

Eighth Ave., Looking East, Calgary, Alta.



*Stephen Ave. Looking East at 1
Street ca. 1910*

STEPHEN AVENUE

Walking Tour



HERITAGE
CALGARY

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STEPHEN AVENUE

While the sites are organized in a rough line,
there is no starting point on this tour.

Pick a building to start on the map and explore!

Cover photo:
**Eighth Ave., looking
east, Calgary, Alta.**
[1910], (PC010206) by Shaw
Bros. Courtesy of Peel's Prairie
Provinces



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INTRODUCTION

Stephen Avenue is Calgary's historical main street. In the city's earlier years, businesses centred around this street and was the heart of the city. A streetcar ran along Stephen Avenue, and the mainstreet hosted parades often.

Today, Stephen Avenue is a pedestrianized mall and a significant tourist destination. In 2002, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada declared two blocks of Stephen Avenue as a National Historic District, one of only a handful throughout Canada. The historic district falls between 2nd Street SW and Centre Street.

Named for the first president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Lord George Mount Stephen, Stephen Avenue served as Calgary's main commercial street due to its proximity to the CPR rail line, the main train station, and the Palliser Hotel that would be built in the 1910s.

Most of Stephen Avenue has been conserved through the ages and is one of the most intact parts of Calgary's early history. It is home to a huge diversity of architecture; ranging from an early Vernacular wooden building that survived the Great Fire, to the Edwardian and Beaux-Arts architecture of the turn of the century and Calgary's first big population boom, Art Deco and Modern Classical of the '20s to the '40s, and Modernist, Post Modernist, and International architecture of the Post War years.

Lancaster Building

304 8 Ave SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1912

The Lancaster Building is a nine-storey Edwardian Commercial structure clad in buff brick, with a heavy cornice and other classically inspired surface features clad in off-white terra-cotta; and with first-storey floor-to-ceiling display windows. Filling a corner lot in a busy downtown commercial location, it has two nearly identical street-facing elevations.

The building was the ambitious venture of early Calgary entrepreneur and civic leader James Stuart Mackie. Mackie established several businesses, and his long service with the Calgary Board of Trade earned him an honorary life membership. He served several terms as an



alderman and was Calgary's mayor in 1901. The Lancaster Building remained in family ownership into the 1980s. This was one of the first major buildings in Calgary to use steel-frame construction, which made such a tall building economical. Also advanced for its time were its fireproofing features, three high-speed elevators, and hot-and-cold running water throughout.

Canada Life Assurance (Hollinsworth) Building

301 8 Ave SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1912

The terra-cotta clad Hollinsworth Building is the only remaining example in Alberta of the work of Montreal Architects Brown and Vallance, and perhaps the best expression in Calgary's early buildings of the Edwardian Commercial style and the influence of Chicago architect Louis Sullivan. The facade features emphasize the building's vertical thrust. The windows are contained within tall, round-headed arches which rise almost the full height of the building. These arches are set apart from the surrounding wall by the use of a different coloured terra-cotta. The frieze is articulated by elegant brackets. The facade rests on a string course which separates the ground storey from the floors above. All contribute to an excellence of design, style and detail.

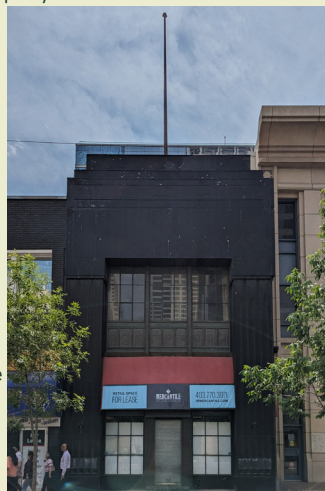


Canada Life erected the building in 1912, and remained here for many years. In 1978, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce acquired it as part of a development site. Designation as a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979 may have saved it from demolition.

MacPherson Fruit Company
227 8 Ave SW - Art Deco - 1905, 1929

The Winnipeg-based Macpherson Fruit Company, which established a Calgary branch by 1902, built this two-storey brick structure around 1905 as its Calgary warehouse and wholesale office. The building had a loading platform accessing the rear lane spur line, and the adjacent vacant lot is believed to have been used as an open service yard for delivery vehicles. The company moved to larger premises in 1912 and later became known as the Scott Fruit Company. The Northern Crown Bank acquired the building in 1912 and operated a branch in it between 1912 and 1918. The Trusts and Guarantee Company, Limited acquired the building in 1928. The building was heavily renovated in 1929 and the existing Art Deco facade was constructed at that time.

This brick building features a striking Art Deco facade which was applied over the original Edwardian Commercial facade. The Art Deco facade has stylized columns and entablature, and, bronze storefront and light fixtures.



MacFarlane & Northcott Block (Turner-Hicks)
220 8 Ave SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1913

This two-storey brick building was built for Joseph C. McFarlane, who had moved to Calgary in 1906 and was associated with the firm of McFarlane & Northcott Hardware. Anticipating the expansion of its department store, the Hudson's Bay Company purchased both McFarlane's Hardware and the adjacent Mackay & Dippie Block in 1928. The Bay store was enlarged in 1929 and again in 1957, but the expanded store was not built as far west as these two buildings. The Bay sold both buildings in the 1940s. During the Bay's ownership, the chief tenant of the former McFarlane & Northcott Block was Famous Cloak, a clothing store.

From 1947-1982, the building was owned by People's Credit Jewellers Ltd. During that time, the storefront housed People's Credit Jewellers (later renamed People's). The building was incorporated into Scotia Centre in the mid-1970s, and the storefront opens at the rear into the Scotia Centre Mall.



Western (Kraft) Building
222 8 Ave SW - Commercial - 1907

This is a very good example of Edwardian Commercial architecture and features; sand painted entablature, engaged pilasters, signband cornice with brackets, recessed storefront and side entry to upper level offices. This two-storey brick building was built in 1907 for Joseph C. McFarlane, who had moved to Calgary in 1906 and was associated with the firm of McFarlane & Northcott Hardware.

