

Crystal Dairy Ltd.

233 Fifth Street S.E.

Lot 5 to 7

Block 83

Plan 636M

Constructed 1918

Historic Building Permit History:

Original One Storey Building for the Carlyle Creamery Co. Ltd.

Dec. 10, 1913 - Permit #764, 20' x 45', 1 storey, 8" hollow tile building. Est. cost \$3,000.

Mar. 13, 1917 - Permit #6, office addition 20 x 20, 1 storey. Est. cost \$250.

New Two Storey Building for the Crystal Dairy Ltd.

May 2, 1918 - Permit #6, dairy, 2 storey. Est. cost \$25,000

Jun 21, 1918 - Permit #24, dairy, 60'x71', Est. cost \$4,000

Dairy History:

Carlyle Dairy was established in Calgary in 1909 by James Weldon Carlyle, 1874-1932, and his brother Thomas Morton Carlyle, 1880-1945. The Carlyles had come to Alberta from Dunbar, Ontario where they were also engaged in dairying. In 1913, a branch was set up in Medicine Hat with J.W. Carlyle as president, T.M. Carlyle as vice-president and W. Morley Henderson as manager/secretary-treasurer. The Medicine Hat branch of the Carlyle Dairy opened for business on Feb. 11, 1914. In the same year, a branch was established in Lethbridge. In 1917, the Carlyles set up a branch in Didsbury.

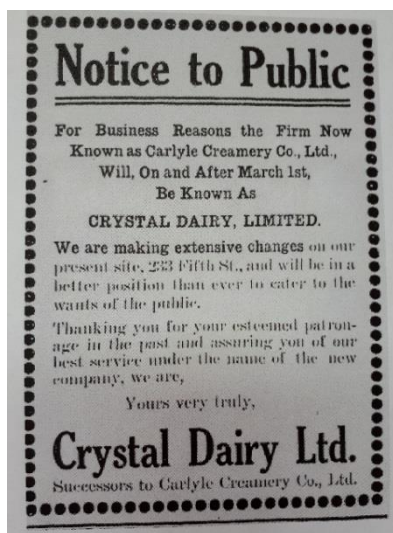
That same year, in response to government prompting, the Carlyles joined operations with Palleson Dairy, Hays Dairy, Drake Dairy, Derby Dairy and Leacock Dairy to form Union Milk Company (wholesale and retail milk), Crystal Dairy (ice cream) and Central Creameries (butter).



Carlyle Dairy Wagon 1917

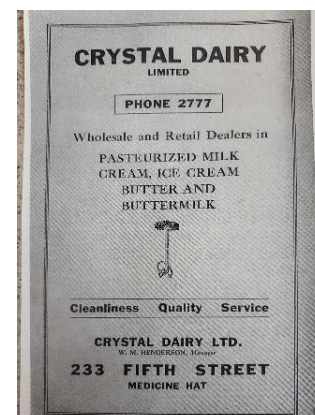
In March 1918, the local Carlyle Creamery Co. Ltd. became Crystal Dairy Ltd. Increased demand compelled the extension of the plant and the small one-storey building on Fifth Street was replaced with a larger two-storey fire proof building which provided excellent cold storage and sanitary conditions throughout. The plant took pride in its

natural gas fuelled boiler room, absent of "coal dust and ashes" found in similar plants where gas fuel was not available. W. M. Henderson continued as manager of the new facility and even the old phone number stayed the same. The local dairy specialized in milk, cream, ice cream, butter and buttermilk.



Left: Feb 28, 1918 MH News

Right: 1918 AGT Advertisement (MHDGS)

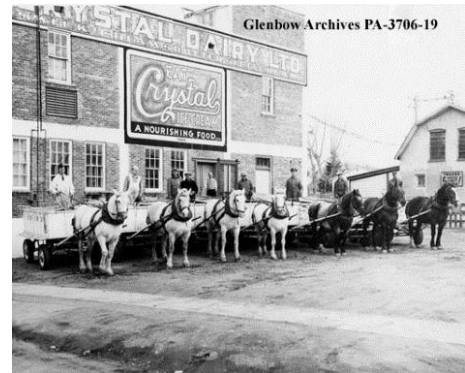




1919: Milt Cory and friend, using Crystal Dairy vehicle for personal hunting trip. 0224.0005

During the 1920's, the company established other creameries in Alberta, but these were later sold except for Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Fort MacLeod. By 1923, \$70,000 had been invested in the local branch which employed dairy workers and a foreman, drivers and a stableman, and office workers for a total of 16.

PA-3706-19 (1920)



A new holding company was set up in 1923 called United Dairies Ltd. In 1930 and 1931, the company acquired four more dairies including two on the West Coast.



0328.0220 (c1930)

The local dairy continued its success with home delivery, replacing horse drawn wagons with motorized vehicles in the mid 1950's.

PA 3706.22 (1955)



By the late 1950's, the company became Union Milk Co. Ltd. The ice cream retained the "Crystal" name.

Union Milk display at the Exhibition, Jul. 23, 1962. FL01364

James Carlyle was president until his death, followed by Thomas Carlyle, then by his eldest son Grant Morton Carlyle. In 1966, the company was sold to Silverwood Dairies of Ontario.



A Silverwood Crystal Dairy Bottle 86-19-1

Residential customers put tokens in the empty bottles. The "milkman" would remove the token and empty bottle, replacing with a full bottle. Many households had milk "drawers" in their porch, to prevent freezing. Occasionally, the milk would freeze, swell from the bottle, pushing off the cap. Customers placed a "No Milk Today" sign in the window when delivery was not required.

In the late 1970's, the local Silverwood Dairy became the Alpha Milk Company. In 1983, the Alpha plant moved to Industrial Ave. and the 5th St. operation ceased production; the building was sold by Alpha to Waldemar Link of Link Brothers Construction. It remained vacant for years and became a centre of controversy as a boarded up and derelict building that was attracting transients, drug users and a devil worshipping cult. In Dec. of 1988, 150 names from the neighbourhood were placed on a petition to have the City remove the building.

Today:

A decade later, in January 1999, the building was purchased by Cambridge Investments Ltd. whose vision to repurpose the building for multiple family residential usage ultimately saved the building. The rear portion of the second floor, the elevator shaft and the third floor were added in 1999 to 2000. The first phase was completed in 2000, with the first tenant moving in April 2000. The fourth floor and final phase of construction was begun in 2009 and completed December 2010 at which time the first tenant moved into the fourth floor.



The renovation and addition to the building were designed by P.H. McNally Associates Ltd., contractor was Cambridge Investments Ltd. James Devine, a local mason who specializes in historical masonry reconstruction, was the brick contractor. Devine designed the exterior window sills and lintels, the pattern of the exterior design, and made the keystone which is installed over the entry door. Devine was able to replicate the historical mortar. Malcolm Sissons of I-XL Industries provided expertise in determining the brick chosen. The IX-L bricks were “rumbled” to further age them to more resemble the original bricks. As much of the original brick work on the building was saved.

In total, the block provides housing for 29 occupants; three in the basement, seven on each of the first, second and third floor, and five on the fourth floor.

*Heritage Resources Committee
Prepared by: Sally Sehn, July 26, 2018
Sources: Esplanade Archives, Glenbow Archives, Galt Archives, MH News, Nora McNally*