density development has replaced most of the single-family homes, but there are still many distinctive buildings left between the towers.



*The dramatic lines of the entrance are Neo-Gothic in style.*

The second church burned to the ground in a spectacular fire in 1905 but was immediately rebuilt on the same site. Five years later the congregation had again outgrown the building. Expansion of the downtown site proved too expensive due to inflated land prices, so the present site was acquired in a then-suburban neighbourhood.

The present church was completed in 1912 to the designs of D.S. McIlroy and is one of the finest examples of the Gothic Revival style in Calgary. The fine sandstone carving, wood tracery and beautiful stained glass windows were all executed by local tradesmen.

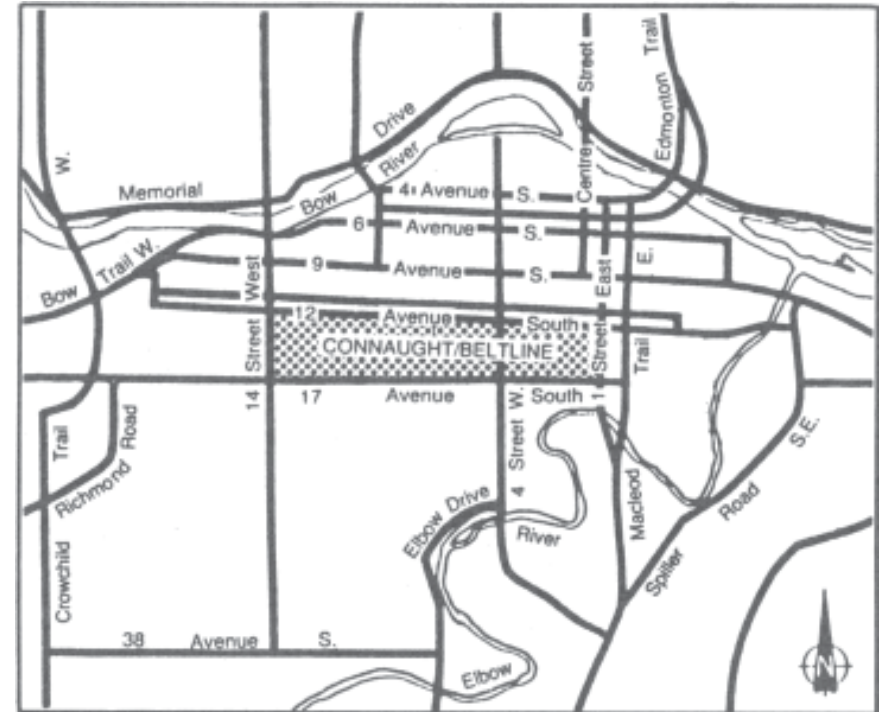
Finally, walk three blocks south and almost three blocks west along the south side of 17th Avenue S.W. to return to the beginning of this tour.

This concludes the Connaught-Beltline Walking Tour B.

**32. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**1311 - 4th Street S.W.**

**1912**

From a modest start with seven members in 1888, the First Baptist Church congregation in Calgary has grown to be the largest in Canada. Services were originally held in rented accommodation until the congregation's first church was built on 6th Avenue and 2nd Street S.W. in 1890. A second church was constructed in 1900 on 7th Avenue and 1st Street S.W. across from Central United Church. Both churches were built by Thomas Underwood, a member of the congregation and a prominent early Calgarian.



**The Connaught-Beltline District**

This booklet contains two walking tours of interesting historic sites in the Connaught-Beltline area. The routes are designed to be toured separately or consecutively. Each tour takes approximately one hour at a leisurely pace. Please refer to the map in the centre of the booklet for tour routes. Parking is available on side streets at the beginning of each tour.

## Tour A

### 1. **NELLIE MCCLUNG RESIDENCE** **1907** **803 - 15th Avenue S.W.**

Nellie McClung was involved in the women's suffrage movement and temperance issues in Manitoba and Alberta. This house was the McClung family residence from 1923 to 1935.

McClung played a significant role in obtaining the vote for Manitoba and Alberta women in 1916 and thereby set a precedent which was adopted by most other provinces soon after. She also participated in a national campaign to have women recognized as "persons" and, as such, eligible to be members of the Senate. Elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta from 1921 to 1926, McClung commuted weekly from this house during her last three years in office. She was also a teacher, lecturer, a Canadian delegate to the League of Nations, author of seventeen novels, poet, mother of five and first woman on the Board of Governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Known as "Our Nell" to her fiends and the "The Holy Terror" to her critics, she was one of the principal driving forces in the early women's movement in Canada.

This house is a typical, comfortable, middle class design of the early twentieth century. It is a vernacular adaptation of the Queen Anne style, with tall decorative chimneys, Tudor half-timbering, multiple gables and simulated roof beams inside. Details of this house are clearly visible from the sidewalks on the north and east sides of the property.

*The sandstone armorial shield was originally displayed on the square tower of the Burns mansion which stood on this site until 1968.*



When Burns constructed his residence on this site in 1901 the surrounding area was beginning to be known as a prestigious neighbourhood. The members of Calgary's business elite, many of whom had, like Burns, arrived in the city with very little money, were proud of their wealth and their business achievements. The grandiose houses these entrepreneurs built in this district reflected their pride and confidence in the city they had helped build.

The sandstone Burns residence, designed by the renowned Francis M. Rattenbury of Victoria, was described as "the latest in Edwardian domestic styling." The wide carriage round, steep gables and sandstone carvings, including an armorial shield and coat of arms, were intended to evoke images of an English country estate. The sandstone mansion was demolished in 1956 during expansion of the Belcher Hospital.

South across the street stands the last site.

**31. BURNS RESIDENCE (DEMOLISHED) 1901**  
**510 - 13th Avenue S.W.**

The current site of the Colonel Belcher Hospital was once the Patrick Burns home. Burns was a penniless Ontario Irishman who became Calgary's first millionaire and established one of the greatest financial empires in Western Canada. Like many of Calgary's early business elite, Burns was initially a rancher, but his business quickly expanded to a fully integrated meat industry controlling every aspect of the business from breeding to retailing. At one time his ranching empire extended to 450,000 acres. Burns was one of the four local businessmen, now known as the "Big Four," who provided the financial backing for the first Calgary Stampede in 1912. In 1931, at the age of seventy-five, Patrick Burns was appointed a Senator.



*Nellie McClung's motto:  
"Get the thing done and let  
them howl."*

In 1978 the Nellie McClung residence was declared a Provincial Historic Resource, the highest level of designation given by the province of Alberta. It continues to be a private residence.

Please walk north one block to the next site.

**2. WESLEY UNITED CHURCH**  
**1315 - 7th Street S.W.**

**1911**

In 1875, Reverend John McDougall gave the first Methodist sermon in Calgary at the Royal North West Mounted Police Fort. Two years later the first Methodist Church was built of log and shingle, just west of the Fort.

The second Methodist congregation was founded in August, 1905 in West Ward School, now the site of Central High (Dr. Carl Safran) School (site number 10 in this booklet). The following year a church was built on 13th Avenue S.W. and named Wesley Methodist Church. The rapid expansion of the City into Connaught-Beltline at the beginning of the century soon caused overcrowding in that church and it was replaced by the present building in 1911.



