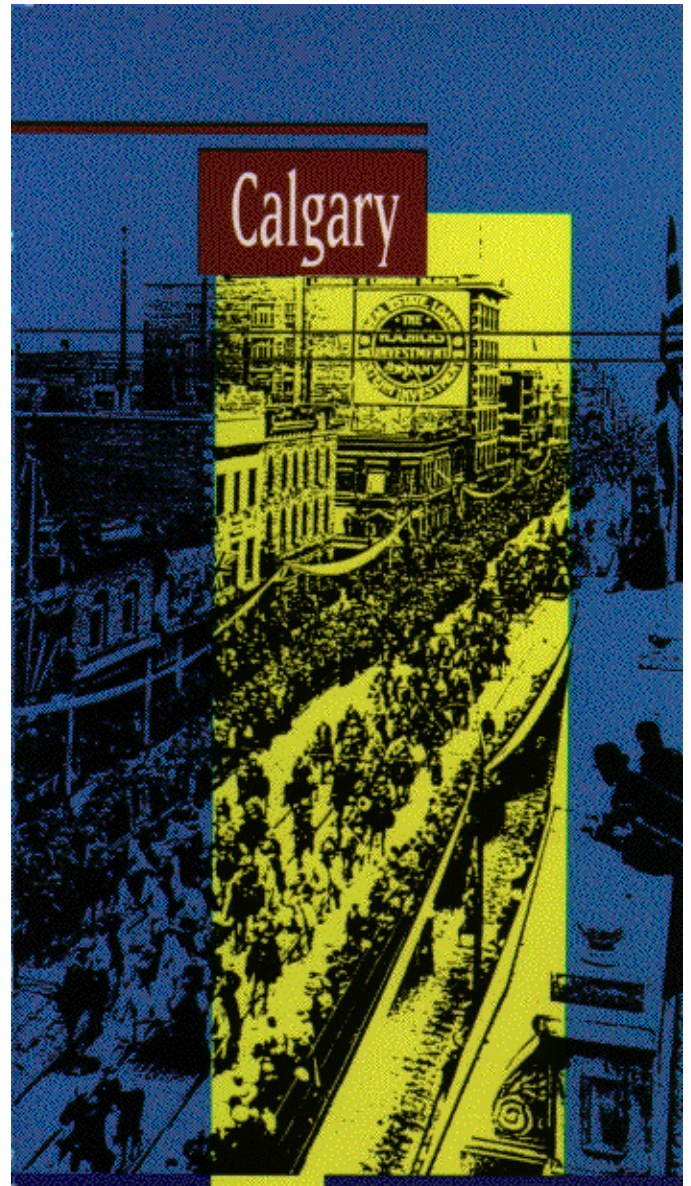




Alberta
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Historic Sites Service

STEPHEN AVENUE HERITAGE AREA SOCIETY



Stephen Avenue
and Area
Historical Walking Tour

This booklet contains two tours of Stephen Avenue and the surrounding area. A map of the tour routes is provided in the centre of this booklet. Each takes approximately two hours to complete. Wherever possible, historical names have been used for buildings, names which often do not correspond to their current owners or occupants. In viewing these buildings, please remain in the public areas.

*Cover:
Parade Along Stephen Avenue, September 2, 1912. (GAINA-4035-91)
Incorporation Map of Calgary, c. 1884. (PAA PA4043)*

**STEPHEN AVENUE
AND AREA
HISTORICAL
WALKING
TOUR**

Calgary is steeped in the excitement and lore of the Old West. Its historic core teems with the ghosts of cowboys and Indians, cattle barons and fortune seekers, and those most Canadian of heroes, dashing red-coated Mounties. In July of 1886, Sir John A. Macdonald passed through town on the historic first transcontinental passenger train heading west. The '90s – the 1890s that is – saw the infamous “Butch Cassidy” (Robert Leroy Parker) come to Calgary to visit the “Sundance Kid” (Harry Longabaugh), who owned a saloon on Atlantic Avenue – present day 9th Avenue S.



Travois on Stephen Avenue, c. 1887. (GAINA-1494-53)

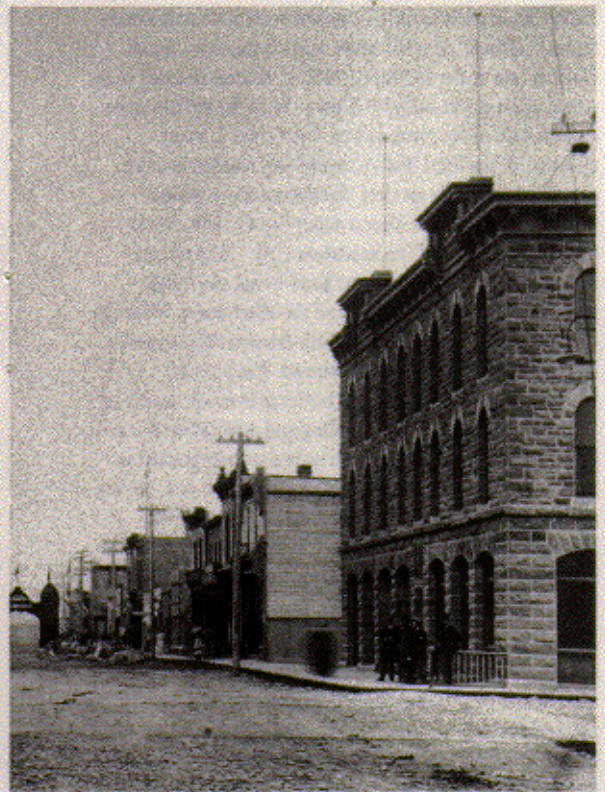
Long before there were any buildings, the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers was a gathering place for the Blackfoot, Sarcee and Stoney tribes. The herds of buffalo that roamed the prairies overwintered here; the swift-flowing Bow often remained unfrozen, and the high river banks offered protection from winter winds. Fort Calgary though, was largely a creation of the infant Canadian federal government. The Canadian West had come into being in 1869; in that year, the government purchased the vast tracts of Rupert's Land which had been under the jurisdiction of the Hudson's Bay Company since 1670. In 1874, John A. Macdonald conceived the idea of the North-West Mounted Police as an attempt to preserve the territory north of the 49th parallel in Canadian hands, crush the whiskey traders' stranglehold in the area, and establish law and order there. In 1875, F Troop, commanded by Inspector Ephrem Brisebois, was ordered to establish a fort in the vicinity. Corporal George Clift King splashed across the Bow and marked the spot for the fort. Initially named by Brisebois after himself, the fort was renamed in 1876 at



Stephen Avenue, Oct. 1889.-(GAI NA-2864-13233)

the suggestion of the next commander, Colonel James Macleod. He chose the Scottish "Calgary", first thought to mean "clear running water", but later proven to derive from the Gaelic "bay farm" or "bay pasture".

The demise of the buffalo in the late 1870s posed a serious threat to the fledgling community that had sprung up around the fort: the cost of basic supplies skyrocketed, the Hudson's Bay Co. contemplated leaving, and the Native community was left without its traditional means of sustenance. However, the extinction of the buffalo made possible the open-range cattle industry (and subsidiary industries such as meat packing and saddleries), which began in earnest after the 1881 inauguration of the federal grazing land lease system. The open-range industry was inefficient and a gamble even under the best of circumstances, and Alberta's climatic conditions often led to staggering losses, most notably during the winters of 1886-87 and 1906-07. Eventually eclipsed by the growth of the agricultural industry, open-range ranching was only a memory by the time of the first Stampede in 1912, though the cattle industry continued on as a significant force in



Calgary, as attested to by the meat packing empires of Pat Burns and William Roper Hull.

The CPR (Canadian Pacific Railway) was key in the development of the cattle industry: its rails provided ready access to export markets, while its work crews created a steady local demand. In fact, the CPR had a central role in the development of Calgary itself. The decision made in the spring of 1881 to route the railway across the prairies and through Calgary, instead of along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River and through Edmonton, established the struggling community as a focal transportation centre. The final track alignment was made known in late 1883, ending many months of feverish speculation, and a townsite was surveyed in January 1884. The settlement moved hastily from the east bank of the Elbow to the west, sliding buildings on skids across the frozen river, in order to qualify for a 50 per cent rebate on lots purchased if buildings were erected by the first of April. In November of 1884, Calgary became the second incorporated town, and in 1893 the first city, in the North-West Territories.

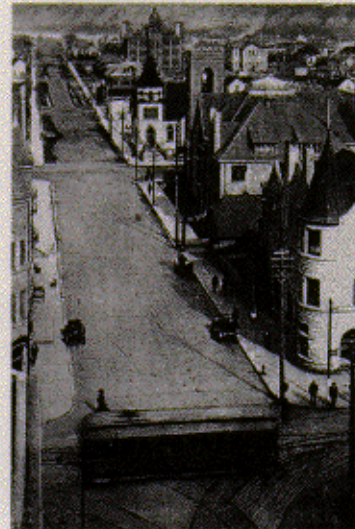
Early Calgary was largely a town of tents and small wood-frame buildings, many of which had a boomtown front. Until as late as the 1920s or 1930s, it was not unusual to see tepees pitched just outside Calgary. With the buffalo gone and their mobility restricted by Treaty No. 7, many members of the local Native community worked in town, providing necessary services. Sandstone construction replaced timber-frame after a major fire in 1886, hence Calgary's moniker, "The Sandstone City". At first, the locally quarried sandstone was hand-hewn, the finish rusticated, the design simple, and the effect heavy. With the introduction of machinery, smooth-faced sandstone and more sophisticated designs developed. The physical transformation of Calgary was both rapid and extensive as the result of simultaneous building and population booms between 1905 and 1913. Construction activity peaked in 1912 and the population crested in 1914 at 81,161, having risen from 4,091 in 1901. But by the time of the First World War, the golden age of the Sandstone City was over, cut short by a world-wide recession, and the exhaustion of local supplies of construction-quality sandstone.

Except for a brief period in the late 1920s, neither the economy nor the construction industry rebounded until after World War II and the Leduc oil strike. It is largely the fortuitous result of these difficult economic times that the buildings of historic Stephen Avenue survive intact to this day and form the highest concentration of designated historic resources in Calgary. The sandstone and brick buildings that line Stephen Avenue provide a glimpse into the past and are an essential part of Calgary's character.

EAST TOUR: STEPHEN AVENUE EAST TO 1ST STREET SW

The East Tour commences at Calgary City Hall and proceeds west along 8th Avenue SW to the corner of 1st Street SW, where it turns north to include sites along 1st Street as well as 7th Avenue SW. It then heads east along 6th Avenue SW, concluding at 7th Avenue and 1st Street SE.

This tour has a larger number of sites than the West Tour, though the actual distance covered is about the same. It takes approximately two hours to complete, and features many of Calgary's earliest, most historically significant buildings.



