

A Walk Down Stephen Avenue

Historical Walking Tour for Students

Teachers'/ Parents' Guide



THE CITY OF
CALGARY

2003

Welcome

Welcome teachers and parents to Stephen Avenue. At the heart of modern Calgary there survives a striking streetscape of retail buildings constructed mainly from 1880-1930.

There has been quite a change on the Stephen Avenue Mall since 1884, however, its original retail and business focus still remains today. The setting still reads clearly as a street and the buildings line up along each side of the street as they always did. Due to a fire in 1886 that wiped out almost all the buildings in the downtown core, Calgary became known as the *Sandstone City*. It was rebuilt after the fire with locally quarried sandstone in the hopes of erecting fireproof structures. Stephen Avenue was named for the Canadian Pacific Railway's first president, Lord George Mount Stephen. It was the city's busy main street in the 1890s, and home to many important businesses, such as the Hudson's Bay Company, the Alberta Hotel, the Glanville Clothing Company, and the Calgary Herald. It was also a hangout for prominent people, the route for Calgary's first streetcars, the location of elegant sandstone buildings and the place to shop, gossip and to be seen.

Today

Now, more than 100 years later, Stephen Avenue is once again the heart of Downtown. It is home to:

- *Nine major shopping centres/department stores*
- *Downtown's two retro cinemas*
- *Dozens of eclectic restaurants, pubs, cafes and bars*
- *A mix of unique boutiques and art galleries*
- *50,000 people on average during lunch hour in the summer*
- *Live performances, buskers, music, festivals, artists and more.....*

This guide and accompanying student workbook will help you and your students and children discover the history of the heart of Calgary and the people who influenced Calgary's growth. Taking a tour of Stephen Avenue will certainly build an appreciation for the enduring qualities of a prairie city's downtown, made vibrant by its ongoing usefulness.



Stephen Avenue TODAY



Looking west on Stephen - 1884



Stampede Parade - 1915



Stephen Avenue in 1920s



Stephen Avenue TODAY

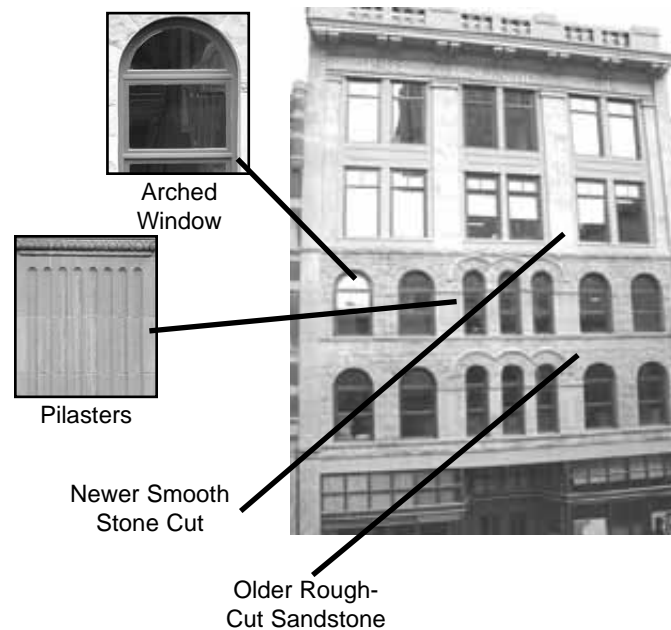
How to Use this Guide

The materials in this guide have been provided for teachers and parents as background and support for the student walking tour. You may wish to start building awareness and understanding of the historical significance of Stephen Avenue with students before the walking tour occurs. The guide contains interesting stories about people who were part of Stephen Avenue's history. It also points out interesting architectural features about the buildings that will be visited. The Teachers' / Parents' Guide is accompanied by a set of worksheets for students to complete while on the tour. These worksheets contain activities that students can complete while viewing the buildings. These activities are merely suggestions and teachers are encouraged to expand upon them especially once they have returned to the classroom. Parents and teachers could consider using the materials in the teachers' / parents' guide to provide the commentary to students while they view each building and begin their activities.

The interesting architectural features are shown in more detail in the pictures of each building and appear in both the Student Workbook and the Teachers' Guide.

The details are explained in the Glossary accompanied by the picture. The Glossary is available as a download file.

You may wish to ask the students to identify the details as they complete their worksheets by referring to the glossary to find the matching picture. You may also direct students to look for the details as they view each building on the tour.



Example of architectural features.

How to Use this Guide

A note about the Alberta Grade 3 Social Studies Curriculum:

This guide for teachers, parents and students has been prepared by The Calgary Heritage Authority. Its focus is to help students, particularly at the Grade 3 level, develop an appreciation for community and its history. Grade 3 is the time when students get involved in developing the knowledge, skills and positive attitudes they need to be responsible citizens. At this stage students learn to evaluate ideas and information and develop respect for people, and the history of community.

The following outcomes from the Grade 3 social studies program of studies relate to the activities in this historical walking tour for students:

1. My community in the past, present and future:

- understand that changes in their community have taken place in the past, are taking place today and will take place in the future
- understand that people in the community contribute to change
- read and interpret map symbols on a map of the local area
- develop an interest in local history

2. Process skills:

- Locating / Organizing/ Interpreting Information
- Geography / Mapping
- Analyzing / Synthesizing / Evaluating
- Communication

3. Attitude Objectives:

- Interest in local history
- Appreciation for change
- Self-competence; an individual can influence change



