

St. Barnabas Anglican Church



Date of Construction	1912-1913
Address	635 - 4 (Montreal) Street SE
Architect	James C. Teague
Contractor	Lussier Construction Co.
Neighbourhood	Downtown/SE Hill
Legal	1491;31;5-7

Description of Historic Place

St. Barnabas Anglican Church is positioned on 4th Street SE between South Railway Street and 6th Avenue SE in the commercial district of downtown Medicine Hat. The church is setback from the street and fronted by a gently sloping lawn with mature coniferous and deciduous trees. The one and one-half storey Arts and Crafts-style church possesses a red brick exterior with sandstone design elements and has a prominent square two-storey bell tower with crenelated parapet and numerous distinctive Gothic tracery stained glass windows.

Heritage Value of Historic Place

St. Barnabas Anglican Church is highly valued as a significant institutional building which has continuously served the social and religious needs of Medicine Hat's Anglican community for over a century. In 1883, the Provincial Synod authorized the formation of a new Diocese, Qu'Appelle, in western Canada; Medicine Hat was located on the western boundary of the new Diocese. Until land could be procured

and a church constructed, services were held in St. John's Presbyterian Church. In 1886, on three lots of land purchased from the CPR, the first incarnation of St. Barnabas church was constructed. The one-storey, side gabled wooden church with a square bell tower served Medicine Hat's early Anglican community until 1911, when it was torn down to make way for the new church. Construction of the new St. Barnabas church was fraught with problems. The commission was originally awarded to the Regina architectural firm of Clemesha & Colman; however, their design was deemed too costly and rejected by the church's Building Committee. In June of 1911, American architect James Calloway Teague submitted a proposal for the new church, which was not to exceed the sum of \$25,000. Teague's proposal was accepted and the redesigned church went to tender in March of 1912. Ironically, the cost of the re-designed church was \$40,000, exceeding the cost of Clemesha & Colmans' design by \$15,000. Construction of the new church began in the summer of 1912 and the first service was held on December 12th of that same year. The interior of the church exhibits a strong sense

of British history as evidenced through its dark wood paneling, exposed wooden roof arches and beams, and numerous regimental flags hanging in the sanctuary. A number of stained glass windows from the original wooden church were incorporated into the new design, including two small lancet windows commemorating the tragic death of two young boys in a prairie blizzard. The substantial size and quality of the 1912 church reflects the rapid growth of the congregation and mirrors the successful development of Medicine Hat during the Edwardian era. Subsequent recent additions reflect the ongoing needs of the expanding congregation.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church is additionally valued as a superb example of Arts and Crafts-style architecture. The Arts and Crafts style originated in Britain and was the physical manifestation of a reaction to the Industrial Age and the dehumanization and restructuring of populations to accommodate large-scale factories. Buildings of this architectural style are elegant, well balanced, and finely crafted using locally available materials. St. Barnabas characterizes this style through its prominent square tower with crenelated parapet, dormers with half-timbering and stucco cladding, muscular

pressed brick buttresses, exaggerated whale-bone bargeboards, exposed notched rafter tails, and pointed arch tracery stained glass windows.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church is also valued as a representation of the quality of local builders and locally manufactured materials available during the Edwardian era boom period. Lussier Construction Company was awarded contracts for three prominent Medicine Hat churches in 1912: Knox Presbyterian Church, Fifth Avenue Methodist Church, and St. Barnabas Anglican Church. This high level of workmanship is evident throughout the church and its current condition is a testament to quality of the local materials used in its construction. The church was constructed using locally sourced and manufactured brick from Redcliff Premier Brick and Bedford Quarry sandstone. The use of locally manufactured materials and labour contributed to the stability of Medicine Hat's economic growth and development.

The church of St. Barnabas parish is valued as a local landmark for its intact and highly refined Arts and Crafts-style architecture and for its positioning mid-block and generously setback from the street, in downtown Medicine Hat.

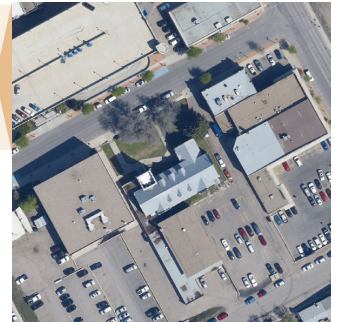
St. Barnabas Anglican Church shortly after construction



Character-Defining Elements - St. Barnabas Anglican Church (635 - 4 Street SE)



- Prominent positioning with generous setbacks from 4th Street SE and fronted with a sloping lawn and mature trees



- Form, scale, and massing as expressed by its: one and one-half storey height with full basement; side-gabled roof with front and rear gabled projections, two-storey square bell-tower with crenelated parapet



- Wood-frame construction with red pressed brick with white mortar containing small occlusions; sandstone banding, sills, buttresses, parapet capping

- Arts and Crafts style details such as: sandstone capped pier buttresses; square bell tower topped with crenulations; exposed rafters; whale-bone bargeboards; half-timbering on dormers with stucco cladding, sandstone cross-shaped finials; variety of exterior cladding; recessed entry with exposed beamed ceiling



- Original fenestration including: paired rectangular stained glass windows in dormers and at basement level; gothic tracery stained glass windows in the sanctuary and front and rear projections; lancet stained glass windows in the church/hall vestibule; main entry with large double wooden doors with stained glass transom

- Additional exterior details include its: a inset sandstone cross in the bell tower; brick columned service board



- Later Modern-style addition such as the 1960 red brick clad Parish Hall

- Interior features such as: exposed decorative roof arches and beams; original 1913 Casavant organ; wooden church pews, trim, and paneling; carved sandstone baptismal font; regimental flags



Statement of Integrity - St. Barnabas Anglican Church (635 - 4 Street SE)

Applicable Significance Criteria

This site is significant because...

