

New Club Café
638 - 2nd St. S.E.

Lot 27

Block 6

Plan 1491

Date of Construction: 1917

Permit Information:

April 19, 1917 Permit #27, 2 storey brick block, 25' x75'. Est. values \$10,000 Builder: Cleveland C. Potter
Owner: JC Beveridge.* **Beveridge owned this building from 1917-1948.**

Prior to the construction of the building in 1917, a frame building housing the "Club Café" was on this site. The last proprietors of the old café were N. Cotton and J. Apostal.

Mar. 8, 1917, MH News: The wood Club Café building is for sale "to be removed by purchaser".



The original frame Club Café building c1913
(far left) "Club Café" signage in window
0350.1.0068*

The frame building is replaced by a two-storey brick building in 1917. On July 7, 1917, the Café opens its doors to the public. In a patriotic gesture to the War cause, the Café donates all proceeds to the Red Cross.

The upper floor is fitted as offices for a dental lab. *It is occupied by various dental and medical businesses until 1950.**



MH News, Jul. 6, 1917

James Apostal, the former proprietor of the "old" Club Café, retains the position with the New Club Café for a short time, retiring by 1919.



In 1929, former waiter Chris Jeffries became a joint proprietor of the restaurant with Nick Chacaleas.

Interior of the New Club Café, ca 1929 0261.0007*
Chris Jeffries is behind the bar.

From mid 1930's until 1953, Jeffries is the sole proprietor. (see attached biography). Jeffries retains personal ties to former proprietors Apostal and Chacaleas

MH News
Feb. 26, 1935



Under Jeffries, the New Club Cafe frequently supported the Medicine Hat Stampede festivities with a pancake breakfast as seen in this early 1950's photo.

LR: The War Surplus, **New Club Café**, The Junior Shop
0218.0005 *



AGT March 1952 (MHGS)



In 1955, under the management of the Quan family, the restaurant was renamed the “Club Café”. The Club Café was popular with local teenagers in the late 1950’s, early 1960’s. After school and on weekends, the juke box generation gathered to hear the latest tunes by the early rock n’ roll artists such as Elvis Presley and Bill Haley and the Comets. The table juke boxes and large juke box can be seen in the photo below, left:



0764.0018*



0764.0014*

In 1964, the Club Café experienced a non-serious fire in the ventilation system.

The Club Café years ended in 1967. From 1967 to 1970, it became the Centennial Restaurant. From 1971 to 2006 the Douvis family operated Top’s Pizza and Spaghetti House.



June, 1962: Original brick on front of building is exposed 942-A*



In 2017 as the Sabai Infusion restaurant, with modern façade on exterior of building

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

*Prepared by Sally Sehn
Heritage Resources Committee
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Asst. Archivist: Kim Unrau
MH Genealogical Society*