



HERITAGE REPORT

A VALUABLE LEGACY

A phenomenal rise in the trend towards conserving our heritage has been occurring in North America during the past decade - particularly in Canada !

In the field of architecture, this may be due to the fact that many of our new buildings do not favourably compare either with the care and craftsmanship of construction years ago, or with the delightful detailing that gave so much personality to so many buildings then.

Probably the most visible sign of our heritage is, in fact, the architecture that has survived in its original state, and is on constant view before us. Unfortunately, we do not often take the time to "see" these buildings as we hurry along with our day-to-day tasks, and we finally end up taking these heritage landmarks for granted. Even when they are demolished, we do not realize that they are gone - and we have only our narrow and shortsighted vision to blame! Architecturally significant buildings are relative and comparison between various communities may not be valid. A similar building in one city that is not important may be quite vital in another - particularly in the smaller communities. Each city has a responsibility to preserve that which is unique to that community.

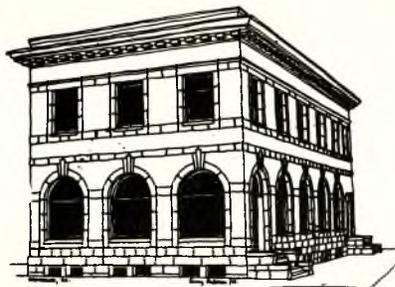
If we are to give our cities the character and identity that most of them so desperately need in their present "anonymous" form of urban sprawl, then we must start now to save and re-employ our important landmarks!

[From the Front Cover]

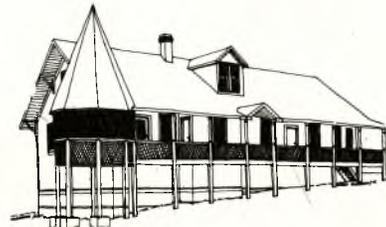
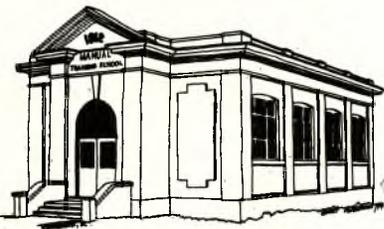
The Old East Arch an "image from the past"

Two arches once spanned the highway through town at the east and west city limits. The east arch was located at the inter-section of 4th St. N. and Cranbrook St., and the west one was located at the intersection of Van Horne and 1st Ave. S. They were built during the 1930's and stood as highly imageable reference points. They became a great tourist attraction, with Cranbrook affectionately being called the "City of the arches" by many who travelled through. However, in keeping with "progress", the arches came down in the late 1950's to make way for a wider road - but down with them went part of the character of the city.





"Old Church" - 1880



FOREWORD

In December of 1975, I was retained by the Council of the City of Cranbrook to do a report on the architectural heritage of this city. The published report was presented in May of 1976. The 250 copies from the first edition were quickly sold out which necessitated this second printing by the Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Foundation. Considerable changes have taken place since 1976 in regards to Heritage awareness in Cranbrook, so much so, that several portions of this report have had to be either up-dated or changed completely.

Also, as with the 1976 report, this report does not preclude other buildings as being important to the heritage of Cranbrook. In fact, there will no doubt be others that future study or physical work will bring to light, and these should not be overlooked.

Although a report of this nature cannot include all worthy heritage architecture, it does in my opinion give a comprehensive "cross-section" of the architectural styles of early Cranbrook as well as some exciting present-day ventures in heritage conservation.

Again, as was emphasized in the original publication, the study is only the beginning — the start towards an "awareness". Implimentation at both the governmental and private individual levels must begin, if communities are to attain the "uniqueness" that heritage conservation can bring about!

Lastly, much credit should be given to "Heritage Canada", a non-governmental agency in Ottawa, who graciously assisted in this second edition with the provision of an interest-free loan.

Sincerely,
Garry W. Anderson,
Executive-Director,
The Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Foundation.
July/79.

IN

OLD COURTHOUSE

1906 - 1955



Following removal of the Provincial government offices from Fort Steele to Cranbrook in May of 1904, plans were set in motion to have an "appropriate" building constructed. It wasn't until late 1906 however, that construction actually began, with the building finished in October of 1907. The contract was awarded (after poor performance from one contractor) to Mr. D.J. Johnson for around \$22,000. Colonel E. Mallandaine was reported to have been the "architect".

The structure was jointly financed by the provincial government and the City of Cranbrook, and was to be used both as a courthouse and a city

hall. However, in August of 1908 the provincial government advised the city that they would soon need the entire facility for their own use; this resulted in the city building its own city hall in 1911. The courthouse stood commandingly at the east end of Baker Street with its somewhat "top-heavy" appearance, its columned porticos, its flamboyant sprawling stairways, and its soaring gable flagpoles. The rusticated basement, the mainfloor clapboard, the second-storey shingles, and the "Tudor" gables all helped give this building a truly "eccentric" flair.

MEMORIAM . . .

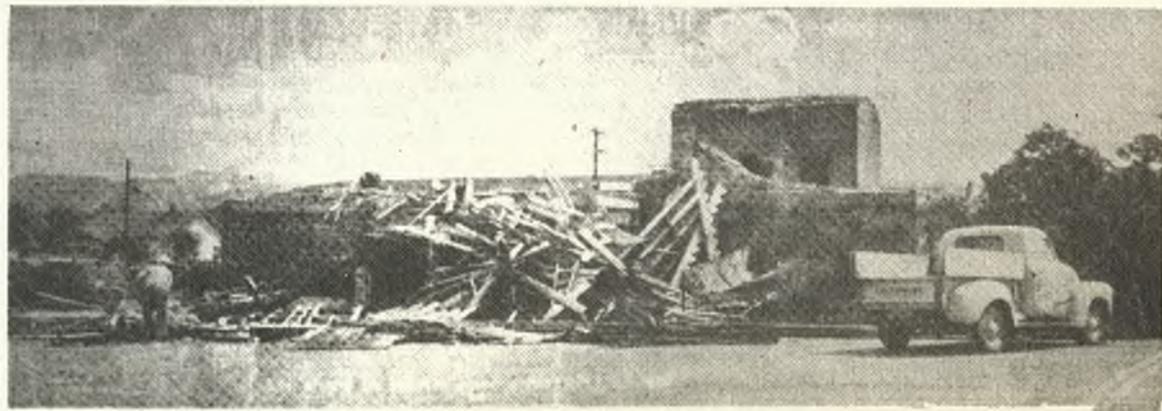
In June of 1955 a new provincial building on 11th. Avenue was completed, and the old structure was reduced to ruins - aptly shown in the illustration below! In its place were plans for a park which had the lawns planted and some trees and benches established; a small fountain was also erected. However, in this gigantic space, these small elements could not hope to fill the void left by the destruction of the character-filled old building that had stood there for nearly 50 years.

In the middle 1960's plans were introduced for a shopping-mall taking in the park and several surrounding properties. Today, the front door of the Mall stands about where the back door of the old Courthouse was, and a large "Safeway" sign is the only focal point at the east end of Baker Street!

There was a great deal of thought given to the location of the old Courthouse, and much civic pride was involved in the final decision. The following passages should help show the attitudes and aspirations of the community at that time:

. . .The first site selected was on Norbury (10th Ave. across from the present city hall). Another "superior" site was then considered and unanimously accepted which placed the stately structure in a grove of poplars on a lot in the middle of Baker Street, and facing down it to the west . . . it was the intention of the mayor and council to place the building in the centre of the park and then beautify the grounds by lawns and flower beds. By building on this site, Cranbrook would have a site to take strangers to, a beauty spot in the middle of town, and an attractive place in which every citizen would take pride . . .

(all references in report are from various "Old Herald" newspaper files)



IN



OLD BANK OF COMMERCE 1906 - 1967 [LATER THE ROYAL BANK]

This was the first major stone and brick building in Cranbrook. Plans for the structure were begun in 1904, but delays in the specifications and availability of materials (all of which were imported) caused it to slowly proceed and be completed much later in 1906.

The Cranbrook branch of this Bank had been the first to open in the entire Province of British Columbia - that was in August of 1898, followed by Fernie on September 14, and the Vancouver Head Office on September 15.

The establishment of this Bank in Cranbrook, only a month after the railway came through, helped give "Young Cranbrook" an essence of stability; it gave a financial security and a good competitive edge over many of the surrounding fledgling townsites. Thus, when the Bank announced plans for a "prestigious" building, the town became ecstatic! The following passages may give some insight as to the building's importance to the town at that time . . .

... "It caught the eye of a visitor the other day, whereupon he asked about it. That is the thing wanted - that is what gives a town an air of stability. Banks do not build in mushroom towns" . . .

Another source talks of it as a "magnificent two-storey building of brick, faced with stone, facing towards the angle of Baker and Cranbrook streets, and that it was a right kind of start in the construction of a better class of building".

MEMORIAM...

In October of 1967, this highly imageable building went the route of the wrecking ball! The Royal bank had owned the building for many years, and had announced plans to erect a larger 3-storey structure to replace the older building.

Even as late as 1967, there seemed to be no persons or organizations that rushed to its rescue, or even to discuss possible alternatives. So - the building went rather quietly, a sad reminder to the apathy and insensitivity present in the face of "progress". Gone now are the

columns, the classical "temple" pediment, the large projecting cornice, the awnings and decorative stone corners - all the details that gave such character to one of the most important corners in town!

In its place stands a more "efficient" building, also done in brick and marble sheathing, but without the delightful interplay of light and shade so much present in the original building.



IN

OLD POST OFFICE

1912 - 1971



The old "Dominion Building" (Post Office) was talked about for years, with serious discussions beginning in 1908, the starting of construction in July of 1911, and the completion in October of 1912. Mr. J.G. McCallum was awarded the contract with the building being designed by a Dominion Government architect by the name of William Henderson.

The newspapers of the day expressed "jubilation" in the building, and the following passages will give some idea of its appointments:

... while the new Post Office presents a very handsome appearance from the outside (upwards of 400,000 local bricks used and the stonework of native granite), one must traverse the interior to gauge the excellence of its appointments...handsome woodwork and artistic finish of the entrances...main floors and corridors laid in mosaic tile...lavatories finished in marble slabs...remainder of the floors in maple...

MEMORIAM . . .

The picture shown to the right clearly demonstrates **in stark reality** what happened in 1971! The federal government had just completed a new building for itself one block to the south, and had no more use for this structure. It was offered to the City, but was refused. Even the clock was offered to the city by the new owners, but that too was turned down.

The demolition took an agonizingly-long time, but the final salute took place on June 29 when the "tower" - the last vestige of the old building - fell to the ground amid crushed brick, splintered wood and bent steel beams! The sight brought tears to old and young alike who were witnessing the passing of an era, and the final destruction of what was probably the strongest identity point in the entire city.

