Albert Hughes Block

647-649 2nd St. S.E. (377 Main Street) Lot 12 Block 14 Plan 1491 Date of construction: **1903**

Medicine Hat News: Dec. 24, 1903

"A. Hughes, 2 storey brick block on Main St., contractor Oakes & Everard"

Building Permit #149: April 2, 1913: Addition to store \$1000, 2 storey brick 17'5" x 24'4"

Architect/builder: A. Dickinson, Permit issued to L. Foster

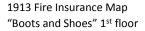
This historic brick building was built in 1903, owner Albert Hughes*. Hughes was an early druggist in town operating the City Drug Store on South Railway St. Hughes owned 3 more properties on S. Railway St., in the area near the Royal Beer Store, today. Hughes home was on the corner of First St. and 6th Avenue, in walking distance to all 4 properties. The only other existing Hughes property is the building at 427 North Railway St. English born Hughes (1850-1943), returned to his homeland for about ten years, 1908-1918, but maintained his business interests and personal residence during his absence. When the Hughes family returned at the end of WWI, they may have lived in the upper storey for a short while before resuming residency of their former First Street home. The Hughes family owned the building from 1903 to 1943. In 1943, the building was sold to Abe Conn.

The earliest known occupant was L. Foster Saddlery and Harness, later Foster Shoe Store. The Fosters rented the building from the Hughes family from at least 1909 to 1934. The longest occupant of the building, from 1939 to 1976 was the Cinderella Shop, 37 years. *

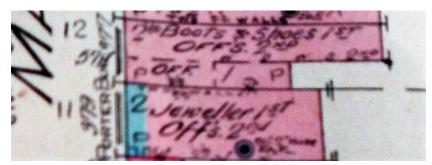
Foster Shoe Store to the left, with signage on awning and hanging sign ca 1914 0424.0003*



MH News Oct. 21, 1913







"The longest occupant of the building, from 1939 to 1976 was the Cinderella Dress Shop, 37 years."



Above: 1970, with stucco covering the original brick front **5194A.18***

Right: MH News ad Mar. 15, 1939, the Grand Opening of the Cinderella Dress Shop



The Albert Hughes Block March 2017 as Thuy Tien Vietnamese restaurant:



*Additional information and digital copies of photos may be available by contacting or visiting the Esplanade Archives.

Prepared by Sally Sehn, Heritage Resources Committee February 27, 2017

Sources: Esplanade Archives, Asst. Archivist Kim Unrau