First Street SW looking north from the Grain Exchange Building, c. 1911. The building on the right is the first Bank of Montreal structure on the site; the one on the left (with a similar tower) is the landmark Alexander Corner, demolished to make way for the addition to the Hudson Bay Co. Store in 1929. Also notice James Short School, originally named Central School, with its impressive cupola at the top of this photo. The cupola has been preserved in James Short Park. (GAINA-2440-1)

E1 1908-1911

CALGARY
CITY
HALL

704 Macleod Trail SE

Calgary City Hall, praised as “the most modern city hall west of Toronto”, was once the centre of a raging controversy. In 1907 Calgary City Council authorized \$150,000 for the construction of a building to house administrative offices, a courthouse and a jail, replacing the original 1895 Town Hall. When the lowest bid for the

project came in at \$190,000, interior features were scaled back, and the project was begun. In March of 1909, with the original funds exhausted and the building only partially complete, the supervising architect and designer of the building, the renowned architect William Dodd, approached Council for more funds. The resulting war of words filled newspapers for many months to follow.

The contractor claimed that Dodd owed over \$19,000 for work already completed; an independent appraisal firm from Seattle determined that the contractor had actually been overpaid. William Dodd was lampooned in editorial cartoons, and ratepayers resoundingly refused to approve



City Hall, c. 1911. (GAINA-729-1)

another \$77,000 to finish the building. By December of 1909, construction had been halted and Dodd fired as supervising architect. Finally in May of 1910, at the urging of the Calgary Herald, residents approved the necessary funds. Leader of the Opposition, Robert Borden (Prime Minister of Canada during 1914-1919), officially opened City Hall with a gold key June 26, 1911. The total cost of the building was \$500,000.

The City Hall features highly textured sandstone, round-arched windows, a steeply pitched roof, and a modest use of ornament. A 70-foot central clock tower rises above the building, the roof of which is decorated with parapet dormers, balustrades, a dentillated cornice, and lanterns.

The design resembles the Richardsonian Romanesque style, which was popular around the turn of the century. Originally, cannons decorated either side of the front staircase and later a fountain was placed in front of the building. In 1912, in an attempt to defy local climatic conditions, 210 palm trees were imported and planted around the grounds. The results were not surprising: by 1935 only one survived. It had been moved inside, and tended by secretaries, had grown to four feet from its initial twelve inches.

Calgary City Hall was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1978, was recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1984 for its national historic and architectural significance and designated by the City of Calgary as a Municipal Historic Resource in 1990.

Cross Macleod Trail and head west along 8th Avenue.

E2 1911-1912

THE
BURNS
BUILDING

237-8th Ave. SE

This building was constructed by and for Senator Patrick Burns who, between the years 1890 and 1928, established one of the largest meat packing and provisions businesses in the world. He had plants in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Prince Albert, Regina, Winnipeg, and Seattle. Eventually the Burns

empire extended as far afield as Liverpool, London, and Yokohama. Pat Burns was the first to ship western livestock



The Burns Building, 1913. (GAINA-2159-11)

to eastern markets. He was also one of the "Big Four" ranchers who sponsored the first Calgary Stampede in 1912. On the occasion of his 75th birthday, Burns was presented with a senatorship while 23,000 people celebrated and partook of a 3000 pound, seven-tier cake.

Plans for the Burns Building were drawn up in 1911 by Hodgson Bates & Beattie, the most renowned of local architects. Four floors were added to the initial design in 1912, and the building was opened in early 1913. It served as the head office for Pat Burns' cattle operation until 1923 when he sold it as part of a business transaction. Later, the building was home to Imperial Oil, Calgary Power, Canada Cement and Canada Safeway, as well as many smaller organizations.

The handsome Burns Building is an Edwardian structure designed in the Classical Revival style. Following tradition, the facade is organized in a series of layers: first the ground floor with its elegant glass canopy; then the second floor with a small entablature; the third through the sixth floors which form the main body of the building; finally culminating in a massive cornice. Clad in creamy terracotta, the facade is decorated by engaged pilasters, lion heads, and other ornamental mouldings made of tile.

Threatened with demolition in 1980, the building became the subject of considerable public debate. It was saved by a single vote on City Council and subsequently underwent a complete renovation, at which time an addition was also built. Much of the original green and white marble was saved and incorporated throughout the newly enlarged interior. In 1987 the Burns Building was designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

E3 1929-1931

THE CALGARY PUBLIC BUILDING

205-8th Ave. SE

The previous building on this site – the Main Post Office, erected prior to 1902 – was demolished in 1914 to make way for a larger structure. Contemporary reports proclaimed "...when completed, [it] would be the most pretentious structure of its kind in the Dominion". Drawings indicate that the intended building was

classically styled and featured a three-storey Ionic order colonnade. It was never built, but its gaping foundation hole remained for 15 years.

Finally, in 1929, the federal Department of Public Works began work on the site. The Calgary Public Building was opened by Prime Minister R.B. Bennett on August 21, 1931. The classical detailing of the eight-storey Tyndall limestone-clad structure is typical of government architecture of the period. In 1979 the building was bought by the City of Calgary and adapted to incorporate the Jack Singer Concert Hall as part of the Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts.



The Public Building, 1930s. (GA1 NA-4798-1)

E4 1911

THE
DOMINION
BANK

200-8th Ave. SE

The Dominion Bank broke with the established pattern of bank design in 1911 Calgary. The terracotta-clad building, the City's first example of Beaux-Arts Classicism, was designed by Winnipeg architect G.W. Northwood. The main facade features paired Ionic columns, a heavy entablature with a

dentillated cornice, all topped by an attic storey. The west side is distinguished by pilasters and rusticated detailing. Also noteworthy on the 8th Avenue facade are the medallions on top of the first-storey windows, and the Art Nouveau style script on the signboard. A glass mansard roof was added in the 1980s, and the building underwent an extensive interior and exterior restoration in 1993 as part of its adaption for use as a restaurant. The Dominion Bank was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979.



The Dominion Bank, 1919. Photo by O.S. Finnie. (PAC PA100210)

The history of the site pre-dates the construction of the Dominion Bank. The lot was purchased in 1909 for \$100,000, which likely reflected the value of the land as well as that of a pre-existing structure. The original building on the site was G.C. King's general store. George Clift King, first man in the NWMP troop to set foot on the land that was to become Calgary, was known as "Calgary's First Citizen". When he married in 1879, he and his wife, Louise Munroe, became Calgary's first host and hostess. Apart from being a successful merchant, he was Calgary's first postmaster and, in 1886-1887, Calgary's second mayor. It was in that capacity that he welcomed Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald as they passed through Calgary on the first journey of Canadian Pacific's transcontinental passenger train.

E5 1903, 1910

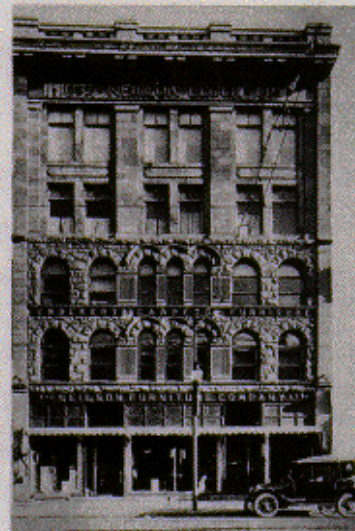
THE
NEILSON
BLOCK

118-8th Ave. SE

Built in 1903 to house the Neilson Furniture Company, started by Hugh Neilson in 1894, the Neilson Block was enlarged in 1910.

This structure is remarkable because it illustrates the progression of both building techniques and architectural fashions in Calgary.

The lower three storeys, dating to 1903, typify the early sandstone period of Calgary's architectural history with a rubble foundation and rough-hewn stone used as the facing material. Windows on the second and third floors are framed in the round-headed arches of the Romanesque Revival style then in vogue. The 1910 two-storey addition, clad in smooth-dressed stone, is the product of stone-cutting machinery newly introduced to Calgary. Rectangular windows, pilasters and other decorative details, including a frieze surmounted by a deep cornice and balustrade, are indicative of the trend towards Classical Revival styles. The addition was the work of the office of F.J. Lawson & Fordyce. Lawson's architectural credentials included the Calgary General Hospital, Wesley Methodist Church and the Knox United (Presbyterian) Church (W7).



The Neilson Block, 1919. (GAI/NA-789-77)

E6

1907

THE
DOLL
BLOCK

116-8th Ave. SE

The Doll Block is a gem of a building, and appropriately so, because it has a long history as a jewellery store. Louis Henry Doll moved to Calgary from Toronto in 1889 and opened a jewellery store on the site of the present-day Clarence Block (E18). In 1906 he bought this parcel of land from the Thomson Brothers

(see E7), and in 1907 opened Doll's Diamond Palace. After the tragic death of his young daughter in 1907, the millionaire lost all zest for life and became disinterested in his business.



The Doll Block, c. 1908. (from Prosperous Calgary)

In 1910 D.E. Black, a former apprentice of Doll's, moved his jewellery store into the building. On December 18, 1911, Black became the victim of what was then the largest diamond heist in Calgary's history: during the noon-hour Christmas rush, a thief made off with \$11,000 worth of diamonds - a significant amount at the time. By 1913 the business was moved to the new Herald Building. When it was amalgamated with Henry Birks & Sons in 1920, Black's had the largest watch-repair outfit in Canada, employing 28 people. H.R. Chauncey, a former associate of Black, set up his jewellery business in the Doll Block in 1913. He stayed until 1946, at which time a fourth jeweller, Harold Raymond, stepped in.

The Doll Block, by Calgary architects Dowles & Michie, is exceptional for both its design and use of material. The facade of gracefully alternating brick and stone is composed of various decorated arches. The third storey half-round oriel window has a lovely seashell-patterned faux stone lunette above and below. Originally, the first and second storeys sparkled with bevelled glass, some of which is still intact. This delightful building culminates in an intricate parapet of stone and brick suggestive of lace and framed by small turrets. In 1994, the building underwent an extensive restoration to accommodate the offices of the Esther Honens International Piano Competition and the Calgary International Organ Festival.

E7

1893

THE
THOMSON
BROTHERS
BLOCK

112-8th Ave. SE

Upon the death of their father, a Presbyterian Minister, Melville Patrick and James Arthur Thomson were taken on as apprentices in a congregation member's bookshop. Perhaps inspired by a book, *The Great Lone Land*, given to them by their father, the two Ontario brothers headed west. They opened their first bookshop in Portage La Prairie in 1881, and in 1884 Melville headed to Calgary to open another.

By the time James followed him in 1890, they had opened a third store in Moose Jaw. The brothers had this building constructed in 1893, but did not tarry long: by 1900 both had moved and established themselves in Vancouver. The Calgary bookstore was taken over by another entrepreneur, and was sold in 1916.



Thomson Bros. Block, second from right, c. 1899. (PAA A11680)

The facade of the Thomson Brothers Block is an excellent example of Calgary's early sandstone period. It has three storeys and is topped by a parapet, a stone version of the wooden boomtown front. Romanesque Revival design details are executed in rusticated sandstone of different textures. The third storey features distinctive checkerboard-patterned stonework, as well as voussoirs that enclose rounded-arched windows topped by a circular light. The Thomson Brothers Block was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1981.

E8 1886, 1907

THE
LINEHAM
BLOCK

106-8th Ave. SE

The histories of the Lineham Block and its neighbour, the Imperial Bank of Canada (E9), are closely linked. Since official records for the period are not complete, some facts are uncertain. Although often assumed to have been the site of an I.G. Baker and Co. store addition, an 1886 party-wall agreement

with the Company clearly indicates that John Lineham (see also W13) was the owner of this property – at least since 1886. A photograph from circa 1888 shows that both sites were occupied by identical two-storey rough sandstone buildings. Notice the date on the cornice of the later Lineham Block (likely removed when the facade was slipcovered with black glass as the Parisian clothing store) which substantiates that it was originally built in 1886. The 1907 date stone referred to a two-storey brick addition made to the original structure. It featured classicizing elements, including pediments over windows, pilasters, and a stone balustrade topped by urns.