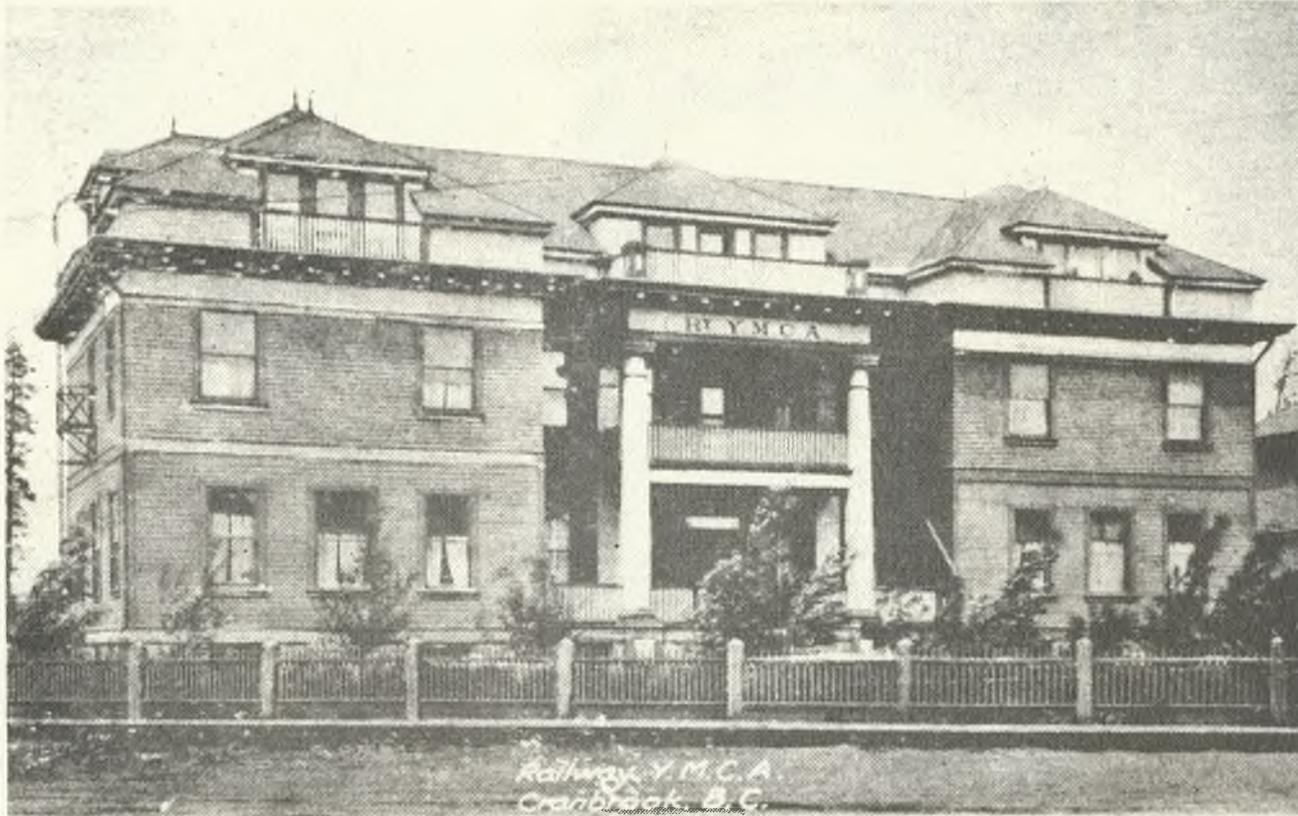
It had formed the most important central focal point of a tightly-organized spatial definition for Baker Street along with the old CPR-YMCA on the west and the old Courthouse on the east . . . and now it was gone for good! The old saying - "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone" - certainly has no better application than here. Considerable resentment still lingers with many of Cranbrook's citizens regarding the demolition, and it has probably been the strongest single force in promoting a public attitude of sentiment which has played an indirect part in showing the need for this study.



IN

OLD CPR - YMCA

1910 - 1974



In March of 1910, the CPR announced that they would build a recreational facility to be called the CPR-YMCA. Specifications called for it to have a bowling alley, billiard room, a handsome rotunda with an open fireplace, library, lounging room, dining room, and several dormitories and private bedrooms. The original site was to be beside the Old St. Eugene Hospital across the tracks, but subsequent discussions with the City resulted in the site at the end of Baker Street (between Van Horne and the tracks) being chosen. The contract was awarded to J. G. McCallum in April of 1910, with the structure being completed later that year.

The most striking features were the massive two-storey columns that supported the second and third storey balconies. On each side of this were slightly projecting wings, the whole of which was crowned by three large

dormers. It was a very imposing building indeed, and its location added considerably to its visual impact. It faced down Baker Street towards the old Courthouse on the east end, and for years continued the important spatial function of defining Baker Street, and "confining" it visually to a comfortable human scale of distance.

At one time there were gardens planted in the front to give a park-like setting. Later it was used as an "Armouries" and in the early 1970's became the home of the "Boys Club of Cranbrook". Unfortunately it was allowed to deteriorate; for lack of care to the windows and a good paint-job, this building is no more!

MEMORIAM...

In December of 1974, the building fell to the wrecking crews, but this time a good deal of public criticism took place. This was indicative of the public unrest at the hasty and devastating moves that were slowly and surely destroying the character and identity of Cranbrook — a city that was not taking stock of its past and not appreciating the substantial architectural legacy from the pioneers.

CONSEQUENCES OF ACTIONS

The consequences of removing valuable “filler” buildings from strategic locations were beginning to reinforce themselves. Giant spatial gaps were beginning to appear along Baker Street.

From 1974 to 1977, with the YMCA gone, the view west along Baker Street ended in a jumble of telephone poles, an unkept vacant lot, backyards, and the gravel pits at the base of Moir Park.

In September of 1977, the Railway Museum was located here and the “Argyle” moved onto the site — precisely on the foundation of the old YMCA. It immediately filled the gap and became part of the “Streetscape” of that part of Van Horne and Baker Streets.



CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF CONSTRUCTION STARTS OF BUILDINGS STUDIED

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1889 - Col. Baker Home</p> <p>1897 - Cranbrook Townsite Surveyed</p> <p>1898 - Coming of the Railway (July)
-Christ Church Anglican</p> <p>1900 - Old St. Eugene Hospital
-CPR Supt's. Residence
- D.E. Murphy Residence
- 116-12th Ave. S. residence (built prior to 1901)</p> <p>1901 -T. A. Corey Residence
-H. White Residence (built prior to 1902)
- McBride Mansion</p> <p>1902 - 215-13th Ave. S. Residence (built prior to 1903)</p> <p>1903 - W.E. Nobles Residence</p> <p>1904 -addition to St. Eugene Hospital</p> <p>1905 -Bank of Commerce Building (demolished 1967)
- Old Presbyterian Church
-39-13th Ave. S. Residence (built prior to 1906)
- Cranbrook Incorporated as a city in November</p> <p>1906 - Provincial Courthouse (demolished 1955)
-Fink-Mercantile Department Store
-W.H. Wilson Residence</p> <p>1907 -addition to St. Eugene Hospital</p> <p>1908 -J. McNab Residence
-A.J. Balment Residence (built prior to 1909)</p> | <p>1909 -Imperial Bank Building
-Masonic Temple
-Central Public School
E. H. Patmore Residence</p> <p>1910- -CPR-YMCA (demolished 1974)
-301-9th Ave. S. Residence
-A.C. Bowness Mansion
-Parkin Manor
-R. Tiffin Residence (built prior to 1911)</p> <p>1911 -Post Office (demolished 1971)
-City Hall
-“Murray” Residence (built prior to 1912)</p> <p>1912 -large addition to St. Eugene Hospital
-Manual Training School
-E.A. Hill Residence
-E. Paterson Residence
- T. Walker Residence (built prior to 1913)</p> <p>1913 - depression of world markets</p> <p>1914 - Dr. F. B. Miles Residence
- World War 1 starts</p> <p>1921 - Catholic Manse</p> <p>1925-1930 -Mt. Baker Hotel
-Nurses Residence</p> <p>1927 - Catholic Church</p> <p>1929 -Firehall
- United Church
- depression of world markets
Museum Car “Argyle” built.</p> |
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The Railway Museum

800 Baker Street,
Imperial Bank Building
1909

This building was started in the summer of 1909, and completed in the spring of 1910. The architect was reported to have been Mr. R Percy Barnes of Edmonton, Alberta.

It was originally slated to be built on the S.E. corner of 8th Ave. and Baker Street (directly across from the present site), but negotiations resulted in the purchase of V. Hyde Baker's townsite office property, thus the bank was built in a much more advantageous position.

The same plans were used as for the bank in Fernie, but the building here has so far escaped the exterior "modernization" of Fernie's. The newspapers of the day described the building with much enthusiasm as it was to provide another permanent bank's headquarters and thus ensure Cranbrook's future as the leading East Kootenay city:

... "the materials with which the building will be constructed are concrete, marble (subsequently changed to sandstone) and pressed brick (made locally) ... the exterior is distinctly "Roman", as all the windows and doors are half-circles. These will be constructed of (sandstone) ... the outside will be very handsome and massive ... the interior will be finished with maple floors and quarter-sawn oak panelling ...".

Today; it is the only brick and stone building remaining in Cranbrook and is situated on one of the most important corners in the downtown area. The exterior materials have weathered extremely well, and are in first-class shape. The light and shade cast by the rough-hewn sandstone trim, deep-set, multi-paned windows, and crowning cornice make this "Neo-Renaissance" building an excellent example of the type of "institutional" design used around the turn of the century. It is still owned by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce who lease the premises out for office use.



11-11th Ave. S.

The Old Masonic Temple

1909



The Masonic order had established itself early in Cranbrook's history, and was ready in 1909 to erect an edifice suitable to the progress of the Lodge. The architectural firm of Sedgar and Pownall of Victoria designed the hall, and the contract was let to D.J. Johnson for \$10,000. The corner stone was laid in November of 1909, with the grand opening in June of 1910.

The newspapers of the day described the building as "Colonial with massive colonial pillars". The porch (or "portico" as it may be called) is the most prominent feature of the structure, and it is a valliant effort to copy a classical "temple" front - complete with columns, entablature, and triangular pediment. The lines of the entire building are simple and the effect quite massive, but the clapboard siding gives a good deal of light and shade detail to the large surfaces. At one time the side door was connected to the front portico by a level promenade, but this has since been rennovated and a side stairway added because of snow, ice and water problems.