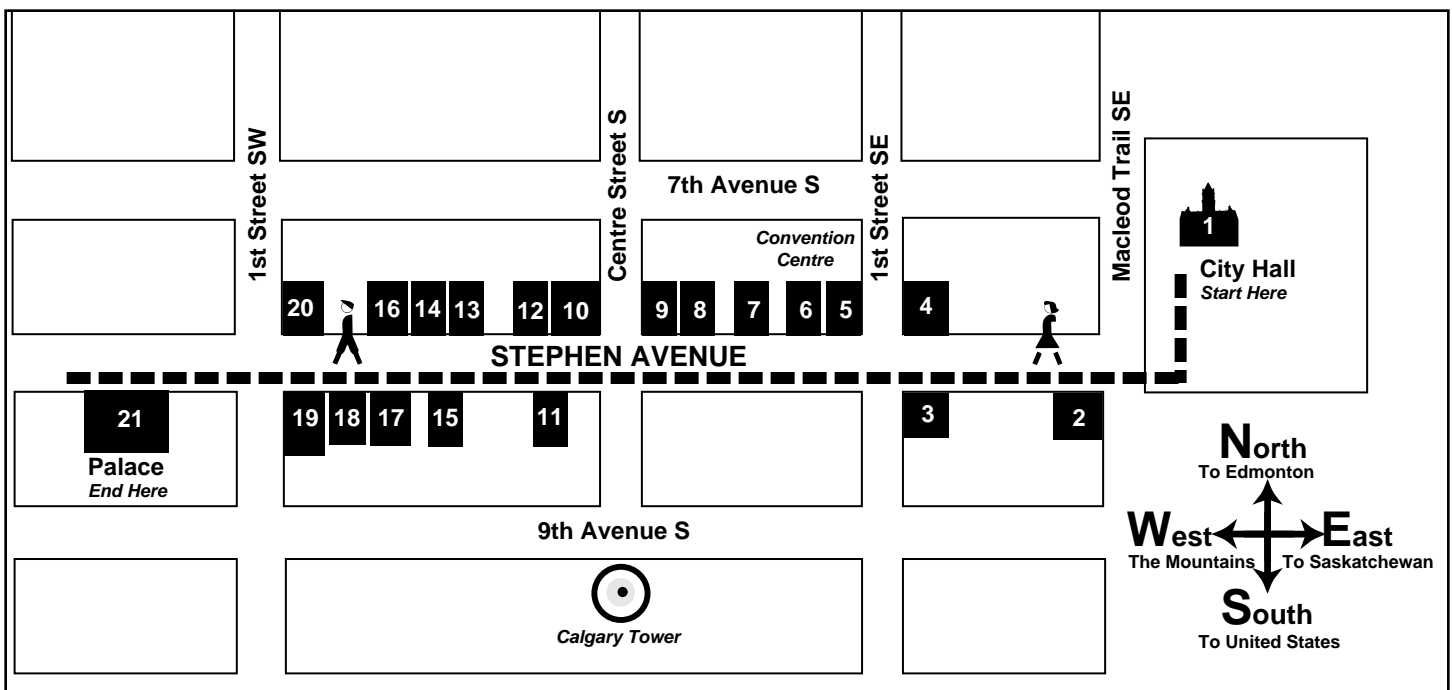
George Stephen,
President of the CPR

Access to Buildings

Some of the buildings' interiors on the tour are accessible to the public. However, some house private businesses such as restaurants and stores and can be quite busy especially around lunchtime (11:30am - 1:30 pm) so we ask that you consider entering these places when the traffic is slow and the crowds have dispersed.

Stephen Avenue

This map illustrates the buildings along Stephen Avenue and in particular points out the buildings on the tour. Selected buildings have been chosen for the tour in consideration of the time a teacher or parent would have available. However, teachers and parents are encouraged to build additional stops on the tour to accommodate their goals and timeframes.



More information on the buildings along Stephen Avenue is available from The City of Calgary in the “*Stephen Avenue and Area Historical Walking Tour.*” This information is available in a brochure (call The City of Calgary Planning and Transportation Information Centre at **268-5333**).

Visit the City’s Web Site at <http://www.calgary.ca/heritage/> for more detailed historical information contained in guides titled “*A Guide to Researching Building History*” and “*Sandstone Calgary.*”

Stephen Avenue Timeline 1875 - 1898

1875

- Inspector Brisebois and 50 members of the "F" Troop of the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) established a fort on the banks of the Bow and Elbow River.



1876

- Fort Brisebois is renamed Fort Calgary by Colonel James Macleod of the NWMP after the ancestral estate of his cousins on the Isle of Mull, Scotland.

1883

- The Canadian Pacific Railway arrives in town
- A young lawyer, James Alexander Lougheed, purchases five lots from the CPR at \$300 each, on what became Stephen Avenue.



1884

- Calgary is incorporated as a town. Calgary has its first newspaper, 30 major buildings and a population of over 1,000.
- Stephen Avenue is named after George Stephen, President of the CPR.

1885

- The T.C. Powers and Bro. (Pain) Block is built.



1886

- The great fire destroys most of the 70 wooden buildings in downtown Calgary.
- A law is passed by City Council that all public buildings were to be made from fire-proof materials such as brick and locally found sandstone.
- Sandstone is found in plentiful supply along in the rich seams along the banks of the Bow and Elbow River.
- Wesley Orr opens the first quarry.
- Buildings along Stephen Avenue are constructed to replace the wooden ones burned in the fire.
- Skilled stoneworkers, many from Scotland who had a long history of stone working arrive in the city to apply their trade. By 1890 over half of the city's skilled trades were stonecutters or masons.
- 15 quarries operated around Calgary supplying sandstone to construction projects.
- Calgary becomes known as "The Sandstone City."
- Colonel James Walker is sent east by Town Council to convince banks to locate in Calgary.



1888



- Construction begins on the Alberta Hotel.

1891

- The Hudson's Bay Co. buys I.G. Baker eventually selling the building to the Imperial Bank of Canada.

1892

- The Calgary Tribune moves into the Tribune Block.



1893

- The Thomson Brothers open their bookstore on Stephen Avenue.

1894

- The Dominion Government builds a new structure on Stephen Avenue to accommodate a post office.

1898

- The Glanville Block houses its first tenant, a dry goods store owned by John Glanville.

Stephen Avenue Timeline 1900 - 1921

1900

- The Lougheed Block, site of the present day Clarence and Norman Blocks is destroyed by fire on Christmas Day.

1901



- The Clarence and Norman Block are built and opened.

1902

- The Calgary Milling Company opens on Stephen Avenue.



1903

- The Neilson Block is constructed along Stephen Avenue.

1906

- Ashdown Hardware opens on Stephen Avenue and lasts until 1971.

1907

- City Hall approves a budget to construct administrative offices, a courthouse, and a jail, replacing the 1895 Town Hall.
- The Cornerstone to the new City Hall is laid.
- The Doll Block is built.



1910

- The Nielson Block is enlarged and two more storeys are added.

1911

- The Dominion Bank Building is under construction on Stephen Avenue.
- The jewellery store in the Doll Block is robbed of \$11,000 worth of diamonds.

1912

- The Molson's Bank open on Stephen Avenue.
- The Calgary Milling Company is sold to Robin Hood Milling. The building is sold to John Irwin who opens a fancy food grocery store.



1913

- The Burns Building opens as the head offices for Pat Burns' cattle operations.
- The Main Post office built in 1894 is torn down to make way for a newer and bigger building, The Calgary Public Building, which is not constructed until 1930!
- Hudson's Bay opens store #4, the site of the present "Bay."

1914

- Rising costs for stone carving, the failure of the quarries to supply desirable stone, and competition from other building materials leads to the closure of the quarries.
- World War I breaks out and the "Sandstone Era" comes to an end.
- Construction projects along Stephen Avenue are left incomplete.

1916

- Prohibition closes the Long Bar at the Alberta Hotel .

1921

- Fire guts the inside of Hudson's Bay Store #3.
- The Palace (Allen) Theatre opens



1925

- "Bible Bill" Aberhart makes the first of his historic radio broadcasts of *Back to the Bible Hour* from the Palace (Allen) Theatre.

Stephen Avenue Timeline 1900 - 1921

1929

- The Great Depression results when the world economy nose dives and the stock market crashes.
- Construction in Calgary slows down and only governments and banks continue to build their buildings on Stephen Avenue (Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia).

1935

- Most of Calgary's growth takes place away from downtown in the suburbs.
- Buildings that were planned were put on hold since many of the workers and the building materials were required in the World War II effort.



1946

1947

- Oil is discovered in Leduc and the oil boom begins in Alberta bringing a new prosperity to building in Calgary.
- J.B Barron begins to build The Barron Building, a major office tower on 8th Avenue between 5th and 6th Street S.W. creating a magnet for oil companies to move to Calgary.

1973

- Eight gargoyles from the demolished Herald Building are copied and used to decorate the Alberta Hotel.



1977

- The Imperial Bank is designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

1979



- The Molson's Bank and the Dominion Bank are designated Provincial Historic Resources.
- The City of Calgary buys the Calgary Public Building to incorporate it as part of the concert hall for the Centre for Performing Arts.

1981

- The Thomson's Brothers Block and the Bank of Nova Scotia is designated a Provincial Historic Resource.



1982

- The Hudson's Bay Store #3 is designated a registered Historic Resource.

1985

- The Calgary Public Building is reopened as part of the Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts.

1996

- The Pain Block is restored to its original style.
- The Palace (Allen) Theatre is designated as a Provincial Historic Resource.