Anticipating the expansion of its department store, the Hudson's Bay Company purchased both McFarlane's Hardware and the adjacent Mackay & Dippie Block in 1928. The Bay store was enlarged in 1929 and again in 1957, but the expanded store was not built as far west as these two buildings. The Bay sold both buildings in the 1940s.

The building was incorporated into Scotia Centre in the mid-1970s, and the storefront opens at the rear into the Scotia Centre mall. Scotia Centre Ltd. acquired the building in 1982.



Allen (Palace) Theatre
219 8 Ave SW - Renaissance Revival - 1921

The Palace was built as a link in the Allen Theatre chain by pioneer Canadian movie theatre tycoon Barney Allen & Sons. The Palace played host to vaudeville shows and later to such renowned performers as Jan Peerce and Nelson Eddy. Benefit performances for the WWII effort and for victims of flooding in Bowness and Sunnyside were also held here.

The theatre is a good example of the Renaissance Revival. A row of Corinthian pilasters is arranged across the brick facade. The five central bays project slightly, and each contains a three-light window with Adamesque lunettes. The pilasters support an entablature, above which is a decorated blind roundheaded arch. Much survives of the fine interior, including some detailed and distinctive plasterwork. The theatre seats 1,700. The Palace is the sole intact survivor of Calgary's early theatres.



In November 1925, William Aberhart, evangelist and Alberta's first Social Credit Premier, made the first of many Sunday afternoon broadcasts from the Palace, as the Allen later came to be called.

MacKay & Dippie Block

218 8 Ave SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1909

This two-storey brick building was constructed in 1909 for W.G. Mackay and G.F. Dippie to house their landmark business, Mackay and Dippie Ltd., Fur Dealers and Taxidermists. Mackay and Dippie were both well known Calgarians and their furrier business is symbolic of the pioneer town / city. It forms part of a contiguous section of historic facades on Stephen Avenue Mall. Scottish-born taxidermist Walter James Grant Mackay went into business with future mayor James S. Mackie in a gunsmith and taxidermy shop, Mackie & Mackay. Mackie sold his interest to George Frederick Dippie around 1901, and the business continued in the name of Mackay & Dippie. This successful partnership, advertised as being "patronized by their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia".

It is an example of Edwardian Commercial featuring; sand painted entablature, flagpole, arched upper windows with sandstone keystone / hood mould and a signband cornice.



Hudson's Bay Co. Department Store (1913)

200 8 Ave SW - Commercial - 1913

The Hudson's Bay Company Department Store (1913) was the largest and most prominent department store in the city when completed in 1913 - a status it maintained with its expansion campaigns in 1929 and 1956-57.

The store's design was the first of its kind in Calgary - constructed on a monumental scale, incorporating steel and reinforced concrete construction technology that was sheathed in terra-cotta cladding, and banks of elevators allowing it to rise six stories. The elegant, wraparound arcade of granite columns and rounded arches, is one the architectural highlights of the city. Reminiscent of the arcades lining the famous Rue de Rivoli in Paris, it is the only known example of its type in North America.



The store's design was also the first of its kind for the Hudson's Bay Company, serving as the prototype for the company's expansion programme of new stores, and repeated in Vancouver, Victoria, and Winnipeg (1926). The building is Calgary's finest example of Commercial-style architecture. It is distinguished by cream-coloured, terra-cotta cladding with classical motifs. The extensive use of terra cotta was extremely rare and innovative in Calgary, employed elsewhere only on the Canada Life Building (1912), a building of smaller scale. The store's facades display a distinct three-part arrangement with a base of display windows; a middle section elongated by multi-story pilasters, and elaborated top; as well, three-part and Chicago-style windows fill large expanses of the facades. The exterior is detailed with fine bronze and stainless steel window and doorway casings, an arcade paved with terrazzo, and a polished granite base.

Leeson & Lineham Block

209 8 Ave SW - Chicago Commercial Style - 1910

Rehabilitated in 1998, this Chicago style commercial structure features; grid like window organization, rock faced sandstone base, banded brick and sandstone walls, large simplified storefronts and a large sand painted entablature. Part of a contiguous section of historic facades, it is also an early example of a skyscraper for Calgary and employed the latest reinforced concrete technology. Both Leeson and Lineham were well known early Calgarians and ranchers.

Ontario-born George Kidd Leeson moved to Manitoba in 1880, then to present-day Alberta where he operated a general store at Morley and jointly operated the Royal Mail Line, a stagecoach and mail carrier. He eventually settled in Calgary, where he became a successful businessman while maintaining his large ranching operation at Morley. John Lineham was born in Ontario, and as a young man moved to Brandon, Manitoba where he became a stockman.



Hodder (Hull) Block

205 8 Ave SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1901

Although the frieze of this 2-storey commercial building bears the name "Hull Block", it was known for many years by the name of its original owner, E.F.T. Hodder. Built in 1906, Hodder's enterprises occupied the structure until 1916; Imperial Dry Goods was situated there from 1917 to 1935. The Hull Block repeats the principal stylistic features of its neighbour, the Alberta Block, in the bracketed cornice and parapet, and modest scale. It forms an integral part of the historic streetscape of 8th Avenue.



Alberta Hotel

804 1 St SW - Romanesque Revival - 1888

The Alberta Hotel, originally built 1888-90, is a sandstone retail and commercial building. The three-storey, Italianate-style, landmark building occupies a corner location at one of downtown's busiest intersections. The building also incorporates a 1906 Classical Revival-style annex and 1891 rear addition. The earliest part of the building is distinguished by its rock-faced exterior, roundheaded windows and ornamental metal cornice, while the annex is defined by a smooth-finished, ashlar facade.

The Alberta Hotel is symbolically important for its central association with Calgary's pioneer-era history, being the city's pre-eminent hostelry and its oldest remaining hotel building.