It is a fine example of large wooden frame construction, and is structurally sound even with its varied uses over the years. Large chambers both upstairs and downstairs on the main floor, plus various anterooms, make this particular building extremely useful and versatile. In 1973 it was given a new lease on life when the City purchased it and thus saved it from becoming a "parking-lot"! The custodianship has been turned over to the Cranbrook Community Theatre Group who have just finished converting the upstairs into a "drama studio workshop" complete with special lighting (and appropriately called the "Stage Door"). The group has also encouraged a community arts use of the rest of the building. A School of Ballet, Highland Dance, Figure-Skating floor classes, Painters Guild, etc., now inhabit the old structure. Archives, Museum & Landmark Foundation of Cranbrook has also established an office in the building, and the increasingly important "Vis-Arts" exhibition sponsored by 'arts Council also has a home here and draws on large numbers of people shopping and working in downtown area. It's future looks bright as home to several groups on a permanent basis and is an excellent example of what a heritage building can be used for if given the chance". It should continue to grace the downtown area with its charm and character.



40-10th Ave. S. The 1978 "Cranbrook Commercial/Institutional Heritage Award" Winner.

City Hall

1911

In 1908, after being told that they would no longer be able to use the provincial building, the City started plans for its own building. It wasn't until 1910, however, that meetings were carried out to determine exactly what type of building was needed, and the important question as to whether it would be built of wood or brick? It was unanimously decided to use brick as no one could understand how the City could build of wood in the face of enterprize shown by some of the Banks with their magnificent brick and stone edifices.

In April of 1911, contractor George Leask and Liddicoat started construction and finished in early 1912. The building used some 125,000 locally-made bricks, and cost approximately \$15,000. An addition was put onto the north wing later, with a further extension being added to that in 1975. With this latest addition, the entire old facade and part of the south side was completely re-bricked (although this was due mainly to the improper cleaning and scoring of the original brick by sand-blasting method).

When the building was completed in 1911, it produced a very unusual design indeed! The roofs of the north and south wings slanted up towards the central section, and that roof in turn slanted up. Capping all of this was a slender, tall square spire which lead many to believe, at first glance, that it was a church! The spire was removed later (perhaps for structural reasons) and the effect of the building was completely lost! It now appears rather "dull" and "flat" looking. Brick detailing over the main door, and at the corners, was reconstructed during the 1975 work, but the intricate cornice under the eaves was removed to "fit" the building with the new addition. The main arched door was also needlessly half bricked-in with the result that the entire sense of mass and void at the front has been tremendously reduced. Adjustable awnings and carefully-tended window flower boxes also used to adorn the front, but are now gone, and a balcony over the main door was long ago removed.

(see page 48 for a proposal involving this building).



(41 - 10th Ave.S.

The Firehall

1929



This building replaced an earlier firehall that stood beside the City Hall on the north side. The brick structure has simple lines, and is in good condition. Some interesting details are the cast-iron lamp standards on the front (minus the original globes!)

In the early 1960's, a tall rear tower was reduced to the height of the main building. The tower helped give the structure a stronger focal point, and it is less imposing without it. It was an identity point for years (as many children will remember the "curfew" that rang from it!). A new addition added in 1974 does not fit well at all! The red-painted concrete block is a poor match for the brick, and its roof does not align with the top of the old windows (which are partly covered except for the top white lintels). Flower boxes used to adorn the top front window ledges, and a small greenhouse used to house many types of plants on the south side during the winter months.

However, in 1978, some definite improvements were made to the well-built structure. The old windows were replaced with new ones sensitively put into the original window openings. The brick was also cleaned of all old paint to reveal the original colour and texture.

King Street N.W. (near Cobham Ave.)

The Former Nurses Residence and School

Late 1920's



This building was a residence and school for nurses-in-training, and was conveniently located right behind and to the left of the St. Eugene Hospital. The structure is well-preserved and shows some interesting brick detailing-over the arched windows, the cornice supports, and between the 2nd and 3rd storey windows. The simple temple-front porch is supported by columns groups, and the landscaping adds greatly to the overall effect.

With the completion of the new hospital in 1966, this building was sold along with the old St. Eugene hospital, and is today the home of one of Cranbrook's finest restaurants, which includes beautifully-appointed accomodation on the upper floors. This building, along with the old hospital next door, is an excellent example of what can be done commercially with heritage structures.

22 Briar Ave. W.

Old St. Eugene Hospital

1900 (1904, 1907, & 1912)

In May of 1900, The Sisters of the hospital at the St. Eugene Mission announced that they would abandon their two-year old building there and build a new hospital in Cranbrook. Contractor Mr. P. Navin began in June and expected to finish by that fall, but was delayed until February of 1901. In 1904, James Greer was given the contract to put a large addition on the front with a four-storey tower and side wings (this is the same entrance we see today minus the top-most spire and cross). This particular addition was inspiring from its architectural impact, and the newspapers of the day lauded its "grace" and "imposing beauty". George Leask added another addition in 1907, and in 1912 was given the contract for a major brick addition to the west wing. This project was designed and supervised by a newly-arrived architect in Cranbrook - Mr. J.J.O Gara of Calgary. In 1967, the hospital was moved to new premises, and the old structure sold to a commercial enterprize.

The new owner has successfully developed the buildings (Old Hospital and Old Nurses Residence) as a hotel, pub, and first-class restaurant etc. Situated in the midst of beautiful grounds, this venture is a remarkable example of what compatible commercial uses can be employed in heritage buildings. Although the building has been spray-stuccoed, and its windows "Bavarianized", the original form and impact of the structure has not been altered. The many dormered roof complete with towers is reminiscent on a smaller scale of the "Chateau" style of the railway hotels such as the "Empress" in Victoria, and the "Banff Springs". One particularly prominent feature is a crenellated tower at the rear that houses the elevator shaft.

It is clearly observed while driving through Cranbrook, and being placed amid beautiful landscape features, this building assumes the utmost importance as a landmark of this City.

The 1977 "Cranbrook Commercial/Institutional
Heritage Award" Winner.





909 Baker Street

Fink-Mercantile Department Store

1906

In December of 1906, the largest and most complete store in the East Kootenays opened as the "Fink-Mercantile Co. Ltd.". The architect was James A. MacDonald of Lethbridge, and Mr. Werdman the contractor. The cost had been approximately \$26,000 to out-fit the store in all of its luxurious appointments including two hot-water furnaces, freight elevator and a private telephone system!

The building is of rough-textured block construction and features very large viewing windows (part of which still exist). A detailed cornice frames the facade and gives architectural "relief" to that part of Baker Street. It is the only remaining commercial building, not built of wood, that exists from before World War 1. Awnings added a few years ago are well-placed and sensitive to the overall design format, but the large vertical sign is more difficult to "fit".



1017 Baker Street

Mount Baker Hotel

1920's

Situated on a most important intersection in the downtown area, this graceful brick structure forms a stable landmark to designate that part of Baker Street. With its simple lines, plain walls and subtle brick detailing, it forms a welcome "foil" to many of the less effective buildings along Baker Street. Its fine proportions have not been altered over the years, however, a recent concrete-block addition to the rear is not at all in keeping with the refinements of the original structure. Awnings added a couple of years ago increase the amount of play of light and shade, and the green colour is a compliment to the reddish brick. They seem to have been added with a great deal of care to emphasize the proportions and placement of the windows and doors.

Of all homes in Cranbrook, this one can lay claim to being the most "historically" important, as well as the oldest! The Hon. Colonel James Baker was a highly instrumental political figure in the B.C. government during the late 1880's and 1890's which led to his manipulation of several forces resulting in:

1. - the purchase of the old Indian camping ground called "Joseph's Prairie", and the surveying there of a townsite in 1897 to be called Cranbrook
2. - the building of the Crowsnest Branch of the C.P. Railway
3. - the laying of the railway into Cranbrook instead of the highly-favoured Fort Steele, and thus ensuring Cranbrook's future as the central city of the area

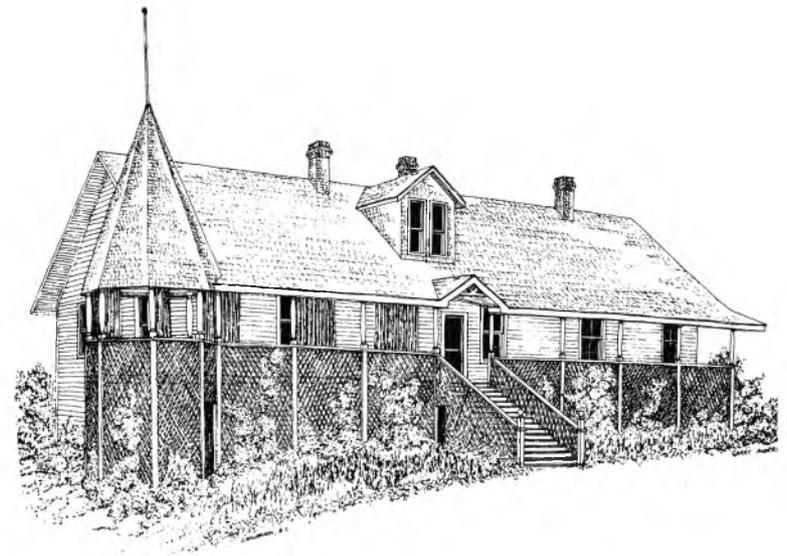
In 1889 Col. Baker and his son V. Hyde replaced an earlier ranch house that had been built by the Galbraiths on Joseph's Prairie. The attic became a trading post, and the main floor was the residence of the Bakers. In 1898, with the defeat of the provincial government then in power, Col. Baker retired from active politics and returned to England where he died in 1906. His son V. Hyde was left in charge of the townsite business.

In 1898, John Sibbald was contracted to rennovate the house to make it "one of the most comfortable bachelor residences in the East Kootenay" for the then-single V. Hyde. Sibbald was also given charge of cultivating what was to become the "legendary" gardens surrounding the house. In 1899, V. Hyde married, and in 1909 carried out major rennovations to the house which left it much in the appearance of today. The gardens continued to be a favourite with "young Cranbrook" society.

The Bakers left permanently for England about 1914, and the house changed hands many times. It was, at various times, a residence for the city engineer, a series of apartments, a health unit, and is today the home of the Family Courts. The structure is in dire need of a substantial foundation, and a good refurbishing of the exterior. It is one of the earliest buildings in the area, and is one of a handful that remains in its original position. Since its significance lies well beyond the confines of even the East Kootenays, every effort should be made to preserve and restore the building as the "Home of the Bakers."

In 1979, the City of Cranbrook was faced with making a decision about the future of the old home. It was structurally in need of much repair, and had, in fact, been condemned by the building inspector. The Family Courts had to be moved out, and plans were formulated to raze the building.