*Lieutenant Colonel Robert Belcher, 1916*

The hospital is named after Lieutenant Colonel Robert Belcher, an English immigrant who joined the Royal North West Mounted Police in 1873. Belcher was a member of Colonel Macleod's R.N.W.M.P. detachment which established Fort Calgary in 1875. He served throughout the Northwest Territories, in South Africa and during World War One with the 138th Battalion. Belcher died suddenly in 1919 a few months before the opening of the hospital which bears his name.

The southeast corner of this block once boasted the next building.



*Colonel Belcher Hospital, 1943*

**30. COLONEL BELCHER HOSPITAL  
1213 - 4th Street S.W.**

**1943**

This is the third location of the Colonel Belcher Hospital. Originally established in 1919 at 523 - 8th Avenue S.W., the facility moved two doors east in 1926. In spite of inadequate facilities and cramped space, the hospital operated at the 8th Avenue location for seventeen years until the outbreak of World War Two forced relocation to new premises. The first stage of the present hospital was opened in 1943. The addition of a west wing in 1956 forced the demolition of the Burns Mansion which had housed a therapy centre.

This solid church reflects the sober values of the Methodist faith. It was designed by local architect F.J. Lawson who was also the architect for the larger, more elaborate Knox Presbyterian Church at 6th Avenue and 4th Street S.W.

*The centre stone of an arch is called the keystone. Here, the keystones are large sandstone blocks.*



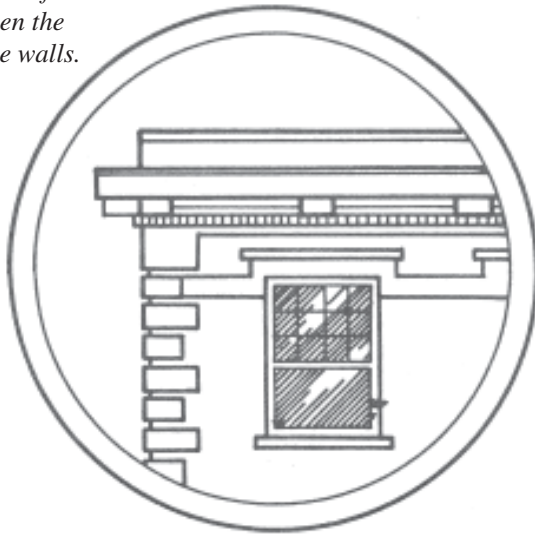
Now walk north to the corner and east one building.

**3. CONGRESS APARTMENTS  
MOXAM APARTMENTS  
721 & 725 - 13th Avenue S.W.**

**1911  
1912**

These two buildings were among many constructed to accommodate the rapid growth of Calgary's population during the pre-World War I boom period. Billed as "two of the most modern and best-equipped apartment houses in the Northwest," the Congress and Moxam are unusual in their size and grandeur, and were intended for a more exclusive clientele than most of the other brick and wood-frame blocks of this period. Located in this prestigious neighbourhood, the two-bedroom suites in these buildings provided a fashionable address.

*The decorative block-like dentils in the cornice are decorative vestiges of ancient building methods, when the roof beams protruded from the walls.*



*This World War One memorial was later rededicated to include those who died in the Second World War.*



The Boer War Memorial in the centre of the Park was erected in 1914. This fine equestrian statue was created by Quebec sculptor Louis Philippe Hebert and was Calgary's first significant work of public art.

The grey granite cenotaph at the west end of the park is dedicated to Calgarians who gave their lives in the World Wars. The cenotaph and its flanking benches were unveiled November 11, 1928. Later that year Central Park was officially renamed Memorial Park but its original name is still widely used.

Other memorials located in the park include a World War One soldier's statue in front of the Library and the R.B. Bennett Memorial to the south.

West of the Park lies the next site.

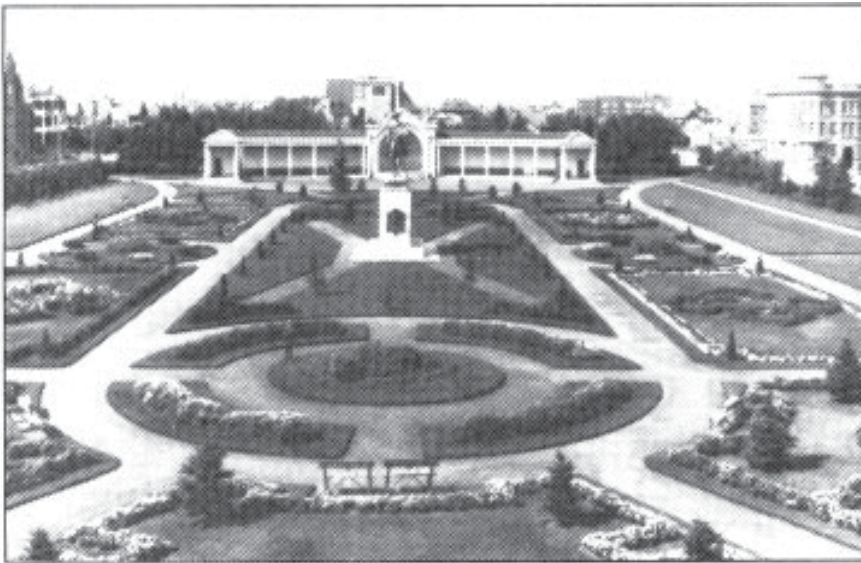


**29. CENTRAL (MEMORIAL) PARK**  
**4th Street and 12th Avenue S.W.**

**1904**

Central Park is one of Calgary's oldest park sites. The land was presented as a gift from the Government of Canada to the budding town in 1885 as part of the survey plan of the townsite. William Pearce was the most influential member of the Dominion Land Board in the establishment of Central Park. Pearce also initiated a program of street tree planting and developed prairie horticultural techniques at his large "Bow Ben Shack" estate.

The formal gardens and paths of Central Park were laid out in 1908 and have remained essentially unchanged. In 1909 the Park was chosen as the site for Alberta's first library.

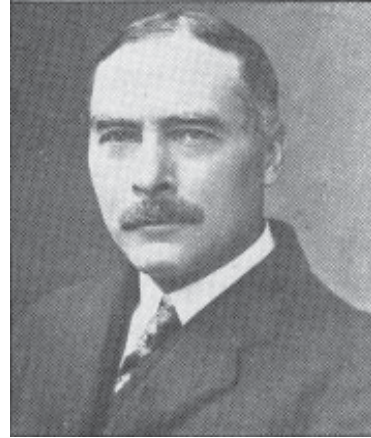


*The Moxam Apartments*

The Moxam and the Congress are Neo-Georgian in style with relatively plain symmetrical front facades and heavy Classical cornices. These buildings were far more impressive before their large balconies, supported by two-storey Ionic columns, were removed.

Continue east to the next site.

