

# Brown Durand Residence



<i>Date of Construction</i>	1912
<i>Address</i>	76 - 3 (Toronto) Street SW
<i>Original Owner</i>	Mervyn A. Brown
<i>Architect</i>	Stanley Riddle
<i>Contractor</i>	Marshall & Bates
<i>Neighbourhood</i>	SW Kensington Hill
<i>Historic Neighbourhood</i>	Herald
<i>Legal</i>	833M;5;38-40

## Description of Historic Place

The Brown Durand Residence is a grand Arts and Crafts-style residence built in 1912 in the SW Kensington Hill neighbourhood in the City of Medicine Hat. The house is located on a large corner lot on the north side of 3rd Street SW at 1st Avenue SW, set back from the street. The residence is distinguished by its prominent enclosed wrap-around verandah with substantial turned columns, its one and one-half storey height, and its cross-gabled plan with off-centre double entry doors. The house is exquisitely detailed with wide overhanging roof with whalebone bargeboards supported by scroll-cut triangular brackets. The property is well landscaped with brick planters and mature trees and shrubs. A small, single car garage with a hipped-roof is located set back and to the west of the house.

## Heritage Value of Historic Place

The Brown Durand Residence, built in 1912, is valued as a superb and dignified example of the Arts and Crafts architectural style in the City

of Medicine Hat. The residence was designed by local architect, Stanley Riddle, a carpenter by trade, and built by local builders, Marshall & Bates, at a cost of \$7,000. This residence is a grand and elaborate version of the then quite fashionable Arts and Crafts style, popularized through countless periodicals and plan books. The style expressed both the traditional aspects of the Arts and Crafts movement as well as modern lifestyles in the 1910s. The refined aesthetic is reflected in the complex, asymmetrical cross-gabled massing, saddlebag dormers, and enclosed wrap-around verandah with lathe-turned columns, which add to the opulent character of the house. The detailing is precise and elaborate, showcasing features such as the pronounced front-gabled projection with its wide overhang, half-timbering at the gable peak, exaggerated whalebone bargeboards, and triangular brackets. Fine craftsmanship and the use of locally manufactured materials, both hallmarks of the style, are evident in the ornate exterior decorative features, elemental materials such as wood and brick, and rustic detailing of the decorative concrete block walls that curve to define landscape elements on the property.

The Brown Durand Residence is also significant as a symbol of the success and distinction of the home's first and subsequent owners, attested to in the prominence and grandeur of the house. Original owner, Mervyn A. Brown, was a leader in Medicine Hat in the 1910s. Brown was born in Little York, Prince Edward Island in 1884, and relocated to Medicine Hat in 1906, where he was a successful real estate broker and owned a significant number of properties in the city. He served as an Alderman (1911-1913) at the time the house was built, and was later elected as mayor in 1914 and again from 1918. In 1919, the 3rd Street SW property was purchased by J. Jessop Nott, and his wife Nora. Jessop was a successful funeral director and embalmer, and operated a funeral parlour out of the house for many years until his death in 1955. During the course of Nott's ownership, the verandah was enclosed. Nora lived in the house until well into the 1960s.

The Brown Durand Residence as it appeared prior to having its verandah enclosed, circa 1913





## Character-Defining Elements - Brown Durand Residence (76 - 3 Street SW)



- Location set well back on a corner lot at the on 3rd Street and 1st Avenue SW in the SW Kensington Hill neighbourhood in Medicine Hat



- Siting in a residential context with a variety of housing styles and eras



- Original landscape elements including: hipped-roof garage with shed-roof dormer with Tyndall stone cladding over original wooden siding; decorative concrete-block walls with parged concrete caps



- Form, scale, and massing as expressed by its: one and one-half storey cross-gabled plan; low-pitched, bellcast rooflines with open soffits; saddlebag deck roof dormers; shed-roof dormer at north elevation; enclosed wrap-around verandah



- Wooden-frame construction with masonry details including: concrete foundation; shingle wooden siding on gabled-peak and dormers; later addition of Tyndall stone on west and north walls of house and garage over original lapped wooden siding



- Arts and Crafts-style details such as: highly elaborate detailing including half timbering; overhanging rooflines; scroll-cut triangular brackets; whalebone barge-boards at the projecting front gable; massive lathe-turned columns with doric capitals; closed wooden balustrade; arched openings on verandah; scroll-cut rafter tails; use of locally sourced brick

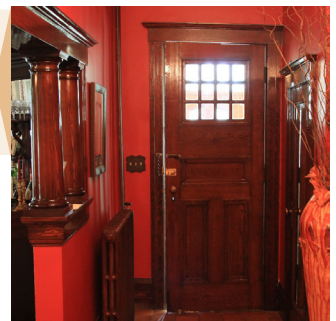


- Original fenestration such as: single, double, and triple assembly, 6-over-1 and 8-over-1 single-hung wooden-sash windows with hinged multi-light wooden storm windows; original 3-paneled front door with multi-light upper panel in enclosed verandah



- Additional elements including: oversized decorative brick chimneys with corbelled chimney caps (interior at rear of house, exterior at west elevation, interior east elevation)

- Interior features such as: maple floors; wooden decorative window and door trim; wainscoting; plate rails; wooden paneled doors with original hardware; pocket doors; coffered ceiling; original gas fireplaces; original steam heater in the basement



## Statement of Integrity - Brown Durand Residence (76 - 3 Street SW)

### Applicable Significance Criteria

*This site is significant because...*

**Theme / Activity / Cultural Practice / Event** ☒ Yes ☐ No

-The Brown Durand Residence, built in 1912, is valued as a superb and dignified example of the Arts and Crafts architectural style in the City of Medicine Hat (**Theme Value – Built in Medicine Hat**).