The Cranbrook and District Arts Council, along with the Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Foundation, persuaded council to place a moratorium on its demolition while reconstruction and restoration costs along with potential new uses could be worked out. The B.C. Heritage Conservation Branch became involved and is working out a complete structural and cost analysis. The report is due for September 1979.





220 Cranbrook Street ,
Central Public School
1909

Suffering constantly with over-crowding, and a never-ending series of additions to its tiny school-house, Cranbrook finally decided to house the children once and for all in this large institutional "monument"! The contract for \$38,000 was given to a Mr. Russel from Fernie, in April of 1909, but after poor performance it was awarded to George Leask who completed it in January of 1910. It was built entirely of "Cranbrook Brick" (about 400,000 of them!), and has survived in very good shape to this day. A major addition was put on in 1922 (which shows architectural detail of another style). A gymnasium was added to that again in the early 1960's.

The front entrance - to the building was originally capped by a tower that contained a school bell, but this was removed during the middle 1950's probably for structural reasons. At any rate, the building has lost its imposing character by that one action alone! It now appears as a rather flat, monotonous form without a central point of interest - an element that is badly needed in such a large structure with so much flat wall surface. The windows have also been boarded-up in a most uncompromising manner (due basically to the colour) thus losing the rhythmic sense of mass and void. Serious consideration should be given to the reconstruction of the tower and the re-emphasis of the window as a void.

The Cranbrook School Board has now officially decided to phase the school out by 1980 due to its inappropriate placement in the downtown area. Its re-cycling is presently being studied, as the building is still structurally very sound and encloses an immense area suitable to office space conversion.



Rear of Central Public School
The "Manual Training School"
1912

This delightful little building was designed by architect J.J. O'Gara of Cranbrook with the contract awarded to George Leask in June of 1912 for about \$7,000. It was finished in November of that year, and the children of Cranbrook were finally given a place to perform the more practical aspects of education such as woodworking and metalwork, etc.

The interesting "temple-front" attempt is the main feature, with large windows forming an interesting pattern on the side walls. The whole building is capped by a continuous "cornice" (note the unusual split over the main door!). The building is very "human" in scale and has a great deal of character.

41 - 10th Ave. S.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

1927

This handsome brick structure replaced an earlier wooden church on the same site. For many years the parish had been talking about replacing their early, crowded church. In fact, in 1912, plans were drawn up, but the Catholic School proposal won out at that time. (This school is the original wooden part at the rear of 10th Ave. School).

Finally, in 1927 the present structure was built and beautifully detailed and outfitted. Excellent brick detailing exists such as the cross over the main porch, the arch motif over the windows, and the side buttresses that form a strong rhythm in light and shade. The proportions are very stately, and at night, light filters out through the amber windows. Another important aspect is that it forms a unique spatial relationship with the city hall diagonally across from it. (see page 48 for a proposal involving this building).



39-10th Ave. S.

Catholic Manse

1921

Right beside the church, and directly across from City Hall stands the manse - a well-built brick structure that reflects the brick of both the City Hall and Catholic Church. Simple lines and a large sweeping verandah add a quality of architecture to downtown that is noticeably lacking today. The large coniferous and deciduous trees frame the building well and add much to the "street-scape". (see page 48 for a proposal involving this building).





100-9th Ave. S.

The Old Presbyterian Church

1905

Abandoned by its congregation in the early 1970's, this building now sits forlorn at the corner of 9th. Ave. and 1st. St. S. When built by contractor Hunter, it was the largest church in the area and continued to be for some years after-wards. Upon the move to suburbia by its inhabitants it became for a while an "Auction House" (to which it seemed well-suited spatially). It is now a warehouse and sadly awaits an unknown fate.

As a landmark in downtown Cranbrook, its effect is important with its belfry towering above the street, and its rather massive walls reminiscent of the "Italian Romanesque" style. A feasibility study should be conducted to determine what uses the structure might be put to. The result might prove most revealing!



2-12th Ave. S.

The United Church

1929

This structure replaced the old Methodist church which was located at the N.W. corner of 8th Ave. St. S. The cost of construction was \$31,000 and included a large sanctuary, social hall with stage, offices, and several basement rooms all of which cater to a large array of contemporary night and day activities. The large, vertical amber glass windows in leaded panes give a very pleasing sense of rythm to the exterior, and the pressed brick is in excellent shape. The tower (another important reference point in the downtown area) was enlarged to accomodate a set of chimes (the only ones in Cranbrook) that are sometimes played much to the delight of shoppers.

This building forms a welcome relief to the commercial architecture of Baker St. and is an important "foil" to the grand sweep of the Mall directly behind it. The congregation has recently opted to stay here instead of fleeing to suburbia, and have spent a considerable sum on the restoration and enhancement of the interior, with future plans for the exterior.

38-13th Ave. S.

Christ Church Anglican

1898

This building has the distinction of being not only the earliest church, in Cranbrook, but also the earliest building in the city that exists in such fine shape. It was begun by contractor Downey in September of 1898 (shortly after the railway came through), and was finished in December. In 1902, the building was moved slightly to the side and back on the two lots, so that a chancel could be added to the rear.

In the early 1960's, a massive concrete block addition was added to the front in a most insensitive and uncompromising manner. The space was badly needed, but there seemed to be no one that would, or could suggest a better method for adding to the tiny church. The scale, the materials, and the line-up are all different, with little care taken as to the harmonious transition from old to new, both inside and out. The little "Litch-Gate" is the only remnant at the front to give some idea of the scale and the axis that was at one time present. The roof and celtic cross of this delightful little gate were restored in 1975, but are overwhelmed by the massive wall behind them.

When the little church was built, the term "gothic" was used to describe it for lack of a better expression. The steep pitch of the roof, and the pointed, vertical windows are in keeping with the "gothic style", but the similarity ends there. It really should be called "carpenter-Gothic" style if any term is applied. The stained-glass windows are extraordinarily beautiful in their colours and patterns of leaded panes. They were placed as memorials to various families, and exist as among the best in the area today. The curved, vaulted ceilings on the interior, are made of narrow strip-wood and the varnish has darkened with age. The whole sanctuary is filled with delicately carved woodwork including the Bishop's chair, lectern, clergy desks, pews and organ.

It is a tribute to the parish to have this richly endowed heritage structure exist in such good condition to this day, and hopefully, someday a more harmonious method can be found to "fit" the new addition to the front of the old structure. It also has a unique relationship to the proposed "Baker Hill" residential area, by being one of the "gates" from the downtown core.





33-9th Ave. S.

The W. E. Nobles Residence

1903

In 1903, Mr. W.E, Nobles (of the King-Mercantile Co.) purchased this house from its builder George Leask, then in 1906 Mr. W. Worden bought it and lived there for many years. Originally, the house was a wood frame structure covered with clapboard siding, but in 1927, Mr. Worden had it "bricked-over". He also had a rear addition put on and a front porch added at that time. It is one of a few old residential structures that exists in the downtown area.

The brick itself is in excellent shape and shows some fine brick-laying techniques. The corners are precise, and the angled bay windows downstairs support a square projection upstairs. An offset window half-way up lights a stairwell. This recessed wall portion is brought out flush with the upstairs gable by use of a well-constructed "corbel" of bricks. The upper part of the gable projects out and is elaborately decorated with wood "lattice-work" and tiny spindles.



301-9th Ave. S.

? *Residence*

1910

Just as some people wanted the prestige and opulence that towers, balconies, dormers, and filigree were supposed to exhibit, others wanted a design that was functional and devoid of most ornament and yet was pleasing to look at.

The very simple lines and straightforward design of this house with its broad proportions give it very "clean" and "uncluttered" appearance. The front verandah is well integrated into the design by the projection of the roof. The only focal point is the small dormer located over the front stairs. The clapboard, shingles on the verandah sides, and window panes are in very good shape - probably due to faithful maintenance over the years.

202-10th Ave. S.

The Bowness Mansion

1910

This magnificent home is probably the largest residence in Cranbrook from the pre-W.W. I era, and has a most opulent interior. It was built by George Leask for Mr. Alder C. Bowness - a wholesale liquor merchant who was also mayor from 1912-1914. As early as 1908, Mr. Bowness had plans for one of the finest residences in the city. It's new owners have transformed it from a nursing home into a single family dwelling, and fortunately, most of the elaborate interior has remained intact.

The house commands a strategic position with views down 10th Ave. and 2nd St. S. It is on the transition between the downtown core and the well-established "Baker Hill" residential area that extends up the hill behind it. The simple well-defined geometry and lack of frilly detail makes a strong impact on the passerby. A large sweeping verandah wraps around two sides with a large upstairs verandah supported above the main entrance. Notable also is a two-storey "coach-house" at the rear built on the steep hill-side.



225-10th Ave. S.

The 1978 "Cranbrook Residential Heritage Award" Winner.

The Tiffin Residence

(built prior to 1911)

The special feature of this residence is its unique verandah flanked by three arches. The covering is green-stained shingles, which imparts a regular texture to the otherwise plain walls, but it is the arches that give the house its strong lines. The curves of the arches, the railings, and windows are painted in brilliant white to emphasize them. Doors off the entry vestibule and dining room open onto this verandah, so movement is easy and convenient. In the spring and summer, large hanging flower pots adorn the arches, and with the surrounding bushes and trees, impart a relaxing, secluded atmosphere to the space.





324-10th Ave. S.

The Parkin Manor

1910

Often referred to as the "tower-house" or as the "castle", this particular home was built as a true "Manor-house" for Mr. James Parkin, who had moved west from Manitoulin Island with two of his brothers and their families (Mr. Parkin was unmarried at that time). They set up sawmills in the area and then commenced construction of this truly outstanding home to contain the whole family (and the house stands up to that demand by having nearly 4,000 sq. ft. on three floors). When the 4th brother moved out west in 1911, he found it nearly completed except for "some of the plaster mouldings around the light fixtures that seemed to keep falling down". All of the Parkins apparently lived in the house from Sept. to Nov. of 1911, but suddenly moved out never to return. Whether the reason was financial, or business obligations up north, the reason is unclear, but the house seems to have been vacant until 1913, when Miss Cherrington leased the structure for her private school. Soon after that, the Homes family of the CPR lumber division bought it and moved in, living there for several years. It has changed hands several times since, and in the course of the years, it has been changed into a series of apartments. However, in 1975 new owners embarked upon an ambitious program to restore the once proud house to its original state as a private family dwelling. An old upstairs verandah has now been removed, and much of the plaster work on the main floor is undergoing repair. Work continues at a slow, but very methodical pace with excellent results.