*Senator James Lougheed*



**4. LOUGHEED RESIDENCE - “BEAULIEU” 1891  
703 - 13th Avenue S.W.**

James A. Lougheed arrived in Calgary in 1883 to become the community’s first resident lawyer. As his law practice flourished, Lougheed invested heavily in downtown real estate. In 1891 Lougheed constructed this residence on what was then bald prairie just south of the town. The architectural style (Italianate massing with classical detailing) was unusual but the grandeur of “Beaulieu” is typical of the mansions built by Calgary’s business elite during this period. The heavy sandstone construction implied personal financial stability and confidence in the rapidly growing town. The interior was finished in an equally impressive manner. Almost every room has an Italian marble fireplace, while the ornately carved mahogany fittings were brought in from Spain. The house was originally set on a large lot, modelled on the gardens at Fontainebleau, a chateau in the Loire Valley of France.

*The Freemasons use the traditional tools of the stone-cutter; the square and the compass, to symbolize Masonic virtues.*



When their rented quarters in the Alexander Corner, at 8th Avenue and 1st Street S.W., were demolished in 1929 to make way for the Hudson’s Bay Store, the Masons decided to build a temple of their own. At the ceremony marking the laying of the cornerstone for this building, a platform holding some seventy Masons collapsed. There were no serious injuries.

The Masonic Temple was designed by D.S. McIlroy, a Mason, who also designed the First Baptist Church. Due to a shortage of funding, the severely functional brick building was trimmed with cast stone rather than terra cotta as originally planned.

Today the building serves as a meeting place for the Grand Lodge of Alberta, Fraternal Lodges and affiliated organizations, sixteen groups in all.

The next site, a park, fills the entire block to the south of the Masonic Temple.

**28. MASONIC TEMPLE  
330 - 12th Avenue S.W.**

**1928**

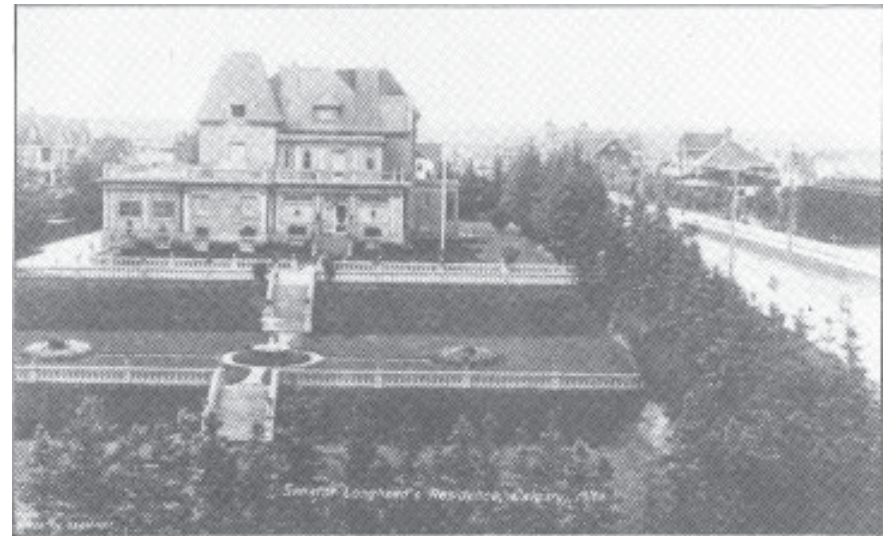
The Freemasons are a fraternal organization of men holding values which are felt to be common to all religions. Masonry is neither a religious nor political organization and both are prohibited topics of conversation at Lodge meetings. The Masonic tradition likely had its origins in the medieval craftsmen's guilds.

Only five Masons attended the first meeting in Calgary in 1883. However, the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway brought an influx of settlers and by 1889 four Lodges were operating in the community.



James Lougheed's wife Belle was a renowned hostess. Some of the many guests at "Beaulieu" were the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Patricia, Governor-General Byng and the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII). Lougheed became Alberta's first Senator, was leader of the Senate in 1906, and in 1917 became the only Albertan to be knighted. His law partner, R.B. Bennett, became Canada's Prime Minister and his grandson, Peter Lougheed, served as Premier of Alberta from 1971 to 1985.

The Lougheed residence is now owned by the Province of Alberta and was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1977.



*"Beaulieu" c.1914*

East across 6th Street S.W., sits the next site.

**5. BIRKENSHAW RESIDENCE**  
**621 - 13th Avenue S.W.**

**1900**

The Birkenshaw residence is similar in proportion and style to the larger Hull residence which once stood across the street. The sandstone veranda and basement walls are typical of the elegant mansions of this period and are quite similar to those of the Coste House in Mount Royal. The triangular bay windows and broad veranda pediment, however, are less common in Calgary. The Birkenshaw residence has a more refined design than many of the flamboyantly ostentatious mansions once located in this neighbourhood.

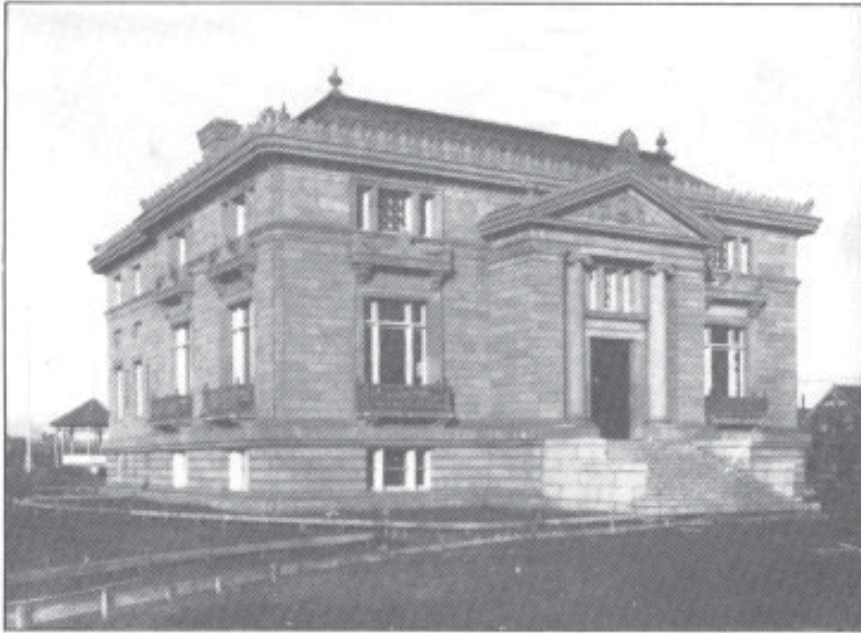


Designed in the Neo-Classical style by the Boston firm of McLean and Wright, the building displays rare attention to detail and a high level of craftsmanship. It is built of local Paskapoo sandstone which was worked by Scottish masons. The entrance is flanked by Ionic columns and topped by an elaborately carved pediment. Inside there is a marble staircase, mahogany trim and moulded plaster ceilings. The building stands as a tribute to the skill of local craftsman in pre-World War I Calgary.



*The pediment over the Library's entrance is approximately carved.*

Now walk north, back to the corner. The next site is one half block west on the north side of the street but stay on the south side for a good view.



**27. MEMORIAL PARK LIBRARY**  
**1221 - 2nd Street S.W.**

**1911**

This Library is one of 2500 public library buildings in North America that were financed by the American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It was the first public library in Alberta. Construction was completed in 1911 and the building was opened in January, 1912. The Library soon became the cultural centre of Calgary, housing the Calgary Natural History Society, the Calgary Arts Association and the University of Calgary during its first brief life from 1912 to 1914.

