

King Edward (Crosskill) Building

617 (619) – 2 St. S.E.

391 Main

Lot 5 Block 14 Plan 1491

Constructed in 1907

Owner: Walter Crosskill

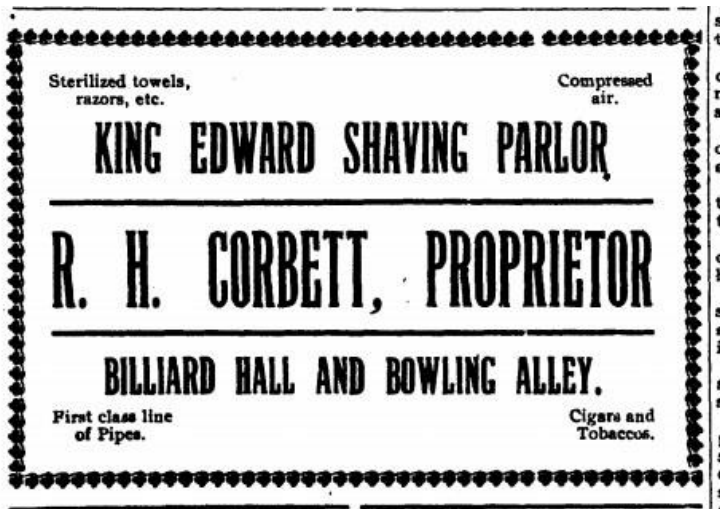
The King Edward Building, named for its signage, was built in 1907 as evidenced by the following Medicine Hat news articles:

MH News Jun. 7, 1906: Walter Crosskill will put up a fine billiard hall and barber shop for Corbett and Williamson. The building will be situated on Main St., just south (west) of Assiniboia Music Co. and will be 25'x100'...one storey with a plate glass (front) and ceiling will be 14' high.

MH News Oct. 11, 1906: An expert from Chicago is in the city for the purpose of putting bowling alleys in for R.H. Corbett.

MH News, Oct 10, 1907: King Edward Bowling Alley damaged by fire; owner R.H. Corbett.

MH News, Oct 31, 1907: Six substantial business blocks have been completed within the year. All are brick with stone coping and facings with plate glass fronts...four are on Main St., viz. the Crosskill Building (\$7000), occupied by R. H. Corbett's pool rooms, cigar store, barber shop and bowling alleys.



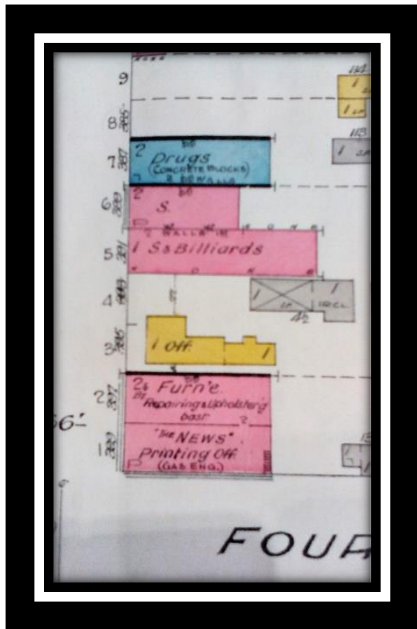
The King Edward (cigars and tobaccos, shoe shining parlour, billiard room, bowling alley, shaving parlour) occupies the building until 1911, leasing the premises from Crosskill and his estate.

Left: MH News advertisement Nov. 28, 1907

Nov. 14, 1910: English born Walter Crosskill dies. Crosskill came to Medicine Hat in 1885 as a gravel contractor in the construction of the narrow-gauge railway. He was a former City building inspector and municipal assessor. He was also in charge of the local Government Meteorological Bureau from 1901-1910. *

1910 Map showing 391 Main, "store & billiards" (King Edward)

King Edward – 1907-1911 0525.0110*



By 1913, JD Matheson, barber, FB McKinnon, baker and Canadian Realty have replaced the King Edward. From 1914 to 1918, Dawson's Confectionery and Lunch Room occupy the premises followed by the Green Lantern Confectionery from 1919-1928.

In 1928, the National System of Baking, a chain of bakeries owned by the Heagle family and headquartered in Calgary, purchases the building. The bakery, advertised as bakers of "National Maid" breads, cakes and pastries, is the longest single occupant, 36 years.



M.H. News advertisement, Feb. 1, 1930

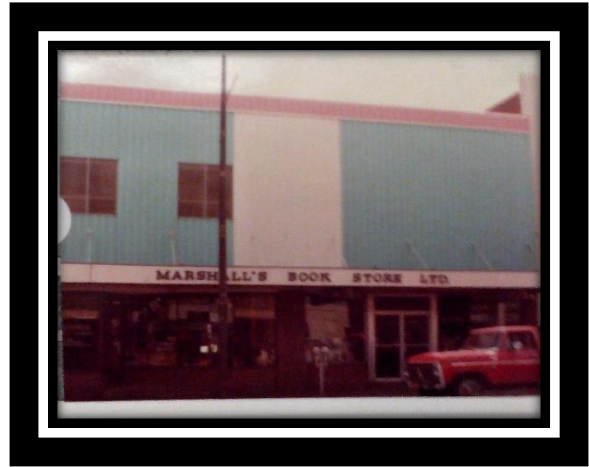
In 1964, the Calgary based bakery sells the building to the company next door operating as Marshall's Book Store. Marshall's sets up an office equipment division, Cypress Business Equipment, into the former bakery.

Until 1968, the two businesses which had operated under two separate addresses, began to use only one address, that of the original Marshall's Books Store, #621-2nd St. By 1976, the two businesses were sharing a common building, having opened an interior wall and then placing a metal façade over the two buildings, leaving the illusion

that the two buildings were one. The building operated solely as Marshall's Book Store. At the same time, Cypress Business Equipment moved into their service centre on Kingsway. By 1983, Marshall's Book Store was purchased and the shared buildings were now operating as Centennial Stationers, using the address #617-2nd St. Cypress Business Equipment was sold.* The metal façade remained on the two buildings for about another four decades.

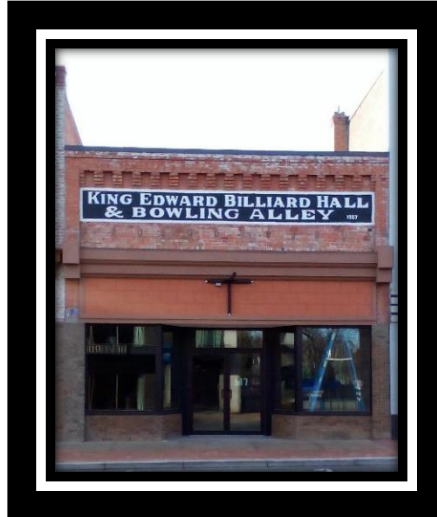


Cypress Business Equipment 1970
before the exterior metal façade. #5194A-08*



As Marshall's Book Store, 1979. Metal façade over exterior of both #621 (left, with windows) and #617 (right, with raised façade to equal building height of #621)

***Additional information and digital copies of photos may be available by contacting or visiting the Esplanade Archives.**



The King Edward/Crossskill building in 2017, exterior façade removed during recent restoration.

*Prepared by Sally Sehn
Heritage Resources Committee
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Sources: Esplanade Archives, Asst. archivist Kim Unrau*