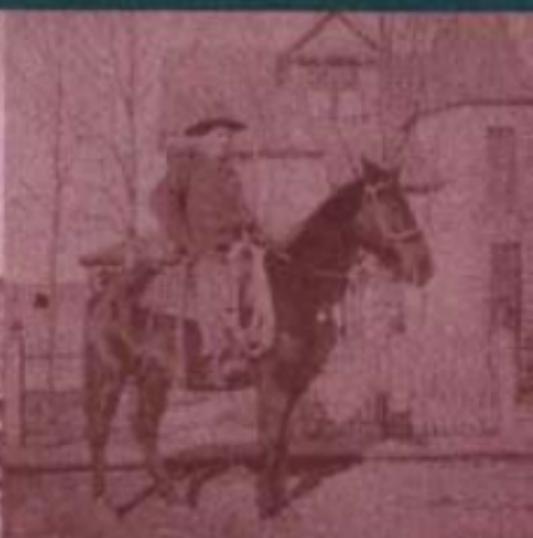


Calgary

Historical

Walking

Tour



Mission and Cliff Bungalow



Calgary Historical Walking Tour: Mission and Cliff Bungalow



View of Mission & Cliff Bungalow from the south, ca. 1890
(GA NA-1604-18)

This booklet contains a tour of Calgary's historic Mission and Cliff Bungalow districts. The map in the centre spread shows the two options for following this tour. Both take the form of a loop, beginning and ending at the same point. The longer route, with 39 sites, takes approximately 2 hours to complete. The shorter version has 29 sites, and takes about 1.5 hours. Whenever possible, historical names have been used for buildings, names that often do not correspond to their current owners or occupants.

A glossary of architectural terms appears at the end of the tour text.

Please remain in the public areas and respect private property while following this tour.

Crosswalks are provided for your convenience and safety – please use them.

The tour begins at Rouleauville Square, the small ornamental park at 1st Street SW between 17th and 18th Avenues SW. The Square was created in 1995, with funding from the Calgary Parks Foundation, as a tribute to the pioneer Village of Rouleauville. The interpretive plaques in the Square give an excellent introduction to the tour.

Metered parking is available nearby along 17th Avenue SW or at a commercial lot just east of Rouleauville Square. Free parking may also be found along residential streets a block or more away.

Introduction



Tsuu Tina camp on the Elbow, ca. 1886-8 (GA NA-1753-50)

The sheltering valleys of the Bow and Elbow Rivers were the traditional wintering grounds of the Blackfoot people. These time-honoured patterns changed after 1870, when the Dominion of Canada acquired Rupert's Land, the Hudson's Bay Company's vast trading territory since 1670. Soon thereafter, Métis – the descendants of European fur traders and First Nations women – and Euro-Canadian farmsteads began to appear around the area now occupied by Calgary.

Mission District



Our Lady of Peace Mission, ca. 1875 (GA NA-1434-40)

The first European settlers in the Mission district were the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a Catholic missionary order originating in France. In 1872,

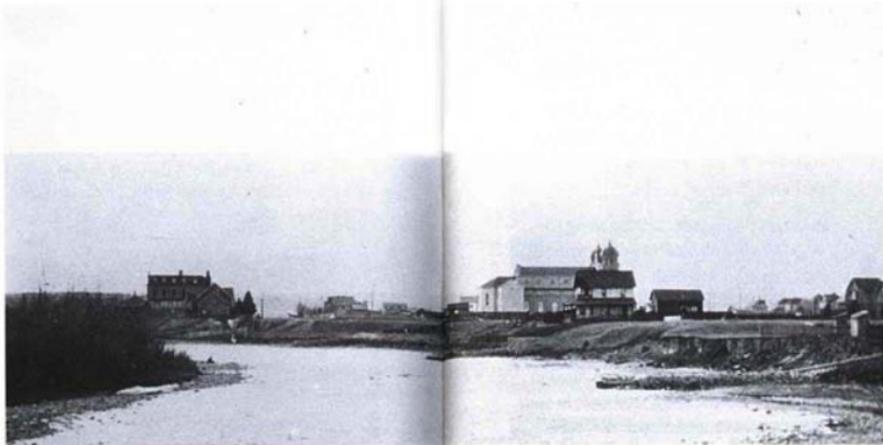
Father Constantine Scollen established a mission to the local aboriginal people, Notre-Dame de la Paix (Our Lady of Peace), by the Elbow River. The site of his modest log cabin, west of Calgary, is now marked by a cairn. In 1875, Scollen was joined by Father Leon Doucet. They built a second mission at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers, and that fall a third mission was built to the south, upstream on the Elbow River.



Roman Catholic Mission, ca. 1883 (GA NA-839-1)

In 1882, Father Albert Lacombe was in charge of the mission. Anticipating the growth that would come with the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), he moved the mission to a fourth site, closer to the emerging community. Under Father Lacombe's direction, a residence and chapel were constructed (see Site 7). The CPR reached Calgary in 1883, and the district was surveyed into sections. Father Lacombe secured title to the Mission land. The grant consisted of the area defined today by 4th Street SW on the west, the Elbow River on the south and east, and 17th Avenue SW on the north. Within a year, it was surveyed into 418 lots with streets and avenues named in honour of the Oblates and the Mission's patron saints.

The flats along the Elbow River south of the Mission, and the area at the foot of the Mount Royal Hill was often a camping site for Métis, Natives, or travellers searching for work, trading, or seeking urban distractions. A road, now known as Mission Road, curved down from Macleod Trail to the south, to a ford across the Elbow River where, in 1886, the first Mission Bridge was erected.



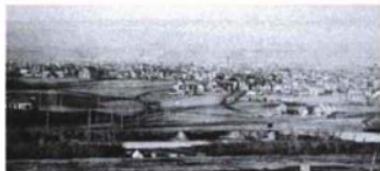
The Mission, pre-1905 (GA NA-920-21)

In November of 1884, Calgary became the second incorporated town, and in 1893 the first city, in the North-West Territories, as the area between Manitoba and British Columbia was known. The Oblates' subdivision, popularly called "the Mission", remained outside Calgary's boundaries until 1907. By the 1890s, the Catholic origins of the Mission district had been reinforced by the construction of several institutional buildings (see Sites 5, 7, 8 & 10). A small community developed around these, with a permanent population of 250 by 1893, but the Mission area remained largely undeveloped.

In 1899, the Mission was incorporated as the Village of Rouleauville. It was named in honour of Judge Charles-Borromée Rouleau, an early and prominent citizen (and possibly also his brother Dr. Édouard-Hector Rouleau: see Site 1). Born in 1840 in Québec (then Lower Canada), C.-B. Rouleau was educated at Laval University and was called to the bar in 1868. He was an *ex officio* member of the Territorial Council and the Territorial Assembly until 1891, and helped establish the dual Protestant and Catholic school systems which still exist in Alberta. Judge Rouleau was active in Calgary's francophone community and his wife Elvina was a social leader.

Their substantial sandstone home, which they named Castel aux Prés – Mansion on the Prairie – was built in 1889 at 4th Street and 19th Avenue SW (see Site 39) and was a local landmark.

Cliff Bungalow District



Cliff Bungalow from the south, ca. 1910 (GA NA-1604-19)

The community which has been known as Cliff Bungalow since the 1920s was just beginning to take shape by 1907. It was largely developed by the CPR, which received the land as part of its 1883 land grant. In 1905, the first stage was the subdivision of a strip between 4th and 5th Streets SW. A second subdivision between 5th Street SW and the escarpment or "cliff" was registered in 1910. Finally, in 1912, a third subdivision of two and a half blocks was developed by Western Canada College (see Site 31).

The period from about 1908 to 1914 was one of unparalleled economic optimism in western Canada. Speculation in real estate reached a fever pitch, with building activity to match. Nearly one-third of all heads of households in Calgary were construction workers. The total value of building permits issued by the City of Calgary in 1912 was not equalled until 1949.

By 1909 a streetcar route was running along 4th Street SW and by 1912, this street was a secondary business district and about two-thirds of the lots in Cliff Bungalow and Mission were developed. The CPR promoted Cliff Bungalow as an upper middle class community of substantial homes, with streets named after Canada's governors-general. Mission was a more mixed income neighbourhood. In both, detached houses predominated, with only a few duplexes and small apartment buildings.