This building remained Calgary's Central Library until 1963 when the six-storey W.R. Castell Library was open downtown. Memorial Park Library was declared a Provincial Historic Site in 1976 and massive restoration work was carried out in 1977 before it was reopened as a branch library and art gallery.



*Corbelled brick chimneys enhance the Birkenshaw's roofline.*

W.H. Birkenshaw, the original owner of this house, only occupied it for a few years. Later owners were O.S. Chapin, president of a wholesale heavy machinery and farm implements company, as well as John Mosely, proprietor of the Imperial Hotel.

The house was converted to apartments in 1930 and to a clubhouse for the Birkenshaw Apartments to the east in 1980. The building was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1981.

Now walk west back to 6th Street S.W. The next site is on the northwest corner of this intersection.



**6. RANCHMEN'S CLUB  
1211 - 6th Street S.W.**

**1912-1914**

Calgary's social growth during the period 1905 - 1914 was closely linked to the establishment and development of social clubs and institutions. Most societies were organized along formal lines, copying the constitutions and practices of established models in Central Canada and England.

The Ranchmen's Club, largely based on the St. James Club in Montreal, was founded in 1891. The name refers to the predominant occupation of the founding members, as ranching provided the economic base for early Calgary. Members of The Ranchmen's Club originally met in rooms above a restaurant until a clubhouse could be built on 7th Avenue S.W. The Clubhouse was sold very profitably during the land boom in 1912 and the present building was constructed here, in a prestigious suburb of Calgary.



*Members of the YMCA Board, 1911*

The "Old Y" is representative of pre-World War I building methods in which brick and sandstone were often combined. The restrained use of classical elements such as pilasters, dentils, quoins and pediment make this building Calgary's best example of Institutional Georgian Revival.

The original elegantly arched front porch has been replaced, but the beautiful bevelled glass entry remains intact.

The "Old Y" now accommodates approximately twenty community service groups. It was declared a Provincial Historic Resource in 1982.

A half block west and another half block south is the next site.

**26. OLD YWCA  
223 - 12th Avenue S.W.**

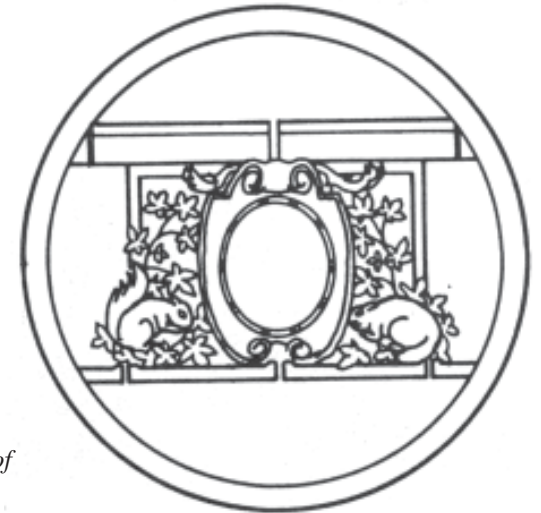
**1910**

The Young Women's Christian Association of Calgary was formed in 1907 by a group of Baptist women concerned with the hardships endured by young single women looking for accommodation in the then-predominantly male city. Through extraordinary perseverance, the "Y" initially prospered in a rented building on 15th Avenue S.W. By 1911, this structure, presently referred to as the "Old Y" had been opened. The annex on the east side was built in 1954 to house a swimming pool and gymnasium. In 1971, a new "Y" was completed downtown and this building was taken over by the City.



The Ranchmen's has always been one of the most elite and influential clubs in Calgary. It has been said that Calgary's economic growth was guided from its clubrooms. Senator James Lougheed, Prime Minister R.B. Bennett and A.E. Cross were among its prominent members.

The restrained and delicate grace of the building's Classical Mannerist style is unusual among the city's strong, solid architecture. The Ranchmen's is also unusual in its extensive use of terra cotta detailing. It was designed by Calgary architect R.E. McDonnell and recently underwent extensive renovations.



*The fine terra cotta ornamentation depicts many of Alberta's wildlife species.*

The next site is north and east across 6th Street S.W.

**7. HULL RESIDENCE (DEMOLISHED) 1905**  
**"LANGMORE"**  
**1200 - 6th Street S.W.**

This modern apartment tower, Hull Estates, was built in 1972 on the site of William Roper Hull's home, known as "Langmore." Hull's story is typical of many early Calgary entrepreneurs. He left England in 1873 at the age of seventeen. After sailing around Cape Horn and up to the British Columbia coast, Hull walked inland to Kamloops where he and his brother began ranching. In 1886 he started a ranching and meat-packing business near Calgary, a business he later sold to Patrick Burns. Hull was heavily involved in real estate during the pre-World War I years and his ornately carved initials can still be seen on the sandstone Grain Exchange Building at 9th Avenue and 1st Street S.W.



*Differences in the size and style of windows emphasizes the separate functions of each floor.*

This building features the French Neo-Classical style. Its cubic shape is emphasized by its granite quoins and tin cornice. Most of the external elaboration is concentrated on the windows and entrances, which are trimmed in stone. There are keystones over the arched and hooded second floors and small square third floor windows. A pediment and pilasters emphasize the entrance.

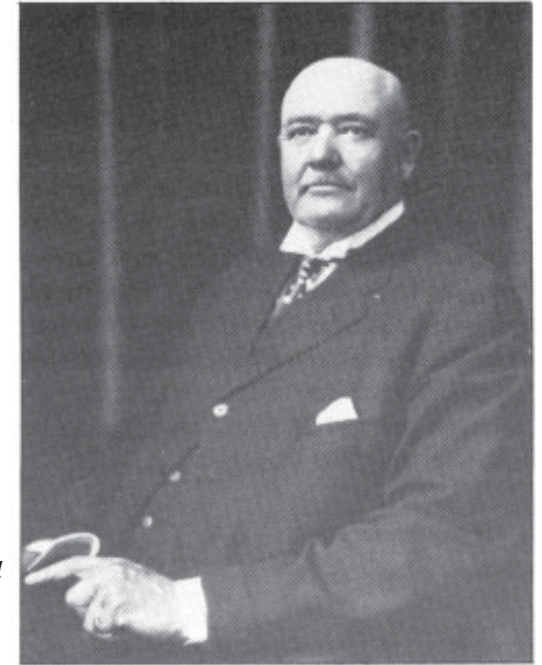
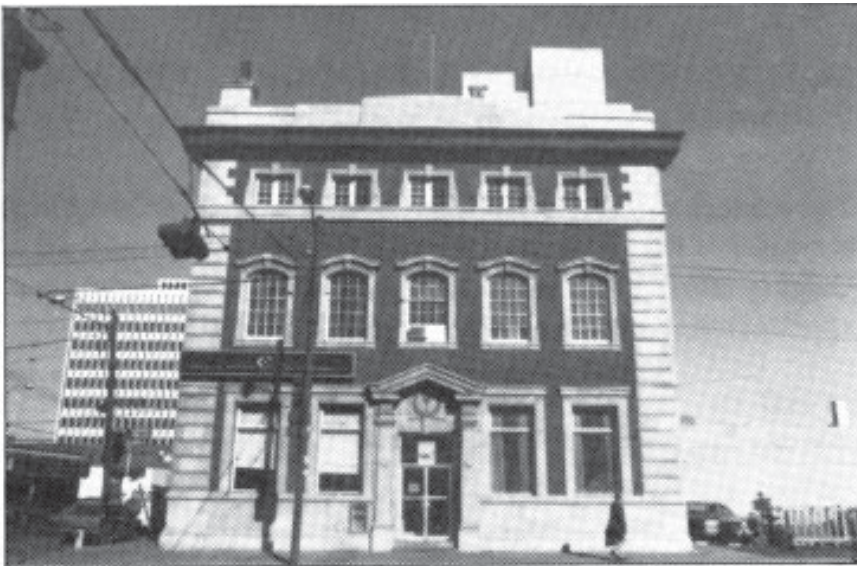
On June 1, 1961, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce was formed by a union between the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Now walk west one half block.