The I.G. Baker and Co. Store, c. 1886. (MA NA-1315-11)



The Lineham Block, 1908. (GAI NA-789-75)

One of the first enterprises to have occupied this structure was the Imperial Bank of Canada. In 1886, Colonel James Walker was sent east as an envoy of the Town Council to convince banking institutions to locate in Calgary. In October of 1886 the Imperial Bank arrived and set up shop in this building. The Bank of Montreal followed suit within six weeks.

E9 1886, 1909

THE IMPERIAL
BANK OF
CANADA

102-5th Ave. SE

In the fall of 1874 Colonel James Macleod travelled to Fort Benton, Montana in order to obtain supplies for the North-West Mounted Police. Charles E. Conrad, one of the owners of the American supply outfit, accompanied Macleod back, and so began a long and friendly association between I.G. Baker and Co. and the NWMP. In 1875, when the company was contracted to build Fort Calgary, they located themselves near the Fort. Their first building on this site (c. 1883-84), made of wood, sustained extensive damage in the Calgary-wide fire of November 1886. A stone replacement was erected shortly thereafter.

In 1891, the Hudson's Bay Co. bought out I.G. Baker and Co., and by 1892 this building was sold to the Imperial Bank of Canada. Some modifications were made to adapt the building to its new banking function, but the exterior

was left more or less unchanged until 1909. In that year, the Imperial Bank of Canada (now the CIBC) spent over \$30,000 in renovations. Records indicate that business was not interrupted, so the full extent of the changes is not clear. The most obvious changes include Classical Revival elements such as a balustrade above the dentillated cornice, and a columned pediment atop the main entrance (subsequently removed during a 1945 renovation). The stone coursing, although different from the original, is finished in similar rough sandstone.



The Imperial Bank of Canada, c. 1911. (GAINC-24-43)

For some years the law office of Arthur Sifton, James Short and Charles Stuart was located above the bank. Arthur Sifton was the older brother of Clifford Sifton, who was City solicitor, Alberta Premier (1910-1917), and later Secretary of State. James Short was a well-known Crown prosecutor, and Charles Stuart went on to serve as an MLA, judge of the Supreme Court, and Chancellor of the University of Alberta. In 1977 the Imperial Bank was designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

E10 1890, 1891,
1895, 1905

**HUDSON'S BAY
COMPANY
STORE #3**

102-8th Ave. SW

The development of the Canadian West is inextricably linked with the Hudson's Bay Company, and its stores were often effective indicators of local commercial and economic activity. Calgary is a case in point. The first Hudson's Bay Co. store was located across the Elbow River from Fort Calgary, then the centre of the

community. When the town shifted west, the Hudson's Bay Co. followed suit and a new frame store was erected on this site. Assured of stable growth, construction was begun in 1890 on the sandstone structure that currently comprises



The HBC Store #3, 1891. (GAINC-8-277)

the eastern half of the site. In 1891 the Hudson's Bay Co. acquired its competitor and neighbour (inclusive of premises) immediately to the east, I.G. Baker and Co. A scant four years later, the store's street frontage was doubled in an attempt to keep pace with the burgeoning community. A further extension was made to the store in 1905 on the site of James Lougheed's (see E11) second Calgary residence and law offices.

Between 1905 and 1908, Calgary's population doubled, and it became clear that a new site was needed. By 1911, the new store a block away (W14) was begun. When this property (E10) was sold to the Royal Bank in 1913, a recording-setting \$4,000 per front foot was paid. This represented the apex of the land boom that had begun some years earlier. In early 1909 retail lots sold for \$100 to \$800 per front foot; by the end of the same year these same lots had skyrocketed to \$1,750 per front foot.

Built of rusticated sandstone in a style suggestive of the Renaissance Revival, the building is part of Calgary's early sandstone period. Fire gutted the interior in 1921, and in 1977 the entrance was changed and the cornice removed. Original decorative features are confined to the second storey, where windows are inserted within round arches framed by engaged columns. The effect is of a low-relief colonnade, similar to those of the Glanville Block (E11) and the Eaton's store (W8). The Hudson's Bay Company Store #3 was designated a Registered Historic Resource in 1982.

E11**1898****THE
GLANVILLE /
WARD BLOCK****105/107-8th Ave. SW**

This is the first of numerous buildings on this tour developed and owned by Senator J.A. Lougheed. James Alexander Lougheed, grandfather of former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed, was one of early Calgary's most outstanding citizens. He was involved in so many endeavours that a synopsis cannot do him

justice. He arrived in Calgary from Ontario in 1883, just in time to greet the first locomotive. In addition to providing legal counsel to the CPR, Lougheed was also an agent for the sale of HBC lands. Eventually, he amassed thirty properties in the downtown area; the average property was purchased for \$300 in 1883 and had a value of \$50,000 in 1912. He owned so much property that for a number of years he was the single largest property taxpayer in the city. Upon the 1889 death of his wife's uncle, Senator Richard Hardisty (former Chief Factor for the Hudson's Bay Company's Edmonton district), Lougheed was appointed his successor by John A. Macdonald. Later, he became Senate Majority Leader, and member of the Privy Council. In 1916, he became Sir James Lougheed when made Knight Commander of the most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George for his distinguished service as the President of the Military Hospitals Commission.



The Glanville/Ward Block, 1924. (GAI NA-24-44)

Lougheed named this building after John Glanville, who operated a drygoods store in #105. In 1911 the name was changed to the Ward Block, in honour of its new owner, Dudley Ward. Tenants over the years have included the Union Bank of Canada, The Great West Saddlery Co., milliner and hatter Tom Campbell, and real estate agents Ballentyne & Ballentyne.

Although the rusticated sandstone facing extends continuously across the entire facade, lending the impression that this is a single building, the eastern portion of the block is in fact quite different from the western portion. It has an additional storey, and was at some point extended at the rear; although the arched windows on the east and west portions of the facade appear similar, they are not identical.

E12**1891****ASHDOWN
HARDWARE
COMPANY LTD.****110-8th Ave. SW**

The original building on this site in 1885 was Rogers & Grant Hardware, subsequently renamed the Calgary Hardware Company. In 1889 James H. Ashdown of Winnipeg purchased the outfit, and two years later had this three-storey sandstone structure built to house it.

He renamed the business the Ashdown Hardware Co. in 1906, an enterprise which endured until 1971.



The Calgary Hardware Co., far right, c. 1900-05. (GAI NA-920-12)

James Henry Ashdown was an Englishman whose adventures included fighting in the Riel Rebellion, and being imprisoned by Riel in Fort Garry. He got his start in the hardware business by supplying Fort Garry with stovepipes. Based in Winnipeg, the Ashdown Hardware Co. operated a wholesale catalogue service on the prairies that was, purportedly, almost as well known as the Eaton's catalogue. Ashdown served first as a member of Winnipeg City Council, and then as Mayor of Winnipeg. Upon his death in 1924, he was succeeded by his son, Harry E. Ashdown. Ashdown's Hardware fits in well with the streetscape, as it is another example of Calgary's sandstone period. It features rusticated stonework and Romanesque Revival detailing. The round-arched window openings are particularly characteristic of the style. An interesting aspect of the design is the unusual arched frieze under the dentillated cornice.

E13 1911-1912

THE
MOLSON'S (TD)
BANK

114-8th Ave. SW

This site was previously occupied by the first Lougheed Building, a sandstone structure which was damaged by fire and demolished in 1911. This building represents the post-sandstone period of Calgary's commercial architecture. Similar to other local banks, it is Classical Revival in styling, featuring fluted Ionic columns, a

rusticated ground storey, and carved pediments above the doorways and the easternmost window. This Indiana limestone-clad facade consists of three storeys, with an attic storey surmounting a deeply-dentillated cornice. Four giant order engaged columns, echoed by consoles on the attic storey, divide the facade into three recessed and two projecting bays.



The Molson's (TD) Bank, far left, c. 1920. (GAI NA-2575-26)

Originally opened in 1912 as a branch of the Molson's Bank, the building was sold in 1925 when Molson's merged with the Bank of Montreal. The purchaser was the Bank of Toronto, which itself merged with the Dominion Bank in 1955. This building was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979.

E14 1892

THE
TRIBUNE
BLOCK

118-8th Ave. SW

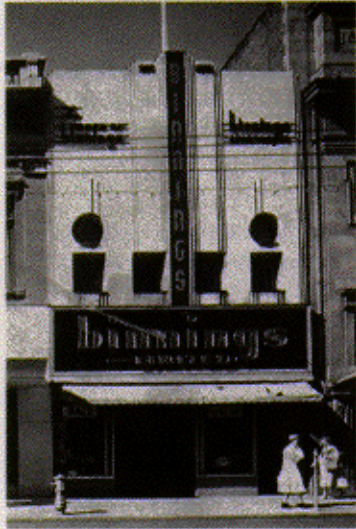
The Tribune Block gets its name from having briefly served as the home of the Calgary Tribune newspaper (a forerunner of the *Albertan* and the *Calgary Sun*). The *Bow River Advertiser* and prominent Alberta photographer Harry Pollard also had offices there. From 1907 to 1919 the building was owned by local

entrepreneur Charles Traunweiser, who used it to house the Hub Cigar Store, Billiard Rooms and Traunweiser's Bowling Alley.



The Tribune Block, c. 1920s. (GAI NA-5235-4)

While the appearance of this building has been altered over time (a later Moderne Style facade treatment was removed in the 1970s), it is now once again clearly part of the City's early sandstone period so richly in evidence along this block. The stone is rough-faced, and the second storey windows are framed by the rounded arches of the Romanesque Revival style. Other remaining original features are the carved cross details between the windows, and the stepped parapet, with its decorative stone coursing.



The Tribune Block, c. 1950s. (NR91-018)

E15 1902

**THE CALGARY
MILLING
COMPANY**

119-8th Ave. SW

Historic photographs reveal how handsome this building, now considerably remodelled, was originally. The unusually broad second storey windows were surmounted by a particularly ornate pediment.

The land was first owned by George Jacques (see E17), but was purchased from him in 1901

by the Calgary Milling Company, which built this as their retail outlet. Isaac K. Kerr and Peter Prince, members of the group that owned the Calgary Milling Co., were also owners of the Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Co.,



L to R: Calgary Milling, The Merchants Bank, and Jacques Jewellery, 1924. (GA1 NA-2575-38)

which was a major force in the development of Calgary, supplying both lumber and electricity. In 1912 the Calgary Milling Co. was taken over by the Robin Hood Milling Co., which is now an international corporation. In the same year, the building was sold to the former store manager, John Irwin, who turned it into a grocery store specializing in fancy and imported goods. The John Irwin Co. remained for twenty years; since then, the building has changed hands a number of times.