The boom collapsed in 1914, and Calgary's economy was sluggish until World War II. Construction slowed, almost to a halt. Some single-family infill houses were built, and some larger houses were divided into apartments, especially during World War II, when there was a serious housing shortage. From the 1950s to the 1970s, many older buildings were demolished to make way for apartments and office buildings. Since the 1970s this trend has reversed, and many older houses have been restored to single or two-family dwellings.

The first site on the tour is half a block east from Rouleauville Square on 18th Avenue SW.

Dr. Rouleau House (ca. 1888)
114 - 18 Avenue SW

1



Family in front of home, 1899 (GA NA-5222-2)

Dr. Édouard-Hector Rouleau was the younger brother of Judge Charles-Borromée Rouleau. He was born at L'Isle-Verte, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River in 1843, and received his medical degree from Laval University in 1870. He practiced medicine in Québec until 1884, when he joined Charles-Borromée in Battleford, in the North-West Territories (now Saskatchewan). Following the North-West Rebellion (1885) he returned to Québec, but in 1887 he again came west to join his brother, this time in Calgary.

Dr. Rouleau was very active in the community, as the founding president of the St. Jean-Baptiste Society in Calgary, chairman of the Separate School Board, and Chancellor of the Calgary branch of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. He was very proud of his appointment as Honorary Consul of Belgium in 1888. Dr. Rouleau was the physician in charge at the Holy Cross Hospital, and was Surgeon at the Fort Calgary NWMP post. He was known for providing free medical services to the poor.

This is the oldest building in the Mission district and one of a very few in Calgary pre-dating 1890. It is a simple gable-fronted structure, with a kitchen at the rear. The tall bay windows, ornamental fretwork in the gable, and narrow segmentally-arched windows are allusions to the Italianate and Second Empire architectural styles, which were popular in central Canada at the time.

In 1888, Dr. Rouleau purchased three lots at the west end of this block and built this house. He sold it to the McHugh family, probably in 1902 or 1903, who moved it here, next to their own brick house (see Site 2). Dr. Rouleau then built a larger house on the corner which he sold to the Canadian Northern Railway in 1911. That house was demolished to make way for a railway station and hotel (see Site 4). Dr. Rouleau moved to another district of the city, and died in 1912. The railway station never was built, and the site has remained vacant.

McHugh House (ca. 1896) 110 - 18 Avenue SW

2



In front of McHugh house, ca. 1903 (GA PA-2626-2)

The Queen Anne Revival style of this substantial brick house was a popular choice for Victorian residences. Its asymmetrical massing and steeply-capped turret were considered picturesque in their day.

John Joseph (J.J.) McHugh was born in Ottawa in 1855. He came west in 1873 with a government survey party. Later, he worked for the Department of Indian Affairs as a farm instructor and assistant inspector of reserves. In 1883, with his brothers

Thomas and Felix, he established the JJ Ranch near the Blackfoot Reserve. After Thomas left the partnership, it was known as the H2 ranch. The McHugh Brothers also did railway construction contracting, and were agents for the Lille Collieries in the Crownsnest Pass.

J.J. McHugh married Frances Bowes in 1884. She was active in the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, the Holy Cross Hospital auxiliary, the Catholic Women's League, the Catholic Ladies' Aid Society, and the women's section of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Old-Timers' Association. In addition to her busy schedule as a clubwoman, Frances toured Europe with their daughter Kathleen every year. Their son Frank was an avid polo player and member of a number of championship teams.

The family sold this house in 1921. After a succession of owners, the Congregation of the Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes bought it in 1960, and it became one of Calgary's first group homes for troubled youth. Since 1969 it has been owned by the Diocese of Calgary, and has seen a variety of uses.

Cross Centre Street S and continue east on 18th Avenue SE.

The House of Israel (1930-98) 102 - 18 Avenue SE

3



House of Israel synagogue, 1949 (GA NA-3035-8)

Calgary's first Jewish citizens - Jacob Diamond, a wine merchant, his wife and family - arrived in 1889. The Jewish community grew slowly, and

Calgary's first synagogue was built in 1911 at 325 - 5 Avenue SE. Observant Orthodox Jews walk to the synagogue for Sabbath services between sundown Friday and sundown Saturday. Consequently, areas within walking distance, including Cliff Bungalow and Mission, were preferred locales for their homes.

By 1929 the original synagogue was too small, and in that year sod was turned for this building. It was planned to accommodate a variety of organizations, among them the Calgary Hebrew School, the Hadassah and the B'nai B'rith. Construction began in 1930, but was stalled during the Depression. The basement was used, but the main floor remained an empty shell until its completion in 1949. Built of brick with stucco parging. The House of Israel originally featured round arches and Art Deco details, many of which were removed when the building was renovated in 1949.

From 1935 to 1960 the building was the home of Beth Israel, Calgary's second-oldest Jewish congregation. In 1960 the Shaarey Tzedec synagogue was constructed on adjoining property fronting 17th Avenue SE. In 1979 the new Jewish Community Centre was built at 90th Avenue and 19th Street SW, and The House of Israel closed. It remained vacant until 1998, when the building was renovated and enlarged for use as residential condominiums.

Return west on 18th Avenue to 1 Street SW.

St. Mary's Parish Hall (1905-16)
141 - 18 Avenue SW

4



CNoR Station, Calgary, n.d. (GA ND-8-307)

St. Mary's Parish Hall was constructed for the Oblate Fathers in 1905 to complement St. Mary's Church, across the street. For a few years it did serve that purpose, but soon it became more of a community centre and village hall for Rouleauville. Until 1910 there were classrooms for the boys of St. Mary's School (see Sites 7 and 8) in the basement. It also contained offices and meeting rooms for secular groups such as the Calgary Operatic Society.

The design of St. Mary's Parish Hall created by James J. O'Gara, an Ottawa-trained architect, incorporates an interesting combination of elements symbolic of Roman Catholicism, French culture, and Western boosterism. Dubbed "Boomtown Baroque" by more than one architectural commentator, it features pilasters, a classical pediment and a round-arched window, classical elements arranged in the Baroque Revival style favoured by Roman Catholic institutions of the time. The mansard roof is French in origin and the "false front" façade, though of sandstone, is reminiscent of commercial buildings in boomtowns across the early West.

In 1911 St. Mary's Parish Hall was purchased by the Canadian Northern Railway (CNoR), which had acquired Dr. Neville Lindsay's property across the Elbow River to the south (now Lindsay Park), for its rail yards. The railway intended to demolish the hall to provide access to a planned station and hotel on the site of Dr. Rouleau's home (see Site 1). This plan never materialized, and the hall itself became the railway's Calgary station. It was enlarged in 1916 with the addition of brick veneer and shingle-sided freight sheds.

The Diocese of Calgary and St. Mary's parish made numerous attempts to buy or lease it back, but Canadian National Railways (the CNR acquired Canadian Northern in 1918) stood firm. The trains stopped running in 1971 and the CNR sold the building, bridge and yards to the City of Calgary in 1979. Despite severe fire damage during restoration in 1984, St. Mary's Parish Hall re-opened in 1985 as the home of Alberta Ballet.

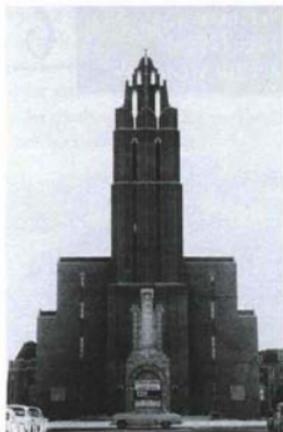


St. Mary's Cathedral, 1905 (GA NA-1497-8)

The original St. Mary's Church was a massive sandstone building with twin domed towers. It was completed in 1889 and consecrated as a cathedral in 1913. Delays during construction were said to have caused structural weaknesses, and it was demolished in 1955. Its replacement, costing one million dollars, is only slightly larger than the old 1000-seat cathedral. The 1956 cathedral is a Modernist interpretation of Gothic architecture. Its 40-metre bell tower, with its open detailing symbolizing the crown of the Virgin Mary, dominates the south end of 1st Street SW.