**25. CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE: 1912**  
**SOUTH BRANCH**  
**1202 - 1st Street S.W.**

The Canadian Bank of Commerce opened its first Calgary location in 1902. This South Branch was opened in January of 1913. It is one of the first permanent structures built by the bank in Western Canada. Until this time its practice had been to import prefabricated buildings from Vancouver. This is one of several similarly designed Commerce Bank building across Canada. Each of these buildings provided a residence for the bank manager and his family upstairs. Some, like this one, also contained quarters for other bank personnel as well.



*William  
Roper Hull*

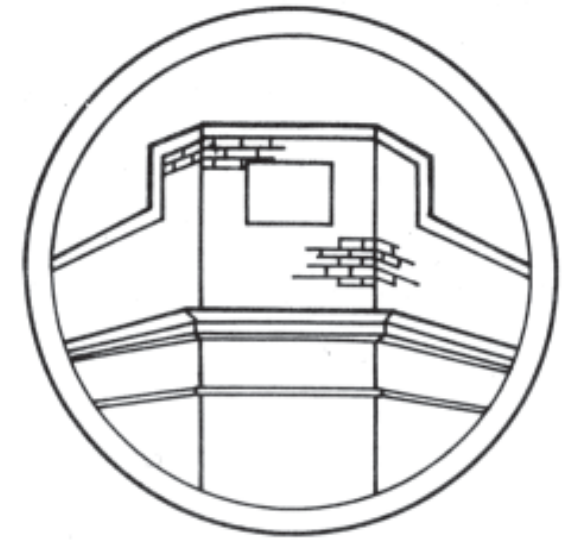
When Hull built his house on this site in 1905 there were only three other homes in the immediate vicinity. The gracious brick and sandstone house was set on an estate encompassing twenty-two city lots, leaving plenty of room for Hull's famous garden parties on the landscaped, terraced slopes. Designed by prominent local architects Hodgson and Bates, the house was an eclectic mixture of Neo-Classical elements and the traditional character of an English country house.

Please walk north to 12th Avenue and turn east. Mid-block on the north side is our next site.

**8. LORRAINE APARTMENTS  
620 - 12th Avenue S.W.**

**1913**

Located, like the Congress and Moxam, on the edge of the residential estate district, this apartment block is unusual in its size and in its ornate detail. A three-tier brick balcony rises above the entrance portico. While such balconies were not unusual for buildings of this period, they were generally of wood construction. The most unusual aspect of this building lies in the extensive use of terra cotta for ornamental decoration: busts and medallions, window sills, cornice, weather stone on the terrace and a large name block above the entrance. Intricate terra cotta moulding is quite rare in Calgary, but it is also visible on the Ranchmen's Club.



*Angled front entrances, as seen in both the Radio and Aull Blocks, were quite popular for small commercial properties.*

*Like the Ranchmen's Club, the Lorraine's facade is richly ornamented with terra cotta*



**24. SHEPARD AND AULL BLOCK  
1201 - 1st Street S.W.**

**1908 & 1925**

The western section was built in 1908 as the Shepard Block. It is typical of the two-storey mixed use brick buildings built in Calgary during the boom period, with retail at grade and apartments or offices above.

In 1925 Dr. Aull renovated this building and replaced the old wooden building on the corner with the present brick structure.

Our next site is two blocks west.

The bank behind you is the next site on this tour.

**23. RADIO BLOCK**  
**1215 - 1st Street S.W.**

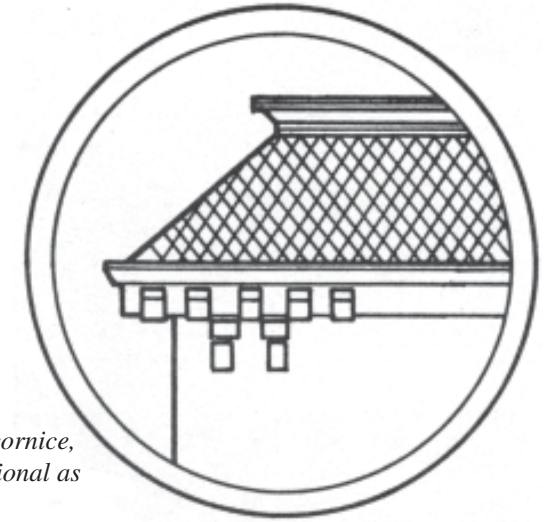
**1922**

CFCN Radio began broadcasting in Calgary in the early summer of 1922. The event was celebrated by the naming of a number of Calgary's business blocks for the new phenomenon.

The Radio Block was built during Calgary's collapse and recovery period, 1914-1929. The city had built quickly during the pre-World War I boom, but construction during the following years was quite rare. First Street S.W., however, was an important commercial corridor and this generated enough demand for the Radio and Aull Blocks to be built.



Please walk north to the next corner to see the next site.



*Unlike dentils in a classical cornice, these eave brackets are functional as well as decorative.*

**9. ACADIA APARTMENTS (Demolished 1996) 1913**  
**812 - 12th Avenue S.W.**

This block is more representative of the small red-brick apartment buildings once common in Calgary. Dwellings of this type provided moderately-priced accommodation for newcomers to Calgary. The two-storey hexagonal bay windows on either side of the entrance are typical features of apartment blocks of this period, as is the arched porch hood. The ornate eave brackets and truncated hip roof are more unusual and give the building an Oriental air.

Next, walk west to the corner, south a block and west another half block to the front of the school.

**10. CENTRAL HIGH (DR. CARL SAFRAN) SCHOOL  
930 - 13th Avenue S.W. 1907**

This school was the first structure in Calgary built specifically for secondary education. At the time of its completion it was the most modern school in Calgary, featuring a self-contained heating plant and indoor plumbing.

Ornate carvings and the castellated roofline make this one of the city's most picturesque sandstone buildings. It was designed by W.M. Dodd, who also designed Calgary's City Hall. The two buildings have many features in common, including the central clock tower and arched entrances.