1999

- The bronze sculpture of the "Famous Five" women was unveiled.



2002



- A portion of Stephen Avenue is declared a national historic site by the Federal Government. Approximately three dozen buildings from the 1880-1930 era, mostly stores and several banks and a church are recognized.

Calgary, The Sandstone City

The “Sandstone Era” began in 1886 after a fire destroyed most of downtown Calgary.



The fire of 1886

The Stephen Avenue timeline in this guide documents the major events in the use of sandstone as the preferred building material used to construct many of the buildings on the walking tour.

Sandstone, which was easily quarried and carved, and available in generous supply transformed this pioneer settlement to a vibrant urban jewel known as the “Sandstone City of the West.” Its golden hue and substantial weight gave the appearance of prosperity and stability attracting businesses and new citizens. The Sandstone Era saw 15 quarries spring up in and around Calgary. Many skilled trades in stone working and masonry came here to live and work in quarrying, cutting and finishing the sandstone. Skilled artisans brought their mallets and chisels to adorn these new buildings with geometric and floral designs.

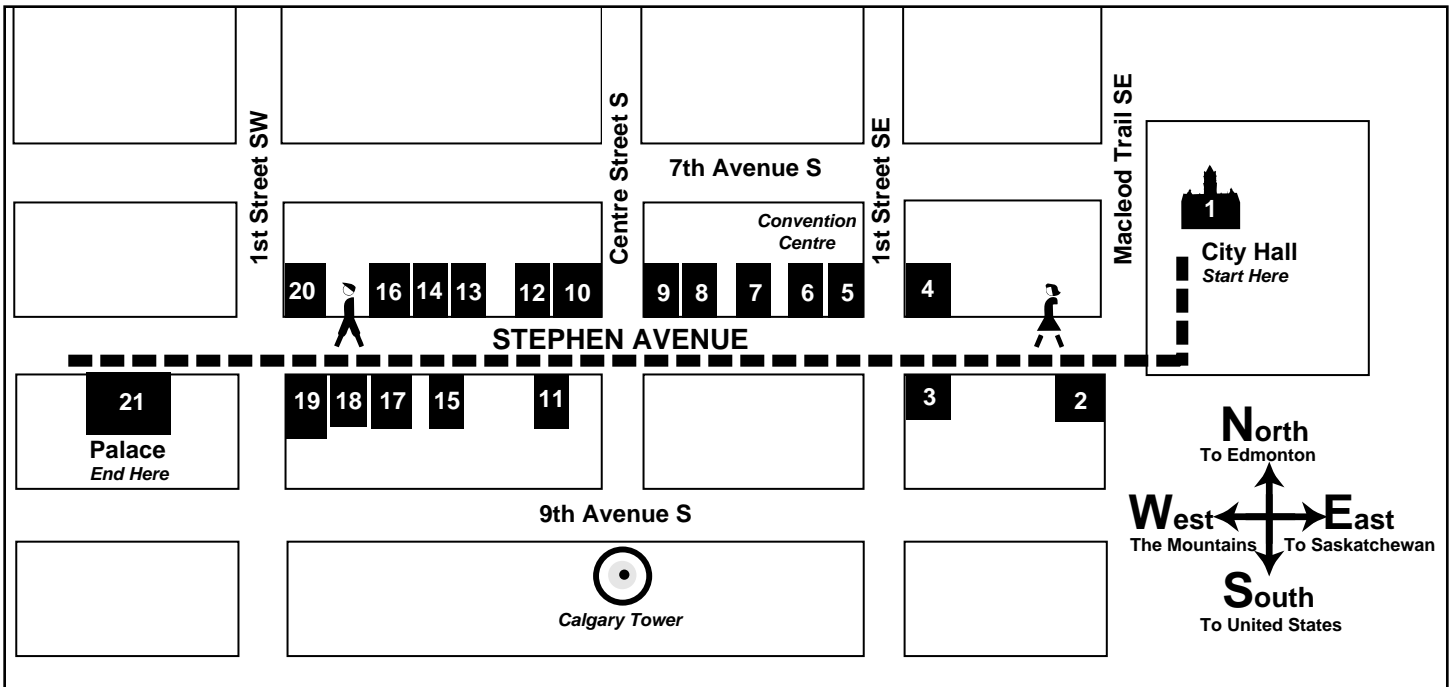
Many fine examples of their work and pride can be seen along Stephen Avenue today.



Stephen Avenue in the 1920s

An Orientation To Stephen Avenue

The Grade 3 Social Studies curriculum requires that students learn to read and interpret map symbols on a map of the local area. You may wish to take the opportunity of orienting students to the Stephen Avenue walking tour to develop these skills.



- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. City Hall | 7. Thomson Bros Block | 12. Ashdown Hardware | 17. Bank of Nova Scotia |
| 2. Burns Building | 8. Lineham Block | 13. Molson's Bank | 18. Pain Block |
| 3. Calgary Public Building | 9. Imperial Bank of Canada | 14. Tribune Block | 19. Alberta Hotel |
| 4. Dominion Bank | 10. Hudson's Bay Store #3 | 15. Calgary Milling Company | 20. Bank of Montreal |
| 5. Neilson Block | 11. Glanville / Ward Block | 16. Clarence Block | 21. The Palace Theatre |
| 6. Doll Block | | | |

Start At City Hall



Begin at City Hall and proceed west down Stephen Avenue. The interesting facts about these historic buildings and the stories of the figures who were involved in their history follows in the remaining pages of this guide.

The **Student Activity Worksheets** also follow this same order and have been developed to provide an active learning experience with each building.

1. CITY HALL

704 Macleod Trail S.E.

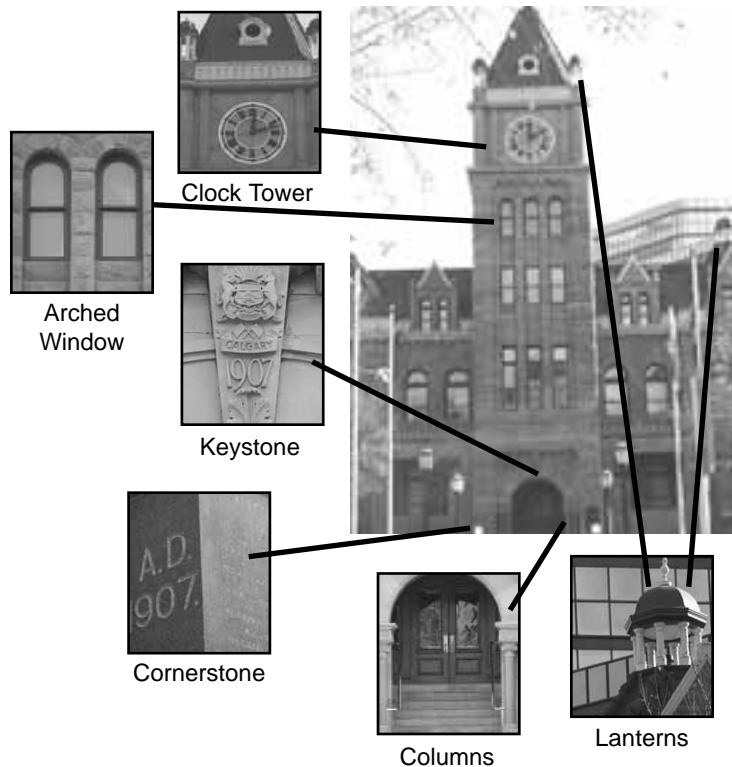
CONSTRUCTED: 1907-1911

Was: City Hall

Today: Offices of the Mayor & Aldermen



Laying the cornerstone of City Hall -1907



BUILDING FACTS

- Made from local *Sandstone* from the Bone and Oliver Quarry on 17th Ave.
- Taxes were raised to cover the rising costs which eventually reached \$500,000.
- *Richardsonian Romanesque* architectural style.
- The Clock Tower is 70 feet (21 metres) high.
- The clock has to be wound every 10 days to keep time. The clock fell silent only once when the clock winder couldn't enter the Tower because of asbestos renovation work.
- Calgary is one of seven Canadian cities to retain its original City Hall.
- Recently renovated between 1995-97 which restored many interior features such as: the skylite, light well, *ornamental wrought iron balustrades* featuring the Scotch thistle motif, and the compass design at the bottom of the light well.
- 210 imported palm trees were planted around City Hall in 1912. Only one survived because it was moved inside.
- City Hall was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1978, was recognized by the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1984, and designated a Municipal Historical Resource in 1990.