A member of the Parkin family still had the book of plans that James Parkin used to order the drawings for this house, and in it the name used for this house style was the "Glen-Fora". Mr. Parkin changed the materials however, and the wooden structure shown in the book became a much more refined brick structure. This brick was imported from Sandpoint, Idaho, and its beige-brown colour is unique in these parts. Several other refinements were also made: - the verandah had lovely, simple "Ionic" theme columns put in place of the "gingerbread" example in the book. The gorgeous curved front gable decoration with intricately carved brackets under the eaves, give an unparalleled, but controlled, richness against the plain brick. The tower of course, highlights the entire facade and makes it one of the most outstanding landmarks in Cranbrook!

913-4th St. S.

The H. White Residence

(built prior to 1904)

Mr. Harry White, a customs collector for the area, had the house built around the turn of the century, and since that time it has been the focal point at the upper end of 10th Ave. Old-timers remember looking up from the Post Office corner at Baker Street, all the way past the businesses and fine homes to end up at this simple but elegant house framed by rows of trees. One of Cranbrook's largest maple trees stands on the left of this home in a large, beautiful secluded yard.

The house itself is in excellent shape. The recently re-painted clapboard with its lines give a texture to the otherwise plain walls, framed in a very simple and direct manner. The long, inviting verandah, and the bay windows on each side give a needed break to the uncluttered lines. The present owner has taken very good care of this structure, both inside and out.



217-11th Ave. S.

The C. H. Prest Residence

(built prior to 1906)

This home was built for Cecil Prest, the son of Cranbrook's first photographer. It is a good example of the medium-sized house with large upstairs dormers. The roof line is simple and fairly massive, with a slight projection out over the front window on the right side. One interesting detail is the fan-pattern in the gable over the front window. A fireplace and chimney has been added to the right wall, and a window has been altered in the front porch, but both have been done with a reasonable degree of care, so as not to undo the original design. Physically the building seems to be in very good condition, and forms and important grouping with the two other homes seen on the opposite page.





221-11th Ave. S.

The W. H. Wilson Residence

1906

This fine residence was built for W.H. Wilson, a well-known pioneer jeweller in town. He arrived in Cranbrook in 1902, but didn't erect this structure until 1906.

It's present owners have maintained it in very good condition with all the original materials and decoration showing - no additions or removals. The stately nature of the facade is enhanced by the long verandah with a triangular pediment over the stairway entrance, in which is placed a most unusual "medallion" beautifully carved in wood (possibly an East Indian "Sikht" symbol). Slender columns, bulged subtly in the centre, support the verandah. The house is set on three lots and framed by large beautiful trees.



225-11th Ave. S.

The Murray Residence

(built prior to 1912)

The precise date of construction, and the actual person who had this structure built has been difficult to determine, but voter's records show that the lots belonged to a Charlotte Murray, and other records show that Mrs. Murray used her very large house to entertain. It was also at one time used as a barracks for a detachment of 2 RCMP officers with their families.

Although a large hedge makes this imposing building hard to see from the front, two beautiful porticos, flanked with graceful groups of columns, and delicate balusters, are the outstanding features. The front portico forms a wide inviting front entrance, and the other opens off the dining room. The front windows are contained in slightly projecting square bays, and extremely large dormers open off all sides of the massive roof. New owners who purchased the house several years ago have restored it from a series of apartments, to a sumptuously-outfitted private home - complete with restored stairwell, French doors, and interior glass partitions!

401-11th Ave. S.

The E. H. Patmore Residence

1909

This house was outside the city limits until 1954, and when built, was considered to be "in the country"! The newspapers of the day however lauded this house, for its excellent proportions and fine details. The slender doubled and tripled columns support a roof extension that contains a sunporch—a good method for integrating it into the overall design. A large bay window on the east side gives a good view from the dining room. Other details include the delicately curved motifs around the windows, with more classical motifs on the lintels. The small intricate window design on each side of the fireplace in leaded panes are also surrounded by these motifs. The structure is critically important in relation to its placement at the corner of 11th Ave. and 4th St. as it may (as in the case with the "Bowness Mansion") be considered a "gateway" to the "Baker Hill" residential area.



116-12th Ave. S.

? *Residence*

prior to 1901

The history of this tiny home has been difficult to determine, but it was probably built sometime between 1899 and 1901. It is the only example of the so-called "carpenter-Gothic" style in Cranbrook with its steeply-pitched roofs, well-decorated gables, and emphasis on the vertical. Its position on a hill side makes this seem all the more apparent as it looms out over the passerby. The clapboard siding is in two sizes; the upper course is narrow, and separated by bric-a-brac from the wider lower courses. The front window on the projecting wing is detailed with small panes of glass.

Unfortunately, a recent addition has altered the original balance of the facade. An old porch was removed and a slightly larger addition to the front room was put on which does not line up with the existing walls. The large aluminum siding is also very unsuitable in terms of matching the original clapboard, especially on such a small scale building as this. It forms an important grouping with the CPR and McNab houses across the street. (mentioned on the opposite page).





117-12th Ave. S.

The CPR Superintendent's Residence

1900

The newspapers of the day were ecstatic that this home was being built, for it reaffirmed the fact that the CPR had enough faith in the future of Cranbrook to make it the divisional point for the Crowsnest branch of the railway. The CPR intended to put their money where their mouth was when they built this grand home for \$6,000 - a large sum in those days, and far more than any other home up to that time! The house was unusually placed, with the front facing several lots of grass and trees to the north (still existing in park-like state today). The design is peculiar and intriguing with three different roofs all attached by a long gambrel-roof at right angles. This gives a unique roof design - a very informal and "added-on-to" look - typical of the cosy English country cottages. In fact it looks as if it was made from three separate houses, all tied together! At one time a large verandah wrapped around on three sides, but alterations in the early 1960's took off the ends and replaced the simple columns. The home is now a series of apartments which continue to be compatible with the area zoning, while maintaining some of the character of early Cranbrook.



123-12th Ave. S.

The J. R. McNab Residence

1908

This home is similar in many respects to the W.H. Wilson residence on 11th Ave. but two features give it quite a different feeling from the former. One is a jog created from a slightly projecting 2-storey wing to the left, and second is a verandah that wraps around to the side, giving the building a more asymmetrical appearance than the Wilson house.

The exterior is in very good condition, but the original paired columns have been replaced by square timbers, and the richness obtained from that combination has disappeared. When built, the verandah was not glassed in and therefore gave a better sense of balance to the facade.

133-12th Ave. S.

The J. D. McBride Mansion

1901

This home is the earliest of the “larger-class” of private homes to be built in Cranbrook. Records establish that the home was originally built for W.T. Reid in 1901, however, it was later purchased by James D. McBride, a successful pioneer hardware merchant, and a very prominent citizen. It is McBride whom the house is well-known for.

The design of this house is extremely symmetrical, and can be considered to be the most “formally laid-out” home in Cranbrook. On the main floor, a grand, and very deep verandah runs the full length of the facade, and is projected out over the front stairs with a very classical “temple-front” pediment supported by finely proportioned columns. The lunette in this pediment contains a most exquisite “fan-pattern” bordered by other designs, and being on axis gives a tremendous focal point to the person approaching the home. This verandah supports a balcony that surrounds a second-storey bay window. This bay projection in turn supports a smaller third-floor balcony off the front dormer. The whole effect is one of carefully planned axial arrangement in which architectural details are subtly placed. The windows are carefully balanced on each side of this axis as well as on the sides of the house. Unfortunately two of the south side lower windows have been changed from a vertical to a horizontal position which is completely at odds with the overall design. The clapboard siding (which is of unusual cross-section) is carefully placed and subtly defined by corner strips. An interesting shingle pattern adorns the 3rd floor dormers.

In late 1976, several Foundation members volunteered much time and energy to do a face-lift of the imposing structure. The result was dramatic, and its effect on that particular corner was much enhanced. In fact, it has spurred several homes on that same street to do upgrading work as well.

Although the house is a new series of apartments, and two doors mark the entrance, the original effect of the facade can still be felt. The entrance still performs as a valuable architectural landmark regardless of its interior uses. The corner site, and the wealth of subtle detail make it very important to Cranbrook’s heritage and every effort should be made to maintain the effect.





201-12th Ave. S.

The D. E. Murphy Residence

1900

This home stands across 1st St. S. from the McBride house, and therefore forms an important grouping with it. The main body of the house is quite straightforward with the clapboard giving a definite pattern to the large wall surfaces. Other sections are well-decorated and verge on the border of "gingerbread" style. The side two-storey bay windows are some of the few found in town, and their decor is most interesting with variations in diagonal wood patterns and shingles. The upper front gable is rather sumptuous in its delicacy and is backed by a wall of scalloped shingles. The unusual 2nd storey front porch is a later addition and its railing is a good example of the "gingerbread" so prevalent at that time. The decorative parabolic arches of the lower porch are also notable.



This home has undergone intensive upgrading work since 1977, including foundation insulation and re-wiring work. A small addition was added to the rearwest side in a most sympathetic manner which conforms very nicely to the overall character of the original home. This new addition provides a "family room" opening onto the rear side yard and is a modern convenience for a lifestyle of today.

The present owners are painting the house in lovely subtle colours of grey and white, which should visually articulate the form much better.

Today, it ranks high among improvements being made to the heritage homes of Cranbrook.

228-12th Ave. S.

? Residence

Date: (?)

Several years ago, this home was covered in stucco which covered the delicate lines of the double-sectioned clapboard. The original shingled porch railing had also been removed in favour of contemporary wrought-iron railing. The present owners embarked upon an extensive program of exterior and interior improvements in 1978. On the interior, several lowered ceilings were raised back to their original configuration to improve the interior spatial experience.

On the exterior, the stucco was removed to reveal the original clapboard (still in very good shape!). The wrought-iron porch railing was removed and the original solid shingled railing reconstructed. A final painting has brought this home back to the original glory.



302-12th Ave. S.

The E. A. Hill Residence

1912

The firm of "Christian and Jones" was given the contract for this house in April of 1912, and finished it later that year. It was, apparently, slated to be a "concrete" structure, but plans later changed it to wood. This home has been carefully covered in white aluminum siding as with the Miles and Paterson homes across the street, and also forms an important grouping with them. Stylistically it is straightforward; a large vine-covered verandah supports a smaller upper floor sun-porch and this gable is extreme in its simplicity. The left side bay window is from the dining room and gives the building its break from the simple square form. On the right, a small glassed-in sunporch looks into a secluded reserved area of trees. Of special note on the interior is a beautiful set of columns supporting a lintel between the foyer and living room; the capitals being of a corinthian theme.



The 1977 "Cranbrook Residential Heritage Award" Winner.

211-12th Ave. S.

The J. A. Corey Residence

1901

This outstanding sample of early domestic architecture is a rarity both in terms of its design and condition!

Mr. Corey, a CPR conductor, had it built early in Cranbrook's history, and there are several references in the early newspapers to Mrs. Corey's entertaining many times "in as fine a home to be found anywhere". Faithful maintenance over the years, and no exterior alterations have left this home in remarkable original condition. The wood shows little sign of wear, and the filigree is in first-class shape.