For most of the building's history as a hotel, it claimed the status as being the best in the city, and was a social crossroads. During this period the hotel was the preferred lodging and gathering place for well-to-do ranchers, businessmen, local personalities and remittance men - earning it the status as a 'male Mecca'. Apart from the superior accommodations, its other drawing cards included an excellent dining room, a favored barbershop, a pool and billiards room, a reading room and a renowned beverage room, famous for its 125'-long bar - supposedly the longest between Winnipeg and Vancouver.

Alberta Block

805 1 St SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1903

In 1902 William Roper Hull purchased a lot at the southwest corner of Stephen Avenue and 1 Street W. (Blk 64, Lot 20). He immediately began construction of the Alberta Block, a two-storey brick and sandstone office/commercial building completed in 1903.

Born in England in 1856, Hull and his brother J.R. emigrated to Canada in 1873 and entered the stockraising business at Kamloops, B.C. In the 1880s the brothers established a meat business with branches in B.C. and what is now Alberta. Around 1886 W.R. Hull moved to Calgary where he opened a meat business and soon established himself as a rancher. He was one of the original shareholders in the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company and in 1893 Hull built Calgary's first opera house.



Architecturally, the Alberta Hotel is significant as one of the oldest structures in downtown Calgary and is distinguished by its use of local sandstone in its construction. Construction of the original portion of the building was initiated in 1888 and reflects the changes to occur to downtown building practices as a result of the Great Fire' that levelled Calgary's downtown two years earlier. Subsequent to the fire, and prior to World War I, much of downtown was rebuilt using local sandstone, earning Calgary the nickname, 'Sandstone City', with the Alberta Hotel being a key, remaining contributor to that characterization. While some of these buildings were simply clad or detailed in sandstone, the original portion of the Alberta Hotel is of solid sandstone construction and is among the earliest substantial buildings to be built after the fire.



- 1 Hodder (Hull) Block
- 2 Alberta Block
- 3 Alberta Hotel
- 4 T.C. Power & Bro.

**Crowd watching parade on 8th Avenue
[Stephen Avenue], Calgary, Alberta**

1909, (CU1129852) by Unknown. Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary.

Bank of Montreal 140 8 Ave SW - Beaux Arts - 1932

Built 1930-32, the Bank of Montreal is the finest example of Beaux Arts-style architecture in Calgary and the most substantial and elaborate temple-form bank in the city. As the site of company's main operations in the city since the 1880s, the Bank of Montreal also symbolizes a long historical association to the city.

Construction of the Bank of Montreal was initiated in 1930 and designed in the monumental Beaux-Arts tradition by Montreal architect Kenneth Rea. Rea was a preferred architect for the company designing dozens of branches - the Calgary branch being one of the most substantial. The exterior of the building is defined by its Tyndall stone cladding and classical-style features. It is unique in Calgary as an office building edifice enveloped by Beaux-Arts-style temple-form exterior. The main facade is dominated by Corinthian columns and pediment containing stone carving of the company's coat-of-arms that is framed by First Nations people, tepees, evergreen trees and a beaver to exemplify the Canadian roots of the company. Massive brass doors adorned in relief mark the main entrance, while 'BANK OF MONTREAL' lettering is carved into the cornice; Corinthian pilasters line the side of the building. Originally a rooftop garden provided refuge for employees.



The interior focal point of the building is the lofty bank hall which ranks among the most lavish spaces ever designed in Calgary. The banking hall is flooded by natural light and bisected by rows of Corinthian columns. It is ornamented with elaborately coffered ceilings, panelled plaster walls, bronze chandeliers and a variety of marble wall and floor finishes. Gold leaf detailing highlights column capitals, ceiling and wall features. Offices for the managers are richly finished with marble detailing or walnut panelling.

T.C. Power & Bro. 1044 19 Ave SE - Free Classical/Vernacular - 1885

A rare example of early downtown buildings, it is a Victorian Commercial style with Free Classic details featuring; upper stylized entablature, signband cornice, strongly vertical upper windows with pedimented head, and, built with balloon framing and cut nails. A unique building, it is the sole symbolic landmark of Calgary's downtown prior to the fire of 1886. Built by T.C. Power & Bro., American general merchants, the store manager, D.W. Marsh, served as Calgary Mayor in 1889-90 and as the first president of the Western Stock Growers' Association.



This narrow wooden building, a typical structure in frontier Calgary, is the only remaining survivor from the great fire of 1886. It was built in 1885 as a general store for the American firm T.C. Power & Bro. Like the rival, I.G. Baker & Co., T.C. Power & Bro. was based in Fort Benton, Montana, and established a thriving trade in prairie Canada before the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s.

Norman Block 126A 8 Ave SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1904

The Norman Block, built in 1904, is a two-storey flat roof building, eight bays across, in an Edwardian Commercial style, with rooftop balustrade and centre and corner scroll pediments. This is a notable example of an Edwardian Commercial building in Calgary, with a formal symmetrical facade enlivened by characteristic features such as the roof balustrade with scrolled pediments, and festoon-decorated frieze.



The Norman Block is closely associated with Sir (Senator) James Alexander Lougheed (1854--1925), prominent lawyer and a national political leader who shaped early Calgary with his real estate ventures. He had four commercial properties built on Stephen Ave., including this one, each named for one of his sons.

Bank of Nova Scotia (1930)

125 8 Ave SW - Art Deco - 1930

Designed to convey a sense of solidity and security, this bank building is impressive in the proportions and symmetry of its flattened classical facade. This rational plan is characteristic of architect John M. Lyle's Beaux-Arts classicism, and yet the building pushes the limits of that style in many of its decorative elements. Of primary significance is the program of low relief sculptural panels adorning the main facade. Designed by Lyle, these panels depict such western Canadian themes as agriculture, commerce, and ranching. The incorporation of such imagery into a traditionally classical building was groundbreaking, and the Bank building remains an outstanding example of such a sculptural

program in Alberta. The traditional interpretation of a bank as a classical temple has here been reconciled by Lyle with a modern emphasis on linearity, its decoration and interior materials moving decidedly toward the streamlined Art Deco style.