E16 1889, 1903

**MERCHANTS
BANK OF
CANADA**

121-8th Ave. SW

This site was first occupied by the Criterion (English Club Rooms) Dining Hall in 1889. In 1903 the single storey building was purchased by the Merchants Bank of Canada which spent almost \$9,000 to raise the building by another storey, remodel the facade, and refit the interior.

The bank was designed by the Merchants Bank of Canada's corporate architects, Taylor, Hogle and Davis of Montreal, who were responsible for most of the bank's buildings. (Andrew Taylor also designed the 1889 Bank of Montreal building on the site of the present-day Bank of Montreal, E22).

Delightful in scale and elegant in detail, this two-storey sandstone structure is the earliest surviving example in Calgary of Classical Revival bank architecture, the style of choice for most of Canada's chartered banks until the 1930s. The facade features a large segmental arch surrounding a central window, as well as two oculi. A balustrade caps the decorative cornice.

The Merchants Bank did not stay long in this building; in 1914 it moved to a larger building (now demolished) on the south-east corner of 8th Avenue and Centre Street SE. In 1915, during WWI, this building became the headquarters of the 82nd Battalion and the Canadian Patriotic Fund. Later, it was the office of the Assistant Receiver General, as well as that of the Department of Labour, before being purchased by the Bank of Canada. The building was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in 1993.

E17*c. 1893***JACQUES
JEWELLERY
STORE***121-8th Ave. SW*

George Jacques was Calgary's first jeweller and watchmaker. He and his wife came from Ontario in 1881 to the Midnapore area. They subsequently moved to Calgary, purchasing a humble one-room log cabin on the banks of the Elbow River. In March of 1884, when it became clear that Calgary would centre on Stephen

Avenue, they set up shop near the I.G. Baker and Co. store.

It is not clear precisely when George Jacques built this two-storey sandstone building to house his business and residence; various dates ranging from 1885 to 1903 have been put forward, although 1893 is the most probable. Regardless of the date, it is of the early sandstone period.

This single-bay building is simple yet distinguished in design. The rough-hewn stonework adds a decorative texture, an oriel window surmounted by a broad stone arch articulates the second floor, and the parapet is capped by a pediment with a porthole window. In 1894, the building became home to the Calgary Normal School, the first teacher training centre in Alberta. George Jacques retired in 1906 and died in 1925. His son, George, founded Jacques Funeral Home in Calgary.

E18*1901***THE
CLARENCE
BLOCK***120/124-8th Ave. SW*

The first Clarence Block, erected on this site in 1892, was faced with rusticated sandstone. Despite the quick response of "Cappy" Smart and the Fire Brigade (see E28), it and the neighbouring Norman Block were completely gutted by fire on Christmas Day, 1900.

Both had been built by James

Lougheed and named for two of his four sons. The Clarence Block at one time housed the law office of Lougheed and his partner R.B. Bennett (later Prime Minister of Canada), as well as Max Aitken (Lord Beaverbrook) and John E. Brownlee (Premier of Alberta from 1925 to 1935).

Rebuilt in short order, the Clarence Block re-opened in February of 1901. The architect of the elegant Classical Revival incarnation of the Clarence Block was none other than William Dodd, who later designed the Calgary City Hall (see E1). A comparison of the two buildings illustrates Dodd's stylistic versatility.



The Clarence Block, 1924. (GAI NA-2575-27)

Gracefully proportioned, the building has a central monumental pediment defined by pilasters topped with Ionic capitals. Flanking either side of the grand main entrance are windows topped with an alternating arrangement of curved and plain pediments decorated with garlands and scrolls. A balustrade trims the roof, and a frieze garnished with garlands of ribbon punctuated by rosettes and fleurs-de-lys nestles beneath the entablature. The high point is definitely the roaring lion's head in the apex of the central pediment. Much of what appears to be stone detailing may in reality be pressed tin, which was often used at the time as an economical way to allow for architectural detailing. A wide array of pressed tin could be readily purchased through catalogues.

E19*1930***THE BANK
OF
NOVA SCOTIA***125-8th Ave. SW*

This exceptional building was designed by the famous Canadian architect, John Lyle. Based in Toronto, Lyle was also responsible for such famed structures as the Alexandra Theatre, and the interior of Union Station in Toronto, as well as the Kingston Memorial Arch.

Lyle sought to create architecture both uniquely Canadian and simultaneously part of contemporary international movements; he achieved both in his design for this building. This bank has traditional features of Beaux-Arts Classicism, seen in the design of the facade, especially the elegant second storey, with its windows separated by fluted pilasters. The plain parapet is perhaps more reminiscent of the typically Western boomtown front than the classical pediment of banking "temples".



The Bank of Nova Scotia, n.d. (PAA P4391)

Canadian elements can be witnessed in the Art Deco carvings which decorate the facade. At the main entrance are prairie wildflowers; the two ground floor windows display Mounties, Natives, horses, buffalo, guns and arrows; and the capitals of the interior columns feature a Model "A" Ford, flywheels, governors, gears, and an eagle. The most stunning carvings are reserved for the panels atop the second floor windows. These contain a saddle sitting on a fence with the Rockies in the background, a wheat sheaf in front of a stylized setting sun, and a gushing oil rig. Even the metal window frames were not forgotten. Their edges are decorated with fleurs-de-lys, thistles, shamrocks, roses, and leeks – symbols of Canada's earliest European settlers.

The site of the Bank of Nova Scotia had been previously occupied by three two-storey buildings. One of them was little wider than a single door; another, Nolan's Hall at #127a, was home to a number of offices. For about a year, one of them included the headquarters of a radical left-wing movement called the One Big Union, nicknamed the "Wobblies". Founded in June of 1919 after the Western Labour Conference held in Calgary in March of 1919, the movement professed support for the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and voted to secede from the American Federation of Labour and the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. The movement peaked in 1920 with 50,000 members; by 1923, there were only 5000. Eventually the One Big Union was absorbed into the Canadian Labour Congress.

The Bank of Nova Scotia building was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1981.

E20 c. 1885

**THE
PAIN
BLOCK**

131-8th Ave. SW

This is the only wooden building remaining in downtown Calgary to predate the fire of 1886.

The Pain Block is believed to have been built as office space for A.P. Sample & Co., dealers in livestock. The Wood & Green grocery store occupied it until 1917, at which time it became a Macleod Brothers clothing store. In 1935 Pain Furriers moved in and remained for the next thirty years.



The Pain Block, 2nd to right of the Bank of Nova Scotia, n.d. (GAINA-4072-82)

The building typifies the structures that lined the streets of Calgary prior to 1886. They were wooden, one or two storey, and frequently had a false or boomtown front. The 8th Avenue facade was remodelled with Art Moderne styling, probably in the early or mid-1930s. It now features green vitrolite, a material designed to resemble marble and used extensively on Moderne buildings, but wood siding can still be seen on the east side.

E21 1888, 1902

**THE
ALBERTA
HOTEL**

133/139-8th Ave. SW

One of Calgary's earliest sandstone buildings, the hotel was popular among ranchers for their forays into town, and was home to a number of colourful characters who frequented its Long Bar, reputed to be the longest between Winnipeg and Hong Kong. It was a Calgary mecca, with a roster drawn from the full social spectrum. Regulars included William Roper Hull, Pat Burns, A.E. Cross and "Ma" Fulton, renowned

for both her pigs and her ability to down a shot glass. Bob Edwards of the *Eye Opener* newspaper, famed for his scathing editorials, was also to be found here as was R.B. Bennett, who had his own table in the bar and lived in the hotel for a time. Gentlemen who lived on "American Hill" (what Mount Royal was called prior to annexation by the City), sent their wives to San Francisco and points south, and moved into town to winter at the hotel.



The Alberta Hotel, 1888. (GAI NA-3981-10)



The Long Bar, c. 1900. (GAI NA-654-4)

The end of the era came in 1916, when Prohibition closed down the Long Bar, and the hotel along with it. The building was then remodelled to serve as a retail facility; it was remodelled again in 1973 as part of an adaptive re-use project.

The original Romanesque Revival style building, designed by architect J. Llewellyn Wilson, featured a heavily rusticated sandstone facade with rounded windows framed by keystone arches. A 1902 addition made to the east is dressed in smooth-faced sandstone, with rectangular

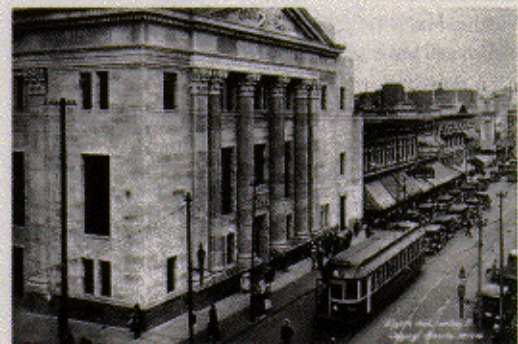
windows, and a cornice of different style, lending the impression it is a separate building. Although the basic form of the original building can still be made out, little original fabric remains. The Long Bar is long gone, and the wooden structure was replaced with steel during the 1973 renovation. During that project, concrete simulating sandstone was used to extend the building, adding a balcony. Eight gargoyles from the demolished Herald Building were copied and used to decorate the resulting facade.

E22 1929-1931

THE BANK
OF
MONTREAL

140-8th Ave. SW

For an entire century (1889 until 1989) this was the site of the main Calgary branch of the Bank of Montreal. The corner of 8th Avenue and 1st Street SW was the busiest corner in the city, and hence, the most prestigious. The first Bank of Montreal building on this site was a two-storey gable-roofed sandstone structure. Its corner tower echoed a similar tower across the street, at Alexander Corner, now the site of the Hudson's Bay Co. store.



The Bank of Montreal, 1930s. (GAI NA-899-3)

This second Bank of Montreal building was born of a more mature period in the history of an established city. It is one of the best examples of Classical Revival architecture in its purest form in Calgary. The exterior is designed in the "classical temple" style favoured by banking corporations at the time. Four storeys high, clad in Manitoba Tyndall limestone, it features a prominent pediment on its 8th

Avenue facade. Inside the pediment is a carving of the bank's crest held by two Native men. A beaver sits on top of the crest, and woodlands and tepees are represented behind the figures. Giant order engaged columns and pilasters with Corinthian capitals support the pediment. Ornate brass doors open onto the only intact neo-classical interior (restored in 1993) existing in Calgary, which features spectacular coffered ceilings, encrusted with 917 ounces of gold leaf. The architect, Kenneth G. Rea, was also responsible for the Montreal Stock Exchange and a total of 61 other buildings for the Bank of Montreal. His signature is inscribed in the granite base of the front facade.

Turn right (north) on 1st Street SW.

E23 **1903**

**CENTRAL
UNITED
(METHODIST)
CHURCH**

131-7th Ave. SW

Before the June 1925 amalgamation of most of Canada's Presbyterian, Congregationalist and Methodist Churches into the United Church of Canada, this was the Central Methodist Church, successor to the Calgary Methodist Church established by Reverend John McDougall in 1875. As the son of legendary

missionary Reverend George McDougall (who established Victoria Mission near Edmonton in 1863), Reverend John McDougall was born into the calling of frontier Christianity. A staunch advocate and supporter of Native people, he founded the Morley Mission in 1873. He claimed to have suggested the location of Fort Calgary to Colonel Macleod.

