

# Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence



Date of Construction	1921
Address	970 - 4 (Montreal) Street SE
Original Owner	Edward C.J. Ueberrhein
Architect	Unknown
Contractor	Simmonds & Co.
Neighbourhood	North Flats
Historic Neighbourhood	Johnston
Legal	23593;C;11,12

## Description of Historic Place

The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is a large two and one-half storey wooden-frame Arts and Crafts-style home located east of downtown Medicine Hat on the northeast corner of 4th Street and Woodman Avenue SE in the River Flats neighbourhood. This handsome and grand historic residence is setback from the street on a large, extensively landscaped corner lot, lined with mature deciduous trees. The residence is distinctive for its side-gabled roof with projecting front gable, gabled-roof dormers, wrap-around verandah with brick closed balustrade and piers, cedar wooden lapped siding with cedar shingle banding and multi-light wooden-sash windows.

## Heritage Value of Historic Place

The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence, completed in 1921, is highly valued for its association with the development of Medicine Hat's multitude of industries thriving in the Edwardian boom period and for its association to first owner, Edward Ueberrhein, a prominent Medicine Hat businessman. Edward Carl Julius

Ueberrhein immigrated with his wife, Julana and children to Canada from Berlin, Germany in 1892. Attracted to Canada by booster publications stating opportunities were abound in western Canada, Ueberrhein arrived in Medicine Hat in 1907. Shortly after, Ueberrhein established the Rosery Flower Company on Woodman Avenue SE between 3rd and 5th Streets SE in the River Flats neighbourhood. As a florist in Germany, Edward was an experienced gardener and businessman. Utilizing this knowledge and taking advantage of Medicine Hat's geography and available natural gas, he established a 930 square metre greenhouse for his roses. This operation quickly grew to over 3.6 hectares and the company became the biggest rose producer in western North America with one of the largest greenhouses in Canada. The Ueberrhein's operated the greenhouse from 1909 to 1928 prior to selling it to a syndicate of Calgary businessmen for \$425,000. In addition to the Rosery, Edward Ueberrhein owned a stake in Medicine Hat Brick & Tile in the 1910 and was also instrumental in the establishment of numerous early Medicine Hat businesses. Shortly after the Rosery was sold, the Ueberrhein's left Medicine Hat relocating to Vancou-

ver where Edward lived until his death in March of 1937. The house was divided into multiple apartments in the 1930s and the house functioned as a rooming house for a number of years until it was restored to its near original condition in the last 10 years.

The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is further valued as a tangible link to the early development of Medicine Hat's greenhouse industry, which remains an important industry in the city. Medicine Hat's sunny climate, inexpensive natural gas resources, and proximity to the CPR railway made the region an ideal location for greenhouse farming. The industry grew steadily and at one point Medicine Hat had over eight-hectares of land under glass; second only to Brampton, Ontario. This industry continues to persist in Medicine Hat; however, not to the same scale as the early twentieth century operations. The Rosery operated until the mid-1990s at which point the land was cleared and re-zoned for residential.

The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is additionally valued as an exquisite and highly refined example of Arts and Crafts-style architecture in Medicine Hat. Constructed by local contractor, Simmonds & Company in 1921, the residence reflects the quality of workman-

ship associated with residential construction in Medicine Hat. The residence utilized local labour as well as tradesmen specifically brought from Germany to complete the interior wood carpentry. The Arts and Crafts style began in Oxford, England, in the late nineteenth century as a response to the Industrial Age. This style of architecture placed emphasis on the function of the design and ornamentation, rejecting superfluous decoration and modern materials and techniques. Buildings of this architectural style are elegant, well balanced, and beautifully crafted with interior spaces oriented to take advantage of natural light. The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence epitomizes this architectural style through its use of a variety of exterior finishes, a large palatial wrap-around verandah using locally sourced brick with tapered brick piers supporting wooden columns, and quality craftsmanship as evidenced in the residence's detailing and fenestrations. The residence is a rare example of Arts and Crafts architecture in Medicine Hat with its interior and exterior fabric intact.

The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is valued as a local landmark in the River Flats neighbourhood for its prominent siting and pristine Arts and Crafts-style architecture.

The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence as it appeared shortly after construction

Esplanade Archives, Medicine Hat, Alberta.  
0466.0014.





## Character-Defining Elements - Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence (970 - 4 Street SE)



- Setback from the street at the corner of 4th Street SE and Woodman Avenue SE in a residential neighbourhood in Medicine Hat



- Setting on a large corner lot surrounded by mature Ash and Elm trees and a fruit-bearing apricot tree



- Form, scale, and massing as expressed by its: two and one-half storey height with full basement, side-gabled roof with front-gabled projections, gabled dormer on front elevation; decorative triangular brackets; widows walk; verandah with square posts with rounded corner moldings; wood-frame construction with lapped wooden siding; cedar shingle banding; corbelled brick chimneys, verandah with brick foundation and piers, brick stamped parged concrete foundation



- Arts and Crafts style details such as: cedar lapped siding; cedar shingle banding; cedar shingles in gable peaks; pointed bargeboards; triangular brackets; overhanging second-storey with modillions; verandah with tongue-and-groove ceiling



- Fenestrations including: multi-pane wooden-sash windows with matching multi-light wooden-sash storms; crystal pattern leaded glass windows with multi-light storms; fixed flora themed stained glass piano windows with multi-light storms on the dining room; three fixed masculine hunter-themed stained glass windows with storms on the ground floor library; 1-over-1 single-hung diamond pattern wooden-sash windows with 6-over-6 storms; 6-over-1 single-hung wooden-sash windows with 4-over-4 storms; fixed diamond pattern wooden-sash windows on upper storeys; two paneled main entry door with crystal pattern light and crystal pattern fan and side-lights and multi-light paneled door on rear façade



- Additional exterior elements such as mature trees and extensive landscaping

- Interior features such as: quarter-sawn oak paneled doors and paneled pocket doors; quarter-sawn oak wood trim and paneling; maple floors in kitchen, butler's pantry, and breakfast room; quarter-sawn oak floors in main entry, dining room, living room, and library; wide plank fir floors on second floor; built-ins with glass front.