The architect, Maxwell Bates (1906-1980), was born in Calgary, the son of William Stanley Bates, a prominent architect who designed buildings for several Catholic institutions (see Sites 7, 8, 10, 29). Maxwell apprenticed with his father's firm starting in 1924, and continued his studies in England in the 1930s. He is more widely known as a painter, print-maker, author and poet.

St. Mary's Cathedral was Bates' crowning achievement as an architect. He spent many hours



St. Mary's Cathedral, 1956 (GA NA-5093-305)

researching church symbolism, designing details, and supervising construction. It is built of steel and reinforced concrete, clad in light-coloured brick. Alberta sculptor Luke Lindoe created the statue of the Madonna above the main entrance. He also made the molds for the cast stone panels on the exterior. The recurring fleur-de-lis is both symbolic of the Virgin Mary and a nod to the French-Canadian origins of the parish. The bronze panels on the front doors, made in Italy to Bates' specifications, feature the symbols of the four evangelists, the coats of arms of Pope Pius XII, and those of the diocese.

The Cathedral's interior was altered in 1989, but still features most of the colours, textures, and symbols chosen by Bates, who produced over 400 drawings of interior details. The stained glass windows were mostly designed by Franz Braumiller of the German firm Franz Mayer & Co. The fourteen Stations of the Cross were created by the Italian mosaicist, Sebastian Aiello. Bates designed the carved oak pulpit depicting the four major Old Testament prophets; it was produced by an Ontario furniture company. The Cathedral is normally open during the day. It offers a peaceful retreat for meditation.

Walk south to 19th Avenue SW.

**Canadian Northern
Railway Bridge (1914)
1st Street & 19th Avenue SW**

6



CNoR Bridge, n.d. (GA ND-8-306)

Originally designed to bear the weight of heavy locomotives and rolling stock, this bridge is now used by pedestrians and cyclists. The steel bridge was built in 1914 to link the Canadian Northern Railway yards to the company's proposed station north of the river.

The Canadian Northern was one of two new trans-continental railways whose branch lines reached Calgary by 1914. The rival Grand Trunk Pacific Railway established its terminal on the site of Fort Calgary. Canadian Northern purchased the 23-acre Lindsay Estate in 1911 for freight yard development. Neville J. Lindsay, a member of Calgary's original town council in 1884, was a pioneer physician-turned-real estate entrepreneur.

A temporary station handled passenger and freight service until 1916, when St. Mary's Parish Hall was converted to a railway depot. The station's platforms extended across the Elbow River on either side of the bridge. The tracks ended at 18th Avenue, so the arrival and departure of trains involved a complex procedure.

After a passenger train arrived, a yard switcher hauled the coaches back across the bridge to the nearby McKee yards, where they were cleaned, serviced, and turned 180 degrees at the "Y" formation in the tracks. The locomotive followed under its own steam. It backed up to the McKee roundhouse,

where it was watered, serviced and turned on the turntable. To prepare a train for departure, the yard switcher pushed the coaches back across the bridge to the station. The locomotive followed, backing up to the coaches and coupling on. The train now faced south and was ready to leave.

When the nearly bankrupt Canadian Northern was nationalized in 1918, the station, bridge and yards became part of Canadian National Railways. CN sold the property to the City of Calgary in 1970. The yards were developed as Lindsay Park, and the Lindsay Park Sports Centre opened in 1983. When the bridge was rehabilitated in 1999, the flanking platforms were removed, but their concrete piers can still be seen in the riverbed.

Go west on 19th Avenue SW.

**Sacred Heart Convent
(1893-1924)
219 - 19 Avenue SW**

7



St. Mary's rectory & church; Sacred Heart convent, ca. 1886 (GA NA-1753-1)

The fourth Notre-Dame de la Paix mission, a two-storey frame building serving as both a chapel and rectory, was built on this site in 1882. Three years later, the North-West Rebellion displaced the Sisters of the Society of the Faithful Companions of Jesus from their home in St. Laurent in what is now Saskatchewan. They came to Calgary, and were given the use of the mission as their convent.

The Sisters re-named the mission Sacred Heart Convent after their former home, and opened a



Sacred Heart convent, ca. 1900-5 (GA NA-920-2)

school there, beginning with fifteen French-speaking pupils. An ordinance of the North-West Territories government made this the first Separate School in the Territories, serving Lacombe Separate School District No. 1 (later renamed Calgary Separate School District No. 1). By 1888 there were 90 pupils, and larger facilities were needed. The west wing was built in 1893. The architect is unknown, but was probably commissioned by the Society's headquarters in central Canada. In 1924 the original 1882 mission building was demolished. William Stanley Bates (see also Sites 8, 10, 29) designed a new residential wing to the east, and a chapel to the south. These additions matched the 1893 structure, achieving a remarkably harmonious effect.

The school, known as St. Mary's after 1893, was conducted in English for both boys and girls, but only girls boarded at the convent. From 1907 to 1910 the boys' classes were held in St. Mary's Parish Hall (Site 4). In 1909 the new St. Mary's School building (Site 8) allowed the convent to be used solely as a residence for the sisters and their scholastic boarders. In recent years the Faithful Companions of Jesus have operated the convent as a retreat centre.

Continue along 19th Avenue to 2nd Street SW, then turn south.



St. Mary's School, ca. 1911 (GA NC-24-37)

The original brick school with sandstone trim was designed by William Stanley Bates (see Sites 4, 7, 10 and 29). Like St. Mary's Parish Hall and the Sacred Heart Convent, some of its doors and windows use round-headed arches. These Romanesque Revival style features were favoured by Catholic institutions, and served to identify them in the community.

The school was built in 1909 to accommodate both boys and girls, from grades 1 to 12. In 1918 the senior boys moved into their own school in the former St. Mary's Cathedral rectory, and the school was renamed St. Mary's Girls' School. In 1927 a new St. Mary's Boys' School was built on the present site of St. Monica's School, one block to the north.

This building was enlarged in 1958 with the addition of wings to the north and south. The original steeply pitched pyramidal roof on the entrance tower was removed at an unknown date. In 1979 the original school was vacated, and until 1995 it was partly used for offices of the Diocese of Calgary.

Continue South on 2nd Street SW.

Flexford House (ca. 1915)
304 - 21 Avenue SW

9



Flexford House, 2000 (ACD 00-R134-6)

The precise date of construction of this modest brick and sandstone apartment house is unknown, although it first appeared in the Henderson's Directory in 1915. Many apartments of this type were constructed between 1911 and 1913 to meet the demand for rental accommodation. Despite a preference across demographic lines for single family detached units, the pressures of population growth and escalating real estate prices during Calgary's first boom increasingly put such housing out of reach for ordinary workers. Apartment houses were the logical alternative.

Occupants between 1915 and the end of World War II indicate a mix of white- and blue-collar workers. Examples include: railway employees (machinist, rate clerks, engineer); accountant; bookkeeper; insurance agent; Model Dairies driver; public relations officer for Sicks Breweries; farmer; post office clerk; and employees of the Royal Bank and Alberta Government Telephones. The building's survival indicates the continuing need for affordable housing adjacent to downtown Calgary.

Continue south on 2nd Street SW.

Holy Cross Hospital (1892-)
2200 Block of 2nd Street SW

10



Holy Cross Hospital, ca. 1911 (GA NC-24-20)

In January 1891, four Sisters of Charity – members of the Montreal-based Order of the Grey Nuns – came to Calgary to establish a hospital. Three months later a two-storey, 24-square-foot wood frame facility with a capacity of four patients was opened. The Oblate Fathers donated the hospital's present site, and in November 1892, a three-storey brick and sandstone building with a mansard roof and pointed dormer windows was ready for use. It was one of the Catholic institutions that later formed the core of the Village of Rouleauville. Dr. Édouard-Hector Rouleau (see Site 1) was associated with the hospital for many years. A school of nursing, established in 1907, operated until 1979.

Pre-World War I additions were largely sympathetic with the original building. A substantial 1928 addition, designed by William Stanley Bates (see also Sites 7, 8, 29), included a beautiful chapel with Italian Carrara marble. Further construction in the 1950s and 1960s completed the present complex of buildings; by the mid-1960s no pre-1928 structures remained. The chapel was dismantled in 1973 when the interior of the Bates-designed wing was replaced with emergency and mental health facilities. The outer wall of the 1928 section is now the oldest part of the hospital.

