

**The W.H Bridgman Building**

621 (623-625) 2<sup>nd</sup> St. S.E.

389 Main

Lot 6 Block 14 Plan 1491

**Constructed in 1903**

Owner: W.H. Bridgman

Builder: Morris & Trimble

Est. cost \$4000

The W.H. Bridgman building at 621 – 2 St. S.E. was built in 1903, as evidenced by the following newspaper reports:

**MH News, May 28, 1903:**

W.H. Bridgman building, 2 story brick block on Main St. J. Trimble, contract for stone and brickwork, JL Morris, carpenter.

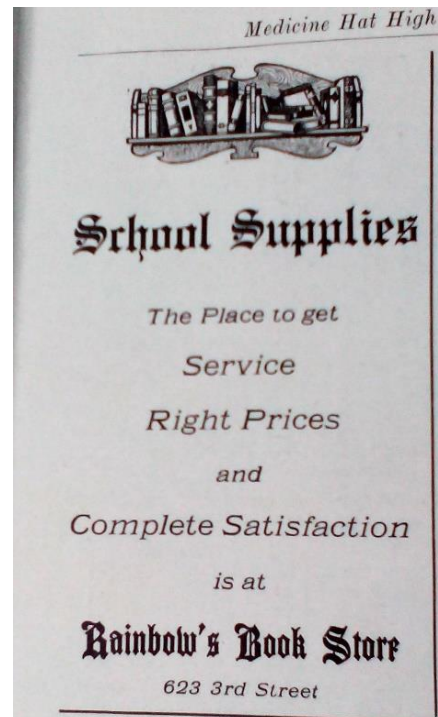
**MH News, Dec. 24, 1903:** List of improvements for 1903

W.H. Bridgman-2 storey brick block, Main St. 25' x 60'. Estimate \$4000, occupied by Assiniboia Music Co. Morris & Trimble

In 1902 brothers Samuel and James McClellan formed a partnership in the Assiniboia Music Company. A year later, they were the first occupants in Bridgman’s new building. The Assiniboia Music Company occupied the building from 1903-1912. By 1913, the music company had moved although Sam McClellan continued to have an office in the building for his real estate business. From 1915-1917, the occupants included R.B. Taylor Transfer, the M.H. Light & Supply Co. and the Donna Hat Shop.

In 1918, C.W. Rainbow and Co. operated a stationery store in the building, known as **Rainbow’s Book Store**. At that time, the address used was 623-2<sup>nd</sup> St. Rainbow’s Book Store occupied the building until 1922.

In 1922, the building’s most well known occupant, Marshall’s Book Store, headed by Albert Marshall took over the lease. Marshall’s Book Store initially carried office and stationers supplies wallpaper and phonographic equipment (“Columbia Granfanolas”).



Above: Ad from 1918 Alexandra School Yearbook  
Right: April 1924 ad from the MH News

In 1948, the Bridgman family sold the building to AE Marshall and by the late 1950's, a public enterprise took over the company. In 1964, this company purchased the building next door at 617 - 2 St. A subsidiary of Marshall's Book Store, Cypress Business equipment now occupied 617 – 2 St. The two businesses operated as separate addresses until 1968, at which time both businesses began to use a common address, that of #621-2 St. They also shared a common service department, initially located on North Railway St, moving to Kingsway in 1974. The service department for Marshall's/ Cypress Business Equipment was managed by Ben Fus.



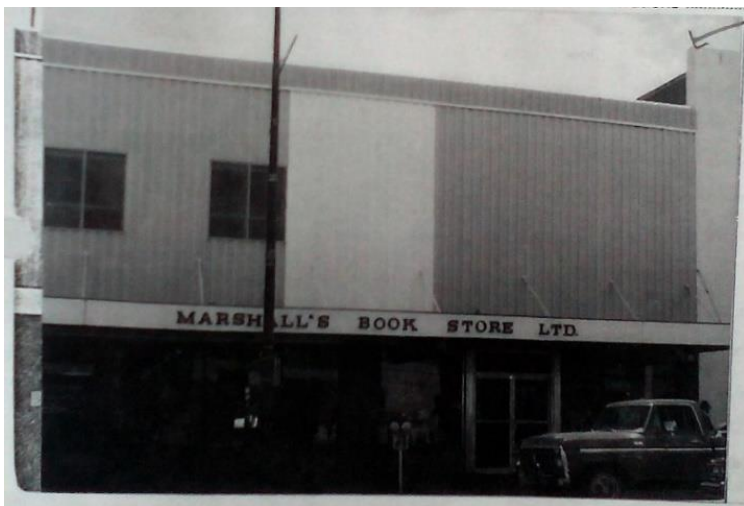
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When these 1970 photos were taken, both Marshall's (originally addressed at 621 -2<sup>nd</sup> St) and Cypress Business equipment, (originally addressed at 617 – 2 St.) were sharing a common address, that of 621 – 2 St.

By the mid 1970's an inner entranceway had been made between the two buildings. However, the most significant change occurred in 1976 when a common metal façade was placed over both buildings.



This photo taken in May 1979 shows the exterior metal façade which was in place almost 4 decades.

The two upper windows of the original Marshall's Book Store are the only feature still recognizable.

Right: 2017 photo of the WH Bridgman building with metal façade recently removed.



By 1983, Jim Miller, who had maintained a chartered accountancy on the upper floor for many years, purchased the company. Now known as Centennial Stationers, the single business occupied both sides and used the address, **617-2<sup>nd</sup> St.** Cypress Business Equipment ceases operation. Former service manager Ben Fus took over the Kingsway building, now known as Ben's Office Equipment. By 2004, Centennial Stationers becomes a division of Ben's Office Machines. By 2015, Centennial Stationers no longer exists nor occupies the building.

A.E. (Bert) Marshall (1889-1969)

Bert Marshall, the founder of Marshall's Book Store was married to Lyla. They had 3 daughters, Jean, Irene and Marguerite. Jean was married to Ray Collier, a long term director of Marshall's Book Store and Cypress Business Equipment.

Bert served as City alderman from 1936 to 1943.



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See WH Bridgman biography.