PEOPLE FACTS

- William Dodd was the first architect but he was dismissed in 1909 because of squabbles over the rising costs, and was replaced by Gilbert Hodgson and Ernest Butler.
- The Tower Clock was made by Seth Thomas Clock Co. purchased by City Council through D.E. Black Jewellers in 1911 for \$3657.
- Officially opened with a "gold" key by R.B. Borden, leader of the federal opposition, in 1911, and Prime Minister from 1914-1919.

2. THE BURNS BUILDING

237 - 8th Ave. S.E.

CONSTRUCTED: 1911-1912

Was: Offices and a Butcher Shop

Today: Offices and a Restaurant



Cornice



Lion's Head



Glass / Iron
Canopy



BUILDING FACTS

- One of the few *terracotta* buildings in Calgary.
- An *Edwardian* structure designed in the *Classical Revival* style.
- The *glass and iron canopy* is supported by chains coming out of the mouths of the *ornamental lions*.
- The building plans were drawn up in 1911, four floors were added to the initial design in 1912 and the building was opened in 1913.
- It served as the Burns head offices until 1923 and later became a home to Imperial Oil, Calgary Power, Canada Cement, and Canada Safeway.
- The Burns Building was almost lost in 1980. Threatened by demolition, one vote on City Council saved the building. It was then restored and renovated.
- Much of the original *green and white marble* was saved and incorporated on the interior.
- The Burns Building was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1987.

PEOPLE FACTS

- Senator Patrick Burns (1856-1937) for whom the building is named, constructed this building to house the head office of his meat packing operations, Burns and Company Ltd., which became one of the largest in the world.
- Senator Burns was one of the “Big Four” ranchers who sponsored the first Calgary Stampede in 1912.
- Patrick Burns became a Senator in 1931 on his 75th birthday. They celebrated with a 3000 pound, seven tier cake.

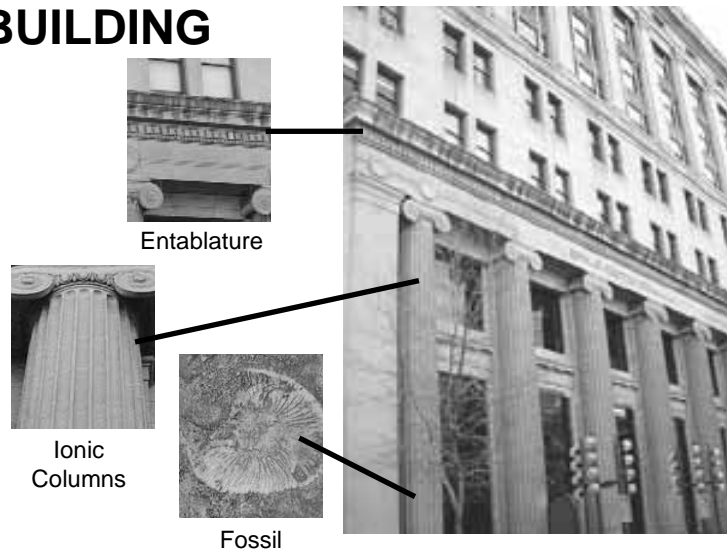
3. THE CALGARY PUBLIC BUILDING

205 - 8th Ave. S.E.

CONSTRUCTED: 1929-31

Was: Post Office & Federal Departments

Today: Part of the
Centre for Performing Arts



BUILDING FACTS

- The building is eight stories high and is clad with *limestone*.
- The *Ionic Columns* featured at the entrances are three stories high.
- The upper storey windows are surrounded by *marble and brass* and feature floral designs.
- The first storey floor is made of *marble*. The other floors are made of *concrete* covered with *Battleship Linoleum*, one of the most durable types of flooring ever made.
- The front lobby is *Quebec Grey Marble* and features many *brass fittings*.
- The site was the home of the main post office, built in 1894, but torn down in 1913 to make way for this new building. World War I interrupted the plans to build so the government abandoned the project and placed hoarding around the hole in the ground. Calgary waited 17 years, until 1930, to restart the project.
- Local papers, at the time of construction, reported that the project required: two boxcar loads of copper and lead, 9000 cubic yards of concrete, 800 tons of reinforcing steel, 85,000 yards of plastering, 121 cars of cut stone, three car loads of *Battleship Linoleum*, and 12 car loads of Quebec marble.

PEOPLE FACTS

- The Prime Minister of the day R.B. Bennett opened the building in 1931 turning the key in the solid brass doors of the main entrance.
- The building housed the Main Post Office. The main floor had a public lobby, wickets for stamps and money orders, and registered mail. Mail sorters and handlers all worked in rooms behind the lobby wall.
- On the third floor were the offices of the District Superintendent who oversaw the 550 post offices within the boundaries of Calgary.
- The remainder of the building housed many war related agencies.
- In 1979 The City bought the building and the Performing Arts Project integrated the Public Building and the Burns Building into the overall design for the Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts. The Centre was opened in 1985 by the grandson of Senator James Alexander Lougheed.

4. THE DOMINION BANK

200 - 8th Ave. S.E.

CONSTRUCTED: 1911

Was: Dominion Bank of Canada

Today: Restaurant



Mansard Roof



Entablature



Ionic Columns



BUILDING FACTS

- The building is clad in white terracotta. It is a good example of *Beaux Arts Classicism* in Calgary.
- The 8th Avenue façade features: paired *Ionic columns*, cornices, a heavily decorated edge called an entablature, medallions on top of the first storey windows, and gold painted *Art Nouveau* style script on the signband.
- The glass mansard roof was added in 1980.
- When adjacent buildings were demolished to make way for Olympic Plaza, the east brick wall, was exposed. The Dominion Bank was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979.

PEOPLE FACTS

- The site has an interesting history that pre-dates the Dominion Bank. The original building on the site was George Clift King's general store. He was reputed to be the first person in the NWMP troop to set foot on the land that was to become Calgary. He became known as "Calgary's first citizen." He opened his own dry goods store on this site. He is considered to be Calgary's first Postmaster from 1885-1921, (although the National Archives of Canada lists William Bannerman as Calgary's first Postmaster in 1883). As the second mayor of Calgary, he welcomed Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald as they passed through Calgary on the first journey of the Canadian Pacific's transcontinental train.
- It was during King's term as Mayor that a fire broke out that destroyed most of Stephen Avenue. Through his leadership Calgary rebuilt much of its destroyed downtown and became known as the "Sandstone City."