The "gathered congregation" (which, unlike parish churches, serves members from all parts of the city and its outskirts) of this church has included Senator Sir James Lougheed, and the Rt. Hon. Viscount R.B. Bennett who continued to serve on the Board of Trustees even as Prime Minister of Canada. Central Methodist was the "mother church" to many other methodist congregations, most of which were established under the auspices of Reverend G.W. Kerby. A remarkable and energetic individual, Kerby helped create Mount Royal College and served as its first principal.

Planning for this building began in 1898, at which time funds were raised to hire the architectural firm of Badgely & Nicklas of Cleveland, Ohio, to produce a design. The cornerstone was laid in May of 1904 by Mrs. James Lougheed on behalf of one of her uncles, Lord Strathcona.



Central Methodist Church, n.d. (PAC PA45883)

The building was officially dedicated in February of 1905 as a "conspicuous Tribute to Calgary's Progressive Spirit". Although restrained and understated, there are Gothic Revival features: pointed arched windows, and two towers. The interior, gutted by fire in 1916 and later restored, features a central octagonal auditorium with a balcony. The main floor seats 800, the balcony 400, and the choir loft 50. A three-storey combined gymnasium and auditorium was added in 1948, and a memorial chapel in 1952. Two contrasting Modern Style entrances from 1955-56 were removed in 1994. The original windows were removed in 1961 and replaced by ones with simpler tracery. The chimes in the tower were donated by R.B. Bennett in memory of his mother in 1927.

The chimes were only one of many contributions made by R.B. Bennett; another with lasting implications was his continued staunch belief in keeping the church downtown. His conviction that there should be a church downtown as "testimony to the fact that material values were not the only values in the world, but that spiritual values were those that were eternal", is one of the reasons why the church has never relocated.



West Tour: Stephen Avenue West of 1st Street SW

- W1. Calgary City Hall (1908-1911)
- W2. The St. Regis Hotel (1913)
- W3. Calgary Legion Hall #1 (1922)
- W4. Calgary Courthouse #2 (1914)
- W5. The Barron Building (1949-1951)
- W6. Penny Lane Mall (1908-1945)
- W7. Knox United (Presbyterian) Church (1913)
- W8. Eaton's (Holt Renfrew) (1929)
- W9. The Lancaster Building (1912-1918)
- W10. Canada Life Assurance Building (1912-1913)
- W11. The McPherson Fruit Company (1906, 1928)
- W12. The Allen (Palace) Theatre (1921)
- W13. The Leeson & Lineham Block (1910)
- W14. Hudson's Bay Company Store #4 (1911-1913, 1929, 1957)
- W15. The Grain Exchange Building (1910)
- W16. The Palliser Hotel (1911-1914)

East Tour: Stephen Avenue East and 1st Street SW

- E1. Calgary City Hall (1908-1911)
- E2. The Burns Building (1911-1912)
- E3. The Calgary Public Building (1929-1931)
- E4. The Dominion Bank (1911)
- E5. The Neilson Block (1903, 1910)
- E6. The Doll Block (1907)
- E7. The Thomson Brothers Block (1893)
- E8. The Lineham Block (1886, 1907)
- E9. The Imperial Bank of Canada (1886, 1909)
- E10. Hudson's Bay Company Store #3 (1890, 1891, 1895, 1905)
- E11. The Glanville / Ward Block (1898)
- E12. Ashdown Hardware Co. Ltd. (1891)
- E13. The Molson's (TD) Bank (1911-1912)
- E14. The Tribune Block (1892)
- E15. The Calgary Milling Company (1902)
- E16. Merchants Bank of Canada (1889, 1903)
- E17. Jacques Jewellery Store (c. 1893)
- E18. The Clarence Block (1901)

- E19. The Bank of Nova Scotia (1930)
- E20. The Pain Block (c. 1885)
- E21. The Alberta Hotel (1888, 1902)
- E22. The Bank of Montreal (1929-1931)
- E23. Central United (Methodist) Church (1905)
- E24. The Lougheed Building and Grand Theatre (1911)
- E25. The AGT Building (1930)
- E26. Utilities Building (1939)
- E27. The Oddfellows Temple (1912)
- E28. Calgary Firehall #1 (1911)
- E29. Cathedral Church of the Redeemer (1905)

● Designates LRT stops

E24 1911

THE LOUGHEED
BUILDING AND
GRAND THEATRE

604-1st St. SW

The rather plain appearance of this commercial block belies the excitement and merriment that once flourished under its roof.

The Lougheed Building was one of James Lougheed's numerous theatrical ventures. It was designed by local architect D.S. McIlroy, who was also responsible for the First Baptist Church.



The Lougheed Building, c. 1912. (GAINA-4385-3)



The Grand Theatre, interior, c. 1933-34. (GAINA-4560-4)

The facade is separated into two visual "zones": a ground-level commercial area originally delineated by a small cornice, and the main body or office section, which extends from the second floor through the sixth. The office section was contained under a substantial cornice (since removed), and is organized into bays by four storey pilasters. The only other decorative detailing is provided by the eared lintels and keystones above each window.

With only a modest marquee, there is little indication of a theatre that "...for many years... was one of the most

famous legitimate theatres on the North American continent". Some of this century's greatest names of stage and screen played live in the Grand Theatre: Sophie Tucker, Ethel Barrymore, the Marx Brothers, Jack Benny, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Fred and Adele Astaire, and the divine Sarah Bernhardt - twice (in 1913 and 1919). Besides the occasional movie, there were plays, musicals, operas, revues, symphony concerts (by the fledgling Calgary Symphony in 1913), minstrel shows, public lectures and political rallies, and even animal circuses! At the time, the Grand had the largest stage in Canada, and acoustics that were touted to be second to none in North America. The basement of the building housed Cronn's Rathskeller (later renamed the Plaza), a restaurant with palm trees, a dance floor and soft lights. Many young men celebrated their last leave at the Plaza before departing for the Front during World War I, and the occasion of the Armistice signing on November 11, 1918 was marked by some pranksters with the release of a squealing greased pig onto the dance floor. In 1937 the theatre was bought by businessman J.B. Barron (see W5) and became a cinema. Much of the elaborate plasterwork, tilework and marble was removed or obscured during the summer of 1965 as part of a modernization. Photographs show how truly grand this theatre once was.

Turn right (east) onto 6th Avenue SW.

E25 1930

THE
AGT
BUILDING

119-6th Ave. SW

The Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) Building was erected during the course of the construction spurt of the late 1920s. Little was built in the city during the recessionary years of World War I, or the subsequent decade. However, in 1928 and 1929 a number of projects were begun, including the Calgary

Public Building (E3), the Bank of Nova Scotia (E19), the Bank of Montreal (E22), the Eaton's Store (W8), and the Bay addition (W14). The onset of the Great Depression curtailed further ventures, and the next period of significant construction activity did not begin until 1949 and the Barron Building (W5).

Considered very modern, the AGT Building featured such innovations as the first automatic elevators in the province, and improved fireproofing. It was designed by the English architect Peter Rule, who had practised with the prominent firm of Magoon and MacDonald in Edmonton prior to World War I, before he was hired by AGT - ostensibly as a building inspector, but also as a designer. He is noteworthy



The AGT Building, n.d. GAIND-10-4)

because, along with his two sons, he later established the firm Rule Wynn Rule & Rule, which played an important role in the development of modern architecture in Alberta. The building exhibits several stylistic influences and references. The geometric decoration is Art Deco in character. Another influence seems to have been the early skyscrapers of New York and Chicago, whose influence can be seen in the use of ornamental brick piers (notice how they taper and become chamfered as they rise), and the sculpted stone blocks that top them. The cast metal spandrels and rectilinear detailing on the windows are decidedly Modernist. The entire effect of this sophisticated building recalls the Art Nouveau work of the Scottish architect Charles Rennie MacIntosh.

E26 1939

**UTILITIES
BUILDING**

115-6th Ave. SW

This modest Tyndall-clad structure was the largest single building project completed in downtown Calgary at the close of the Great Depression. The building was an employment scheme undertaken through the Federal Municipal Improvement Act, providing work for approximately 50 men each day

during the eight months of its construction. In the interests of employing more skilled workers (as well as allowing for future expansion), City Council determined that a steel structure, rather than the originally specified reinforced concrete, would be used.

The structure was designed by architect D.S. McLroy, who was also responsible for the neighbouring Loughheed Building (E24). The facade features Moderne massing and a parapet, and is framed on either side by pilasters decorated with stylized wheat sheaves.



The Utilities Building, n.d. (CESA 8-14)

The Utilities Building was the home of the Electric Light Systems and Waterworks Department of the City of Calgary from 1939 until 1957. It has the distinction of being the first fully air conditioned building in the city and, in 1954, one of the first in the city to have been fitted with an IBM computer.

E27 1912

**THE
ODDFELLOWS
TEMPLE**

517 Centre Street S

Oddfellows organizations began in England in the sixteenth century. The rituals and oaths of secrecy were typical of societies and craft unions of the time, such as the Freemasons. The role of lodges and beneficial societies was most welcome in the West, where their promise to care for ill members, bury the dead, and look after widows and orphans provided a much-needed social safety net in the early years of settlement.

The first Independent Order of Oddfellows lodge in Alberta was founded by Calgary's first mayor, George Murdoch, in 1884. Interestingly, Murdoch also participated in the founding of the first Masonic lodge (Bow River Lodge #1), as well as the Literary Society, the St. Andrew's Society, the Turf Association, the Agricultural Association, and the Citizens' Committee (which spearheaded the campaign for Calgary's incorporation as a town).

As Calgary grew, so did membership in the lodge. In 1910 the Scottish architect David Suttie McLroy (see E24, E26) was hired to design a building to house the burgeoning lodge. The result features a distinctive corner entrance, and is trimmed in contrasting stone, with Ionic pilasters at ground level and Corinthian pilasters on the top floor Grand Hall. Only three capitals of the pilasters on the south



The Oddfellows Temple, 1920s. (GAI ND-10-5)

facade were completed. Apparently, the stone was very hard and the task proved more time-consuming than the sculptor had anticipated. He abandoned the project, and no one was hired to replace him. The lower floors were a means for the Order to generate revenue, and consist of numerous offices and storefronts. The building was purchased and adapted by the Calgary Chamber of Commerce in 1979, and in 1987 it was designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

E28 1911

**CALGARY
FIREHALL
#1**

140-6th Ave. SE

The impact of fire and fire-fighting on Calgary's growth has been profound: it was as a direct result of the devastating fire of 1886 that buildings began to be constructed of stone, earning Calgary the moniker "The Sandstone City".

Firehall #1, despite its name, was not the first firehall in Calgary.

The first, a wooden structure at 122 – 7th Avenue SE, was built in 1885. Fire Chief James "Cappy" Smart led the call for a more appropriate hall, and this 1911 red brick building is the result. The ingenious diagonal corner siting of this building was intended to allow fire trucks easy access to either 6th Avenue or 1st Street. Classical in styling, the building is replete with architectural detailing: a central pediment, a side tower with a bell and copper cupola, a cornice and entablature, string courses, a round window with four keystones, and radiating voussoirs surrounding the semi-circular arched fire truck doors.