Jacques Jewellery Store

123 8 Ave SW - Romanesque Revival - 1893

Jacques Jewellery Store, built in 1893, represents the early development of Calgary following the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1883. Once the CPR decided to locate its depot on 9 AV west of the Elbow River, the city's commercial centre shifted from east of the Elbow to the blocks on and around 8 Ave from 3 Street E to 2 ST W, near the new depot. Stephen Avenue soon grew as Calgary's prime retail and professional services area. This building, and neighbouring ones, marks the transition of Calgary from a city of modest wood-frame commercial and public buildings to one filled with grander masonry ones. These fine and fashionable structures signalled the optimism and financial success of the emerging city.

Jacques Jewellery Store is a good example of the then-popular styles of Classical, Gothic and Romanesque Revivals. It has Romanesque Revival elements—rough-cut masonry used to create texture and a sense of massiveness, a prominent arch—with the quirky addition of a Tudor-style oriel window. These features add interest and style to the small building.



Clarence Block

120 8 Ave SW - Italianate - 1901

This is a notable example of a late 19th-/early 20th-century Italianate commercial building in Calgary, with a formal symmetrical facade enlivened by characteristic features such as the flat roof with bracketed cornice, balustrade, central-roof and window pediments, Ionic pilasters, and classical-motif decorations. Prominent Calgary architect William Dodd, designed this building, as well as the Norman Block next door. This building replaced an earlier "Clarence Block" built c.1882 and destroyed by fire.



The Clarence Block is closely associated with Sir (Senator) James Alexander Lougheed and Prime Minister Richard Bedford Bennett, both influential Calgary citizens and major national political figures. Lougheed was one of Calgary's first and most prominent lawyers. Originally from Ontario and trained to follow his father as a builder, he shaped early Calgary with his real estate ventures. Even before the location of the CPR depot was assured, Lougheed bought five lots on Stephen Avenue between 1st St. SE and 1st St. SW, which was then more than a mile west of Calgary's current centre of town. For more than four decades (until 1927), the original and replacement Clarence Block housed Lougheed's law practice, shared for much of that time (1897–1921) with partner R. B. Bennett. Originally from New Brunswick, Bennett was invited to Calgary by Lougheed. This was a major law practice in Western Canada with clients such as the CPR, Hudson's Bay Company (the firm was its agent for land sales), and Bank of Montreal. Bennett was also engaged in diverse business ventures (lumber, grain, milling, cement), and active in local and then national politics, eventually serving as Prime Minister of Canada.

Calgary, Alta., looking East



- 1 Alberta Hotel
- 2 Norman Block
- 3 Clarence Block
- 4 Hudson's Bay Company Department Store (1891)
- 5 Historic City Hall

Calgary, Alberta, looking East

1911, by The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd.. Courtesy Calgary
Public Library, Williams & Harris Shared History Centre

Merchant's Bank Building

121 8 Ave SW - Classical Revival - 1889

The Merchant's Bank Building is one of the oldest buildings on Stephen Ave. Initially a one-storey building, it was known as the Criterion English Club and was Calgary's first gentleman's club. The club did not endure, and the Criterion instead became better known as one of Calgary's earliest fine restaurants. The property gained its present name and familiar form when it was reconstructed in 1904 as the Calgary branch of the Merchant's Bank. From 1904 to 1914 the building housed the Merchant's Bank, and retains a large vault from this period.

Architecturally, the Merchant's Bank is significant for its refined Neoclassical Revival style appearance. Elements of this style can be seen the rustication of the facade's first-storey and the incorporation of an elegant fanlight window. The highly detailed window, which dominates the façade, reflects the Late Georgian period with its elliptical fanlight and the ornamented central sash topped by a scrolled pediment. Other defining features include the classical 'eared' surrounds of the second-storey windows and the balustrade that surmounts the roofline.



Pioneer Meat Market Building

119 8 Ave SW - Romanesque Revival - 1903

The Pioneer Meat Market Building is architecturally significant for its Edwardian-era design and its red-brick façade - a feature that differentiated it from the many sandstone structures that dominated Stephen Avenue in the early twentieth century. The high-quality pressed brick that defines the exterior is heavily corbelled to form a distinctive roofline cornice and recalls the popularity of the Romanesque Revival style at the time. Contrasting rock-faced sandstone from Calgary quarries highlight the window sills, window lintels and first-storey piers of the building and compliments local construction practices.

The Pioneer Meat Market Building, originally known as the Calgary Cattle Company Building, is of heritage value as the location of the prominent early Calgary firm of the same name. The Calgary Cattle Company was established in 1902 by some of Calgary's most influential citizens including rancher Charles Knight, Senator James Lougheed and the lawyer and future Prime Minister of Canada, R.B. Bennett.



Calgary Milling Company

119 8 Ave SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1913

The Calgary Milling Company Building survives as the only tangible reminder of what was Calgary's oldest flour milling company and was constructed in 1901-03 as the company's retail store. The company was originally founded in 1892 as the Alberta Roller Flour Mill and was instrumental in promoting economic development and agricultural settlement in the Calgary area. In 1898 the mill was reestablished as the Calgary Milling Company, and in 1903 opened this store to market company products.

The Calgary Milling Company Building is also significant as an example of the sandstone construction that characterized Calgary's early development. Rock-faced, Calgary sandstone comprises the building's façade which is further distinguished by an elaborate neoclassical style metal parapet and decorative cornices typical of the smaller-scale Edwardian Commercial buildings of the era.



Tribune Block

118 8 Ave SW - Romanesque Revival - 1892

Around the turn of the twentieth century, the Tribune Block bore witness to some of the seminal personalities and organizations in the early history of Calgary journalism. The site on which the Tribune Block now stands was purchased by local newsman Thomas Braden in the late 1880s. Prior to acquiring the property, Braden had played an important role in establishing early publications in the community, including the Calgary Herald in 1883 and the Calgary Tribune in 1885. From 1889 until 1892, the Calgary Tribune was printed in a wood-frame building on the current site of the Tribune Block.