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

-St. Barnabas Anglican Church is highly valued as a significant institutional building which has continuously served the social and religious needs of Medicine Hat's Anglican community for over a century (**Theme Value - Spiritual Life in Medicine Hat**).
-St. Barnabas Anglican Church is additionally valued as a superb example of Arts and Crafts-style architecture (**Theme Value - Built in Medicine Hat**).

-St. Barnabas Anglican Church is also valued as a representation of the quality of local builders and locally manufactured materials available during the Edwardian era boom period (**Theme Value - Made in Medicine Hat**).

Institution / Person ☐ Yes ☒ No

Design / Style / Construction ☐ Yes ☒ No

Information Potential ☐ Yes ☒ No

Landmark / Symbolic Value ☒ Yes ☐ No

The church of St. Barnabas parish is valued as a local landmark for its intact and highly refined Arts and Crafts-style architecture and for its positioning mid-block and generously setback from the street, in downtown Medicine Hat.

Period of Significance

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

Chronology of Alterations

1925 - Construction of Rectory
1960 - Construction of Parish Hall and corridor

Aspects of Integrity

LOCATION ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The location of the building on 4th Street SE has not changed.

DESIGN ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The design of the building has been slightly altered by the construction of the Parish Hall.

ENVIRONMENT ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The building is sited in the city's commercial core fronted by a large yard with mature trees.

MATERIALS ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The original materials of the building are intact, except for minor changes to the basement windows.

WORKMANSHIP ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The exception quality of the workmanship is evident in the building's detailing, quality materials, and good condition.

FEELING ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The church maintains a strong aesthetic and historical sense.

ASSOCIATION ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The association of the building has not altered.

Statement of Integrity

St. Barnabas Anglican Church maintains all the aspects of integrity necessary for it to convey its significance / heritage value.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church is a well-preserved example of the Arts and Crafts style of architecture. The first building constructed on the site was the one and one-half storey church, followed by the construction of the Rectory (1925), and finally the Parish Hall in 1960 on the west side of the original church. The church's red pressed brick exterior and combed finished sandstone elements are in good repair. At the basement level, a number of the windows have been altered. The original elements of the church are intact; however, there are signs of water egress issues in the bell tower, minor mortar loss, and spalling of the foundation's concrete parging. The water egress issue should be dealt with immediate to limit any further damage. The church is well maintained and continues to serve the religious needs of Medicine Hat.

Additional Images - St. Barnabas Anglican Church (635 - 4 Street SE)

The proposed St. Barnabas Anglican Church by Clemesha & Coltman of Regina. Their plans were considered too costly, and the design of the church was tendered out, and eventually awarded to James Teague of Calgary


Medicine Hat Board of Trade.
Medicine Hat, Alberta - Natural Gas, Electricity, Coal. 1910
Glenbow Library, Calgary, Alberta.



Interior view of the sanctuary of St. Barnabas Anglican Church

Donald Luxton & Associates
September 2012

Heritage Evaluation Form - St. Barnabas Anglican Church (635 - 4 Street SE)

 Medicine Hat The Gas City Heritage Evaluation Form	Site Number	Category A
	Community District Downtown	
	Designation	

Site Name(s): St. Barnabas Anglican Church			
Municipal Address: 635 - 4 Street SE		Date of Construction:	Y 1912-13
Consultant(s): Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.		Evaluation Date:	Y 12 M 09 D 05
Heritage Committee: Heritage Resource Committee			
Heritage Planner: Jeanie Gartly			
		Total	
		95	

History (H)	E	VG	G	F	P		(H) SCORE
H.1 Associations/Patterns	X					40	40
H.2 Age		X				20	
Comments: H.1 Anglicans were holding services in Medicine Hat by the early 1880s; however it was not until 1886 that they had their own church. The current St. Barnabas church replaced the original wooden church and continues to serve the community. H.2 Church - 1912-1913. Rectory - 1925. Parish Hall - 1960.							

Architecture (A)	E	VG	G	F	P		(A) SCORE
A.1 Style/Type/Design		X				20	35
A.2 Designer/Builder	X					10	
A.3 Construction Technology				X		3	
A.4 Interior Details						8	
A.5 Alterations			X			-10	
Comments: A.1 The church is a superb example of the Arts and Crafts style. A.2 Architect - James C. Teague. Contractor - Lussier Construction Co. A.3 The building is a fair representation of construction practices of the time. A.4 Exposed roof arches and beams, 1913 Casavant organ, regimental flags. A.5 Parish Hall added 1960.							

Urban Context (C)	E	VG	G	F	P		(C) SCORE
C.1 Landmark/Character	X					15	20
C.2 Streetscape/Landscape	X					15	
Comments: C.1 The building is linked to one of the Medicine Hat's earliest denominations and continues to serve the community. C.2 The building exhibits a strong presence on the streetscape.							