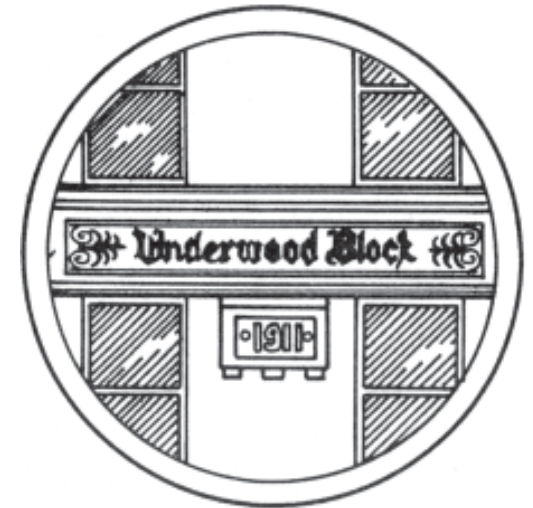


*Central Collegiate Institute, 1912*

Now walk west to the intersection. Our next site is on the northwest corner.

This five-storey red brick commercial block is typical of those built in Calgary at this time. The upper floors were used for offices and apartments and the ground floor was used for commercial enterprises such as the Diamond Coal Company, of which Mr. Underwood was Managing Director.

The building is Neo-Classic with prominent sandstone pilasters and pediments. The small building to the south was used by Mr. Underwood as his residence and offices.



*The building's name and date of construction are proudly displayed in mosaic tile.*

The next site is immediately north across 13th Avenue S.W.

**22. UNDERWOOD BLOCK  
1311 - 1st Street S.W.**

**1911**

First Street S.W. was the principal north/south thoroughfare in Calgary during the early 1900s because it had one of the first subways beneath the railway tracks. It was therefore able to carry one of the city's first streetcar lines from the residential areas into the downtown core.

Thomas Underwood, the original owner of this building, was a prominent citizen in Calgary. He was a city Alderman for six years., Mayor from 1902 to 1903 and a prominent member of the Baptist Union of Western Canada. One of his most interesting charitable ventures was teaching English to the city's Chinese community at a time when hostility towards them was widely expressed. His wife Kate was the first president of the Y.W.C.A. in Calgary and the top floors of this building were used as hostel rooms to house women who could not be accommodated in the 12th Avenue S.W. "Y".

As a respected building contractor during Calgary's pre-war boom years, Underwood was responsible for the construction of First Baptist Church, the Burns residence and many large blocks downtown.

**11. HIGH SCHOOL TERRACE (ASHLEY SQUARE)  
1213 - 9th Street S.W.**

**1912**

This group of townhouses to the west of the Central High School was originally known as High School Terrace. Townhouses provided short-term accommodation for recent arrivals to Calgary. Never as popular as the small walk-up apartment blocks, few townhouses were built in the City during its early boom years and fewer still have survived to the present day. Ashley Square illustrates the continued viability of Calgary's heritage residences when they are properly maintained.



The next site is west one block, north another and west to mid-block.

## 12. CONNAUGHT SCHOOL 1121 - 12th Avenue S.W.

1910

This plain, sandstone structure is the first of three schools, including Colonel Walker (1911) and Hillhurst Elementary (1912), built in this design. Sandstone was used to construct twenty schools in Calgary between 1910 and 1920. After this date, the local stone became too expensive to be used as a primary building material.

This school and the surrounding district were named for H.R.H. Duke of Connaught, third son of Queen Victoria and Governor-General of Canada from 1911 to 1916. In marked contrast to the rich ornamentation of Central High School, only a balustrade, Tuscan porch columns and a scrolled pediment ornament Connaught School's Classical simplicity.



Return east to 10th Street, walk south two blocks to 14th Avenue and then east again, almost to the end of the block.



*The date carved over the front entrance is incorrect. This building was constructed in 1894, not 1892.*

A ten-room structure was built to the east in 1907. In 1910 the new complex was renamed the Haultain School in honour of Sir Frederick Haultain, Premier of the North West Territories Legislative Assembly from 1892 to 1905.

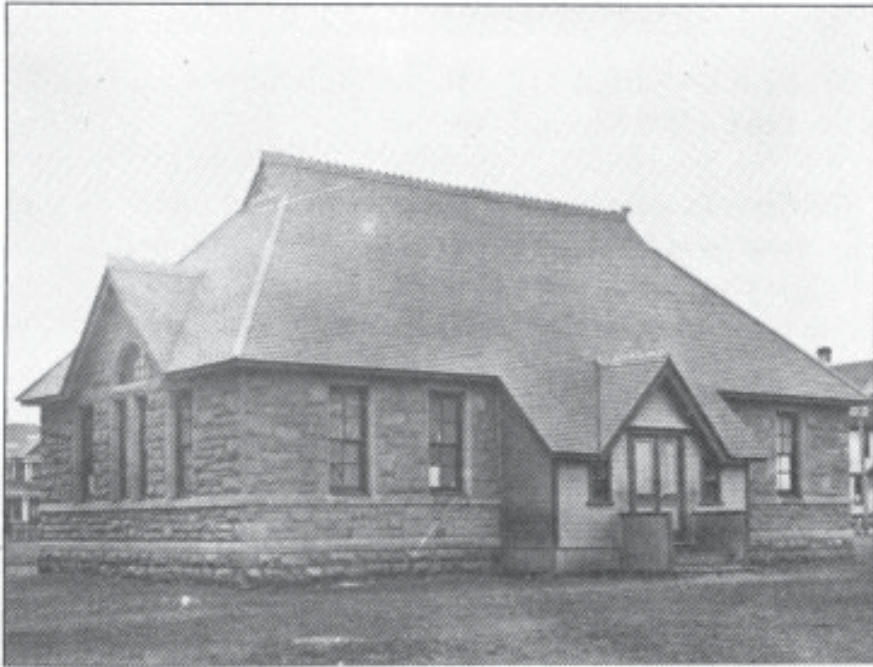
The original wooden porch was replaced by a sandstone version in 1922. It displays a slightly more elaborate style than the original structure, including pilasters around the door.

Haultain School was closed in 1962 due to decreasing enrollment and fire risk. The 1907 addition was destroyed by fire in 1964 but the original structure has survived. This school was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979 and has been renovated for use as administrative offices.

The next site is on the northeast corner of this block. The best view of this building is from the east side of 1st Street S.W.

**21. SOUTH WARD (HAULTAIN) SCHOOL      1894**  
**225 - 13th Avenue S.W.**

Originally known as South Ward School, this was the third school to be built in Calgary and is now the oldest remaining educational structure in the city. Built in the local vernacular style with Neo-Classical detailing, this small cottage school is unusual in its use of sandstone rather than the more common wood-frame or brick construction. The sandstone blocks were hand-hewn and irregular in size, as stone cutting machinery was not used in the Calgary area until 1905.



**13. WEST END TELEPHONE SUBSTATION      1910**  
**1010 - 14th Avenue S.W.**

This substation is one of many built to house automatic exchanges for the rapidly expanding telephone system. Like its Inglewood twin at 1311 - 9 Avenue S.E., this building is constructed on the “Thermos Bottle” principle. Inside the outer walls of brick is a second shell of brick and concrete to protect the delicate equipment from fire and dampness and to maintain a constant operating temperature.