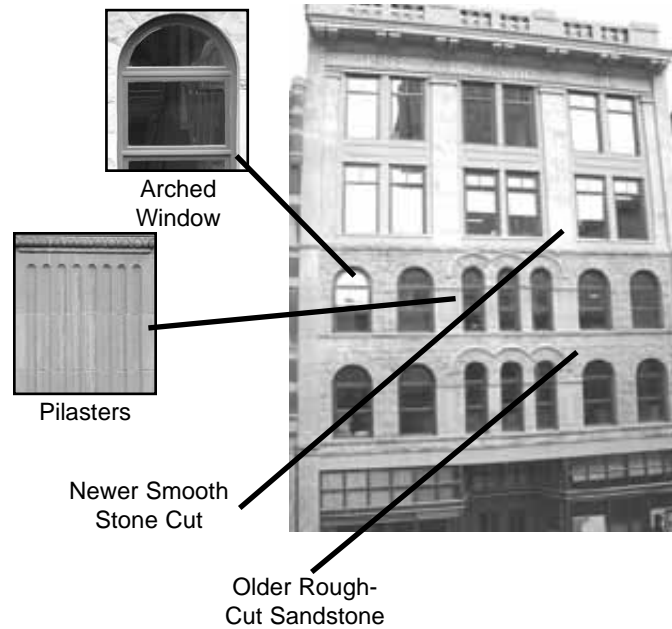
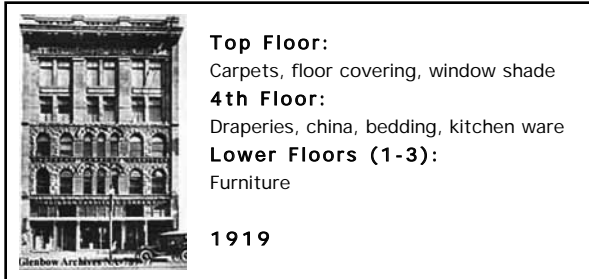
5. THE NEILSON BLOCK

118 - 8th Ave. S.E.

CONSTRUCTED: 1903, enlarged in 1910

Was: Neilson Furniture Company

Today: Part of Telus Convention Centre



BUILDING FACTS

- The building features two different styles. The lower three storeys dating to 1903, are typical of the *sandstone* era that featured a *rubble* foundation and *rough-cut sandstone* as the facing material. The upper storeys dating to 1910 feature *smooth-dressed stone cut* with the help of stone cutting machinery, newly introduced into Calgary.
- The second and third floor round-arched **Romanesque Revival** windows contrast with the upper two floors rectangular windows, ***pilasters, frieze, cornice, and balustrade*** that are examples of a ***Classical Revival*** style.
- It was a difficult task to incorporate the Neilson Block into the new 50,000 square foot (4645 metres square) Telus Convention Centre and at the same time preserve it as a notable, unique and rare heritage structure. Controversy arose over the incorporation of the rubble wall (irregular stone materials on the east side of the building). In the end the wall was rebuilt, incorporating about 20% of the original material in the final structure. The rubble wall may be seen by taking the escalators to the east side of the second floor of the Telus Convention Centre. There are historical photos there as well.

PEOPLE FACTS

- Hugh Neilson built this block to house his furniture company that he started in 1894. This was the first home furnishings business in Calgary. The upper storey addition was the work of F.J Lawson and Fordyce architects. Lawson also designed the Wesley Methodist Church (now United Church), and Knox United Presbyterian Church.

6. THE DOLL BLOCK

116 - 8th Ave. S.E.

CONSTRUCTED: 1907

Was: Jewellery Store

Today: Part of Telus Convention Centre



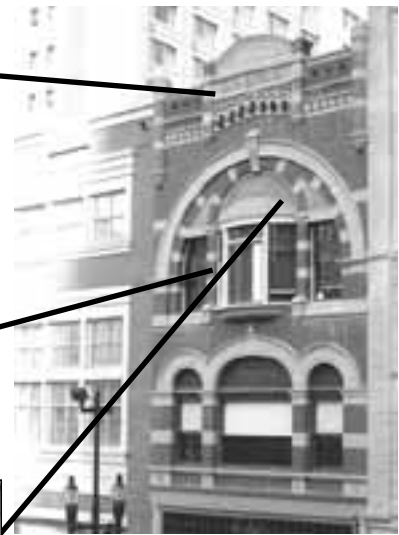
Parapet



Bay Window



Seashell Pattern



BUILDING FACTS

- The façade of The Doll Block has alternating brick and stone with decorative *arches*.
- The third storey half-round *Oriel or Bay window* has seashell patterned pressed tin panels painted to appear like sandstone above it.
- Some of the original *bevelled glass* still exists which gives the building a sparkling appearance. This is why, in part, it became known as Doll's Diamond Palace.
- Small *turrets* and a *parapet* of stone and brick grace the top of the building.

PEOPLE FACTS

- In 1906, Louis Henry Doll, a Calgary jeweler, bought a parcel of land from the Thompson Brothers and in 1907 opened Doll's Diamond palace.
- After the tragic death of his 10 year old daughter, Florence, he lost his zest for life and business and in 1910 D.E. Black, a former apprentice of Doll's, moved his jewellery store into the building.
- During a noon hour Christmas rush of 1911, Black became the victim of what was then the largest diamond theft in Calgary's history. Over \$11,000 worth of diamonds was stolen.
- Black's eventually amalgamated with Henry Birks & Sons in 1920. David Black became a Birks Managing Director and eventually President of their western operations. He was also a City Alderman.
- In 1913, H.R. Chauncey, and his wife Gladys set up a jewellery store in the Doll Block. He stayed until 1946 at which time a fourth jeweler Harold Raymond set up shop.

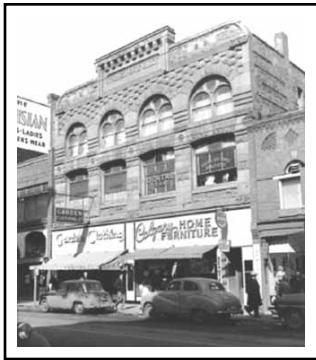
7. THE THOMSON BROTHERS BLOCK

112 - 8th Ave. S.E.

CONSTRUCTED: 1893

Was: Bookshop

Today: Part of the Hyatt Hotel



Thomson Block 1940s



Stone Parapet



Sandstone
Arches



Wildrose
Flower



BUILDING FACTS

- The building is an excellent example of Calgary's early *sandstone* period.
- Its third storey is topped by a *parapet* that is a stone version of the wooden types seen in boomtowns in the west. The third storey also features a distinctive checkerboard-patterned stonework as well as round arched windows topped by a circular light.
- The Thomson Brothers Block was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1981.

PEOPLE FACTS

- Melville and James Thomson began opening bookstores across the prairies in 1881 and in 1884 arrived in Calgary to open another. The brothers had this building constructed in 1893. Shortly after they moved on to Vancouver to establish themselves there.
- Over the years the building has been home to a clothing store, furniture store, hardware and banking businesses.

8. THE LINEHAM BLOCK

106 - 8th Ave. S.E.