After 1969, when the Grey Nuns sold the Holy Cross to the provincial government, the hospital was operated by local authorities. Before it was closed

in 1996, the Holy Cross had become noted for its cardiac and psychiatric programs. The Holy Cross Centre is now privately owned, and used for housing, offices, clinics, and other tenants.

Hartroft Bungalows (1911) 2201-2207 - 2 Street SW

11



Hartroft Bungalows, 2000 (ACD 00-R134-5)

Samuel M. Hartroft built these four houses in 1911, probably from common plans or pre-fabricated packages, which were popular at the time. They are bungalows, typical of the pre-World War I boom in the construction of working class housing in Calgary. The first two were sold at the peak of the boom in 1912 to an auto painter and a barber. The second two were sold two years later to an electrician and a grocer.

The pressure of spiralling rents for such residences, up from \$30.00 in 1906 to \$50.00 in 1909, made home ownership attractive. Newly available mortgages as low as 5% made it possible. The fact that comfortable housing was believed to produce a stable workforce gave further impetus to the building boom.

Hartroft, a salesman for Harvester Companies, had arrived from Illinois in 1902 to enter the real estate business. Later, he established the province's largest silver fox farm. His wife Myrtle, also American, was an author who contributed to the cultural and educational life of Calgary.

Retrace your steps to 22nd Avenue SW, and go west.

Young Block (1912) 2120 - 4 Street SW

12



Young Block, 2000 (ACD 00-R134-10)

In 1912, things were going well for James W. Young. He had mastered his trade as a printer and established his own business, which was very successful during the boom years. Three years previously he had moved his family into a new house at this address in the rapidly growing Mission district. To make things convenient, he moved the J.W. Young Printing Co. to the Wright Block, the retail and apartment building across the street.

Mr. Young was in sync with the optimism of the times: he demolished his three-year-old house and built a new retail building in its place. It was the most elegant building on the 4th Street SW business district, with oriel windows on the front and side facades, and sandstone trim. The upstairs consisted of one large apartment for the Young family, with a balcony at the rear.

The retail spaces in the Young Block quickly filled up. The Producer's Outlet, a grocery store, rented the highly strategic store at the corner of 22nd Avenue. The store in the north side of the building was occupied by the U & I Pool Hall & Barber Shop.

In 1918 Mr. Young moved to Ashland, Oregon and sold the building. The printing business was taken over and run by the Dichmont family until the 1940s. Today, Young is barely remembered, but his graceful building remains after more than 75 years of various uses. In 2000, it was occupied by a restaurant on the main floor, and offices upstairs.

Go north on 4th Street to 20th Avenue SW.



Etta, Nathan, Jacob & Carl Safran, ca. 1930s (GA NA-3305-1)

Some buildings last longer than their builders' expectations. This little wood frame store was hastily built in 1913 to serve as an office for D.F. Davidson, a real estate agent who had several properties for sale in the neighbourhood. It was probably intended as a temporary structure.

In 1918 it was occupied by Selig Grinker's Little Gem Confectionery. In 1922 Grinker sold the business to Jacob Safran, who operated it until his death in 1953. The Little Gem continued to serve as a confectionery, dispensing penny candies and other delights to neighbourhood children until 1970.



The D.F. Davidson Real Estate Office, 2000 (ACD 00-R134-12)

Jacob Safran and his wife Etta came to Calgary from Byelorussia (now Belarus) in 1912. His first business was peddling fruit from a cart. He opened a confectionery in downtown Calgary in 1914, before moving to the Little Gem location. Operating a small confectionery was not a lucrative business and Jacob and Etta made many sacrifices to ensure that their sons, Nathan and Carl, got a good education. Carl Safran, Ph.D., originated special needs education in the Calgary public school system, and served as Superintendent of Schools from 1972 until his retirement in 1977.

Cross 4th Street and go south to 21st Avenue SW.



Tivoli Theatre, 1936 (CH Oct. 6, 1936)

In 1936, the Odeon theatre chain commissioned John Russell, head of the Architecture Department at the University of Manitoba, to design its 481-seat neighbourhood theatre on 4th Street SW. The results were dramatic.

The 4th Street façade was simply an enormous plain white wall, decorated with two bands of black ceramic tiles. “Tango red” tiles and ceramic

medallions featuring a wheat sheaf motif accented the black and white Moderne style design. A portion of the south façade was composed of a building material completely new to Calgary – translucent glass blocks. Above the marquee, the Tivoli’s sign tower was the most fascinating structure on the street. Described by a reporter as “a tall narrow tower that resembles nothing as much as a child’s nest of blocks with the small ones placed on the

larger ones beneath," it is still a focal point on 4th Street SW.

The Tivoli opened on October 7, 1936 with the Calgary premiere of "Rose Marie", a romantic musical set in Canada, starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy. It operated as a typical neighbourhood theatre, offering "Buck Rogers" serials for kids on Saturdays, and light comedies and musicals for their parents in the evenings. In the 1940s, manager Joe Brager began showing British films almost exclusively, creating a specialized market.

By the end of the 1980s a small neighbourhood theatre could no longer compete with multiple-screen cinemas and home videos. The Tivoli Theatre closed its doors in March 1990, and in 1992 was converted into Tivoli Shops.

Go west on 21st Avenue SW.

Lent House (ca. 1912) 2010 - 5 Street SW

15



Lent House, 2000 (ACD 00-R134-13)

An Ontario-born lawyer, Williston F. Lent, was the first owner of this house. He had moved west and was called to the Alberta bar in 1905 at the age of thirty-seven. Active in civic endeavours, such as a hospital for crippled children, Lent was the first master of Ashlar Masonic Lodge in Calgary and helped organize the Shrine throughout Alberta.

Though many residences in this district changed hands frequently, others – like this one – housed a

stable population. Lent lived here from 1912 until he died in 1926, and his widow stayed on until 1945, changing it to a duplex in 1936.

Go south on 5th Street SW.

Yale Apartments (1912) 2119, 2121 & 2123 - 5 Street SW

16



Yale Apartments, 2000 (ACD 00-R134-22)

The Yale Apartments and its two flanking annexes are typical of the large number of foursquare style wood frame buildings constructed during Calgary's first housing boom. Between 1908 and 1914, the city expanded rapidly, especially to the south-west. These were among the 2,416 residences built at the peak of the boom in 1912. Brothers Robert and Mark Colgrove, whose Colgrove Land Company built, owned and rented out several apartments like these, arrived in Calgary from London, Ontario in 1907. They named three of their buildings after American Ivy League universities (two other Colgrove buildings were named Harvard and Cornell).

Cross 5th Street SW and continue south.

NOTE: For the short tour, turn west on 22nd Avenue SW, and turn to Site 27 in the booklet. For the long tour, continue south on 5th Street SW and turn west on 23rd Avenue SW.

Aitken House (ca. 1912)
607 - 23 Avenue SW

17



Aitken House, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-2)

Manufacturer's agent Robert Aitken bought this frame house from its builder in 1912. After four years, he began renting it to a series of tenants before selling it to its most notable owner, James M. Stevenson, a Glaswegian architect. Stevenson moved to Canada in 1911 and was instrumental in Calgary's transformation from prairie town to substantial city. Projects he helped design include the Calgary General Hospital, the Eaton's department store, and the Art Deco style AGT Building. During and after the Second World War, he did major work on the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company site, the Greyhound bus station, the Barron Building – Calgary's first modern skyscraper – and the Stampede Corral.

Griffin House (ca. 1913)
611 - 23 Avenue SW

18



Griffin House, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-3)

John V. Griffin, a traveller for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company, was the first owner of this frame residence. It was built around 1913 for approximately \$2,500.00. After Griffin's death in 1919, a series of owners lived here, including Stanton A. Nickle (brother of oilman Sam Nickle), branch manager of Nickle Boot Shops, followed by a broker and an accountant.

Hardware merchant Jules Despins and his wife bought the house in 1927 and took in boarders until his death in 1943. Despins did much to preserve the city's francophone heritage. His hardware store, nearby on 4th Street SW, was the unofficial meeting place for French-speaking Calgarians over several decades (the Despins sign appears in photo, page 35).

Retrace your steps and continue south on 5th Street SW.