The West End Substation was last used by Alberta Government Telephone in 1933 and has housed the American Women’s Club since 1939. The Calgary Boy’s Choir also meets here now.

Now walk south down 9th Street one block to the corner and look southwest.



**14. GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** 1913  
**1009 - 15th Avenue S.W.**

Grace Presbyterian's first congregation was formed in 1903 by Dr. Herdman, the Superintendent of Presbyterian missions in the West. The original church was built on 12th Avenue S.W. in 1905 but was quickly outgrown.

When this church was completed in 1913 it was the largest in western Canada with a seating capacity for almost 1300 people. Today it is one of only four remaining sandstone churches in Calgary. Due to financial difficulties the top half of the tower was not completed until 1939. The memorial chapel to the west was added in 1962.



**20. ALEXANDRA OR MCNAUGHTON TERRACE** 1911  
**1401 - 2nd Street S.W.**

Townhouses were not as popular as the small red brick walk-up apartment blocks, but served a similar purpose in housing Calgary's growing population. This recently renovated complex is a good example of early townhouse or terrace construction.

The Alexandra Terrace was at one time owned by Sir Francis McNaughton, an Irishman who came to Calgary in 1885 and established a ranch on the present site of Bowness Park. Like many of his peers, he invested in real estate during the land boom. In 1916 McNaughton succeeded to the family baronetcy and returned to Northern Ireland.

The next building is across the street, in a small park.



**19. ROSSMORE APARTMENTS**  
**1413 - 2nd Street S.W.**

**1911**

Small brick apartment blocks like the Rossmore became very popular during the pre-World War I period when the city's population was increasing rapidly. As a result, the density of dwelling units was forced to increase as land prices soared.

The bay windows on either side of the main entrance are common in this type of building, but here they are part of larger wings which combine to form a semi-enclosed bay around the entrance with deep three-storey wooden balconies on either side of the building. Unfortunately, the lifespan of such wooden balconies and porches from this period has in many cases been exceeded. The building has been successfully adapted for professional offices.



*Cornices were designed to prevent weather damage and to emphasize the vertical symmetry of the building.*

The next site is immediately north.

Grace Prebyterian was designed in the Neo-Gothic style by architects Smith and Gemmell of Toronto. Although the building materials differ, it is interesting to note similarities between this church and First Baptist Church (site number 32 in this booklet) in both interior and exterior plan.

The Grace congregation voted against union with the United Church of Canada in 1925. Grace's Sunday morning sermons have been broadcast on radio since 1923.



*Wood tracery divides the stained glass in trefoil and quatrefoil patterns.*

The front, east side and back of this church are visible from the surrounding sidewalks.

Please walk south one block, east another and then a short block south to the next site.



c.1912

**15. DEVENISH APARTMENTS 1911**  
**908 - 17th Avenue S.W.**

The Devenish Apartments are a fine example of the optimism which influenced the construction boom in Calgary before the First World War. Builders could barely keep up with the rising demand for housing.

Designed by Alexander Pirie of Calgary, the Devenish is unusual in many ways. It was one of the first apartment blocks in Calgary to be built with a reinforced concrete frame. Originally more impressive, it boasted a castle-style exterior with crenellated turrets on the corner towers and decorative parapets. The red-brick and sandstone exterior was common during this period but the wooden balconies are unusual that they are supported by huge handcrafted brackets rather than columns.



*Milk bottles sculpted as ornamental pediments once served as an advertisement for the original owners of this building.*

The Model Milk Company was started by James Colpitts in 1932 to market milk from his dairy farm. The company moved to this two-storey brick building in 1934 and established a very modern milk processing system including a high temperature pasteurization method which had just been developed in England. This was also the first milk company in the city to use trucks for milk distribution. The Colpitts family sold the Model Milk Company to Palm Dairies in 1965 when modernization costs became too great. The cement milk bottles in relief on the front facade of the building were the idea of the contractor, Fred Jones.

Next walk east to the corner and then almost one and a half blocks north.

## THE 17TH AVENUE COMMERCIAL AREA

The walking tour now takes you along 17th Avenue S.W. This avenue provided local services for the Lower Mount Royal district at a time when the area was still quite isolated from the rest of Calgary. In 1907, 17th Avenue became a street car line but commercial expansion did not take place until after World War I.

Today, 17th Avenue offers small boutiques, specialty shops and restaurants catering to pedestrian traffic. While it once catered specifically to the needs of adjacent residential communities, its unique shops and services have made it an important retail area for all Calgarians.

### 18. MODEL MILK COMPANY 1934 308 - 17th Avenue S.W.

Dairy processing began to move into the cities from the country creameries in the 1920s. The Model Milk Company was an example of this trend and represents one of the very few successful business to begin operation during the Depression years.

The suites did not include bedrooms, having instead a wall bed in the living room and a roller bed in the dining room, both of which tucked away into cabinets during the day. The economical arrangement allowed for a larger number of suites than would have been possible with conventional bedrooms. The building was steam-heated and had its own steam laundry. All garbage was incinerated “odourlessly” in the basement.

The Devenish was completely renovated in 1981 and converted to a retail centre. This building was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1981.



*Handcrafted brackets were used to support the balconies. The columns were added later.*

The last site on this tour is one block south and one block east. It is best viewed from the south side of the street.



**16. ANDERSON APARTMENTS**  
**804 - 18th Avenue S.W.**

**1910**

Victor Anderson constructed this building in 1912. Like the Devenish Apartments, it was one of the first reinforced concrete apartment blocks built in Calgary. The H-plan shape was intended to give light to inner suites and is unique in Calgary, though not uncommon in central Canada.

A five-storey Baroque structure, the Anderson was the largest residential building in Calgary prior to World War One. Its elegant brass cage elevator just inside the entrance is the oldest working elevator in Calgary. The interior oak trim, brass railings and marble floors are still in excellent condition.

The building, although begun much earlier, was not completed until 1929 when many of the smaller separate buildings were joined together. Designed in the Collegiate Gothic style, these included a residence constructed in 1904 (now the west wing), two academic buildings (1907 and 1919) and a gymnasium (1907).

Western Canada High School is still an active public high school.

*Gothic detailing was commonly used for educational buildings to suggest academic lineage from the great Gothic colleges and universities of England.*



Now walk east almost three full blocks along 17th Avenue S.W. to the next site.

## Tour B

### 17. WESTERN CANADA HIGH SCHOOL 1929 641 - 17th Avenue S.W.

Western Canada College was founded in 1903 by Reverend J.C. Herdman, the Presbyterian Mission Paster for Calgary. At that time, the College had an enrollment of 24 boys. The first Head Master was Dr. O.A. MacRae. He was known to the students as “Old Wooly,” “Curly,” “The Doc” and various unprintable nicknames due to his strict disciplinary methods.