The facade is informally balanced with a gable to one side over the verandah. The delicate columns and parabolic arches between them, with precise ornament, make this quite a "feast for the eyes"! A picture of the home when first built shows the lower verandah railing in delicate balusters like the upper railing, although it is now covered in shingles.

A most unique "gazebo", situated to the right side, is the most outstanding feature of the building. On the main floor, this seven-sided tower is entered through under an archway of finely-carved wood and supported by delicately carved fluted wood columns. On the exterior of the second floor it forms a small intimate balcony off the main bedroom. The trees have grown up significantly since the building was constructed and one must look carefully to even be aware that there is a tower.

The eaves contain precisely-cut brackets, and the windows all carry the same theme of carefully-carved mouldings. Cranbrook is extremely fortunate to have this landmark, especially in the condition in which it survives.





301-12th Ave. S.

The Dr. F. B. Miles Residence

1914

Built for dentist Miles, construction was started the day the First World War began which ended the "Golden Age" of Cranbrook's early days. It is the last house of the "opulent style" to be built in Cranbrook.

The building has fairly massive proportions with a "heavy" and rather "stately" look to it. Although the original lighter-textured shingles have been covered with aluminum siding in a dark brown colour, it has been done so with great care and attention so as not to spoil the overall design features. It maintains the proportions of the house and yet gives a more durable finish. There is an absence of frilly detail which give the building its solidarity, and the porch with its simple columns gives a focal point to the front. The third-floor dormers are very imposing and "loom out" when viewed from the front walk.



305-12th Ave. S.

The E. Paterson Residence

1912

This is the only residential building that records show was designed by an architect. Mr. F. Rossiter, of Cranbrook had the privilege, and contracted it out to the firm of Baker and Bamfield in March of 1912. Later, Dr. G.L. McKinnon moved in and resided there until 1972. New owners have made several improvements to the house including the careful application of a white aluminum siding to retain the original line of the structure. The screening was removed from the front porch to reveal the columns and the overall proportions of the front more clearly.

The long sloping roof to the rear is the outstanding feature and contains a large dormer to admit more light and increase room upstairs. The living room windows have been replaced by single panes, but the size has remained constant. Several details on the interior are quite notable - the heavy beams in the vestibule and parlour, and the multipaned glass partitions.

211-13th Ave. S.

The A. J. Balment Residence

(prior to 1909)

Although the exact year of construction is not determined at this time, Mr. Balment (a former mayor) moved in sometime before 1909 just after it was built. He lived there until his death in 1973.

The present owners have endeavoured to restore as much as possible, and have started to outfit the interior in period style furniture. The second storey front windows have notable patterns, and their design fits in well with the "gambrel" type roof. It is simple in form and the clapboard siding is in excellent shape. It forms an important "grouping" with the small white house next door.
(see below)



215-13th Ave. S.

? Residence

(prior to 1903)

This is a rare example of the small "cottage" style that was quite prevalent in Cranbrook's early days. It is rare because of the excellent condition in which it exists, and its lack of "gingerbread" decoration, although the details that do exist are very subtle. The small round columns that support the front porch, the diagonal patterns on the porch side panels, and the delicate window mullion patterns all add much to the character of this otherwise "austere" little house. It forms an important grouping with the "Balment" home mentioned above.





39-13th Ave. S.

? Residence

(probably prior to 1912)

This interesting, but run-down structure is another unique house in Cranbrook for two reasons. The large gambrel type roof actually encloses a complete upstairs with very little space being cramped by slanting walls; an attic is situated above this. The other feature is the left side recess on the first floor that becomes a dormer in the slope of the roof. The contrast between the horizontal and vertical clapboard siding on the first and second floors is also unusual.

Although looking rather poorly, this house would make a very interesting project in renovation for future residential use. It should be saved if at all possible.



209-14th Ave. N.

The J. Walker Residence

(prior to 1913)

Thomas Walker, a local brick-layer, was also considered to be a "stone-mason". This is borne out by the fact that the back of his home shown here is constructed almost completely of flat stone-work, the only example of this determined in Cranbrook.

Two brick wings face north and east with a large verandah joining them. The corner of this verandah is constructed with round stones to support the roof. Some of the brick details include the arches over the windows, and the thickened corner (reminiscent of the detail on the old City Hall). A lovely hedge and hedge archway give a magnificent frame to this residence. It is an important example of residential construction and should be maintained to provide foil to new development in this area.

The 1979 "Cranbrook Residential Heritage Award" Winner.

231-7th Ave. S.

? Residence

Date: (?)



This home was a winner of the Cranbrook Heritage Award, basically for its remarkable innovative exterior addition.

It once was a fairly simple rectangular brick house with few exterior decorative features. The present owner purchased the house in 1977 and began an extensive series of repairs and new additions to both improve the looks and function of the building.

The main feature striking the eye of the visitor is the beautiful new two-storey front porch. It actually forms an extension of the main peaked roof to cover a second-floor balcony, and is supported by well-proportioned square columns resting on a new foundation. The railings, trim and bracketing have all been meticulously constructed by the owner and fit well with the overall concept. Double French doors open out from the master bedroom onto the new covered balcony.

At the Rear, the same major foundation work has been done to support a new rear porch and kitchen addition. The spaces are again well articulated by railings and trellis-work, with broad stairs wrapping around the porch and descending to the lawn.

All in all, this particular home may well point to a new direction in heritage conservation by introducing the element of "interpretation" of the old, when building new features.



PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL "BAKER HILL" RESIDENTIAL AREA

While the townsite of 1897 grew towards a stable city, the choice residential area developed just south of the downtown area, and slightly to the east on the gentle slopes of "Baker Hill" (so named because of its proximity to the old Colonel Baker ranch on Joseph's creek in what is now Baker Park). This was the area in which the best homes were built, and many survive to this day in their original condition as a tribute to the efforts of the early pioneers to give the impression of a thriving, stable, good-looking city - and one that was good for "investment"!

It is because this residential area still has a basic character, through landscaping and architectural landmarks, that it should be designated as a special "heritage area" to control and guide future development. This new development would capitalize on, and in turn enhance, certain designated focal structures. Any new construction would build between the heritage buildings in a very careful and controlled manner. Please keep in mind that this proposal is not to create an "historic monument", but rather to give a viable present-day and future living situation to still-useful, heritage structures.

On the opposite page is a map of the recommended boundaries of the area, and the homes to be designated. (Homes of secondary interest, but not at this time to be designated are shown in asterisk form.) The dots should show the relation of the homes to each other as well as to amenities such as parks, and the downtown area. This protected area would preserve the best of Cranbrook's residential heritage, and more important, it would give them all a meaningful area to exist in. It would preserve evidences of our past for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations, and yet serve a useful residential purpose.

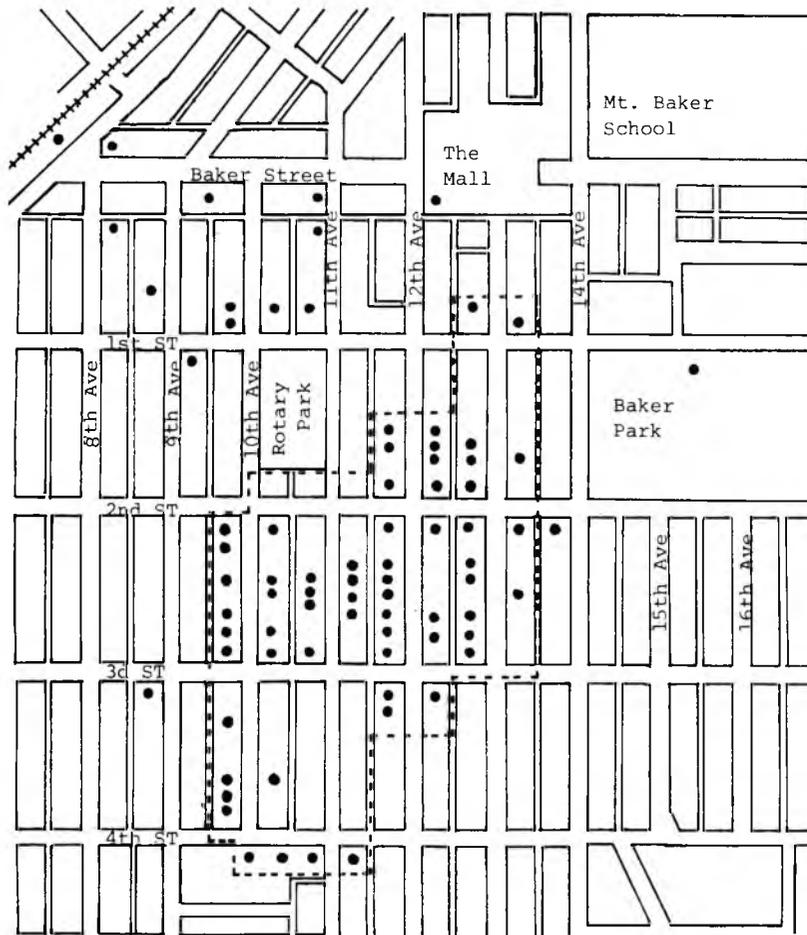
The whole proposal offers unique opportunities for future development within heritage guidelines. It must be remembered that the approaches to this area, especially from the downtown core, are of vital importance to its success. Both the pedestrian and vehicular routes into and through the area should be studied with care. The "edges" of this area will have to be "strong" and well-defined for the interior to maintain a clear-cut image of the past. There would seem to be no reason that higher densities cannot be accommodated here, as long as attention is paid to design principles, and that the guidelines are adhered to. The transfer of development rights concept also should be considered as an aid.

A comprehensive set of **planning and architectural guidelines** must be adopted as by-law and clearly set forth dealing with such things as:

- landscaping and tree policy to protect mature landscaping features, and to guide new landscaping schemes.
- set-backs and their line-up and relation to designated heritage structures - views, vistas and focal points.
- restrictions to relate to the height and bulk of designated heritage structures.
- use of detailed architectural elements such as dormers, hipped roofs, porches, balconies, bay and oriel windows, gables, and jogs, to break up the long flat wall and roof surfaces so common to modern apartment design.
- the use of various materials complimentary to the old structures - wood, brick and in some cases section of clapboard to produce the patterns of fine lines so common in the early 1900's.
- benefits to developers in the form of increased density for providing the "character" and pedestrian "extras".

The harmonious and imaginative application of the above should see the area develop as a truly outstanding effort to the preservation and future use of some of most unique heritage elements in the city - the "Homes of Baker Hill"!