As a smaller-scale example, the Tribune Block elegantly expresses the Romanesque Revival style of architecture, popularized in the late 1880s in major American cities like Chicago, Boston, and New York. This style is characterized in the building's rock-faced sandstone façade and rounded windows with voussoirs forming the heads.



Bank of Nova Scotia (1904)

115 8 Ave SW - Classical Revival - 1904

This former Bank of Nova Scotia was built in 1903 and designed by architects Sharp and Brown. A new facade and extension to the rear were added in 1912. This has been completely obscured by modern cladding. The Bank of Nova Scotia vacated the building in 1930, and it was occupied by Royal Trust for 30 years. Since then it has had a variety of tenants. The original facade exhibited elements common to many banks of its era. Clad in matte white terra cotta with a granite base, the facade was divided by four pilasters, and was topped by a rich entablature and a stone balustrade. Now all is obscured with stucco panelling which has destroyed the integrity of the original design, although the structure retains the scale of its neighbours.



Calgary Herald Block (Calgary Wine & Spirit)

113 8 Ave SW - Edwardian Commercial - 1887

The Calgary Herald Block, a two-storey brick and sandstone structure, was constructed to house the Herald Printing and Publishing Company. Founded in 1883, the Calgary Herald was Calgary's first newspaper and remains one of its oldest continuously operating businesses. In 1886, the Herald was purchased by Ontario-born businessman Alexander Lucas and partner George Eastman. Lucas was the founding president of the Calgary Board of Trade, secretary of the Calgary Gas & Waterworks Company, and the mayor of Calgary from 1892-1894. Calgary became a city near the end of his term of office, making Lucas both the last mayor of the Town of Calgary and the first mayor of the City of Calgary.

The façade was rebuilt in 2003 and features an accurate reconstruction of the sandstone storefront/upper level while the lower storefront is detailed in keeping with the original design. Original rubble sandstone foundations are intact. The building is symbolic of early Calgary, and is of considerable importance in establishing the dominant character of the street.



Molson's Bank

114 8 Ave SW - Beaux-Arts - 1911

The bank is an excellent example of the Beaux-Arts style, with four ionic columns "in-antis" (inserted between the end bays), resting on a rusticated ground floor and surmounted by a heavy cornice and fully developed attic storey. The design of the building features many fine carved details in the Indiana limestone facade including the carved pediments over the doors and ground floor windows, the cornice with the lions' heads, and the consoles in the attic.

This imposing building on the 8th Avenue Mall was built in 1912 for the Molson's Bank. In 1925, shortly after the Molson's Bank merged with the Bank of Montreal, the building was sold to the Bank of Toronto, and it served for many years as that bank's regional headquarters for Alberta. From 1955 to 1967 it served as the main Calgary branch of the Toronto-Dominion Bank, and remained a downtown branch until 1993 when the building was sold.



Lineham Block (1889)

111 8 SW - Italianate - 1911

The building was built by J Lineham, Territorial MLA. It housed two saddlerys; Hutchings & Riley and Riley & McCormick - both Hutchings and McCormick were city aldermen. Later it was the Club Cafe operated by Roy Beavers. The building was designed by Child & Wilson in the Italianate style featuring round headed windows, rock faced sandstone trim and cream coloured locally made brick.

In 1889, Lineham built a two-storey brick building on the site, designed by pioneer Calgary architects Child & Wilson.

The building was damaged by fire in 1898, 1943 and 1946. The facade's 1889 appearance, which had been considerably altered, was restored in 2000.



Calgary Hardware

919 11 Ave SE - Queen Anne Revival - 1908

This building is an excellent and early example of a Romanesque Revival commercial building in Calgary, employing that style's key characteristics: prominent round arches (in its window surrounds) and rough-cut masonry used to emphasize a sense of massiveness. It and its neighbouring buildings mark the transition of Calgary from a town of wooden structures to an emerging city with sandstone buildings constructed for elegance, functionality, and longevity.

It was built for Western pioneer and entrepreneur James H. Ashdown. Ashdown was born in England and raised in Ontario, where he apprenticed as a tinsmith, then held various jobs in the Western U.S. and Manitoba. In 1869 he bought a small tinsmith shop in Upper Fort Garry (Winnipeg), which (with a gap when he fought as a Loyalist and was imprisoned in the Riel Rebellion) he expanded into a hardware business.

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Glanville (Ward) Block

1026 8 St SE - Queen Anne Revival - 1910

The Glanville Block is a Romanesque Revival style featuring; rock faced sandstone construction with round arched windows, hood mouldings and string courses uniting the two facades. Part of a contiguous section of historic facades, they are of particular importance in establishing the dominant character of the street. Constructed by Senator James Lougheed and later owned by Rt.Hon. Wm. H Dudley Ward, it housed the Great West Saddlery, a primary symbol of the Calgary region.



The main floor housed the Union Bank of Canada 1899-1906, while the second floor served as the branch manager's residence. The three-storey eastern portion, constructed between late 1898-1899, housed the Great West Saddlery Company 1899-1904. Both buildings were designed by architects Child & Wilson, a prominent early Calgary firm.

Macnaghten Block

109 8 Ave SW - Italianate - 1888

In 1888, Francis Alexander (Frank) Macnaghten purchased this lot and built a one-storey brick building, which was designed by pioneer Calgary architects Child & Wilson. Macnaghten, the second son of a titled Irish family, moved to Calgary in the 1880s and ranched in what is now the Bowness district of the city. He was a founding member of the Ranchmen's Club, a prominent member of the Calgary Polo Club, and one of the original investors in the Calgary Brewing & Malting Company.

Reconstructed in 2000, the building was designed by Child & Wilson in the Italianate style featuring hooded windows / doors and cream coloured locally made brick.



Hudson's Bay Co. Department Store (1891)

102 8 Ave SW - Romanesque Revival - 1891

This building was the HBC's largest and most modern store to date in Calgary, introducing the department store, a new type of retailing in the city. It shows the evolution of the company from trading post and outfitter to general merchandiser using modern retailing methods. This was the city's premier retail store in the late 19th and the early 20th century, not challenge until the much larger Pryce Jones department store opened in 1911. In 1913 HBC moved to its much more substantial new building one block west.