## Statement of Integrity - Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence (970 - 4 Street SE)

### Applicable Significance Criteria

*This site is significant because...*

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

-The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence, completed in 1921, is highly valued for its association with the development of Medicine Hat's multitude of industries thriving in the Edwardian boom period and for its association to first owner, Edward Ueberrhein, a prominent Medicine Hat businessman (**Theme Value - Made in Medicine Hat**).

-The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is further valued as a tangible link to the early development of Medicine Hat's greenhouse industry, which remains an important industry in the city. Medicine Hat's sunny climate, inexpensive natural gas resources, and proximity to the CPR railway made the region an ideal location for greenhouse farming (**Theme Value - Ranching and Farming in Medicine Hat**).

-The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is additionally valued as an exquisite and highly refined example of Arts and Crafts-style architecture in Medicine Hat (**Theme Value - Built in Medicine Hat**).

**Institution / Person** ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

**Information Potential** ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is valued as a local landmark in the River Flats neighbourhood for its prominent siting and pristine Arts and Crafts-style architecture.

### Period of Significance

1919 to 1929 Post-First World War to Stock Market Crash

### Chronology of Alterations

1940/1941 - House split into individual apartments  
2000s to present - House restored to original construction

### Aspects of Integrity

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

The location of the residence on 4th Street S has not changed.

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

The design of the building has not changed and its original elements intact.

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

The residence is situated in a residential neighbourhood, surrounded by mature trees and large landscaped yard.

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

The authentic materials are intact and exhibit a high degree of integrity.

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

The exceptional quality of the workmanship is unparalleled and is evident in its materials, detailing, and condition.

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

The feeling of the residence has not changed. It continues to convey an elegant aesthetic and sense of grandeur.

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

The association of the residence has not changed.

Statement of Integrity continued on next page...

## Statement of Integrity - Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence (970 - 4 Street SE)

### Statement of Integrity

*The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence maintains all the aspects of integrity necessary for it to convey its significance / heritage value.*

The Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is a highly intact Arts and Crafts-style house in Medicine Hat which has retained its original form, scale, massing and materiality. The original owners retained much of the original house, enclosing a portion of the verandah on the east side shortly after the house was completed. After the first owner sold the property in the late 1920s, the house was converted into a boarding house and several of the rooms were converted to apartment units. The most recent owners have painstakingly restored the house to its original condition over the last 10 years including removal of the interior demarcation, and restorations to the exterior wooden-lapped siding, corbelled brick chimney, brick wrap-around verandah, and shingle roof. The fenestrations are original and restored and are represented by wooden-sash windows with storms and front doors' crystal pattern fan and side-lights; however, the light in the front door has been replaced. As well, the second storey balcony above the original servants quarters and widow's walk with flag pole on the home's back elevation have been restored. A large, well-appointed deck with decorative pergola has been restored to the rear of the house and a one and a one-half storey carriage house has been added at the rear of the property, in the last 6 years. The outstanding condition of the Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence is a testament of the owner's pride of place and reflects their monumental efforts to restore this stately home to its original form.

## Additional Images - Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence

View of the northeast corner of the Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence


Donald Luxton & Associates  
September 2012



Donald Luxton & Associates  
September 2012

View of the northwest corner of the Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence.  
The widow's walk is clearly visible on the roof

## Heritage Evaluation Form - Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence (970 - 4 Street SE)

 <b>Medicine Hat</b> <b>The Gas City</b> <b>Heritage Evaluation Form</b>	Site Number	Category A
	Community District North Flats	
	Designation	

<b>Site Name(s):</b> Ueberrhein-Dumanowski Residence			
<b>Municipal Address:</b> 970 - 4 Street SE		Date of Construction:	Y 1921
<b>Consultant(s):</b> Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.		Evaluation Date:	Y 12 M 09 D 06
<b>Heritage Committee:</b> Heritage Resource Committee			
<b>Heritage Planner:</b> Jeanie Gartly			
		<b>Total</b>	
		100	

History (H)	E	VG	G	F	P		(H) SCORE
H.1 Associations/Patterns	X					40	40
H.2 Age		X				10	
<b>Comments:</b> H.1 The house is an early large-scale residence in the neighbourhood. Constructed for prominent business, Edward Ueberrhein, owner of the Rosery Flower Company - Medicine Hat's largest greenhouse business. H.2 Constructed 1921.							

Architecture (A)	E	VG	G	F	P		(A) SCORE
A.1 Style/Type/Design	X					40	40
A.2 Designer/Builder			X			5	
A.3 Construction Technology		X				10	
A.4 Interior Details	X					15	
A.5 Alterations	X					0	
<b>Comments:</b> A.1 Highly refined and elegant example of residential Arts and Crafts architecture. A.2 Architect – Unknown. Contractor – Simmonds & Co. A.3 The building is an excellent example of Medicine Hat residential construction. A.4 Exceptional high quality original interior finishes throughout. A.5 Free-standing carriage house added to the rear of the property circa 2000s.							

Urban Context (C)	E	VG	G	F	P		(C) SCORE
C.1 Landmark/Character		X				10	20
C.2 Streetscape/Landscape	X					15	
<b>Comments:</b> C.1 Situated at a residential intersection, the residence is a stunning landmark in the community. C.2 The residence dominates the streetscape of the neighbourhood.							