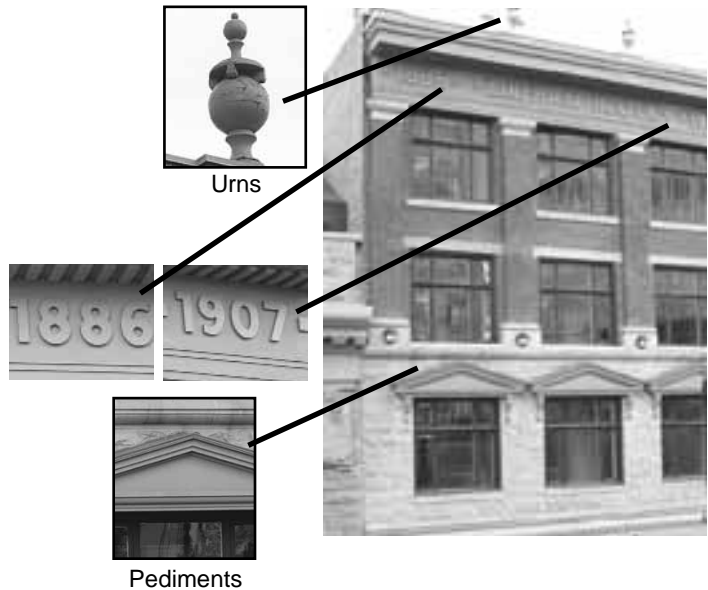
CONSTRUCTED: 1886, 1907

Was: Imperial Bank / Bank of Montreal

Today: Part of the Hyatt Hotel



Lineham Block 1940s



Urns

Pediments

BUILDING FACTS

- The site originally held two identical two storey, rough-cut *sandstone* buildings constructed side-by-side, and separated by a *party-wall*.
- The *party wall* still stands today and can be seen in the lobby of the Hyatt Hotel.
- In 1907 a 2 storey brick addition was added to the original structure featuring urns, pediments over windows, and *pilasters*.
- The *entablature* at the top of the building notes the building name and the two construction dates.

PEOPLE FACTS

- Some of the first occupants of the Lineham Block were banks, a direct result of Colonel James Walker's 1886 trip to the East to attract banking institutions to Calgary.
- In the lobby of the Hyatt Hotel is a historical plaque describing the history of the building and some of the people who were involved.

9. THE IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

102 - 8th Ave. S.E.

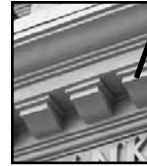
CONSTRUCTED: 1886, 1909

Was: The I.G. Baker Store, and a Bank

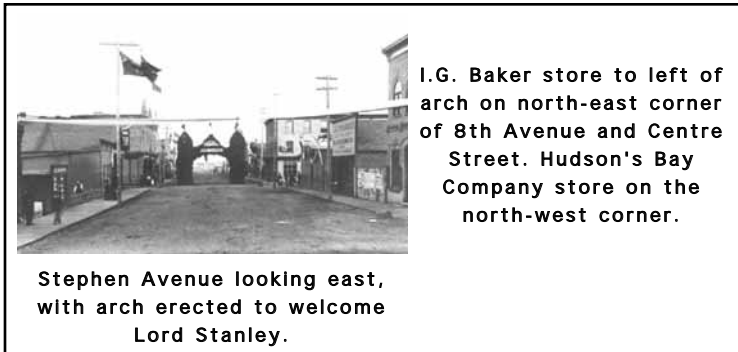
Today: Restaurant



Balustrade & Cornice



Dentils

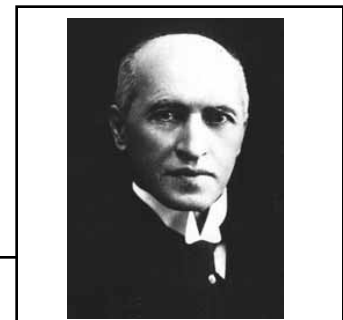


BUILDING FACTS

- The first building on this site was made of wood and housed the I.G. Baker store but it was damaged in the fire of 1886. A stone replacement was built shortly after.
- Photographs from the 1888 period show that side-by-side identical two storey stone buildings were constructed on this site. The Bank of Montreal leased the eastern most block and the I.G. Baker store (later the Imperial bank of Canada) occupied the corner building.
- Renovations completed by the bank were completed in the *Classical Revival* style which included a *balustrade* which you see today.
- Additional features decorative shields, a classical roofline and a sandstone extension to the rear.
- The Imperial Bank was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1977.

PEOPLE FACTS

- In 1891 the Hudson's Bay Co. bought out I.G. Baker and the building was sold to the Imperial Bank of Canada.
- Between 1902 and 1945 the law offices of Arthur Sifton, James Short, and Charles Stuart occupied the bank's second storey.



Arthur Sifton was Premier of Alberta from 1910-17

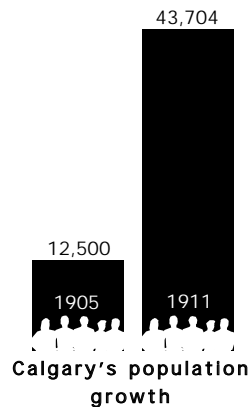
10. HUDSON'S BAY CO. STORE #3

102 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1890, 1891, 1895, 1905

Was: Hudson's Bay third store

Today: Royal Bank Centre



Round
Arched
Windows



BUILDING FACTS

Hudson's Bay Store #1:

- A wooden frame building located across the Elbow River from Fort Calgary.

Hudson's Bay Store #2

- As business moved toward the downtown, a new frame structure was started on Stephen Avenue at this site.

Hudson's Bay Store #3

- In 1890 construction began on the sandstone structure that currently occupies the eastern half of this site.
- In 1905 the store expanded to include the site of James Lougheed's former home and law offices.
- The site was sold to the Royal Bank in 1912, restored by the Royal Bank in 1977, and designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1982.

Hudson's Bay Store #4

- By 1911 Calgary had outgrown the store and a **new Hudson's Bay Store #4**, a block away, was under construction.
- The land was purchased from Senator James Lougheed.
- The cost of the project was \$1.5 million. One newspaper of the day compared it to Harrod's in London. Another thought it looked more like a museum than a store.
- Its height was made possible by the use of its elevators and escalators.
- The store features classical details and *pilasters* that rise from the second through the fifth floors, and a ground level *colonnade* with a patterned *terrazzo* floor. In 1930 a sixty-foot high aeronautical beacon was placed on the roof that apparently could be seen up to 150 miles away.



Hudson's Bay Co.
Store #4

11. THE GLANVILLE / WARD (LOUGHEED) BLOCK

105 / 107 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1898

Was: Dry Goods Store, Bank, Saddlery

Today: Restaurant and Café



Sir James Lougheed



Urns



Arched Windows with Fan-like Ornaments



BUILDING FACTS

- The building is actually two structures with *rusticated sandstone* facing extending across the front. The eastern portion has an additional storey and is extended at the rear.
- The windows on the two portions appear similar but are not identical.

PEOPLE FACTS

- This building was developed and owned by Senator James Lougheed, who amassed 30 properties in downtown Calgary. At one time he was the largest property taxpayer in the city. He held many positions including: legal counsel to the CPR, agent for the sale of Hudson's Bay Company land, Chief Factor for the Hudson's Bay Company, member of the Privy Council, and Senator. In 1916 he was made a knight.
- The building was named after John Glanville the owner of the dry goods store. In 1911 the new owner Dudley Ward was added.

12. ASHDOWN HARDWARE

110 - 8th Ave. S.W.