24th Ave. Cottage School (1908)
2300 - 5 Street SW

19



The Cottage School, 1940s (GA NA-5444-1)

Like the later series of Bungalow Schools (see Sites 27 & 29), Calgary's Cottage Schools were built to accommodate a rapid growth of the school population. In this case it was the 1908-1914 boom that prompted the erection of a number of low-cost wood frame structures. They were built on small lots in residential districts, and were intended for conversion to apartment buildings after they were no longer required as schools.

The 24th Avenue Cottage School had four classrooms, with washrooms in the basement. Built in 1908, it ceased to be used as a school in 1928, and by 1931 was listed in the city directory as the Beverley Apartments, with four suites. In the 1980s it was covered with vinyl siding, concealing the fact that it is one of the oldest buildings in Cliff Bungalow.

Note The Laurence apartments on the SE corner of 5th Street and 24th Avenue. Continue south on 5th Street to 25th Avenue SW and go east.

Himmelman Construction
Workshop (1923) &
Gordon Suites (1927)
514-516 - 25 Avenue SW

20

Although Calgary is a very long way from salt water, Arthur B. Himmelman was not deterred from practicing his trade as a boat-builder. Originally from the fishing and shipbuilding community of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, he had a successful



Gordon Suites, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-8)

construction business in Calgary. Together with a small group of sailing enthusiasts, he formed the Calgary Yacht Club in 1933. They met regularly to practice their marine skills on Chestemere Lake, a body of water somewhat less challenging than the North Atlantic. Himmelman was the first commodore of the club, and he built many of the boats used by the members.



Himmelman Construction Workshop, 2000 (ACD

In 1923 Himmelman erected a workshop to support his construction company and boat-building activities. It is at the rear of 514 - 25 Avenue SW and is best viewed from 4th Street SW. This is the only industrial building in Cliff Bungalow or Mission. After 1937, when Calgary's first zoning bylaw was passed, it became illegal to start an industrial business in a residential or commercial district.

In 1927 Himmelman built an attractive pair of apartment buildings, the Gordon Suites, on the lot in front of the construction workshop. In 1929 he built another interesting apartment block, *The Laurence*, nearby at the corner of 5th Street and 24th Avenue SW.

Continue east on 25th Avenue SW.



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Rouleau House | 14. Tivoli Theatre | 27. Cliff Bungalow School |
| 2. McHugh House | 15. Lent House | 28. Somerville Duplex |
| 3. The House of Israel | 16. Yale Apartments | 29. Holy Angels School |
| 4. St. Mary's Parish Hall | 17. Aitken House | 30. Marilyn Manor |
| 5. St. Mary's Cathedral | 18. Griffin House | 31. W.C.C. & University Street |
| 6. Canadian Northern Railway Bridge | 19. 24th Ave. Cottage School | 32. Treend House |
| 7. Sacred Heart Convent | 20. Himmelman Workshop / Gordon Stes. | 33. Binning Apartments |
| 8. St. Mary's School | 21. Blue Rock Hotel Site | 34. Ritchie Apartments |
| 9. Flexford House | 22. Mission Bridge | 35. Late Victorian and Edwardian Houses |
| 10. Holy Cross Hospital | 23. Aberhart House | 36. Black House |
| 11. Hartroft Bungalows | 24. Twin Gables | 37. Dr. Mahood House |
| 12. Young Block | 25. Costello House | 38. Jennison House |
| 13. D.F. Davidson Real Estate Office | 26. Cliff Triangle Park | 39. Athlone Apartments |



The Blue Rock Hotel building, 1959 (GA NA-2645-23)

On the southeast corner of 4th Street and 25th Avenue SW stood the Blue Rock Hotel. It started as a clubhouse for the Calgary Pigeon Shooting Club in about 1884, serving food, providing a meeting place for members, and a few beds for travellers. In 1893 it became a hotel, taking its name from the Blue Rock pigeons that members shot for sport, both along the Elbow River and from a 104-foot tower built for the purpose just north of the hotel. That year the sale of liquor by the glass became legal in the North-West Territories, and the congenial proprietor, Edward "Irish" Mellon welcomed locals and thirsty cowboys. Mellon was a local character well known to his customers, who included NWMP officers, newspapermen and lawyers. Cowboys rode



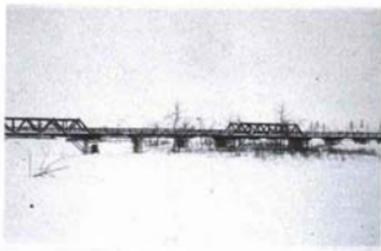
in for exciting weekends – especially when the Tsuu Tina (Sarcee Indians) were holding a pow-wow on the Mission Flats to the west.

After World War I, the Blue Rock became a Chinese laundry named Canada Laundry. Finally, the hotel and its log stables were owned by Adanac Tile and Marble Company, before being demolished in 1970.

Go south on 4th Street SW. For the best view of the bridge and the Elbow River, cross 26th Avenue SW.

Mission Bridge (1886, 1915)
4th Street SW & Elbow River

22



Mission Bridge, ca. 1886-89 (GA NA-1753-51)

The first Mission Bridge was built in 1886, on a site immediately upstream from the present bridge. It spanned the Elbow River at a point near a popular fording spot, where the flow of the Elbow is divided by a small island. Originally, the bridge was composed of a truss over each of the courses of the river, with a horizontal bridge deck above the portion on the island. At some point, however, the middle part of the bridge was replaced with another truss. Perhaps one of the periodic and dramatic high



The Elbow in flood during bridge construction, 1915 (GA NA-844-1)

water levels of the river inspired the change. Or it could be that the first bridge was built of wood and was entirely replaced. Photos from 1915 illustrating the construction of the current reinforced concrete bridge show what appears to be metal trusses on the neighbouring bridge it is replacing. A bronze plaque at the north end of the 1915 Mission Bridge commemorates the people responsible for its construction.

Go west on 26th Avenue SW and north on 5th Street SW. Cross to the west side of the street for the best view.

Aberhart House (1927)
2505 - 5 Street SW

23



Aberhart in his study, 1935 (GA NB-16-200)

This is the only private house in Alberta with the distinction of having been the home of two premiers. The "house on the brow of the hill" was built in 1927 for William and Jessie Aberhart. "Bible Bill" was a schoolteacher and principal who, in 1925, started the "Back to the Bible Hour", a popular radio program broadcast every Sunday from Calgary's Palace Theatre.

Aberhart's massive following, unorthodox religious tenets, and lack of theological training led to dis-sension at his place of worship, Westbourne Baptist Church. In October 1927 he opened the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute, with an auditorium and broadcasting facilities. One of his first students was a young farm boy from Carnduff, Saskatchewan: Ernest Manning.

The basement of the Aberhart house featured a bedroom that could be entered from a side door. It was rented for a while to Eva Reid, a journalist, who recalled many "stimulating and provocative conversations" with the Aberharts and their pet, Polly the parrot. In 1931, the basement room was taken over by Ernest Manning, who became Aberhart's surrogate son, friend, and political collaborator.



Aberhart House, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-13)

A voracious reader with a photographic memory, Aberhart crammed his upstairs study with books on education, religion, law, politics, biography, and poetry. The green-shaded lamp often burned into the early hours as he dealt with massive quantities of reading, correspondence, lesson plans, and administrative details.

In 1932, as the Depression worsened, he became interested in Social Credit economic theories. With religious zeal and boundless energy, he set out to persuade the government to adopt these theories. When this did not happen, he used his superior organizing skills and charismatic oratorical ability to convince the public. By 1935 he was the first Social Credit premier of Alberta, with Manning as his most trusted cabinet minister.

After Aberhart became premier, he and Jessie moved into a two-room suite in the Macdonald Hotel in Edmonton, and spent their summers with their married daughters in Vancouver. When Aberhart died in 1943, the house was sold. Manning succeeded him as premier and also took over the "Back to the Bible Hour".

The house is an attractive and simple example of the Craftsman style. It has undergone several changes in ownership, and in the 1990s additions were made to the rear and part of the front verandah was enclosed.