This building is one of the best examples of the Romanesque Revival architectural style in Calgary. Elements such as its rock-faced sandstone finish laid in irregular and patterned courses serve to distinguish the building. Other features such as the rounded-arch windows topped by voussoirs, label mouldings further characterize the building.

Stone piers that divided the rounded second-storey windows are carved to resemble clustered colonettes and are typical of Romanesque Revival style finish.



Imperial Bank Building 100 8 Ave SE - Classical Revival - 1886

The Imperial Bank Building represents the early development of Calgary following the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1883, as Stephen Ave near the new train station grew as Calgary's prime retail and professional services area.

This building, along with an adjoining one, were constructed jointly in 1886 for the I.G. Baker Co. and for the entrepreneurs M. Dunn and J. Lineham. This was one of the first dedicated bank headquarters in Calgary, helping to establish this section of Stephen Ave as Calgary's banking area, and Calgary as Alberta's banking centre. Imperial Bank and the Bank of Montreal were the first federal banks to open offices in Calgary. In 1909-11 the building was significantly transformed into the Neo-Classical style, and also further expanded. Classical Revival was a popular choice for bank and public buildings throughout N. America at this time, associated with the qualities of wealth, strength, stability, and tradition.



Thomson Brothers Block 112 8 Ave SE - Commercial - 1893

The excellent detailing on this three-storey sandstone commercial building testifies to the talents of Calgary's early stonemasons. Built by the Thomson Brothers --"books, stationery, periodicals, and fashionable bric-a-brac" -- it has housed a variety of stores and offices.

The facade exhibits an excellent representation the "Boomtown Romanesque" style, featuring rounded arched windows subdivided into lights on the top floor, segmental-headed windows below, and a high curved parapet which recalls the false fronts of Calgary's first wooden buildings. Each storey is set apart by string coursing, and checkerboard detailing and carvings complete the detailing. The storefronts have been modernized, but elements of the original sandstone remain. Along with the other sites on this block of Stephen Avenue, this building saw its interior demolished when the Hyatt and TELUS Convention Centre were build, and its facade was integrated into the greater structure.



Lineham Block 106 8 Ave SE - Edwardian Commercial - 1886

The Lineham Block is a four-storey commercial block designed in the Edwardian Commercial style. The building is distinguished by its rough-cut sandstone block façade up to the second storey and sharply contrasting brick clad design on the upper stories. The building features single assembly tripartite windows with triangular pediments with decorative scrolls on the second floor and simple masonry lintels and sills above the windows on the upper stories. Prominent brick pilasters with sandstone capitals demark each of the window bays in the upper stories; a substantial pressed metal cornice and entablature lines the roof of the front façade. The building currently houses the main lobby of the hotel.

The Lineham Block was one of Calgary's first two sandstone buildings. Local sandstone industries were in their infancy when the Montana-based mercantile firm I.G. Baker & Co. partnered with local butchers Mathew Dunn and John Lineham in 1886 to build two contiguous, identical commercial buildings that shared a party wall.



Doll Block 116 8 Ave SE - Romanesque Revival - 1907

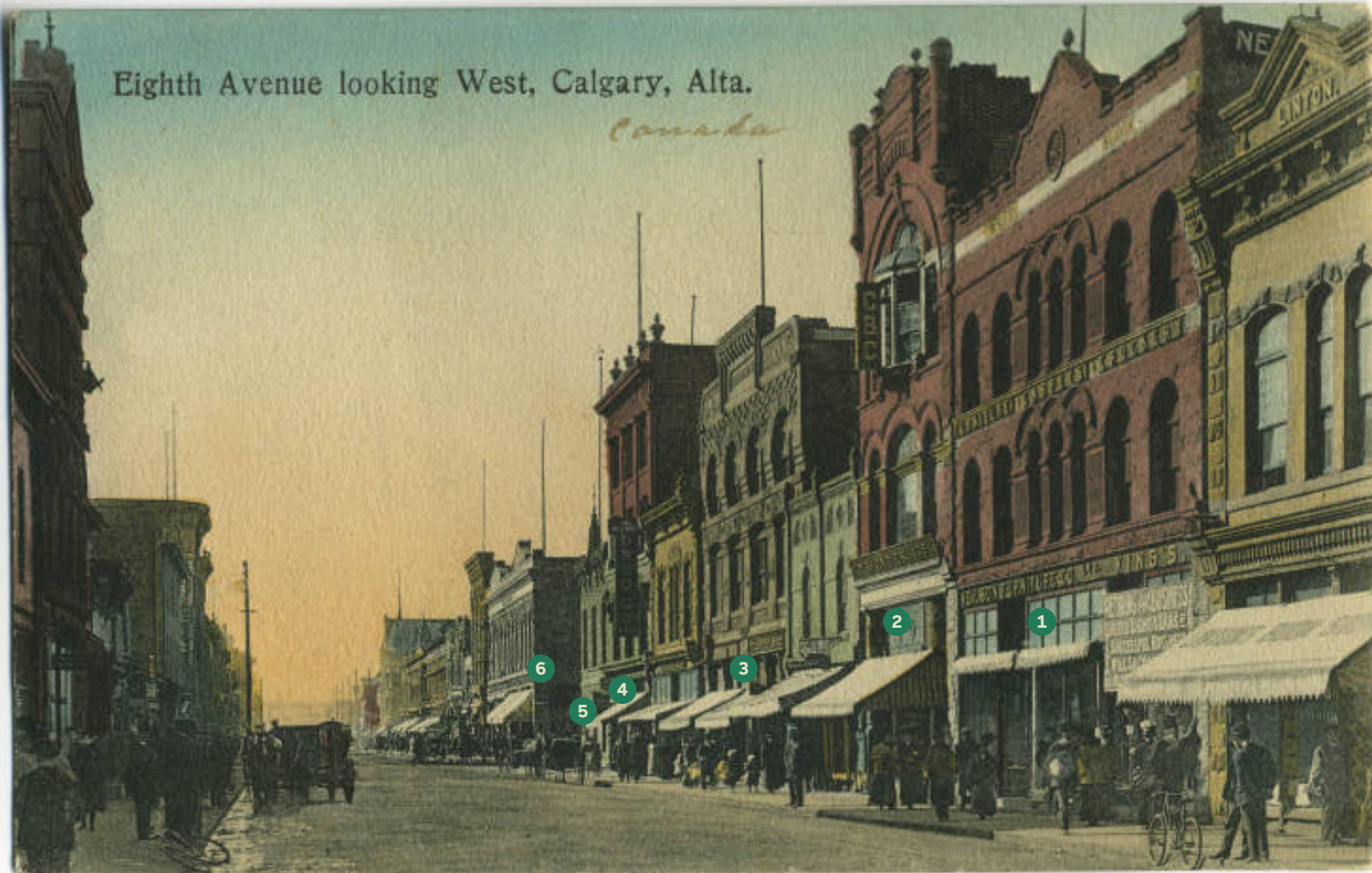
This is Calgary's most exuberant example of a Romanesque Revival building. The use of semi-circular arches for door and window openings is the defining feature of this style. Exterior walls are typically masonry in varied colours and textures (here, red brick combined with sandstone bands and trim), enlivened by decorative brickwork and/or moulded and carved stonework. Other hallmarks of the style are groupings of windows, often topped by rounded-arch hood moulding; and details such as the arcade and corbel tables below the eaves, turrets, colonettes, and plaques. The abundance of decoration and the tall "boomtown" parapet that displays the building's name and date all draw attention to this retail showplace.

