

Salvation Army Citadel



Date of Construction	1913
Address	641-647 - 4 (Montreal) Street SE
Original Owner	Salvation Army Corps.
Architect	John Atwood
Contractors	John Atwood and Sackrider & Turner
Neighbourhood	Downtown
Legal	1491;31;8,9

Description of Historic Place

The Salvation Army Citadel is prominently located on the corner of South Railway Street and 4th Street SE in Medicine Hat's commercial downtown core. The two-storey rectangular plan building is set back from South Railway Street. The building features a red pressed brick exterior with red mortar, tin corbelled cornice, crenulated parapet at the northwest and northeast corners, and single and double assembly window configurations with brick corbelled lintels.

Heritage Value of Historic Place

The Salvation Army Citadel, built in 1913, is valued as representative of a community institution that has served the social, medical, and spiritual needs of Medicine Hat for over a century. Brigadier Southall established the Medicine Hat Corps of the Salvation Army in 1899. Early meetings were held in tents at various locations throughout the city, and on the second floor of 619 3rd Street SE, before the first barracks were constructed in 1906.

The barracks, which included a 300-person capacity auditorium, were used for six years before the Salvation Army deemed it necessary to establish a larger space. Simultaneously with the construction of the barracks in 1906, the Salvation Army purchased land at the southwest corner of 4th Street SE and South Railway Street from Charles H. Evans, land that would become the future site of the Salvation Army Citadel. The building's cornerstone was laid by Mayor Nelson Spencer on September 14, 1913. Two months later, November 19, 1913, the Salvation Army Citadel was dedicated and opened by Captain William Oake. Dignitaries present at the event included Mayor Spencer, as well as Commissioner David Rees, leader of the Salvation Army in Canada. The Salvation Army's core belief that no one should go without food, clothing, or shelter, matched the needs of the young city, and the newly arriving settlers. The Salvation Army operated at this location until 1983, when the organization relocated to their new community church in the neighbourhood of Southridge. The Citadel was sold two years later to Mario's Holding Ltd. The Salvation Army continues to have a strong presence within the

community, providing services and ministry for Medicine Hat residents.

The Salvation Army Citadel is further valued as an excellent example of Arts and Crafts architecture in a community building in Medicine Hat. English Arts and Crafts architecture is typified by simple, well-balanced designs devoid of complicated ornamentation and with minimal detailing. Designed by John Attwood and built using locally manufactured brick, the Salvation Army Citadel's smooth brick surface with multiple windows, corbelled window lintels on the main façades, modest corbelled tin cornice, and crenellated corner parapets evoke an overall elegant form. The Arts and Crafts-style was popular in Medicine Hat beginning in the 1910s, and the building echoes and harmonizes with the strong Arts and Crafts style of St. Barnabas Anglican Church situated on a lot directly to the west of the Salvation Army Citadel.

The Salvation Army Citadel is a landmark building on the edge of Medicine Hat's commercial downtown core, notable due to its prominent siting, and stately and majestic architecture.

The Salvation Army Citadel as it appeared in the 1910s

Esplanade Archives, Medicine Hat, Alberta.
0359.1.0031.



Character-Defining Elements - Salvation Army Citadel (641-647 - 4 Street SE)



- Location on the south side of 4th Street SE between South Railway Street and 6th Avenue SE in Medicine Hat's commercial centre

- Form, scale, and massing as expressed by its: two-storey height; rectangular plan; flat roof



- Masonry construction of pressed red brick in common pattern with red mortar

- Arts and Crafts characteristics such as: simple form; corbelled tin cornice; crenellated brick parapet; corbelled decorative window label mould and over door; intact window openings



- Additional elements including a cornerstone and reconfigured "The Citadel" sign lettering



Statement of Integrity - Salvation Army Citadel (641-647 - 4 Street SE)

Applicable Significance Criteria

This site is significant because...

Theme / Activity / Cultural Practice / Event



Yes



No

-The Salvation Army Citadel is valued as a community institution that has served the social and spiritual needs of Medicine Hat for over a century. Constructed in 1913, the building was the Salvation Army Corps' primary base for seventy years (Theme Value – Health and Well-Being).

Institution / Person



Yes



No

Design / Style / Construction



Yes



No

-The Salvation Army Citadel is further valued for its architectural style and use of local materials. The building's Arts and Crafts style with simple detailing and minimal ornamentation projects a clean aesthetic (Theme Value – Built in Medicine Hat).

