



Heritage Evaluation Form

Site Number	Category
	A
Community District	Downtown
Designation	

Site Name(s):		MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA	
Municipal Address:	657-59 Second Street SE	Date Of Construction:	Y 1899
Consultant(s):	Lorne Simpson and Harry Sanders	Evaluation Date:	Y 019 M 013 D 1
Heritage Committee:		TOTAL	
Heritage Planner:	Jeanie Gartly	90.0	

History (H)	E	VG	G	F	P	(H) SCORE
H.1 Associations/Patterns	X					40
H.2 Age	X					20

Comments:
H.1 The establishment of the first permanent bank in Medicine Hat is a pattern of primary importance in the City.
H.2 1899

Architecture (A)	E	VG	G	F	P	(A) SCORE
A.1 Style/Type/Design	X					40
A.2 Designer/Builder	X					20
A.3 Construction Technology		X				10
A.4 Interior Details					X	0
A.5 Alterations			X			-10

Comments:
A.1 A rare example of a building design influenced by the Georgian style. The later alteration/addition of an Edwardian Commercial storefront is considered part of the evolution of the building.
A.2 John A. Trimble was both the architect and the builder.
A.3 Early example of load bearing construction with river rock foundations and facade of Calgary white brick.
A.4 Not accessed.
A.5 Building has been clad over with stucco - later storefront considered to be part of the evolution of the building.

Urban Context (C)	E	VG	G	F	P	(C) SCORE
C.1 Landmark/Character	X					15
C.2 Streetscape/Landscape		X				10

Comments:
C.1 Symbolic landmark as the first bank building in the City representing its "coming of age".
C.2 It maintains the dominant character of the streetscape.

Statement of Significance	Site Number	Category
		A

Site Name:	MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA
Municipal Address:	657-59 Second Street SE

<p>Description of Historic Place:</p> <p>The building is a two storey brick structure with a cottage roof configuration and rectangular floor plan; hallmark of the Georgian style. The front facade features; a symmetrical storefront with large display windows and central recessed entrance, side entrance door to upper floor, and four large symmetrical upper windows. The front and side elevations have been clad over in stucco which conceals the brick and stone corner quoins.</p>

<p>Heritage Value of Historic Place:</p> <p>The heritage value of the Merchants Bank of Canada lies in its status as an early bank building in Medicine Hat, and as the first permanent home of the original bank branch to open in the community. John A. Trimble was a brick layer, contractor and self-taught architect who had worked in Guelph, Ontario before settling in Medicine Hat. In 1897, Trimble and his partner had completed a major renovation to the Traders Bank in Guelph. The second occupant was the Southern Alberta Land Company, significant for their role in the settlement of the region.</p>
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<p>Character Defining Elements:</p> <p>The character defining elements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The original facade's design was influenced by the Georgian style. It has symmetrically ordered upper and lower level windows with flat lintels featuring a keystone. The facade is constructed of brick with rock faced stone corner quoins. The cottage roof form with projecting eaves is characteristic of the style.- There is a later alteration/addition (date unknown) of an Edwardian Commercial storefront with central recessed entrance and large display windows on each side.