The building was erected for Louis H. Doll to house his jewelry business, advertised as "Doll's Diamond Palace." Doll was born in Ontario to a family of German watchmakers. He ran jewelry and watch repair businesses in Toronto and BC, then moved to Calgary in 1889.



Eighth Avenue looking West, Calgary, Alta.

Canada



- 1 Neilson Block
- 2 Doll Block
- 3 Thompson Brothers Block
- 4 Lineham Block
- 5 Imperial Bank Building
- 6 Hudson's Bay Company Department Store (1891)

Eighth Avenue Looking West, Calgary, Alberta

[ca. 1909], by E. Morris & Co., Vancouver B.C. Courtesy of Calgary Public Library Williams & Harris Shared History Centre, Calgary Public Library.

Neilson Block

136 8 Ave SE - Italianate - 1903

Between 1886 and 1914, hundreds of buildings in Calgary were constructed of sandstone or contained sandstone as part of their building material. The locally quarried Paskapoo sandstone gave Calgary a distinct appearance and the early nickname "Sandstone City." Many of these structures have been demolished or otherwise destroyed, the Neilson Block is one of several survivors that symbolize Calgary's status as the Sandstone City. The building's original 1903 structure and its 1910 addition are two different stylistic periods of sandstone buildings in the city, featuring both rusticated (1903) and smooth-dressed (1910) stone.

The Neilson Block is further valued as a well preserved and high-quality example of early 1900s architecture in Calgary's commercial core, displaying two distinct styles: Italianate and Edwardian Commercial. The building's original 4-storey design built with concrete and steel I-beam structural frame features the sophisticated use of Italianate, a popular Late Victorian style characterized by its superfluous detailing in stone including: rough cut sandstone blocks, floral detailing, arched windows with sandstone voussoirs and connected hood moulds in the central narrow windows, and fluted pilasters. Like the other historic buildings on this block of Stephen Avenue, the interior of the Neilson Block was demolished to make way for the TELUS Convention Centre and the Hyatt Hotel, while the facade was preserved, restored, and integrated into the block-sized structure.



Dominion Bank

200 8 Ave SE - Beaux Arts - 1911

The Dominion Bank, built in 1911, is highly valued as an intact and rare example in Calgary of an Edwardian-era temple bank built in the Beaux-Arts style. Beaux-Arts is an exuberantly ornate Classical style that was favoured by wealthy US resource barons in the 19th century. Because of the elaborate detailing required to execute this style, it was often reserved for public buildings such as railway stations, city halls, libraries, and bank buildings. The Edwardian era witnessed explosive growth and investment, particularly in new towns emerging in the Canadian west up to 1913. As an icon of wealth and stability, the Beaux-Arts style was strategically employed to symbolize a company's investment and permanence in a community. The Dominion Building, constructed at the height of the Edwardian boom period in Calgary, demonstrates this through its refined Beaux-Arts architecture, monumental massing, and conspicuous siting in the commercial epicentre of Calgary.



The Beaux-Arts style is visible in its highly articulated surfaces on two main facades and Classical detailing of the front façade including its twinned fluted columns with ionic capitals framing the entryway, and floral panels on the entablature surmounted by a heavy decorative cornice with prominent modillions. Clad in gleaming white terra cotta tile from London's Doulton & Co., coupled with the penetrating light of the prairies, the building radiates like a Greek temple. The building was designed by celebrated Winnipeg architect, George W. Northwood (1877-1959), a broadly skilled designer who trained at McGill University; he had previously been retained by Dominion Bank to design branches in Deloraine (1908) and Winnipeg (1910). This is his only known commission in Calgary. The Calgary branch is one of the more refined, sleek designs commissioned by the bank, contrasting the heavy sandstone construction of contemporaneous buildings in the city.

Calgary Public Building

201 8 Ave SE - Modern Classical - 1930

The Calgary Public Building was the federal government's primary office building and presence in Calgary until 1979. It was also the location of the city's main Post Office from 1931 to 1961, making it one of the most prominent buildings in the city. During this period, the Post Office occupied the lower three floors of the structure with a variety of federal government offices housed on the floors above.