-The Brown Durand Residence is also significant as symbolic of the success and distinction of the home's first and subsequent owners, attesting to the prominence and grandeur of the house (**Theme Value – Oasis in the Prairies: Settling Medicine Hat**).

**Institution / Person** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Design / Style / Construction** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Information Potential** ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Landmark / Symbolic Value** ☐ Yes ☒ No

### Period of Significance

1906 to 1913 Pre-First World War, Age of Optimism

### Chronology of Alterations

1920s - Verandah enclosed  
1960s-70s - Tyndall stone added over original wooden siding on garage, and west and north facades; glass block added to door surround at front entryway and basement windows; distressed brick walls added as landscape features and connects to original concrete block walls.

### Aspects of Integrity

**LOCATION** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The location of the residence has not been changed.

**DESIGN** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The design of the building has been retained apart from new cladding on the west and north walls and the filling in of the verandah.

**ENVIRONMENT** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The building continues to be situated in a residential neighbourhood on 3rd Street SW.

**MATERIALS** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The authenticity of the materials is evident on the residence.

**WORKMANSHIP** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The high quality of the workmanship of the building is identifiable through its use of materials and current condition.

**FEELING** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The feeling of the building has not been altered. It conveys a grand historical aesthetic.

**ASSOCIATION** ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The association of the building is unchanged.

Statement of Integrity continued on next page...

## Statement of Integrity - Brown Durand Residence (76 - 3 Street SW)

### Statement of Integrity

*Brown Durand Residence maintains all the aspects of integrity necessary for it to convey its significance / heritage value.*

The Brown Durand Residence is in excellent condition with few alterations. Early after the house was built, likely in the 1920s, the verandah was enclosed with windows and the open rake balustrade filled in. The original front door is intact and protected inside the enclosed verandah. In the 1960s-1970s, with new ownership, Tyndall stone was added over the original lapped wooden siding on the west and north elevations and brick and concrete breeze-block added over the original foundation. Tyndall stone was also added over the wooden siding on the small garage to the west of the house. During this period, a brick wall was added to the concrete block wall to extend the definition of the landscaping and brick and flagstone walkway and entryway stairs were added over the original concrete walkway and wooden stairs. The front entryway was also altered at this time. A glass block surround was added, and new double doors have been added sometime in the last 10 years. During the 1980s the verandah and exterior tile work was completed. The decorative elements on the house are intact and in remarkably good condition, apart from requiring to be painted. Aside from a few windows on the east elevation, all windows and storm windows are intact and in excellent condition.


## Additional Images - Brown Durand Residence

Rear of the Brown Durand Residence, which overlooks the South Saskatchewan River valley



Donald Luxton & Associates  
June 2013

## Heritage Evaluation Form - Brown Durand Residence (76 - 3 Street SW)

 <b>Medicine Hat</b> <b>The Gas City</b> <b>Heritage Evaluation Form</b>	Site Number	Category A
	Community District SW Kensington Hill	
	Designation	

<b>Site Name(s):</b> Brown Durand Residence			
<b>Municipal Address:</b> 76 - 3 Street SW		Date of Construction:	Y 1910
<b>Consultant(s):</b> Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.		Evaluation Date:	Y 13 M 05 D 16
<b>Heritage Committee:</b> Heritage Resource Committee			
<b>Heritage Planner:</b> Chris Reddy			
		<b>Total</b>	
		81	

History (H)	E	VG	G	F	P		(H) SCORE
H.1 Associations/Patterns		X				20	30
H.2 Age		X				10	
<b>Comments:</b> H.1 The Brown Durand Residence is significant as a symbol of the success and distinction of the home's first and subsequent owners, attesting to the prominence and grandeur of the house. Original owner, Mervyn A. Brown, was an important leader in Medicine Hat in the 1910s. H.2 Constructed in 1912.							

Architecture (A)	E	VG	G	F	P		(A) SCORE
A.1 Style/Type/Design		X				20	31
A.2 Designer/Builder				X		3	
A.3 Construction Technology		X				10	
A.4 Interior Details		X				8	
A.5 Alterations			X			-10	
<b>Comments:</b> A.1 The Brown Durand Residence is valued as a superb and dignified example of the Arts and Crafts architectural style in the City of Medicine Hat. A.2 Architect – Stanley Riddle, Contractor – Marshall & Bates A.3 Wooden-frame construction A.4 Original interior elements including maple floors, decorative wooden window and door trim, wainscoting, wooden-paneled doors with original hardware, pocket doors, coffered ceiling. A.5 Enclosed the front verandah and reconfigured the front entry.							

Urban Context (C)	E	VG	G	F	P		(C) SCORE
C.1 Landmark/Character		X				10	20
C.2 Streetscape/Landscape		X				10	
<b>Comments:</b> C.1 The residence style and extensive detailing make it a noteworthy landmark in the neighbourhood. C.2 The building's historic aesthetic contributes to the surrounding streetscape.							