The roots of the modern Calgary Fire Department lay in the 1885 formation of the Calgary Fire Brigade. All fire-fighting duties were handled by volunteers until the 1897 appointment of James Smart as the chief and first full-time



Calgary Firehall #1, 1912. (GAI NA-913-5)

paid employee of the Calgary Fire Department. A legend in his own time, Cappy Smart was credited by many in the North-West with being one of the two forces – the other being the arrival of the CPR – that transformed Calgary into a modern city. A Scottish immigrant, James Smart arrived in Calgary in 1885. He worked for a time at James Walker's sawmill, and then apprenticed as a mortician. Fire Chief for some 35 years, Cappy Smart was famed for his constant efforts to upgrade both fire-fighting equipment and practices in the city. In recognition for this, he was elected president of numerous fire-fighting associations, among them the Pacific Coast Fire Chiefs, the International Fire Chiefs, and the Dominion Association of Fire Chiefs. Firehall #1 was designated a Registered Historic Resource in 1975 – one of the first Calgary buildings to be so recognized. It has since been restored, and has received considerable attention for its ingeniously appropriate adaptive re-use as a car rental business.

Turn right (south) on 1st Street SE to 7th Avenue SE, and turn left (east).

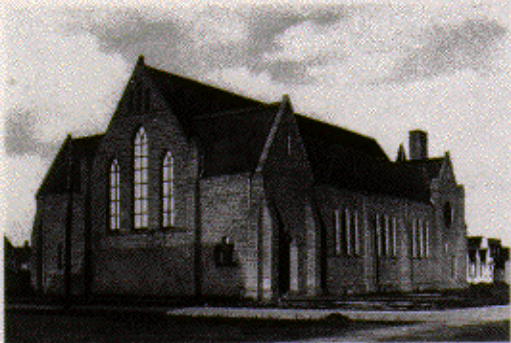
E29 1905

**CATHEDRAL
CHURCH OF THE
REDEEMER**

210-7th Ave. SE

This Gothic Revival building is faced in the rusticated Paskapoo sandstone typical of early buildings in Calgary and features details such as buttresses and pointed arched windows arranged in groups of three. It is the second oldest church still standing in downtown Calgary.

The first Anglican church in Calgary had been built in 1884 just east of the current building. In 1889, the wooden church was declared the Pro-Cathedral, or temporary church of the bishop. The



Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, n.d. (PAC PA32809)

adjoining land was purchased in 1902, and Vancouver Island architect John C.M. Keith was hired to produce a design. The congregation raised \$18,000 of the estimated \$35,000 cost, and construction began. Canada's Governor General, the Earl of Minto, laid the cornerstone in 1904, and the first services were conducted in 1905. The Sunday School, named Paget Hall, was built in 1911 on the site of the first church; the Hall was demolished in the 1970s. The elaborately carved rood screen (a wooden screen separating the nave and choir) was dedicated by the Prince of Wales in 1919. William Roper Hull, Prime Minister R.B. Bennett, William Pearce and Patrick Burns are commemorated in the stained glass windows.

Originally, this church had been envisioned as a precursor to a grander and more formal cathedral. However, the years which followed saw an abrupt halt to the influx of new residents. The start of the recession in 1913, followed in close succession by World War I (1914-1918) the Great Depression (1930s), and World War II (1939-1945) all played a role. In 1949 it became the Anglican Cathedral of Calgary, and was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1977.

This is the end of the East Tour. To return to the starting point of the East Tour proceed east one block along 7th Avenue, and cross Macleod Trail. Or, to continue with the West Tour, board a westbound C-Train at the platform next to the church, and proceed to sites W2 and W3.

WEST TOUR: STEPHEN AVENUE WEST OF 1ST STREET SW



Stampede Parade, n.d. (PAA P6792)

The West Tour commences at Calgary City Hall and, although it has fewer sites than the East Tour, covers an approximately equal geographical area. The tour is designed to take advantage of the free Downtown LRT zone if the viewer so desires. Sites W2 and W3, found along the LRT route, may be viewed either by foot or from the C-Train. The tour then proceeds west along the LRT route and to the station next to site W4, and east towards 1st Street SW, which historically was the hub of Calgary's downtown.

The tour takes about 2 hours to complete. The buildings on the west leg of the tour tend to be of a more recent vintage than those on the East Tour.

W1 1908-1911

See E1.

CALGARY
CITY
HALL

704 Macleod Trail SE



Calgary City Hall at night, c. 1912. (GAI NA-1202-2)

Proceed to the LRT station on the north side of 7th Avenue and take the C-Train to the next two sites; either view them from the train or disembark (and re-embark) at the 1st Street SW station (opposite the Bay).

W2 1913

THE
ST. REGIS
HOTEL

124-7th Ave. SE

When the St. Regis Hotel opened on October 22, 1913, it was known as the Grunwald Hotel. Touted as a "first-class European-style hotel", it was built to accommodate the better-heeled of the westward-bound masses.

An example of the Edwardian Commercial Style, the six-storey structure features a prominent cornice topped by a pediment. Other classical detailing includes the pilasters that define the four-bay front facade as well as the ornamental spandrels above the sixth-floor windows. The building is clad in terracotta tile; plain tiles are supplemented with decorative tiles above the windows on the four central storeys and within the lunettes on the sixth floor. The St. Regis is one of a small number of edifices in Calgary to feature terracotta tile. All were built just prior to World War I, and all are featured in this booklet (see E2, E4, W9, W10, and W14).

The Grunwald had been named for the manager, Carl Grunwald. In April of 1917, during WWI, when the owner, A.C. Johnstone, took over the management of the establishment, the name was changed to the St. Regis, likely a response to the anti-German sentiment of the time. In 1923, a guest attempting to evade paying her room bill made colourful headlines after trying to swallow the balance page from her bank book when detectives came to arrest her (the page was retrieved).



The St. Regis Hotel, 1950s. (GAI ND-104)

W3 1922

CALGARY
LEGION
HALL #1

116-7th Ave. SE

Prior to World War I, Canada had little experience in dealing with war veterans. There was no ministry devoted to veteran's affairs, no comprehensive compensation plan, no health care program, and little or nothing to assist the reintegration of war veterans into civilian life. Over 600,000 Canadians had enlisted

during WWI; some 60,000 were killed and 138,000 returned "without limbs or eyesight, with impaired lungs or wracked nerves". From 1915 onwards, various government programs were established, but these tended to focus on the problems of the disabled and dependents of the deceased. The global recession that commenced in 1913 continued unabated, further worsening the difficulties faced by returning veterans: jobs were scarce, and the cost of living rose 163% between 1913 and 1920.



Calgary Legion Hall #1, n.d. (GAI NA-2405-5)

In 1915, returning soldiers world-wide began to band together, forming the Great War Veterans' Association. The Calgary branch of the GWVA, formed in 1917, gained national notoriety through its grant scheme proposal. Devised to redress the pay inequities suffered by the enlisted men during the war, the "Calgary Resolution" as it was known, was endorsed nation-wide – by all except the governing federal Conservative Party. The legislation finally passed was "...a system of bonus payments... limited only by the country's ability to pay". And of course, during a recession, the country did not have the money, so veterans were not paid. But the GWVA, which in the mid-1920s was changed to the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, continued to fight for veterans' rights.

From 1917 until 1922 the GWVA leased the premises of the Alberta Club, but as early as 1919 it had plans for its own

building on two lots immediately to the east. The "Memorial Hall", as it was known, was begun September 9, 1919 when HRH Edward, Prince of Wales (later King of England, and later still Duke of Windsor) turned the first sod. It was not until 1922, however, that the joint efforts of both provincial and municipal governments and a public subscription allowed the \$90,000 structure to be built. Constructed of brick and concrete, the two-storey red-brick Georgian Revival structure is trimmed with sandstone and capped by a parapet. The first-storey windows are surmounted by keystone-trimmed arches with decorated lunettes. Designed by the architectural firm of Burrell & Basevi, exterior changes have been minor: the second storey inset balcony has been closed in, and the name on the signband has been altered, but little else. In 1983 the building was designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

Continue on the westbound C-Train to the 5th Street SW station. Site W4 is north-west of the station.

W4 1914

CALGARY
COURTHOUSE
#2

530-7th Ave. SW

This was the second courthouse built in Calgary; the first had been built on the same block in 1886 by the Federal government. This building was designed by Provincial Architect A.M. Jeffers, whose other design credits include the Legislature Building in Edmonton. During construction, A.M. Jeffers was replaced by R.P.

Blakey, who modified some of the features of Jeffers' design, but left it largely intact.



The Courthouse, far left, and the now-demolished Land Titles Building, 1920s. (PAA P6789)

The Courthouse is an austere Classical Revival structure, and one of the last buildings in Calgary to use sandstone. The design is restrained, with the major decoration reserved for the impressive main entrance, which features a rusticated arched doorway. The rustication extends to the second storey, which is further ornamented by doric columns and massive brackets. A heavy dentillated cornice tops the two storey ashlar-faced structure.

Between 1964 and 1975 the Courthouse was the home of the Glenbow-Alberta Institute, and since 1986 has returned to service as the Provincial Court of Appeal. In 1977 it was designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

Proceed to 8th Avenue and the west side of 5th Street SW. Site W5 is just west of the corner on the north side of 8th Avenue.

W5 1949-1951

**THE
BARRON
BUILDING**

610-5th Ave. SW

Not only was the Barron Building the first major development in downtown Calgary since the Depression, but it is perhaps the single reason why Calgary, and not Edmonton, is the hub of the Alberta oil patch. The Leduc oil strike of 1947 near Edmonton would seem to have made that city the logical choice for oil

companies to locate, but at the time there was a lack of office space in both cities. Calgary developer J.B. Barron seized the opportunity, and on a shoestring budget, constructed this building as a speculative venture. As soon as it was built, Mobil, Shell and Sun Oil moved in, establishing Calgary as the provincial capital of the oil industry.

Barron, who also owned the Grand Theatre (E24) at one time, was something of a film and theatre buff, and so opened a cinema, the Uptown, on the main floor. He lived in the stylish penthouse that caps the building. Its features included a roof-top garden with a lawn, a fir tree and a fire hydrant (much to the enjoyment of his Highland Terrier).

The Barron Building is a surprisingly original design that appears to have more than one source of stylistic inspiration. Designed by the architectural firm of Cawston and Stevenson, the stepped-back form of the building, as well as the moulded aluminum decoration, are direct references to the Art Deco and Moderne high-rises of New York City built in the 1920s and 1930s. The horizontal strip windows on the other hand, make reference to International Style buildings. Despite its modest budget

and speculative nature, the design features an abundance of architectural details and is a daring concept. Since it remains essentially unchanged, it provides a glimpse of early skyscraper design in Calgary.



The Barron Building, n.d. (drawn by Jack Cawston)

Proceed east along 8th Avenue.

W6 1908-1945

**PENNY
LANE
MALL**

507/525 8th Ave. SW

Penny Lane Mall is one of the first enclosed malls to have been created in the city of Calgary. It is also one of the earliest projects to adapt and reuse old buildings in Calgary. The mall consists of nine former warehouses and office buildings joined together at the first and second floor levels. On the exterior, paint is used to visually link them together.

Of particular interest is #523/525, which was a military hospital named for Colonel Belcher. He had served with the Lord Strathcona's Horse Battalion during the Boer War and as Commander of the 138th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in World War I. The building was originally a four-storey brick and sandstone warehouse that was converted in 1919. In 1926 the Hospital was moved east to the Blow Building at #513, where it stayed until 1945, when World War II necessitated the construction of a larger facility.