Map of Proposal



- "Highlight Buildings
- - - Proposed Boundaries of "Area"

A PROPOSAL FOR A CIVIC-SQUARE AT CITY HALL

Three very good heritage buildings - the City Hall, the Catholic Church, and the Catholic Manse, - form a most unique spatial relationship. This, together with their sturdy construction and interesting design, lends easily and logically to the formation of a civic square for the City of Cranbrook.

The purpose of the square is most important to the pedestrian development of the downtown, and to give a strong central focal point for the city.

- It will give an outdoor "urban" space suited specifically to the pedestrian. Such a space does not yet exist in this city.
- The development will highlight and enhance the three important landmarks mentioned above, and give them a new meaning through their enhanced spatial relationship.

Several other points to be considered for the development of this space are:

- This unit block of 10th Ave. is not a major street in the downtown area and is very short (existing only between Baker and 4th St. S.)
- it is centrally located downtown and connects the major shopping area with Rotary Park.
- many varied activities occur along this section of 10th Ave. which encourage pedestrian usage, and would make the public square more successful from the beginning.

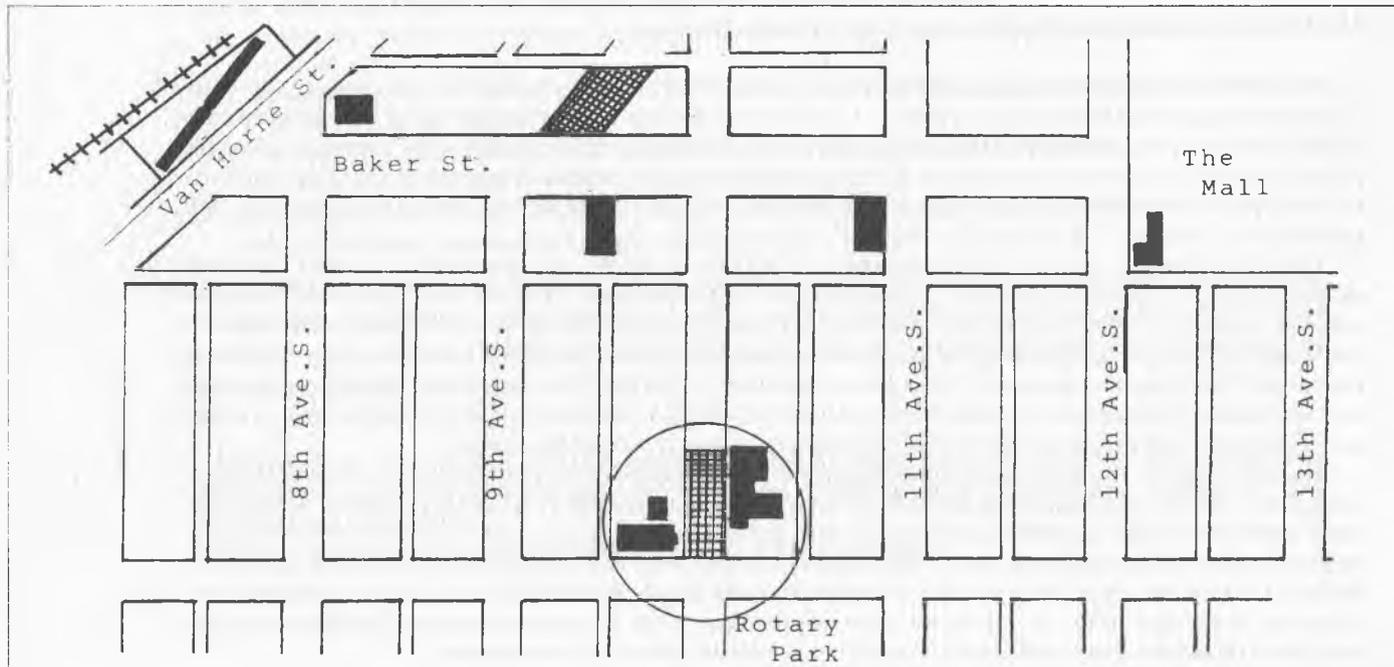
There is probably no where else in Cranbrook as interesting in terms of **outdoor architectural space**. The three buildings are of brick (rare individually let alone in a grouping). By the imaginative design and use of materials, paving patterns, trees, the use of water (fountain), etc., and the restoration of the spire and balcony of the old city hall, a truly dramatic and highly imageable "**vision**" of our city could be realized and point the way for more of this type of development. The old K.P. Hall (although unsuited in the long term), could certainly take its place in the initial space until the city can purchase the land and remove the building, to replace it with a defining border of large trees.





Only about 150 feet of 10th Ave. need be closed now to form the square, but one can imagine someday that the entire length of 10th Ave. will become a pedestrian precinct. Again, if the old Masonic Hall (Studio) is moved to a new location looking down 10th Ave. from Baker St., the effect will be that much more dramatic, and a highly organized system of focal points and vistas will again be formed in the downtown.

One word of caution - however - the civic square **must** be designed entirely for the pedestrian! A mixture of people and vehicles cannot be considered if the buildings and the space are to assume the strong necessary relationship. The space must be properly defined by the existing buildings and landscaping (trees) to form the "outdoor" walls; the screening of vehicles visually and acoustically is also important. A "blocked-off roadway" is not sufficient, and the space will fail if this is allowed to happen. A detailed study should be undertaken before any action is taken. (The pictures shown here are taken from a model of the location.)



POSSIBLE AIDS TO IMPLEMENTATION

- (a) **Tax Relief Programs-** The City could consider the introduction of a tax-relief program to encourage private expenditure for what otherwise might be costly restoration or maintenance work. Safeguards to prevent the abuse of an exemption should be included within such a proposal. The extension of the property tax exemption to privately-owned heritage structures could be a determining factor in securing the preservation of buildings in areas where economic pressures would otherwise force owners to practise demolition by decay! (see Municipal act section 328(e)).
- (b) **Rotating Fund for Heritage Buildings [“Re-Cycling of . . .”]** - the City could consider setting up a system for the “re-cycling” of heritage structures whereby the city would buy a threatened building, restore the exterior (and interior if necessary), and perhaps move it. The City would then sell the building with restrictive covenants, and maintain the first-right-of-refusal so that upon re-sale the City would have first chance to purchase. The purpose would not necessarily be to make a profit, but any so made would be reverted to the fund.

(c) **Designation of Heritage Structures:**

The Council may by by-law, designate any buildings or structures, in whole or in part, as heritage structures, buildings or lands for the purpose of preserving evidences of the municipality's history, culture, and heritage for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

(d) **The Transfer of Development Rights Concept: [the “Chicago Plan”]**

This particularly exciting concept combines all of the preceding (a) to (c) and should be seriously considered as a method to preserve landmarks in Cranbrook. It involves the **freeing of development rights** (ie. the difference between the size of a landmark building and the larger building that could be built on the landmark site under present zoning), and permits the transfer of that potential to non-landmark sites in the form of increased densities. In freezing the “Bottled-up” rights for use elsewhere, the plan protects the beleaguered landmark and compensates the owner.

The City Council, upon recommendation of landmarks worthy of preservation, would establish development-rights “Transfer Districts”. Upon designation of a landmark, or at any time thereafter, its owner would be entitled to transfer its unused development rights to other lots within the transfer district, and to receive real-estate tax deductions reflecting the properties decreased value. In return for these benefits, a landmark owner would be required to convey a “preservation restriction” to the City which would forbid development of the site, and obligate present and future owners to maintain the landmark. Development rights transfer sales, and the tax-relief compensate the owner for the possible economic burdens of formal designation.

By eliminating the landmarks development potential by acquisition of the preservation restriction, the site's value is decreased thus extinguishing speculative interest in it. Thus, landmarks remain in private use to serve the city's commercial &/or residential needs rather than being dead “museum space”! In turn, the City avoids outlays of money for outright acquisition, restoration and maintenance, and may continue to tax the property even though at a lesser rate. But, tax losses on that property would largely be offset by increased tax yields from the transferee sites. And lastly, in return for their contribution to the landmarks program, development-rights purchasers receive full value in the form of liberalized density allowances for their projects.

THE CRANBROOK ARCHIVES, MUSEUM AND LANDMARK FOUNDATION

The Foundation was established on Heritage-Day, (Feb. 16), 1976, by a group of interested citizens. It immediately set out its goals, became a registered B.C. Society and a registered Canadian charitable organization.

Although the name is somewhat lengthy, it does clearly spell out the interests and heritage-oriented mandate of the Foundation. The constitution names them clearly.

The objects and purpose of the society shall be:

1. Dedicated to the study and research, the preservation and restoration, the acquisition, classification, storage and exhibition of the City of Cranbrook's heritage and to develop an awareness and appreciation in the community of the heritage from which the City of Cranbrook had its beginnings, and more particularly:
 - (a) to encourage the study of Cranbrook's heritage in the public school system;
 - (b) to encourage research into various aspects of Cranbrook's heritage;
 - (c) to acquire various documents, photographs and artifacts, etc., representative of Cranbrook's heritage;
 - (d) to secure a museum facility sufficient for the proper and safe storage of such and the exhibition of Cranbrook's heritage;
 - (e) to establish a sound program to ensure that the important landmarks of the city are protected and continue to be viable with the changing times, and
 - (f) to establish an annual "Heritage Award" program to recognize outstanding contribution involving heritage improvement of a physical nature in the City of Cranbrook.
- (2) dedicated to the study and research, the preservation and restoration, the acquisition, classification, storage and exhibition of the Railway — with specific reference to the Crowsnest and "Kettle-Valley" route of the Canadian Pacific Railway — and to develop a national awareness and appreciation of their heritage.

- From this set of objectives, the Foundation has quickly progressed into all three area — archival collections, building a museum and developing an awareness and preservation proposal for the landmarks of Cranbrook.

- On the next page is listed some of the projects of the Foundation.

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PROGRAMS OF THE FOUNDATION

[1] The "Archives and Heritage Reading Room";

Within a few weeks after its founding, the Foundation was becoming the recipient of numerous donations of artifacts, old photos, books, pamphlets, maps, etc., all pertaining to the history and heritage of Cranbrook. An immediate goal was to formulate a classification system and storage for these items. A vault for artifact storage in one of the old bank buildings was leased at a very nominal rate. Arrangements were then made with the Cranbrook Public Library to house the documents and provide a reference room accessible to the public. It is called the "Heritage Reading Room," and offers interesting browsing material, serious research, and technical advice on such subjects as "How to repair/restore your old home." It is also most importantly in a secure building safe from fire or theft. Items continue to be donated and classified.

A major section contains material on railways — with specialization on the Cranbrook and Kettle-Valley Route of the CPR. This serves as a tremendous resource centre for study, as well as for research for the various planned exhibitions in the gallery coach at the Railway Museum.