Twin Gables (1914)
611 - 25 Avenue SW

24



Twin Gables, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-11)

Twin Gables is one of the few houses in the district to be distinguished with its own name. An eclectic mix of building materials are used as exterior finishes: the first storey is of yellow and brown brick, the second storey is wood shingle, and the attic gable ends are stucco with imitation half-timbering. In the typical Craftsman manner, the roof is low-pitched and broadly overhanging. The brackets, rafters, purlins, and ridge beams are visible and painted in a colour that contrasts with the building's finish, and the wide verge boards are decorated with circular saw cuts in the ends.

The first resident of the house was Albert E. Millican, who was born in Ontario and came to Calgary to establish a law practice with his brother William in 1906. Albert and his family lived in the house from 1914 until 1931. He became a successful Calgary barrister, and the Millican family remained prominent in legal and political circles in Alberta. Twin Gables was designated a Provincial Historical Resource in 1984.

Go west on 25th Avenue SW.

Costello House (ca. 1912)
600 Hillcrest Avenue SW

25



Costello House, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-15)

Patrick J. Costello came to Calgary from Lindsay, Ontario in 1902 and participated in the 1908–14 real estate boom. He was the first owner of this house in 1912. After World War I, he rented it to a series of middle-management bank employees until 1928, when he moved back in. Soon thereafter he became an inspector for the City of Calgary Public Works Department. A staunch Roman Catholic, Costello was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Mary's Holy Name Society.

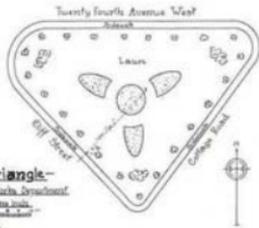
Later occupants of the house from the mid-1930s to the late 1960s were also middle-management businessmen: the manager of Tuckett Ltd. (wholesale tobacconists), the manager of Robin Hood Flour Mills Ltd. and the manager of a clothing business.

Go north on Cliff Street SW.

Cliff Triangle Park (1937)
Cliff Street at 25th Avenue SW

26

The development of this small park was due to the vision of William Roland Reader, Calgary's Superintendent of Parks between 1913 and 1942. A co-founder of the Calgary Horticultural Society, Reader sought, in his own words, to make Calgary the "city beautiful of the west." Trained in Britain as a teacher, Reader's love of landscape gardening



Park plan, 1937 (CC)

brought him to Canada, where his work transformed a city that was little more than bald prairie.

During the teens, Reader focused on the establishment of a civic nursery, parks planning, boulevard improvements, tree planting and the development of citizen's groups such as the Vacant Lots Garden Club. He planned or furthered the development of Central Park, Tuxedo Park, Riley Park, Shouldice Park, Tompkins Park, and St. George's Island, among many others.



Park at right, ca. 1940s (GA NA-5444-1)

At his residence adjacent to Union Cemetery in SE Calgary, he established the Superintendent's Garden, which was renamed the Reader Rock Garden after his death. Reader was internationally acknowledged for his skill with plants, and royal visitors sought his

advice. He introduced hundreds of hardy species to the city and had a particular love of alpine plants. Typical of his treatment of small suburban spaces, this lawn surrounded by sloping banks and poplar trees has provided a place of rest and contemplation for over 60 years.

Continue north on Cliff Street SW.

NOTE: The short and long routes re-join at Site 27.

Cliff Bungalow School (1920) 2201 Cliff Street SW

27



Cliff Bungalow School, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-18)

Cliff Bungalow School was originally named the 22nd Avenue Cottage School but was renamed after Cliff Street in 1927. The surrounding community eventually took its name from the school. The school was built in response to a rapid growth in the number of school age children in the district. It was one of a series of "Bungalow" schools planned by the School Board's architect William Branton (see Site 31), and built after World War I.

Bungalow schools were intended to blend in with the surrounding residential communities. Cliff Bungalow School, like Holy Angels School (Site 29) was constructed of dark, rough-textured brick. It had four classrooms, a teacher's office in the attic, and play areas in the basement to be used during inclement weather.

By 1988 the school was surplus to the needs of the Calgary Board of Education, and it was turned over

to the City of Calgary. Since then it has been the home of the Montessori School of Calgary and of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association.

Somerville Duplex (1912) 621-623 - 22 Avenue SW

28



Somerville Duplex, 1915 (GAI NA-3419-5)

This attractive Edwardian duplex with brick exterior finishing and Tudor Revival style half-timbered wood and stucco gables was built in 1912 for landlord W. Somerville. Its first residents were George Nendick, the manager of a woolen mill, and Thomas Sheldon, a CPR conductor.



Somerville Duplex, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-17)

From 1934 to 1946 the eastern part of the duplex was the family home of Abraham Belzberg, an immigrant who came from Poland in 1919. By working as a farm-hand near Drumheller and at the Burns meat packing plant in Calgary, Belzberg was able to bring his wife Hinda and their infant daughter to Canada. He finally acquired a business of his

own, the Calgary Brokerage Exchange, an auction house and second hand furniture store that became Crisby's Furniture Arcade, with five outlets in Calgary. Abraham also invested in real estate, with some success, and was able to provide a comfortable life for his family. Their son Samuel, along with his brothers Hyman and William, created First City Financial Corporation, a financial services, real estate, and insurance conglomerate worth several billion dollars at its peak.

Go north on Cliff Street SW.

**Holy Angels School (1919-29)
2105 Cliff Street SW**

29



Holy Angels School, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-22)

By 1919 St. Mary's School (see Site 8) had been outgrown, and the Separate School Board decided to build Holy Angels School to serve the primary grade pupils of Cliff Bungalow. Land was donated by the CPR with the proviso that it be used only for a school, park, or other public use. The architect was probably J.E. Burrell of Calgary. In 1929 an extension designed by William Stanley Bates (see also Sites 7, 8, 10) was added, increasing the capacity of the school to six classes.

The school was constructed of brown, rough-faced brick, reflecting the taste for rustic materials that accompanied the popularity of the Craftsman movement. The design includes some classical elements, such as the entrance hood supported by lion brackets. A dormer set in the attic provides space for the principal's office, and an open cupola

on the roof helps to identify the building as a school. Another school of very similar design is St. John's School on Kensington Road in northwest Calgary.

By 1971, Holy Angels School had been closed by the Separate School District. It was sold to the City of Calgary and, from 1981 to 1990, was used as the Louise Dean School for single mothers. Since then, it has been leased by the Montessori Elementary School of Calgary, a private school.

**Marilyn Manor (ca. 1945)
2106 Cliff Street SW**

30



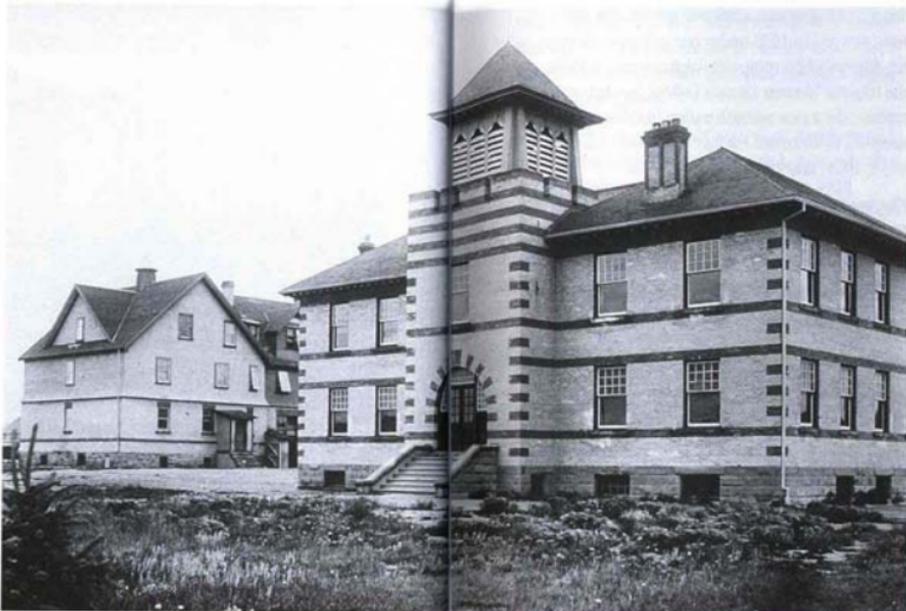
Marilyn Manor, 2000 (ACD 00-R135-20)

Marilyn Manor provides an example of post-World War II architecture in Cliff Bungalow. The clean lines, flat roof and glass block windows are typical of the style which became popular at that time. It

was first owned by Felix George Lennon, who had left Durham, England at age thirteen. By the time he bought this property, Lennon had worked his way up to become manager of Renfrew Motors Ltd. and a member of the Calgary Petroleum Club.

