

Statement of Integrity

- 1. Common name of the evaluated property (e.g., The Smith Residence,")**
Merchants Bank of Canada
- 2. Civic address / legal description of the evaluated property**
657 - 2nd Street S.E.
- 3. Name and contact information for the registered owner of the evaluated property**
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Helen Temoin
PO Box 1807
163 – 23 Street
Fort Macleod, AB T0L 0Z0
- 4. Description of Historic Place (From the Statement of Significance)**
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.
- 5. Applicable Significance Criteria (Adapted from the Statement of Significance)**



Theme / Activity /
Cultural Practice / Event

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Merchants Bank of Canada has heritage value in its contribution to the economic development of Downtown Medicine Hat as the city's earliest bank building.

The heritage value of the Merchants Bank of Canada (constructed in 1899) 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**.



Institution / Person

☒ Yes ☐ No

John A. Trimble played a significant role in the development of the city by establishing the city's first bank. The buildings design and construction came from his experience in designing and building banks in the east.

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.



Design / Style / Construction

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Merchants Bank of Canada embodies the characteristics of a style, type and method of construction and has high artistic value. **The Merchants Bank is a rare example of a building design influenced by the Georgian style.** Although a later addition to an Edwardian commercial storefront changed the style, it too represents a style that has high artistic value and is distinguishable in the streetscape.

The character-defining elements include:

- 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; and
- There is a later alteration/addition (date unknown) of an Edwardian Commercial storefront with central recessed entrance and large display windows on each side.



Information Potential

☐ Yes ☒ No



Landmark / Symbolic Value

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Merchants Bank of Canada building is a symbolic landmark as the first bank building in the city representing its "coming of age". It maintains the dominant character of the streetscape as it sits in its location at the intersection of the street and a lane.

6. Period of Significance

(The timeframe which best embodies the heritage values of the place. The period of significance may be later than the time of construction).

The heritage value of the Merchants Bank of Canada has two periods of significance however, the main one remains when it was constructed in 1899 for its historic association to the banking industry and the style, type and method of construction of it as the first bank in Medicine Hat. The other period of significance is when it was later altered to an Edwardian Commercial storefront. Unfortunately this date is unknown yet remains to have a historical contribution to the use of the building on the streetscape.

7. Illustrated list of Character-Defining Elements

At the end of this Statement of Integrity document, please include an appendix of photographs of each character-defining element at time of evaluation. The following character-defining elements are extant and contribute to the overall integrity of the plan (From the Statement of Significance):

The character defining elements include:

- 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; and
- There is a later alteration/addition (date unknown) of an Edwardian Commercial storefront with central recessed entrance and large display windows on each side.

Does this resource retain the character-defining elements that enable it to communicate its significance?

✓ Yes ☐ No

8. Chronology of Alterations *(If known, describe, in as much detail as possible, the alterations which have been undertaken to the property being evaluated, including when they took place).*

A change of building style and type took place to the Merchants Bank of Canada from a Georgian to an Edwardian Commercial storefront. The alternation included a central recessed entrance with large display windows. The building was clad over with stucco and this later storefront is considered to be a part of the evolution of the building. Unfortunately, the date of this alteration/addition is unknown.

9. Aspects of Integrity

Does this resource retain the aspects of integrity that enable it to communicate its significance? (For each applicable aspect of integrity, explain why the resource does or does not retain integrity).

Location ✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The building remains to be located at its original location adjacent to the city's first commercial business buildings which are the Hargrave Sissons Block. The building

retains its significance as a part of this block of buildings that currently have maintained their character-defining elements while providing active commercial uses for the downtown. The Hargrave Sissons Block helps establish the Merchants Bank of Canada's significance in location as does its location on a street and a lane whereby the building is easily viewable on its north and west elevations from the street.

Design ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The form, massing, arrangement of spaces, pattern of fenestration, type, amount and style of detailing have all been retained to ensure the integrity of the building. The pattern of fenestration has been slightly altered as noted above and the colours of the surface materials have been painted over however, these are all components that are a part of an alteration/addition to the building to a Edwardian Commercial storefront at the street level which have been identified as having heritage value and therefore character defining elements. The design of the building as it currently exists in an Edwardian Commercial building is maintainable for its integrity.

Environment ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The building retains its integrity as a significant Downtown commercial building along the streetscape. Its visual prominence remains given the vitality and character of the street and based on its location adjacent to the Hargrave Sissons Block and a lane.

Materials ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The original 1899 brick materials are evident on the east, west and south facades to reflect the Georgian style of that time. The later addition to the north façade has hidden the original brick materials however, the Edwardian commercial storefront materials remain in tack.

Workmanship ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The original workmanship of the brick construction is evident on the east, west and south elevation along with the other character-defining elements such as the rock faced stone corner quoins and cottage roof with brick chimneys.

Feeling ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The building was erected as one of the first brick and sandstone buildings in the Downtown. It projected permanency and confidence in what had been a town of tents and wood-frame buildings. That feeling of permanency and confidence at that time continues to be the feeling of the building today.

Association ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The building is significant because it was constructed to serve a community need as a bank. The establishment of the first permanent bank in Medicine Hat is a pattern of primary importance in the City. It was later altered as a commercial building adjacent to the Hargrave Sissons Block commercial uses therefore, retaining a strong

commercial presence on this street. That association remains strong at the current time also.

10. Statement of Integrity

The Merchants Banks of Canada maintains all of the aspects of integrity necessary for it to convey its significance/heritage value as first a bank and later a commercial building that made a significant contribution to the broad pattern and vitality of the Downtown (Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event), the connection that remains to the Hargrave Sissons families who constructed the building for its usage (Institution/Person) and the distinctive characteristics of the Edwardian commercial style and features of the building (Design/Style/Construction).

The evaluated property is deemed by the municipality to have both significance and integrity and therefore satisfies the requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource. This Statement of Integrity is required as part of the mandatory documentation for listing the property on the Alberta Register of Historic Places.

11. Name and Position of Municipal Council Appointee / "Certification Officer"

Name

Ray Barnard

Position

☒ Chief Administrative Officer

☐ Planner

☐ Development Officer

☐ Other _____

12. Municipal contact information

City of Medicine Hat, City Hall
580 First Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8E6

c/o Jeanie Gartly, Superintendent, Planning Policy & Heritage
403-525-8820
jeagar@medicinehat.ca

Signature of Reviewer

Date

Statement of Integrity

APPENDIX

Photo Report of Character-Defining Elements

The North Facade

The following architectural elements are Regulated Portions and must be preserved:

- symmetrically ordered upper and lower level windows with flat lintels featuring a keystone
- brick construction
- rock faced stone corner quoins
- cottage roof form with projecting eaves
- storefront with central recessed entrance and large display windows on each side

Illustrative Details



Photograph Showing the North Facade of the Merchants Bank of Canada



Photograph Showing Cottage Roof Form with Projecting Eaves

The West Facade

The following architectural elements are Regulated Portions and must be preserved:

- brick construction
- door with transom window
- rock faced stone corner quoins
- cottage roof form with projecting eaves

Illustrative Details



Photograph Showing the West Facade of the Merchants Bank of Canada

The South Facade

The following architectural elements are Regulated Portions and must be preserved:

- brick construction and material colour

- rock faced stone corner quoins
- cottage roof form with projecting eaves

Illustrative Details



*Photograph Showing the South Facade
of the Merchants Bank of Canada*