[2] The Railway Museum and Gallery. (see pages 48-49)

Also included in this category is the new "Railway Club of Cranbrook", made up of old-timers involved in the railway, model railroaders, young and old, and present-day railway workers, to name a few. The museum and club also form the "Crowsnest and Kettle-Valley Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. Activities include research, documentation, publishing, exhibition mounting and a good social time. The Gallery Coach is an eight hundred square foot exhibition area catering to a variety of displays both local and touring, and in the fields of art and history.

[3] Tours of Old Homes (See also "Baker Hill" proposal, pages 38-39 for map)

Presented twice yearly, these tours are designed to promote a better awareness of the great architectural heritage that Cranbrook still retains. By combining bus and walking, these tours give the participant a feeling for the "area" in which numerous old homes still stand surrounded by mature trees, hedges, etc. Visits to the interiors give people a chance to see details of the past, as well as innovative new improvements for the lifestyles of today. These tours are becoming more popular each year, and are seeing more homes preserved and re-cycled by enthused new owners.

THE CRANBROOK HERITAGE AWARDS

These awards were begun by the Foundation as part of its mandate to encourage landmark awareness and to acknowledge improvements.

There are two awards presented annually; one is a **residential** category, and the other is a **commercial/institutional** category.

A panel of seven judges, selected from the community, meets in June to view first - hand the buildings nominated. They then meet together to discuss the applicants and finally decide upon a winner in each category. Two beautiful plaques (pictured here) are presented along with two smaller ones that winners retain permanently. The two large plaques hang in the museum for all to see and admire.

The guidelines for the awards are as follows:

[1] **Faithful maintenance of an original interior** — This is highly encouraged to preserve original design and details on buildings which have been fortunate enough to have survived the ravages of time, neglect, and “modern” fads.

[2] **Innovative Additions** — Although exact preservation can be considered an “ideal”, changes in building use and structure are sometimes necessary to accommodate changes in living and business patterns. Earnest consideration is given for appropriate (or “sympathetic”) changes, additions, or other alterations needed to save the building and/or make it safer.

[3] **The exterior** — of the buildings are only used in judging for the awards, since this is the most highly visible sign to the general public and has the greatest community effect.

[4] **Landscaping features** — are important aspects as well to give an appropriate setting for the architecture. Trees, shrubs, flowers, fencing, sidewalks, lights, etc., all fall under this category.



The Railway Museum

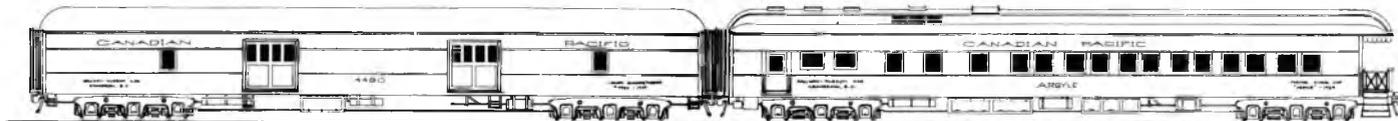
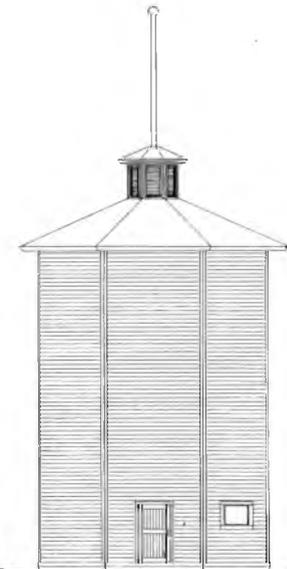
“CRANBROOK’S HISTORY IS THAT OF THE RAILWAY . . .”

Colonial James Baker, Cranbrook's founder, and avid provincial politician, was involved for over a decade in pushing for a railway to be built through the Crowsnest Pass, (and undoubtedly through ‘Cranbrook Farm’!)

When the CPR decided to build, they by-passed Fort Steele and came through Colonel Baker's farm, which by that time had been surveyed into a townsite and called ‘Cranbrook’. Fort Steele quickly became a ghost town and Cranbrook went on to become the principal city of the area — a position it still retains with ease.

Thus Cranbrook was literally ‘born of the railway’ — and the CPR still continues to be a major employer in the city. Its story is entwined with railway events, stories and legends which all contribute to a colourful background. In this perspective, Cranbrook serves as a most appropriate home for one of Canada's newest and most unique railway museums.

After the discovery of the black-walnut panelling in the Argyle, the concept for the museum underwent considerable change to accommodate and exploit this fabulous find! Besides the Argyle, it was decided to search out and obtain, if possible, other cars from the Trans-Canada Limited of 1929. A special feature of this train was that the interiors were outfitted in expensive walnut rather than the commonly-used mahogany. If plans go according to schedule, these various cars will be placed together in an original consist and restored to their former appearance. They include: Combination baggage-sleeper; R-Class sleeper; cafe-solarium lounge; and dining car. Compatible use will also be a priority after preservation consideration so that the community may use the cars and add to the vitality of the museum.



THE RAILWAY MUSEUM THE DINING CAR "ARGYLE"



BEFORE

Early in 1977, the Foundation purchased an old, dilapidated CPR work-car No. 411257, which was intended to be used as an exhibition (or "gallery") car to use for various types of art and history displays. In May of that year, an amazing discovery took place which changed the entire concept of the museum and brought back to life one of the most beautiful of the CPR's dining-cars. Under the many layers of paint was found the most exquisite inlaid "black-walnut" panelling as well as the original name of the car — the "Argyle."

The Argyle had been entirely Canadian-built for the fabulous "Trans-Canada Limited" of 1929. This, coupled with the fact that the Argyle was the last of 23 A-Class dining cars built in 1929, convinced the Foundation of the great heritage value of the coach for Canadians. Plans were then made to restore the coach back to its former glory.

Fourteen months were spent in the delicate process of restoration. First, all panelling had to be carefully removed, numbered and sent to the workshop for stripping off layers of paint, repair of holes, and finally the application of eleven layers of varnish — sanded and pumiced to a high-gloss finish. New insulation, ceilings, wiring, heating, and air-conditioning, and security measures were put in for safety and control of humidity — necessary for the panelling preservation. Appropriate fixtures, authentic CPR tables settings of silver, china and glass, and top-quality imported axminster carpet completed the picture of original opulence.

Today, the Argyle serves as the main coach for the museum with visitors being able to sit in the restored dining car area to marvel at the panelling and have tea or coffee. It is a lasting tribute to Canadian craftsmanship and forms a most unique "landmark" for Cranbrook.



AFTER

THE CRANBROOK HERALD May 17, 1898.

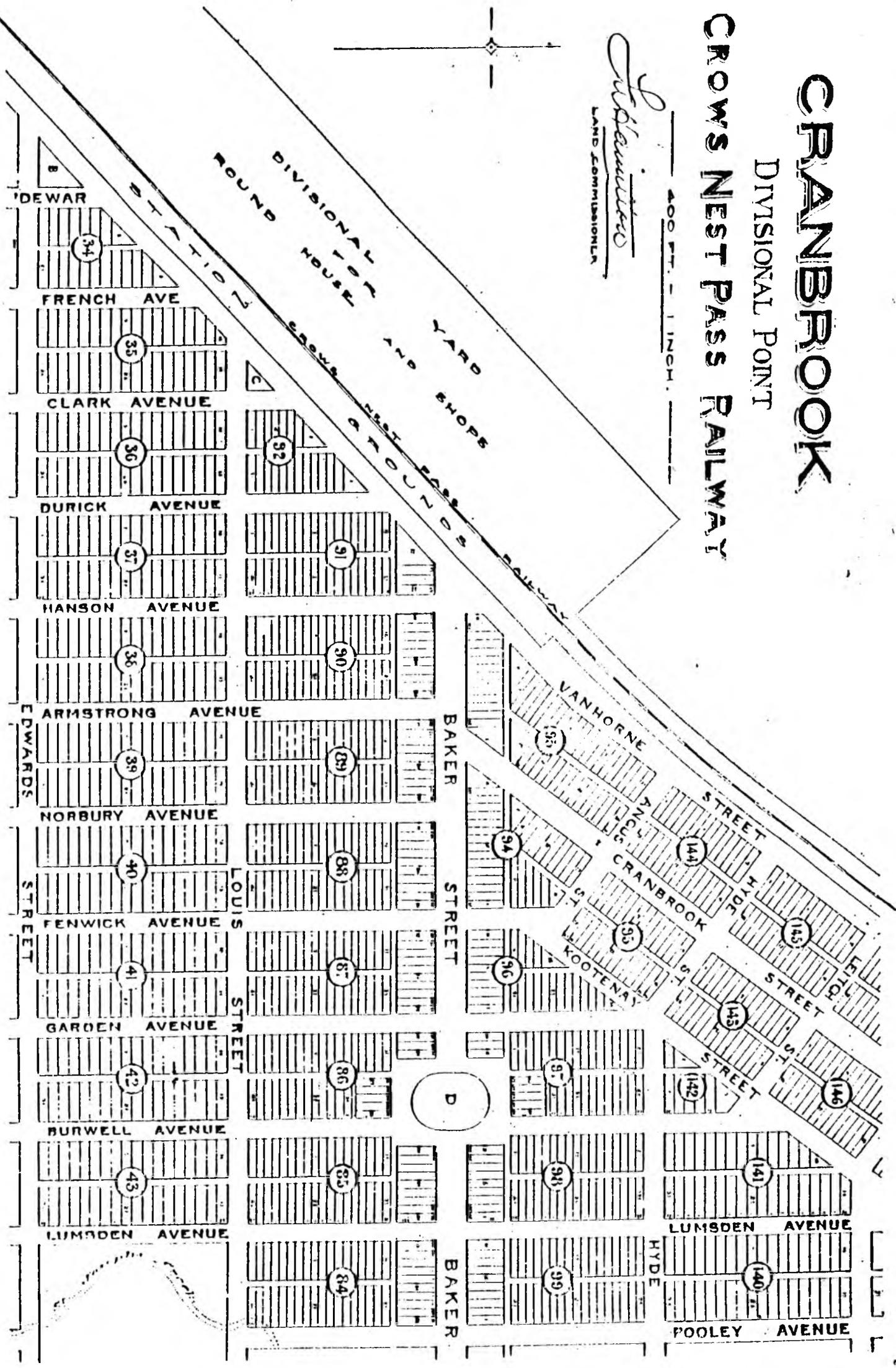
CRANBROOK

DIVISIONAL POINT

CROWS NEST PASS RAILWAY

W. Stewart
LAND COMMISSIONER

400 FT. = 1 INCH.





Model View of Proposal for a City Hall "Civic Square" Combining Several Heritage Buildings