**Western Canada College
(ca. 1903-81) &
University Street (1912)
5A Street SW**

31



Western Canada College, ca. 1911 (GA NG-24-32)

In 1903, the CPR granted 20 acres to Western Canada College, a private school for boys. The grant extended from 5th Street to College Lane and from 17th Avenue to Royal Avenue SW. The College was an exclusive boarding school in the British tradition, and attracted students from all

over Canada. Perhaps it had aspirations of becoming a post-secondary institution in 1912 when it subdivided two and a half blocks of its land and named the newly created street "University Street". The City of Calgary insisted on the less picturesque name of 5A Street SW.

The street features an allée of green ash trees planted around 1916 under the direction of William Reader, Superintendent of Parks (see Site 27). Flanked by Edwardian and Craftsman homes, the block between 19th Avenue and Royal Avenue SW is one of Calgary's most attractive streetscapes.

Western Canada College remained in operation until 1926, when it was sold to the Calgary Public School District and renamed Western Canada High School. In 1928 and 1929, west and east wings designed by W.A. Branton in the Collegiate Gothic style were added. Branton was the School Board's staff architect from 1911 to 1957.



University Street, 2000 (ACD 00-R136-1)

The east wing was originally a technical school, and the west wing was an academic school. The two were merged in 1938 under one principal, becoming Alberta's first composite high school. In 1958 the original Western Canada College building was replaced by a new administration building, also designed by Branton. Further wings were added in 1935, 1965, and 1981.

The front view of the school from 17th Avenue SW is worth a side trip. This will add 15 minutes to the tour.

Continue the tour by going east on Royal Avenue SW to 5th Street SW.

Trend House (1922) 1933 - 5 Street SW

32



Trend House, 2000 (ACD 00-R136-3)

The Trend house is outstanding for the tasteful elegance of its design and the quality of its building materials. Constructed of brick with a sandstone foundation and details, it features a sweeping

low-pitched hip roof punctuated by tall chimneys and covering a spacious wrap-around verandah. The identity of the architect is unknown, but the influence of the Prairie Style, developed by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is plain.

The builder was one of Alberta's pioneer ranchers. William R. Trend (pronounced "Trend") was born around 1865 near London, England. In 1901 he established a ranch in the Wintering Hills, about 50 miles east of Calgary. This was a remote location, and only two or three supply runs to Gleichen were made each year. Trend was called "Dogie Bill", for his practice of importing calves from Manitoba. His ranch was known as the "four-eared outfit" because the ears of his cattle were slit to identify them on the range. Trend's was soon one of the district's largest ranching operations.

By 1914 the range east of Calgary was largely fenced for grain farming. Bill, with his wife Leona, retired to Cliff Bungalow and built this house in 1922.

In 1931 the Trends divorced and the house was sold in 1934 to Robert and Annette Spence. Robert owned Spence's Shoes and the Quality Shoe Store in downtown Calgary. He was also a rancher and horse breeder, with property in B.C. and near Bragg Creek, Alberta.

In 1941 the house was purchased by Samuel Hanen and his wife Lena. Samuel came from Russia with his parents to Rumsey, Alberta, then a Jewish agricultural colony. By 1923 he had opened a dry goods and grocery store in Calgary; by 1939 he had established Hanen's Ltd., a clothing and department store. In the 1940s Lena purchased the Betty Shop, a women's clothing store, which she expanded into a chain of some forty outlets. The Hanens also invested in ranching. They acquired interests in the V Bar V Ranch near Wardlaw, Alberta and the Elkhorn Ranch in B.C.

Samuel and Lena's son Harold studied architecture under Frank Lloyd Wright, and became a prominent Calgary architect. He worked as a planner for the City of Calgary, and is credited with conceptualizing the downtown Plus-15 system and the Stephen Avenue Walk.

Binning House (1909-10)
2008 - 5 Street SW

33



Binning House, 2000 (ACD 00-R134-18)

Another early and long-time resident of Cliff Bungalow was Bertram C. Binning. He built this house for approximately \$3,500 in 1909-10, and lived in it until his death in 1945. Binning had moved to Calgary in 1900 from Listowel, Ontario to set up a dry goods business with his brother. By 1932 he owned a successful ladies' wear business, Binnings Limited, with a store downtown in the converted Tribune Building, known as the Binnings Block.

Cross 5th Street SW and go north.

Ritchie Apartments (1941)
20th Avenue & 5th Street SW

34



Ritchie Apartments, 2000 (ACD 00-R136-4)

Calgary's population grew rapidly in the early 1940s, stimulated by the Second World War. Soldiers and airmen came to Calgary from all over the British Commonwealth for military training. To meet the demand for housing, some new apartment blocks were built. This Moderne style building is a simple, flat-roofed box with plain stucco walls and no cornice. It is decorated with a textured horizontal band near the roofline and panels above the entrances. The windows use horizontal panes, in contrast with the traditional vertical or square arrangement of panes, and their placement – in the corners of the rooms – was a radical break with tradition.

The emphasis on the horizontal in Moderne buildings was influenced by the sleek lines of industrial design as seen in trains, airplanes and automobiles of the era. The rounded corners of the entrance canopies are typical of Moderne detailing.

The original owner of this building was John C. Ritchie, a building contractor. The six private-entrance apartments were originally occupied by professional people, including Ritchie himself. Among his tenants was an engineer, a colonel in the Canadian Army, the manager of an auto dealership, a teacher, and a CNR superintendent.

Go north on 5th Street SW and turn east on 19th Avenue SW.

**Late Victorian and
Edwardian Houses (1910-12)**
North side, 19th Avenue SW

35

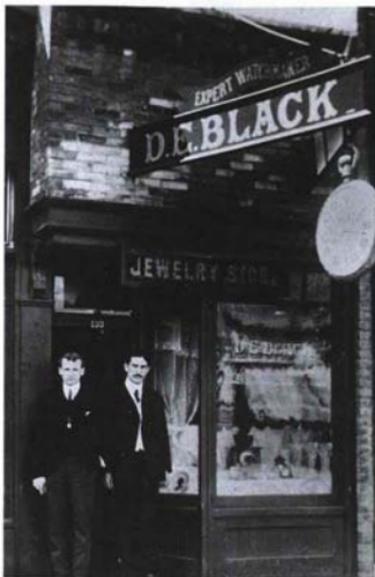
This streetscape illustrates the rapid development typical of the boom years from 1908 to 1914. The CPR subdivided the land between 4th and 5th Streets SW in 1905, and it was annexed by the City of Calgary two years later. The district became attractive for development by the fall of 1909, when cement sidewalks and water, sewer, electric, and streetcar services were completed by the City. The houses at 522, 524, 526, 530, 532, and 536 - 19 Avenue SW were all completed in 1910; those at 516 and 528 were built in 1911; number 514 was built in 1912.



19 Avenue SW, 2000 (ACD 00-R136-5)

During this period of economic optimism, interest rates on residential mortgages were low, and the real estate market was buoyant. Many houses were built speculatively from pattern books and were designed to appeal to a large number of potential buyers. They were sometimes mass-produced in groups of two to four houses in a row.

Houses built at this time often featured the decorative embellishments of the late Victorian era. Fretwork, or gingerbread, and decorative shingles were remnants of the fanciful Queen Anne Revival and other High Victorian styles that reached their zenith in the late 1800s in cities such as Victoria and San Francisco. In Calgary, architectural taste tended to lag behind North American trends, and it wasn't until about 1911 that the Edwardian domestic style predominated over the Victorian. Edwardian houses were similar to late Victorian houses, but the decorative details were considerably subdued.