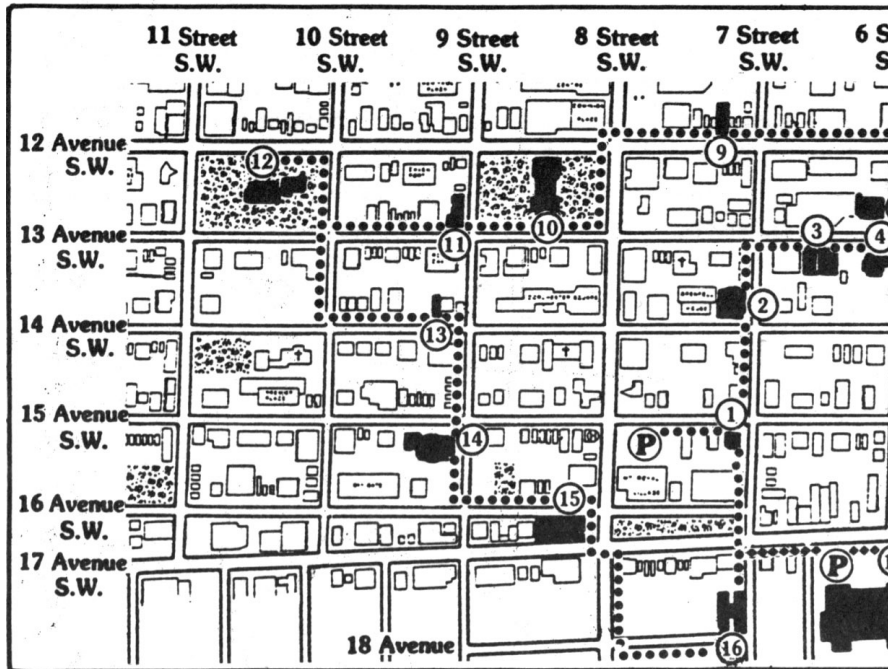
The present site is part of a twenty-acre school yard donated to Western Canada College by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The gift of the land, along with financial and political support from such influential people as R.B. Bennett (later Prime Minister of Canada), A.C. Rutherford (Alberta’s first Premier), and Senator Patrick Burns, enabled Western Canada College to become an institution of great respect and renown. Affiliated with the University of Toronto, Western remained a private school for boys until 1928 when the campus was purchased by the Calgary Public School Board for \$36,000.

Located between the prestigious Mount Royal residential district to the south and the busy 17th Avenue commercial thoroughfare, the Anderson Apartments were considered a very fashionable address. Some of its prominent tenants included A.W. Dingman (of Turner Valley oil discovery fame), E.B. Curlette (an early Calgary photographer), C.F. Jamieson (lawyer and columnist with the “Herald” and the “Albertan”) and J.C. Linton (early Calgary stationer and Alderman).

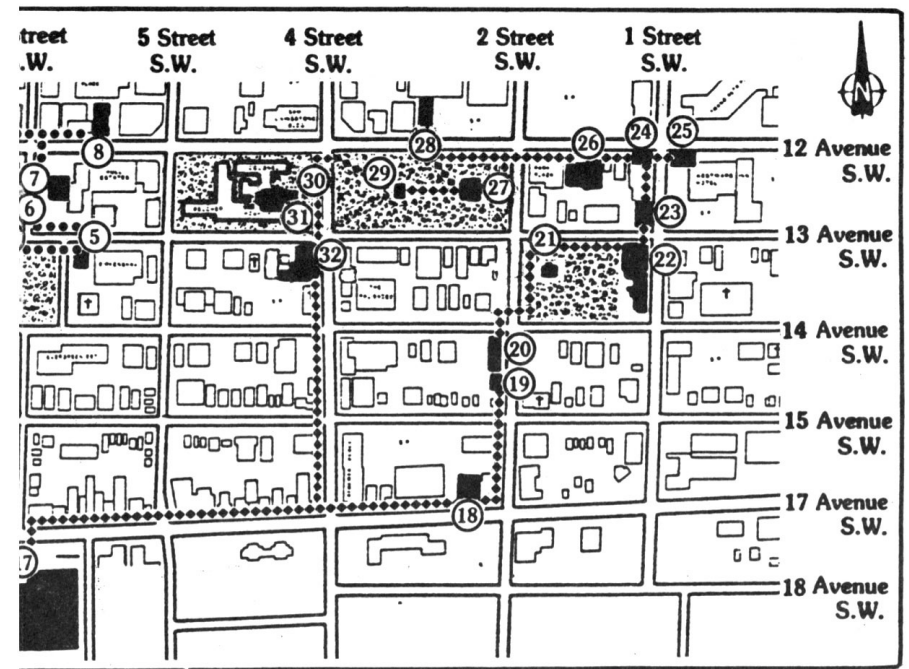
*A dramatic domed lantern  
tops the Anderson  
Apartments' inset entrance.*



Finally, walk three blocks north and almost one block west to return to the beginning of this tour. Alternately, walk one block north and two blocks east to begin Tour B.



- Tour A**  
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| 1. Nellie McClung Residence<br>803 - 15 Avenue S.W.        | 9. Acadia Apartments (Demolished)<br>812 - 12 Avenue S.W.  |
| 2. Wesley United Church<br>1315 - 7 Street S.W.            | 10. Central High (Dr. Carl Safran)<br>School               |
| 3. Congress/Moxam Apartments<br>721 & 725 - 13 Avenue S.W. | 11. High School Terrace (Ashley<br>Square)                 |
| 4. Lougheed Residence<br>703 - 13 Avenue S.W.              | 12. Connaught School<br>1121 - 12 Avenue S.W.              |
| 5. Birkenshaw Residence<br>621 - 13 Avenue S.W.            | 13. West End Telephone Substation<br>1010 - 14 Avenue S.W. |
| 6. Ranchmen's Club<br>1211 - 6 Street S.W.                 | 14. Grace Presbyterian Church<br>1009 - 15 Avenue S.W.     |
| 7. Hull Residence (Demolished)<br>1200 - 6 Street S.W.     | 15. Devenish Apartments<br>908 - 17 Avenue S.W.            |
| 8. Lorraine Apartments<br>620 - 12 Avenue S.W.             | 16. Anderson Apartments<br>804 - 18 Avenue S.W.            |



- Tour B**  
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| 17. Western Canada High School<br>641 - 17 Avenue S.W.         | 25. Canadian Bank of Commerce<br>1202 - 1 Street S.W.      |
| 18. Model Milk Company<br>308 - 17 Avenue S.W.                 | 26. Old Y.W.C.A.<br>223 - 12 Avenue S.W.                   |
| 19. Rossmore Apartments<br>1413 - 2 Street S.W.                | 27. Memorial Park Library<br>1221 - 2 Street S.W.          |
| 20. Alexandra or McNaughton<br>Terrace<br>1401 - 2 Street S.W. | 28. Masonic Temple<br>330 - 12 Avenue S.W.                 |
| 21. South Ward (Haultain) School<br>225 - 13 Avenue S.W.       | 29. Central (Memorial) Park<br>4 Street and 12 Avenue S.W. |
| 22. Underwood Block<br>1311 - 1 Street S.W.                    | 30. Colonel Belcher Hospital<br>1213 - 4 Street S.W.       |
| 23. Radio Block<br>1215 - 1 Street S.W.                        | 31. Burns Residence (Demolished)<br>510 - 13 Avenue S.W.   |
| 24. Shepard and Aull Block<br>1201 - 1 Street S.W.             | 32. First Baptist Church<br>1311 - 4 Street S.W.           |