Information Potential



Yes



No

Landmark / Symbolic Value



Yes



No

-The Salvation Army Citadel is additionally valued as a landmark on the edge of Medicine Hat's downtown commercial core (Landmark Value).

Period of Significance

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

Chronology of Alterations

Post 1920s - Window infill

Sign band reconfiguration

Post 1970 - Door replacement

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 with the infilling of a number of windows, door replacement, and reconfiguration of the sign lettering.

ENVIRONMENT



Yes



No



Not Applicable

The building continues to be situated on the edge of Medicine Hat's downtown commercial core.

MATERIALS



Yes



No



Not Applicable

The authentic materials of the building remain intact with the exception of the replacement of windows and doors.

WORKMANSHIP



Yes



No



Not Applicable

The high quality of the workmanship of the building is evident in the building's clean detailing and overall condition.

FEELING



Yes



No



Not Applicable

The feeling of the building conveys a strong historical aesthetic.

ASSOCIATION



Yes



No



Not Applicable

The association of the building has been altered, as it no longer serves as the offices of the Salvation Army.

Statement of Integrity continued on next page...

Statement of Integrity - Salvation Army Citadel (641-647 - 4 Street SE)

Statement of Integrity

Salvation Army Citadel maintains all the aspects of integrity necessary for it to convey its significance / heritage value.

The Salvation Army Citadel possesses a fair degree of integrity. Its form, scale, and massing are intact, as is its original brick exterior. The brick is in fair condition with some evidence of deterioration and mortar loss. The crenellated parapet has been cap flashed to manage weathering and potential surface deterioration. Water egress issues are evident at the inside corners of the parapet, which has resulted in mortar loss and staining. Repointing of the brick with mismatched mortar above and below windows was carried out on the east façade. The parging of the brick sills is failing at a number of locations and the brick also exhibits evidence of efflorescence in multiple sites. The corbelled tin cornice is in good condition with no evidence of penetrations and minimal rusting. The original windows and doors have been replaced and a number of windows have been filled-in or re-sized using poorly matched brick and mortar. There is evidence of vandalism, spray paint, on the west façade. The original 'The Salvation Army Citadel' lettering on the parapet has been reconfigured to 'The Citadel', thus resulting in the building losing its obvious connection to the Salvation Army Corps.


Additional Images - Salvation Army Citadel

The Salvation Army Citadel in 1971



Image courtesy of the Salvation Army, Canada and Bermuda Territory, Property Department, Toronto, Ontario.

Heritage Evaluation Form - Salvation Army Citadel (641-647 - 4 Street SE)

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

Site Name(s): Salvation Army Citadel			
Municipal Address: 641-647 - 4 Street SE		Date of Construction:	Y 1913
Consultant(s): Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.		Evaluation Date:	Y 13 M 05 D 17
Heritage Committee: Heritage Resource Committee			
Heritage Planner: Chris Reddy			
		Total	
		75	

History (H)	E	VG	G	F	P		(H) SCORE
H.1 Associations/Patterns		X				20	30
H.2 Age		X				10	
Comments: H.1 The Salvation Army Citadel is valued as representative of a community institution that has served the social, medical, and spiritual needs of Medicine Hat for over a century. H.2 Constructed in 1913.							

Architecture (A)	E	VG	G	F	P		(A) SCORE
A.1 Style/Type/Design		X				20	25
A.2 Designer/Builder			X			5	
A.3 Construction Technology			X			5	
A.4 Interior Details					X	0	
A.5 Alterations		X				-5	
Comments: A.1 The Salvation Army Citadel is as an excellent example of Arts and Crafts architecture in a community building in Medicine Hat. A.2 Architect – John Atwood, Contractor – Unknown A.3 Building constructed using red pressed brick. A.4 Undetermined interior elements. A.5 Original windows have been replaced and a number of window openings unsympathetically filled in.							

Urban Context (C)	E	VG	G	F	P		(C) SCORE
C.1 Landmark/Character		X				10	20
C.2 Streetscape/Landscape	X					15	
Comments: C.1 The Salvation Army Citadel is a landmark building on the edge of Medicine Hat's commercial downtown core due to its prominent siting and stately and majestic architecture. C.2 The building's architecture stands apart from the surrounding streetscape.							