523 - 8th Avenue SW, c. 1910-15. (GAI NA-3795-28)

Turn left (north) on 4th Street SW to 6th Avenue SW.

W7 1913

**KNOX UNITED
(PRESBYTERIAN)
CHURCH**

506-4th Street SW

The first Presbyterian service in Calgary, conducted in June of 1883 in the I.G. Baker and Co. store, was the result of a petition made by Colonel James Walker to the Presbyterian Superintendent of Missions. After a summer of services held at the NWMP barracks and a tent shared with the local Methodists, Colonel

Walker obliged once again by donating the lumber for a church and supervising its construction. In the winter of 1883-84, the structure was moved across the frozen Elbow River to the corner of 7th Avenue and Centre Street S.



Knox Presbyterian Church, n.d. (GAI NA-2442-1)

Calgary's steady growth soon rendered the wood frame building inadequate, and in 1886 Lady Macdonald, wife of Sir John A. Macdonald, laid the cornerstone for a larger

church. This Knox Presbyterian was located at 120 - 7th Avenue SW, and if not the first sandstone building in Calgary, it was definitely among the very earliest. Soon this building too was outgrown, and in 1911 the architect F.J. Lawson was hired to produce plans for a new church, which opened in 1913. The 7th Avenue building was then sold, to be later demolished to make way for a hotel. The third Knox Presbyterian seated 1,200 and featured the acme of organs, a Casavant. Cathedral-like in plan, with a long nave, deep choir, and distinct transept crossing, the Gothic Revival design also features a bell tower, a gothic arch doorway, buttresses, stained glass windows decorated with tracery, and finely carved stonework. The exterior is faced in sandstone with an unusual polygonal cut. The many handsome features of this church resulted in a total cost of \$184,610 and, as a result, the church was burdened with a heavy debt load for many years.

The 1925 amalgamation of Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists was, at times, marked by deep rifts. When this congregation eventually joined the United Church of Canada, dissenting members withdrew to form a new Knox Presbyterian Church.

On July 4, 1980, Knox United Church was designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

Retrace your steps to 8th Avenue and 4th SW.

W8 1929

**EATON'S
(HOLT
RENFREW)**

408-8th Ave. SW

In the 1920s Calgary experienced a brief respite from economic hard times. The population grew to 80,000 and optimism seemed justified. In 1927, the T. Eaton Company bought two city blocks at the western edge of the downtown core and proceeded to build a major department store.

It was a bold gamble on Calgary's growing economy to locate the store so far west of the bustling centre. By the time the store opened in 1929, dark clouds were gathering on the economic horizon; with the onset of the Great Depression, it was many years before the western edge of the downtown experienced further commercial development.

The store was designed by Ross & Macdonald of Montreal, the architects responsible for the Montreal Eaton's store. The building as actually constructed is only a modest part of the store as originally envisaged; the building was designed to accommodate future expansions which would have covered the entire block with a ten-storey structure.



Eaton's Department Store, 1929. (GAI NA-3992-1)

Like other major buildings of the same period, (see E19 and E22), the Eaton's store was faced with Tyndall limestone from Manitoba. The exterior exhibits aspects of Renaissance Revival styling, especially on the second storey, with its round-arched arcade and unusual spiral-wound pilasters. At street level are display windows framed in bronze; originally, there were also tiled floors. The interior was remarkable for its handsome elevators, faced with cast bronze panels of intertwined ribbons and griffins, and also for its escalators – the first in Calgary.

In the late 1980s, the building was demolished, but a portion of the original facade was saved and incorporated in the Eaton Centre development as the Holt Renfrew facade.

W9 1912-1918

**THE
LANCASTER
BUILDING**

300-8th Ave. SW

The Lancaster was begun in 1912 but, due to the outbreak of World War I, it remained a steel skeleton until hostilities ceased in 1918.

The building was named for the House of Lancaster, the royal faction which fought the rival House of York in the medieval English War of the Roses, by its history buff owner, James Stewart

Mackie. James Mackie moved to Calgary in 1886 and, in partnership with Walter Grant MacKay, established the fur, sporting goods and gun business of Mackie & MacKay. Mackie served as a City alderman for many years, and as mayor in 1901. Also in 1901, Mackie took over the Thomson Stationery Company and, in 1908, built the Mackie Block on 8th Avenue SW.



The Lancaster Block, n.d. (PAA P4215)

Designed by architect James Teague of Victoria, the nine-storey building is clad in brick, except for the lower two storeys, which are covered with terracotta and have ornate medallions at the corners. The eighth floor, also terracotta, has a heavy cornice topped by an attic storey. The third through seventh floors feature brick pilasters.

At various times this building has housed the Grain Exchange, an Eaton's store, the offices of Prime Minister R.B. Bennett, the post office and a pioneer radio station. In 1978 and 1979 the present generation of the Mackie family carried out an extensive exterior restoration and interior renovation that has linked the building to surrounding shopping malls and office buildings, ensuring its viability as a commercial property. The adaptive re-use and renovation of the Lancaster was recognized by the Heritage Canada Foundation.

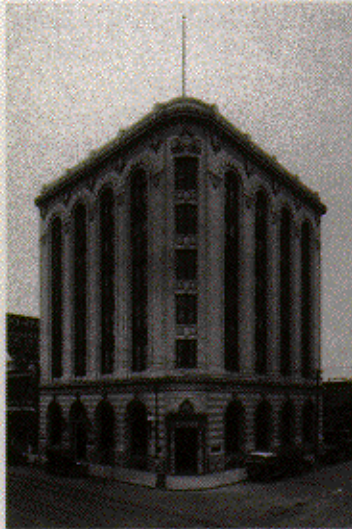
W10 1912-1913

CANADA LIFE
ASSURANCE
BUILDING

301-8th Ave. SW

This early skyscraper was the product of the development boom that peaked in 1912 and collapsed in 1913. This is the only example in Alberta of the work of the Montreal architectural partnership of Brown & Vallance, who also designed buildings in Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon. The facade is

characterized by an emphatically vertical thrust, created by round-headed arches which rise through the second to the fifth storeys and encase all the windows. The windows are framed in bronze, and are separated by bronze spandrels. The structure is capped by an embellished coved cornice. There is extensive detailing executed in moulded terracotta tile: brackets, string courses, and intricately designed medallions are just some of the exquisite ornaments. The tiles were produced by Hatherware Ceramics Ltd., possibly for the Doulton Lambeth Pottery of London, England, a prominent manufacturer of architectural ceramics.



The Canada Life Assurance Building, 1920s. (PAA P4093)

The Canada Life Assurance Building was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979. In the late 1980s it was integrated into an office and shopping mall complex, and so the structure and the interior have been rebuilt. It illustrates how historic facades can be retained in adaptive re-use and redevelopment projects.

W11 1906, 1928

THE MCPHERSON
FRUIT
COMPANY

227-8th Ave. SW

The stunning black Art Deco exterior of this building is the product of a renovation carried out in 1928. The building actually dates much earlier, to 1906. It served as a wholesale produce warehouse until 1912, at which time it was acquired and remodelled by the Northern

Crown Bank. From 1912 until 1968, it also housed the offices of numerous barristers and solicitors, as well as stockbrokers. The most famous tenants included lawyer Ward Patterson QC, and the brokers Solloway & Mills. The brokers' conviction for oil stock fraud led to the enactment of the Securities Fraud Legislation. In 1928 the building became the property of the Trust & Guarantee Co., which proceeded to stamp the building with its own image.



The remodeled McPherson Fruit Co. n.d. (GAI NA-1469-23)

The innovative 1928 renovation of the McPherson Fruit Co. employed new building materials and techniques. Evidently, not all of these new ideas caught on, since the exact nature of the facing material remains a mystery. The facade is defined by broad fluted pilasters which rise almost two storeys. They are topped by a black spandrel featuring incised decoration. Inset within this are bronze-framed multi-pane windows and display windows at ground level, decorated with metalwork. On either side of the storefront, centred within the pilasters, are wall sconces. It is one of the finest Art Deco exteriors in Calgary.

W12 1921

THE ALLEN
(PALACE)
THEATRE

219-8th Ave. SW

Barney Allen and his two sons, Jules and Jay, founded the first big international movie theatre circuit in 1906; it was Canadian, based in Brantford, Ontario. In 1909 they made Calgary their base of operations and opened the Allen (Strand) Theatre on 8th Avenue SE. By 1919, they were giants in the movie theatre

industry. They owned and controlled movie theatres in every major Canadian city, and in the larger cities of the north-eastern United States as well. They also had plans to build new theatres (and take over existing ones) in both England and Russia. However, rival Paramount Pictures of New York succeeded in its attempt to block most popular movies from Allen Theatre screens, leaving the Allens to shoulder an enormous bank loan without hope of sufficient ticket revenue. In 1929, when the theatre was taken over by Famous Players, the "Golden Age of Cinema" still lay ahead but the Allen empire was already a thing of the past.



The Allen (Palace) Theatre, c. 1924. (GAINA-1178-1)

This Allen Theatre was opened October 25, 1921 with the Lieutenant Governor and Mayor S.H. Adams in attendance. Its construction was overseen by H.J. Allen, the cousin put in charge of western operations after Jules, Jay and Barney moved back east. The design, by architect C. Howard Crane, was largely based on that of the Toronto Allen Theatre which opened in 1917. T. Jagmin of Detroit was responsible for the interior decoration. When opened, it seated over 1,950; this number was subsequently reduced to 1,800. The exterior is faced in specially imported red tapestry brick, featuring five bays each with a three-light window with lunettes. A row of Corinthian order pilasters supports an entablature.

From 1923 to 1927, this building was the home of the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute. It was run by the evangelist, and later Alberta's first Social Credit Premier, "Bible Bill" Aberhart, who made his historic radio broadcasts, *Back to the Bible Hour*, from here, starting in 1925. Although purpose-built for showing movies, the theatre also hosted vaudeville shows, benefit performances, and various public meetings.

W13 1910

THE LEESON &
LINEHAM BLOCK

209-5th Ave. SW

George Leeson and John Lineham first joined forces in the ill-fated Rocky Mountain Development Corporation venture. When their oil wells did not produce as anticipated, they turned to real estate. Prior to their partnership, George Leeson ran a general store, ranched, and owned part of the Royal Mail Line, a stagecoach

running between Alberta and Saskatchewan. Besides real estate (see E8), John Lineham was active in ranching and



The Leeson and Lineham Block, c. 1911. (GAINC-24-57)

the logging industry. In 1891, he purchased timber limits on Sheep Creek and the Highwood River, and went on to establish the Lineham Lumber Co. (employing 135 men), and to build two sawmills. The lumber industry – due in large part to John Lineham's efforts – was the prime industry in Okotoks for over 25 years. In addition to the two business blocks mentioned in this tour, Lineham also owned the Empress Hotel (demolished in 1986) and the

Elma Block. George Leeson's death in 1910 made this the last joint venture for these two men. John Lineham died a scant four years later.