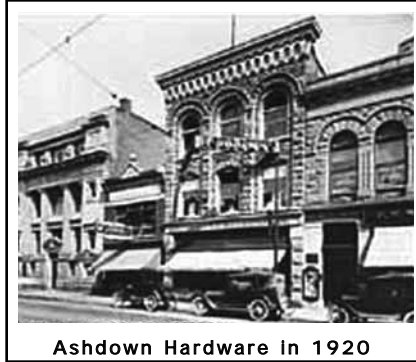
CONSTRUCTED: 1891

Was: Ashdown Hardware Store

Today: Arts and Crafts Gallery with offices above



Cornice
& Dentils



Ashdown Hardware In 1920

BUILDING FACTS

- A *Romanesque Revival* commercial building made from sandstone for hardware merchant James Ashdown.
- The *cornice* is made from pressed metal and below the *cornice* is a line of *dentils*.

PEOPLE FACTS

- James Ashdown's adventures included fighting in the Riel Rebellion and being imprisoned by Louis Riel in Fort Garry. He got his start by supplying stovepipes to Fort Garry. He became Mayor of Winnipeg from 1907-08.
- His first hardware store in Winnipeg operated for over 80 years and is an important early business in Western Canada.

13. THE MOLSON'S BANK

114 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1911-12

Was: Bank

Today: Restaurant



Ionic
Columns



Lions Heads



Carved
Pediments



BUILDING FACTS

- The building reflects the early 20th century *Classical Revival* style.
- It is three storeys and is clad with *limestone*.
- This building is of the post Sandstone City era.
- The building was opened in 1912 as the Molson's Bank. It was later bought by the Bank of Toronto in 1925.
- The Molson's Bank was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979.

14. THE TRIBUNE BLOCK

118 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1892

Was: Newspaper, Cigar Store,
Bowling Alley

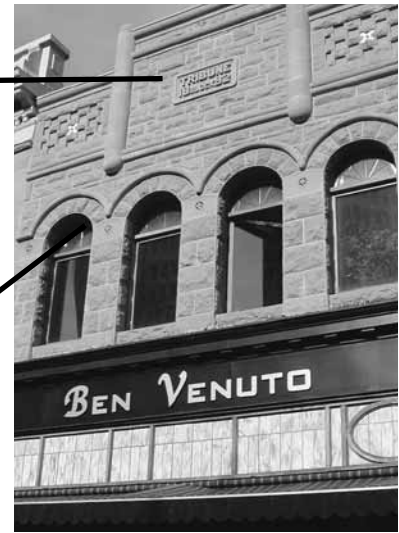
Today: Restaurant



Stepped
Parapet



Arches



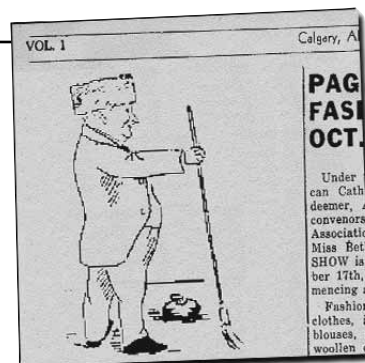
Tribune Block 1892

BUILDING FACTS

- The Tribune Block briefly served as the home of The Calgary Tribune newspaper. From 1907-09 it was used as the Hub Cigar Store, Billiards Rooms and Bowling Alley.
- From 1907 to 1919 The Tribune Block was owned by local entrepreneur Charles Traunwieser who operated the Hub Cigar Store, billiard rooms and a bowling alley.
- The Tribune Block was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in 1998.

PEOPLE FACTS

- The Tribune Block was built in 1892 to house Calgary's second newspaper, The Tribune, owned by the former proprietor of the Calgary Herald, Thomas Braden. The Tribune later became the Alberta Tribune, then The Albertan and finally, in 1980, The Calgary Sun.



A cartoon of Thomas B. Braden, Publisher, 1891 Braden founded both the Calgary Herald and the Tribune newspapers.

15. THE CALGARY MILLING COMPANY

119 - 8th Ave. S.W.

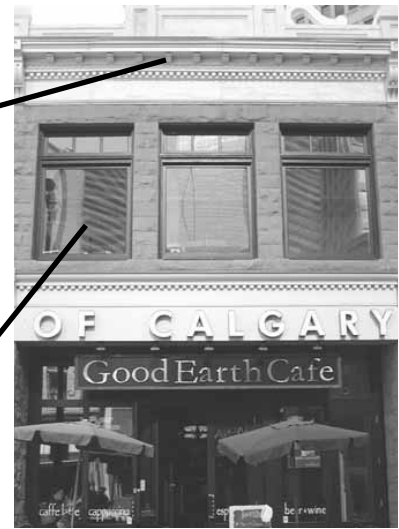
CONSTRUCTED: 1902

Was: Calgary Milling Co. & Grocery Store

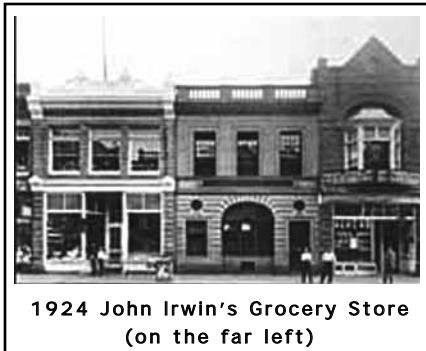
Today: Art Gallery and café



Metal Cornice & Pediment



Large Windows



1924 John Irwin's Grocery Store
(on the far left)

BUILDING FACTS

- This brick and sandstone structure has been remodeled many times.
- The cornice and pediment are made of painted metal and are examples of a less expensive way to add architectural details to a building.
- This building is an example of restoration (back to its original design) rather than renovation (to fix a building but not always to its original design or completeness).
- The Calgary Milling company was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in 1999.

PEOPLE FACTS

- In 1898, the Calgary Milling Company was founded by a group of investors that included Isaac Kerr and Peter Prince. They also owned Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Co. supplying both lumber and electricity to Calgary. Their offices still stand next to the Eau Claire Market. Three years later, their company purchased a lot on 8th Avenue and 1st Street and began construction of a two storey brick building intended as an office and retail store.
- In 1911, the Calgary Milling Company sold out to the Robin Hood Milling Company and, a year later, the building was purchased by John Irwin, store manager, who turned it into a grocery store specializing in fancy and imported foods. The historical significance of the Calgary Milling Company building is that it represents the extensive commercial growth of Calgary after the turn of the century.

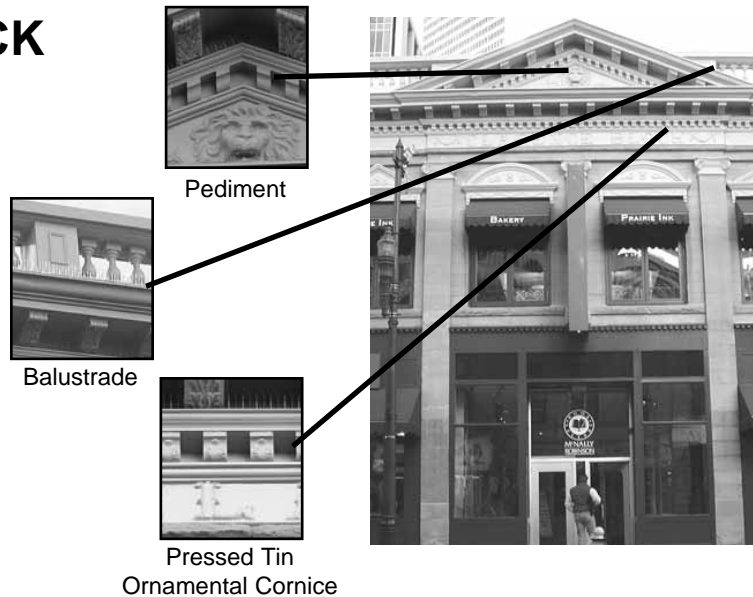
16. THE CLARENCE BLOCK

120 / 124 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1901

Was: Offices and Stores

Today: Bookstore and shops



BUILDING FACTS

- The Clarence Block is an example of the elegant *Classical Revival* style.
- Garlands and scrolls on the *pediments*, and garlands of ribbon and fleurs-de-lys and rosettes on the *frieze*, decorate the *façade*.
- A roaring lion's head is located at the top of the central *pediment*.
- Much of what appears to be stone detailing is actually pressed tin, used at the time to keep the costs down while preserving interesting architectural detail.