The Public Building is also significant as a strong example of Modern Classical style architecture in Calgary. The building exhibits decorative

elements of the Beaux-Arts tradition yet conforms with Commercial design used for modern office buildings, especially with its eight-storey height and attention to the interior arrangement of offices. This stylistic transition makes it one of the first federal Public Buildings to align with the standards of commercial office buildings, emphasizing function over form.



Olympic Plaza

222 8 Ave SE - Post-Modern - 1987

In September 1981, Calgary was awarded the 1988 Winter Olympic Games by the IOC which included requirement for a central location for the presentation of Olympic Medals. Olympic Plaza was opened by the President of the IOC on September 28, 1987 and served as a focus of presentation ceremonies and related events during the Games.

Demolition of 23 buildings was undertaken in the 200 E. Block to accommodate Plaza construction. At the SW corner, designation of the Dominion Bank as

a Provincial Historic Site prevented its removal. Olympic Plaza is the centrepiece of the civic government and arts precinct and features a classically referenced Post Modernist "Proscenium Screen" as backdrop to the primary stage. The Plaza is framed by 5 historic buildings: City Hall, National Historic Site; the Dominion Bank, the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer and the Burns Building.



Burns Building

919 11 Ave SE - Queen Anne Revival - 1908

Born into an Irish family in Ontario, Patrick Burns travelled to western Canada in the late 1870s to seek his fortune. He initially worked as a homesteader and freighter before discovering his natural niche in the cattle trade. Burns capitalized on the boom in railway activity in the 1880s by supplying cattle and fresh meat for railway workers in the Canadian West. In 1890, he arrived in Calgary. Over his decades in Calgary, Burns diversified and expanded his business, vertically integrating the ranching, packaging and retailing arms of his operation, introducing sheep and hogs to his stock inventory, and adding fruit stores and creameries to his small empire of ranches and meat shops. Burns became Calgary's first millionaire and a significant civic figure; he was one of the Big Four who provided the financing for the first Calgary Stampede.



The Burns Building expresses architecturally the entrepreneurial spirit and civic prominence of its namesake. Erected 1912-1913 during the pre-WWI construction boom in Calgary, the building is one of several built by distinguished and well-financed citizens as both investments and symbols of their economic and social clout. One of Burns' retail meat markets was located on the ground floor. Influential local architect William Stanley Bates designed the Burns Building. The skeletal structure of the building was constructed according to the "Kahn system," a pioneering construction method associated with the Chicago style that features steel reinforced concrete framing.

Other features of this style evident in the Burns Building include the grid-like fenestration pattern, flat roof, terra-cotta sculpted elements, and the division of elevations into three distinct sections - a ground floor level with store windows, a collection of central storeys, and a top level containing a prominent cornice. Some of the severity of the Chicago style has been tempered by the entablature above the second storey and the impressive wrought iron canopy at ground level.

Historic City Hall

700 Macleod Tr SE - Romanesque Revival - 1911

This building, Calgary's second city hall, marks the site of Calgary's original town hall, and has been the seat of municipal government since that time. The original town hall, built in 1885, was demolished in 1911 when this structure was completed. While many offices were transferred to the adjacent Municipal Building upon its completion in 1985, this building has always contained the offices for the mayor and aldermen and continues to house the City Clerk's office. In addition to its location as local government offices, City Hall also served as the headquarters of the city's police department until 1914 with 15 jail cells occupying a portion of the ground floor.

Calgary City Hall is an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture and is the preeminent example of this style in the province. Faced with sandstone obtained from the Bone and Oliver Quarry, the exterior presents a distinctive rock-faced finish, characteristic of the style. The building is further distinguished by a clock tower forming the frontispiece of the building and symmetrically placed porticos that highlight the three main façades. Ornamental rooftop lanterns are a stylistically unique feature creating an eclectic roofline. Notable interior elements include a highly ornamental cast-iron staircase and sky-lit rotundas.

City Hall was designed by the prominent Calgary architect, William Dodd. Dodd was responsible for the ornate Central School (1905-1969) as well as numerous extant buildings including the Clarence Block (1901), Norman Block (1902), and Alexandra School (1904).



W.R. Castell Library

616 Macleod Tr SE - Modern - 1963

The W.R. Castell Central Library is significant for its institutional role as the central public library for the City of Calgary and has been the busy hub of numerous activities in the areas of research, education, informal learning and leisure. Prior to the on-line era, W.R. Castell Central Library was Calgary's largest publicly-accessible non-university repository of knowledge and information. Its extensive reference resources have been heavily used by generations of Calgarians seeking information.

Planning for a civic and cultural precinct in Calgary's core was a component of a broader urban renewal movement beginning in the 1960s to re-shape the city to a modern and prominent centre. For the size and population of the city, Calgary had a low number of cultural and civic facilities. The urban renewal plan, spearheaded in the 1960s and continuing into the 1970s, contributed to other civic and cultural facilities the Calgary Board of Education Building (1969), the Catholic School Centre (1968), the YWCA and the Glenbow Museum and Convention Centre (1975). The goal of the civic and cultural precinct was to encourage the development of a civic and cultural hub in the downtown core and catalyse developments nearby. The Central Library was a realized vision of these planning initiatives and contributed to transitioning this part of downtown from its Edwardian-era character into a modern civic core.

The original portion of the W.R. Castell Central Library is valued for its distinctive exterior construction materials, expressive of the new trends in modern architecture in the 1960s. The original building is clad with white marble sheets interspersed with polished green-marble spandrels. The 1974 addition features narrow, vertical windows with polished green-marble spandrels, and pre-cast concrete panels cladding with a white, aggregate finish. The use of new and traditional materials in new ways dominated the period up to the 1970s. The library's use of white and green marble in a modern way is a direct expression of this trend.



About us:

Heritage Calgary is a charitable Civic Partner of the City of Calgary that identifies, preserves, and promotes Calgary's diverse heritage for future generations. We believe heritage is a dynamic process by which identity is experienced, interpreted, and represented and we take pride in working with Calgarians to honour the fabric that we are all a part of.

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info@heritagecalgary.ca
(403) 805-7084

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