Black, right, at his store, 1904-6 (GA NA-2575-17)

D.E. Black was a jeweller who moved to Calgary from Westport, Ontario in 1903. By 1904 he had a jewellery store at 133- 8th Avenue SE, which he moved, in 1906, to 130 - 8th Avenue, SE. In 1910 Black bought this house, and moved his jewellery store again. This time it was to the premises formerly belonging to Louis Henry Doll, proprietor of Doll's Diamond Palace, in the striking Doll Block on 8 Avenue SE in downtown Calgary. Black is remembered as the victim of Calgary's largest diamond theft to that date. In 1911, during the pre-Christmas rush, someone made off with \$11,000.00 worth of gems – a significant amount at the time - from his store. Despite this setback, Black built up Canada's largest watch-repair business, which eventually merged with Birks in 1920.



Black House, 2000 (ACD 00-R136-6)

Later occupants of this house included the secretary-treasurer of a trust company, a barber, an auctioneer, a CPR telegrapher, a carpenter and a salesman. Like many other residences, the Black House was duplexed during the Second World War, and drastically altered in more recent years.

Dr. Mahood House (1915)
529 - 19 Avenue SW

37

From the end of the 1908-1914 boom and until the 1930s, the Arts and Crafts aesthetic predominated in residential architecture in Calgary. It originated with British commentators such as John Ruskin and William Morris, who praised natural materials and valued the skills of craftsmen.

Typical elements of Arts and Crafts houses came from diverse sources, including Tudor, Swiss, Spanish Colonial, and even Japanese domestic architecture. Rustic building materials such as wood shingles, fieldstones and clinker bricks were



Dr. Mahood and nurses, ca. 1938 (GA NA-2361-8)

featured. Spacious verandahs, low-pitched roofs with brackets and exposed rafters were also typical. Craftsman houses are sometimes called "California bungalows", after the region where they were particularly popular. In deference to Calgary's climate, many of the verandahs of its so-called California bungalows have been glassed-in.

This house was built in 1915 for C. Stanley Mahood. Dr. Mahood was born in Ontario, trained at the University of Toronto, started a practice in Calgary in 1911, and was appointed Medical Health Officer a few months later. In 1918, his quick action in setting up isolation hospitals, ordering quarantines, and prohibiting public gatherings - though unpopular at the time - was later credited with saving many lives during the great post-World War I influenza epidemic.



Mabood House, 2000 (ACD 00-R136-8)

Frederick Stephen Mannix (1881-1951) lived here from 1921 to 1933. At 19, Mannix had begun as a subcontractor on the CPR rail lines, eventually becoming Alberta's leading heavy construction contractor.

Jennison House (1910)
522 - 19 Avenue SW

38



Jennison House, 2000 (ACD 00-R136-12)

This 1910 house is one of two built on a lot subdivided by Charles N. Bell and his wife, Judge John L. Jennison, former mayor of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, bought this house in 1913. He had moved to Calgary in 1911, where he was called to the Alberta bar and served as an Alderman on City Council in 1914-15.

After Judge Jennison's death in 1919, famous oilman Archibald W. Dingman from Picton, Ontario, lived in the house for three years. Dingman had worked in the Pennsylvania oilfields and organized the Calgary Natural Gas Company in 1905. He is credited with ushering in the age of oil in Alberta. It was his first Calgary Petroleum Products well that struck naphtha gas in 1914 near Turner Valley, southwest of Calgary.

Cross 4th Street SW, jog north, and continue east on 19th Avenue SW.

Athlone Apartments (1940)
330 - 19 Avenue SW

39



Athlone Apartments, 2000 (ACD 00-R136-16)

The grounds of Judge Charles-Borromée Rouleau's mansion, Castel aux Prés (see Introduction), originally occupied this site and that of the office building to the west. The Athlone Apartments, named for the Earl of Athlone, Governor General of Canada at the time, was built in 1940 by Arthur Cumming Ltd. Cumming was a successful Calgary businessman. He was the president of Electrical Wholesalers Ltd., and



Castel aux Prés, ca. 1930s (GA NA-1898-2)

the manager of Medicine Hat Greenhouses. By 1987, the building had been renamed Leah Manor.

Several low-rise apartment blocks were built in the area in the 1940s, but this one is the largest and one of the most interesting. Like most of the brick buildings in the area, it is actually a wood frame structure, faced with brick veneer. It features elements of classical revival architecture, such as the pilasters, and the decorative lintels over the windows and doorway, but breaks with classical tradition in its lack of a cornice. The main entrance has two features that were considered innovative at the time: a wall of glass blocks surrounding the door, and vitrolite paneling. Built with high-quality materials and set back from the street with a spacious front lawn, this 46-suite apartment building was more luxurious than others in the neighbourhood.

This is the last site on the tour. To return to the start-point, continue east on 19th Avenue, and then north on 1st Street SW.

Glossary

Art Deco

a style popular during the 1920s and 30s. The name derived from the Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes, held in Paris in 1925. It used colourful geometric and naturalistic motifs for decoration and was generally formal and angular in design.

Baroque Revival

an architectural style based on 18th century European models with rich, classically-based detailing.

bay window

an angular or curved projection of an exterior wall which contains windows.

bracket

a flat-topped projection, or a member projecting at an angle to support a decorative or structural architectural feature.

bungalow

a one-storey house; or, a multi-storey house with a roof sloping towards the front and back, with a large overhang creating a verandah at the front.

classical

architecture which uses elements of ancient Greek and Roman buildings.

clinker brick

overfired brick with textured surfaces.

Collegiate Gothic

a style of architecture based on the tradition of medieval English colleges such as Oxford and Cambridge.

cornice

a horizontal, projecting decorative moulding along the top of a building, wall or arch.

Craftsman

an architectural style of the early 20th century with human-scaled proportions, featuring details which are, or appear to be, handcrafted or rustic.

cupola

a small dome.

dormer

a roofed window projecting from a sloping roof.

Edwardian

an architectural style current after 1900; derived from but simpler than Victorian styles, and relying on classical details.

façade

the front or main face of a building.

false front

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

fieldstone

naturally formed, rounded rocks used in foundations, chimneys, pillars, etc., especially in Craftsman style buildings.

fretwork

a type of architectural "gingerbread"; wood cut in decorative patterns by a fret saw.

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.

gingerbread

a term describing ornate wooden architectural decoration.

Gothic Revival

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

half-timbering

a method of construction where the spaces of and exposed timber-frame wall are filled in with rubble or brickwork or where the appearance of this construction is achieved by applied surface decoration.

Italianate

architecture, especially of the late 19th century, which is based on that of Renaissance Italy.

lintel

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

mansard

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

marquee

a roof-like structure sheltering a doorway; often incorporating signage, in the case of a theatre.

Moderne

a streamlined style popular in the 1930s and 1940s. Like Art Deco, the name derived from the Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes, held in Paris in 1925. Characterized by geometric shapes, lack of ornament, flat roofs and curved corners. Sometimes called Streamline Moderne.

Modernist

a 20th century architectural aesthetic deriving its design qualities from the materials used, without historical references or applied decoration.

oriel

a window projecting from an upper storey.

parging

roughcast plaster, especially that applied to the foundation storey of a building.

pediment

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

pilaster

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

Prairie style

an architectural style developed in the late 19th century in the mid-west of the U.S.A., especially by Frank Lloyd Wright. Horizontal proportions, widely overhanging eaves and attention to craftsmanship are typical features.

purlin

wooden poles lying across rafters at 90 degrees, to which roofing material is attached.

Queen Anne Revival

an eclectic late-Victorian style with varied rooflines, rich detailing, and generally vertical emphasis in proportions.

rafter

major component in roof structure. Wood beams connecting the ridge beam to the tops of the outside walls of a building.

ridge beam

continuous beam running along the highest point of a roof, supported by rafters.

Second Empire

a style originating in France in the late 19th century. Mansard roofs are a characteristic feature.

segmental arch

an arch which uses a smaller segment of a circle than a half circle.

Spanish Colonial

architectural style of areas of North America colonized by Spain. Characterized by stucco walls, tile roofs, projecting round joists and round-arched windows and doors.

Tudor Revival

an architectural style characterized by half-timbering, flattened gothic (pointed) arches, shallow mouldings and extensive panelling.

turret

a small tower.

verandah

an exterior covered porch or balcony of relatively large dimensions, intended for summer relaxation.

verge board

a board, often decorated, on the projecting ends of a gable roof.

vitre lite

opaque, highly reflective glass panels used as exterior cladding.

wood frame

construction methods using dimensioned lumber nailed together to form a supporting framework and covered with a variety of surfacing materials.

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