PEOPLE FACTS

- The Clarence Block, and neighbouring Norman Block, were built by James Lougheed and named for his two sons, Norman and Clarence.
- The original buildings on this site, constructed in 1892, were destroyed by a fire in 1900 at 2:30 a.m on Christmas day despite the quick response of the fire chief "Cappy" Smart and the fire brigade. Total damage to buildings and businesses was estimated at about \$200,000. Senator Lougheed lost an extensive law library and all his office furnishings in the blaze. The morning after the fire he vowed to begin rebuilding immediately. "A big gang of men will likely be put to work right away and the premises will be ready for the occupancy in a very few weeks." By February 1901 both buildings were re-opened for business.
- The new building was designed by William Dodd, the same architect that designed City Hall.
- The Clarence Block housed the offices of some interesting Calgarians including: Senator James Lougheed, R.B. Bennett (Prime Minister of Canada 1930-35), William Maxwell Aitken (Lord Beaverbrook), and John E. Brownlee (Premier of Alberta 1925-34).

17. THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

125 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1930

Was: Bank of Nova Scotia

Today: Restaurant



Motifs depicting Alberta history



BUILDING FACTS

- This building, designed by a Canadian John Lyle, sought to create a unique Canadian style as well as incorporate features of *Beaux-Arts* style.
- *Art Deco* carvings depicting the “Alberta story” surround the windows displaying symbols of the western experience. These include:

Prairie wildflowers Leeks Horses Oil Rig
Mountains Model A Ford parts Buffalo Shamrocks
Fleurs-de-lys Guns and arrows Wheat Mounties, Natives
Thistle Saddle and fence Roses Setting Sun

- The building housed the Bank of Nova Scotia until 1976.
- In 1980 the building was home to the Cha Cha Palace that had a 1500 square foot dance floor and the largest laser show in North America.
- It was designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in 1981.

PEOPLE FACTS

- John Lyle, the architect described this project as “an attempt to design a building in the modern manner with tradition as a background.”

18. THE PAIN BLOCK (T.C. POWERS & BRO.)

131 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1885

Was: Grocery Store, furrier, other stores

Today: General Store

False
Front



This picture of the Pain Block, taken before the restoration in 1996, still shows the original wood façade on the east wall. The wall is now hidden by a new building.

BUILDING FACTS

- The only remaining wooden structure on Stephen Avenue that predates the fire of 1886.
- This building is typical of the wooden structures that lined the street of Calgary before 1886. They were, in most cases, two storey, with living quarters above, and had a false or “boomtown” front that made the building look larger than it actually was.

PEOPLE FACTS

- It is believed that that the Pain Block was built in 1885 as a general store for the firm T.C. Power and Bro., or used by the A.P. Sample & Co., dealers in livestock.
- The manager, Daniel Webster Marsh, who served one term as Mayor (1889-1890) bought the store in 1894.
- The building was occupied by Pain Furriers from 1933-1970.
- In 1996 the building was restored back to its original style.

19. THE ALBERTA HOTEL

133 / 139 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1888,1902

Was: Hotel and Bar

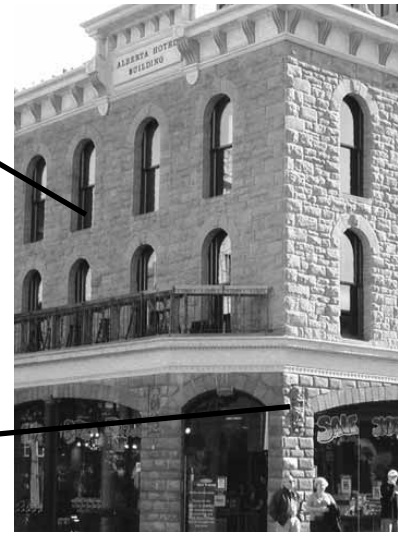
Today: Shops, restaurant, office space



Arched windows
with keystones



Gargoyles



BUILDING FACTS

- The *Romanesque Revival* style building was designed by architect J. Llewellyn Wilson.
- The cost of a room in 1903 was between \$2.50 and \$3.00.
- One of the first sandstone buildings built after the fire of 1886 that destroyed many of the Stephen Avenue buildings.
- In 1902 a large addition to the east of the original building on 8th Ave. was added, and faced with smooth cut *sandstone*.
- Multi-million dollar renovations in 1973 left the *façade* intact, but nothing of the original interior remains.
- The 1973 renovations added a balcony and eight replicas of *gargoyles* from the Herald Building.

PEOPLE FACTS

The Long Bar, inside the hotel was 125 feet of polished wood and glass, and was said to be the longest bar in Western Canada. Many famous Calgarians spent time there including: Bob Edwards of the Eye Opener Newspaper, ranchers Pat Burns and A.E. Cross, William Roper Hull, and Caroline (Mother) Fulham, known for her pigs and her abilities to down a shot glass. R.B. Bennett, known to be a teetotaler, is said to have had his own table in the bar and at one time lived in the hotel. Many regulars gathered there after work and became known as the “arm chair brigade.”



The Long Bar,

20. THE BANK OF MONTREAL

140 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1929-31

Was: Bank

Today: Store



The Bank of Montreal 1924,



The Bank of Montreal 1932,



Corinthian
Columns

BUILDING FACTS

- This corner of 8th Avenue and 1st Street S.W. has been the home of a Bank of Montreal building since 1889. The first Bank of Montreal building was a gable-roofed, two storey sandstone structure shown in the small picture above.
- The second building was constructed in 1931 and is an example of *Classical Revival* architecture.
- The exterior of the current building is clad with *limestone* featuring a large *pediment* and crest.
- The crest features two native men, a beaver, woodlands, and teepees.
- The *Corinthian capitals* on top of the *columns* support the *pediment*.
- The interior is *neo-classical* and was restored in 1993. The ceiling features 917 ounces of gold leaf.

PEOPLE FACTS

- The signature of the architect, Kenneth G. Rea is inscribed in the granite base at the lower right.

21. THE ALLEN (PALACE) THEATRE

219 - 8th Ave. S.W.

CONSTRUCTED: 1921

Was: Movie and Stage Theatre

Today: Club



Columns



BUILDING FACTS

- When the theatre opened in 1921 it seated over 1,950.
- The exterior features red tapestry brick, five *bay windows*, and a row of *Corinthian pilasters* supporting an *entablature*.
- The design of the theatre, sought to elevate the movie going experience by copying the design of the theatres intended for live performances.
- Barney Allen and his sons operated a string of theatres across Canada and the U.S.A. and others were planned in England and Russia.
- The Palace Theatre was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1996.

PEOPLE FACTS

- From 1923-27, the theatre also housed the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute, run by evangelist, and later Alberta's first Social Credit Premier "Bible Bill" Aberhart. He made his famous **Back to the Bible Hour** radio broadcasts from here.
- The theatre also was the home to vaudeville shows, benefit performances, and public meetings.