Originally this six-storey red brick building was crowned by a deep cornice. The only decorative features on the facade are the three contrasting bands of yellow sandstone on the upper five storeys: continuous lintels and sills, as well as a band at the sash-level of the windows. When built, the entrance was decorated with marble and a mosaic tile floor, and the interior featured mahogany and walnut panelling.

W14 1911-1913,
1929, 1957

HUDSON'S BAY
COMPANY
STORE #4

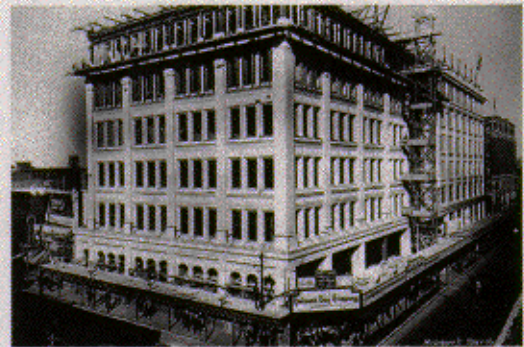
200-8th Ave. SW

Between 1905, the year of the final renovation to the Hudson's Bay Company Store #3 (E10), and 1911, the population of Calgary skyrocketed from 12,500 to 43,704. This burgeoning population necessitated the construction of a larger building, and so in 1911 work began on the fourth Hudson's Bay Company

store in Calgary. Toronto architects Burke, Harwood & White designed the building, and it was erected facing 7th Avenue at 2nd Street SW on land purchased from Senator James Lougheed. The store cost approximately \$1,500,000 and was a marvel: the *Albertan* compared it to Harrod's of London, and the *Herald* proclaimed it looked more like a museum than a store. There were 40 retail departments, marble-floored vestibules, a circulating library, a "hospital", and a roof-top playground. The Tudor theme of the elegant Elizabethan Dining Room was intended to commemorate the Charter granted to the Hudson's Bay Co. in 1670. The "Rendezvous", on the mezzanine level, was a place where shoppers could meet friends, read the paper, write letters, or even have their mail delivered. In 1929 the store was enlarged, adding the 8th Avenue facade and the colonnade. A second addition was made in 1957. In 1930 a sixty foot-high beacon, one of the earliest aeronautical beacons in the world, was erected on the roof. Its three million candle power beam and numerous red lights were reputedly visible up to one hundred and fifty miles away.

This six-storey structure is built of steel, concrete and brick, and is entirely faced with cream-glazed terracotta. The design of this Edwardian-era building makes use of considerable classical detailing: there are pilasters that rise from the second through the fifth floors, dividing the facade into bays, as well as a ground-level colonnade with a patterned terrazzo floor. Other elegant touches include

a substantial dentillated cornice, originally topped by a balustrade and lamp posts, and brass and copper display windows on the main floor.



Construction of addition to the HBC Store #4, 1929.
(GAINA-2037-21)



The Elizabethan Dining Room, sixth floor of the Bay, n.d.
(GAI NA-2037-25)

Turn right (south) at the corner of 8th Avenue and
1st Street SW.

W15

1910

THE GRAIN
EXCHANGE
BUILDING

815-1st Street SW

The Grain Exchange Building is Calgary's first skyscraper and first "truly modern business block".

Between 1882 and 1912, property values along 8th Avenue increased by 1000%. In order to realize the greatest profit from the smallest area of land, developers began constructing tall buildings. This was made possible by the

development of reinforced concrete and the system of structural steel construction in the United States. The Grain Exchange Building was the first reinforced concrete building in Calgary and, at six storeys, was one of the tallest buildings in the province at the time.

Although on the cutting edge with respect to technology, the Grain Exchange Building's modernity is obscured behind rusticated sandstone cladding which recalls Calgary's early sandstone period. It is the only building of its height and size in Calgary to have such a finish. The facade features a row of Ionic pilasters that rise from the fourth to the sixth floors. The heavy cornice and balustraded roof recall the Imperial Bank of Canada Building (see E9). The ornate central doorway, with heavy oak doors, has considerable bevelled glass, and William Roper Hull's initials intertwined in stone above. The stonework was executed by Norman Priestly, and the building design by the local firm of Hodgson & Bates, the most successful and prolific Calgary architects of the boom period.

The building was conceived of as a speculative venture, but prior to its completion the developer, William Roper Hull, was persuaded to make the building the home of the newly-created Calgary Grain Exchange. The Exchange had no "pit" for futures trading, and so attracted no speculators, but acted instead as an information clearing-house by relaying Winnipeg, Chicago and Liverpool market quotes. There are a number of reasons why the futures trade did not develop in Alberta: grain volume was small; the ultimate delivery point, the Lakehead, remained unchanged; and there were no grain elevators to provide storage. Although the Exchange had outgrown the building in 1919 and had to be moved to the Lancaster Building, it ceased operations by 1933.

The Grain Exchange Building is noteworthy for its association with William Roper Hull, one of the legendary pioneers of southern Alberta. As a farmer, he was one of the first to use irrigation methods; he ranched extensively, developing a meat-packing business and a chain of butcher

shops; he bought and sold rural as well as urban property; and along with A.E. Cross and William Cochrane, he founded the Calgary Brewing & Malting Co. He was also one of the "Big Four" cattlemen who founded the Calgary Stampede in 1912. His contribution to the development of the West is commemorated by a Historic Sites and Monuments Board plaque in Central Memorial Park.



The Grain Exchange, c. 1912. (GAINA-2909-3)

Continue to 9th Avenue, crossing to the east side of 1st Street.

W16 1911-1914

THE
PALLISER
HOTEL

113-9th Ave. SW

There is a certain irony in the name of this building. It commemorates Captain John Palliser who, after his 1857-59 expedition through western Canada, concluded that much of the southern prairies were too arid to support agricultural development, and that the wisdom of constructing a railway across Canada to the Pacific was "questionable". Nevertheless, the Palliser Hotel is a testament to the lucrative development potential of both southern Alberta and the transcontinental railroad. Built to cater to the tourist and business traveller, the Palliser became the centre of social life in Calgary: political conventions and important meetings, dinner functions, fancy dress balls and thousands of wedding receptions have taken place here. Many distinguished guests have stayed in the hotel: politicians, dignitaries, and royalty from Buckingham Palace to Hollywood and beyond. The inaugural dinner of the Calgary Flying Club in the penthouse Crystal Ballroom in 1928 managed to be one of the most memorable events in the hotel's history. A Tiger Moth biplane was laboriously hoisted atop an elevator and reassembled inside the ballroom where it was intended to be the highlight of the event. It turned out to be more than the organizers had bargained for, because once the engine was started, drapes and light fixtures flapped and swayed and smoke belched and billowed through the entire hotel.



The Palliser Hotel, 1920s. (GAI NA-3182-20)

The Palliser Hotel was built between 1911 and 1914 by the Canadian Pacific Railway for approximately \$1,000,000 according to designs by two Montreal architects, E. and W.S. Maxwell. Curiously, early drawings of the hotel depict a two-storey mansard roof, which is more typical of the Chateau Style hotels for which the CPR is famed. This building however, marks a break with that tradition, for it features a flat roof and substantial cornices. Instead of being modelled on French chateaux, the hotel is based on urban hotels such as the Plaza in New York City and the St. Francis in San Francisco. The E-shaped plan and neo-classical detailing are quintessential features of hotels of this style. Engaged Ionic columns and rusticated voussoirs over the arched windows flanking the main entrance are the most prominent classical features. In 1929, three floors and a penthouse were added, making the Palliser the tallest building on the Calgary skyline for many years. The hotel underwent a complete restoration and renovation in the 1980s.



The Dining Room, Palliser Hotel, n.d. (PAA P4122)

This is the end of the West Tour. To return to the starting point of the West Tour, proceed east on 9th Avenue SE to Macleod Trail and then north to the City Hall.

GLOSSARY

Art Deco: a style popular during the 1920s and 30s.

Used colourful geometric and naturalistic motifs for decoration and was generally formal and angular in design.

Art Nouveau: a style of decoration in architecture and applied art developed toward the end of the 19th century; characterized by organic and dynamic forms, curving design, and whiplash lines.

battlement: a notched parapet.

Beaux Arts Style (Classicism): a classically-derived style originating at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France. Emphasizes symmetry and monumentality.

boomtown front: a front on a building which disguises its actual roof shape and increases the building's apparent size. Also known as a false front.

buttress: an exterior mass of masonry set at an angle to or bonded into a wall which it strengthens or supports; buttresses often absorb lateral thrusts from roof vaults.

capital: the decorative feature at the top of a column or pilaster.

Classical Revival (Neo-Classical) (Classicism): architecture which uses elements of ancient Greek and Roman buildings.

console: a decorative bracket in the form of a vertical scroll, projecting from a wall to support a cornice, a door or window head, a piece of sculpture, etc.

Corinthian order: the most slender and ornate of the three Greek orders, characterized by a bell-shaped capital with volutes and two rows of acanthus leaves, and with an elaborate cornice.

cornice: a horizontal, projecting decorative molding along the top of a building wall or arch.

dentils: a series of tooth-like blocks found below a cornice.

entablature: a combination of decorative elements which form a wide band projecting from the top of a wall or above a row of columns.

fanlight: a semicircular window over the opening of a door, with radiating bars in the form of an open fan. Also called a sunburst light.

frieze: the decorated band along the upper part of a wall, immediately below the cornice.

gable: the triangular upper portion of a wall formed by the slopes of a pitched roof; and the triangular hood over a window or door.

Gothic Revival: a style of architecture based on the building forms of the Middle Ages in Western Europe, often recognized by the use of pointed arches.

Ionic order: one of three orders of Greek architecture; characterized by ornamental scrolls on the capitals.

keystone: the wedge-shaped stone found at the apex of an arch, often oversized or decorated for aesthetic effect.

lintel: a horizontal beam or stone over a window or door opening that carries the weight of the wall above it.

lunette: a crescent-shaped or semicircular area on a wall or vaulted ceiling, framed by an arch or vault.

mansard: a roof having a double slope. The upper slope has a low pitch, while the lower slope is steeply pitched.

Moderne: a style popular after the 1920s. Similar to Art Deco, but without ornament. Sometimes called Streamline Moderne.

modillion: a small ornamental bracket found below a cornice.

oculus: a round window.

oriel: a window projecting from an upper storey.

parapet: a low wall along, and projecting above, the edge of a roof.

pediment: the triangular end of a low pitched gable or a triangular element resembling it, on the front of the building.

pilaster: a shallow pier or pillar projecting only slightly from a wall.

pillar: a square column.

Renaissance Revival: this style loosely based on designs of the Italian High Renaissance features symmetry, bold cornices, ornamented window openings, and often, rusticated masonry in the ground floors.

Richardsonian Romanesque: a style developed by American architect H.H. Richardson; round arches, heavy forms and course textures and reminiscent of the Romanesque style.

Romanesque Revival: the re-use of the Romanesque style in the late 19th century. Heavy stonework, round-arched windows, etc.

roundel: a small flat appliqué moulding, circular in shape, applied to a surface as decoration.

rustication: masonry having strongly emphasized recessed joints and smooth or roughly cut block faces.

spandrel: in multi-storey buildings, the panel between the top of a window and the bottom of the window above it.

string course: a horizontal band of stone or brick which encircles a building.

vousoir: a wedge-shaped brick or stone component of an arch over a window or doorway.

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