

Woodland Smythe Residence



Date of Construction	1914
Address	234 - 1 (Esplanade) Street SE
Original Owner	Dr. George H. Woodland
Architect	McCoy & Levine Engineering
Contractor	John E. Stacey
Neighbourhood	Downtown
Legal	47748;A;7,8

Description of Historic Place

The Woodland Smythe Residence is an impressive two and one-half storey residence situated on the north side of 1st Street SE between 2nd Avenue SE and 3rd Avenue SE, west of Medicine Hat's downtown core. The residence is set back from the street and shrouded by mature landscaping. This historic resource is identifiable by its red brick exterior with second storey banding, hipped-roof with closed soffits, dentils, and segmental-arched dormers, a hipped-roof verandah with brick columns and closed balustrade, and substantial corbelled chimneys. A moulded concrete block wall marks the property line at the front of the property, and a one-storey garage sits to the rear of the house.

Heritage Value of Historic Place

The Woodland Smythe Residence, built in 1914, is valued for its association with the development of Medicine Hat's health care services during the pre-First World War period through its ties with its original owner, Dr.

George Hart Woodland. Dr. Woodland, a native of Wallace, Nova Scotia, travelled to Medicine Hat with his wife, Josephine Rogers (née Crosby) in 1905. The couple came to Medicine Hat after Dr. Woodland was offered a position in the local medical practice of Dr. Charles Smythe. Woodland had received his medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University in 1901, and for a brief period of time operated a medical practice in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Hearing of the economic potential in the west, Dr. Woodland searched for a position in Oregon or Alberta. The Edwardian economic boom and the burgeoning real estate market in Medicine Hat attracted Dr. Woodland to the city and he arrived in November of 1905. The family established their first home on Toronto Street (presently, 3rd Street). The Woodland family outgrew their Toronto Street residence when Josephine's sister and mother moved to Medicine Hat, and in 1913, the doctor purchased a vacant river lot on 1st Street SE. Construction of the substantial two and one-half storey brick residence began in the fall of 1914 and was completed before the end of the year. A two-storey addition was added

to the rear of the residence shortly after it was first built. The family lived in the house until 1926, when they relocated to Boston before returning to Canada and settling in Vancouver in 1932. George and Josephine remained in Vancouver until their deaths in 1937 and 1951, respectively. Dr. Woodland sold the house and its possessions to Dr. Howard Dixon in 1926 for one dollar, with the lot presumably sold separately for a greater sum. The property remained with the Dixon family until 1955. The property then changed hands three more times before the present owners, the Smythe's, purchased the residence.

The Woodland Smythe Residence is also valued as an excellent example of Edwardian Classical Revival-style architecture. Edwardian Classical Revival-style architecture represents a transition to a more simplified architectural style beginning in the 20th century, possessing classical features, but sparingly used detailing. This architectural style is associated with Queen Victoria's son, Edward VII, who reigned from 1901 to 1910; however, the style persisted in Canada through the 1920s. The style is characterised by its simplified massing and balanced design with smooth brick exteriors,

straight rooflines, full-width verandas, flat openings with plain lintels and sills, block-like cornice details, and overall un-complicated ornamentation. The Woodland Smythe Residence possesses elements of this style with its square-plan, smooth brick exterior with multiple windows with plain stone lintels and sills, decorative stone lintel band, block dentils, full-width hipped-roof verandah, and barrel vault dormers on each elevation. The residence was designed by the local firm of McCoy & Levine Engineering and was built by J.E. Stacey for the cost of \$24,000.

The Woodland Smythe Residence is further valued as a component of a collection of intact historic residences in one of Medicine Hat's oldest neighbourhood. The grouping of early 20th century homes along 1st Street contributes significantly to the historic aesthetic of the neighbourhood and is unique to this area of the city.

The Woodland Smythe Residence shortly after its construction in 1914

Esplanade Archives, Medicine Hat, Alberta.
0481.0016.



Character-Defining Elements - Woodland Smythe Residence (234 - 1 Street SE)



- Location mid-block on the north side of 1st Street SE between 2nd Avenue SE and 3rd Avenue SE

- Surrounded by mature landscaping and separated from the street by a low simulated stone moulded concrete block wall



- Form, scale, and massing as expressed by its: two and one-half storey plus basement height, square plan with hipped-roof, barrel vault dormers on each elevation; two-storey rear addition with hipped-roof

- Masonry construction including: concrete foundation, pressed red brick with grey mortar; brick columns and closed brick balustrade on full-width verandah; stone lintel detail on front façade; interior and exterior brick chimneys



- Edwardian Classical Revival-style details such as: balanced design; smooth exterior; full-width front verandah with square columns and closed balustrade; plain cornice board; tongue and groove soffits; carved block dentils; cedar shingles on sides of dormers

- Original windows such as: 1-over-1 single-hung with honeycomb pattern upper light wooden-sash windows with multi-light storms on the first and second floors; fixed multi-light windows on the east end of the front verandah; fixed single light window



- Original doors such as: panel wooden door with transom and three-panel storm door with upper glass light on the west elevation; two-panel wood door with upper light, honeycomb transom and sidelights on the front façade

- Additional elements including: concrete steps with brick piers leading to the front entry; later added one-storey, double car, hipped-roof garage



Statement of Integrity - Woodland Smythe Residence (234 - 1 Street SE)

Applicable Significance Criteria

This site is significant because...

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

-The Woodland Smythe Residence is valued for its association with development of Medicine Hat's health care services during the pre-First World War period through its ties with the original owner, Dr. George Hart Woodland (**Theme Value – Health and Well-Being**).

Institution / Person ☐ Yes ☒ No

Design / Style / Construction ☒ Yes ☐ No

-The Woodland Smythe Residence is also valued as an ideal example of Edwardian Classical Revival architecture. A predecessor to the simplified architectural styles of the 20th century, Edwardian Classicism-style buildings possess classical features, but sparingly used (**Theme Value – Built in Medicine Hat**).

Information Potential ☐ Yes ☒ No

Landmark / Symbolic Value ☒ Yes ☐ No

-The Woodland Smythe Residence is further valued as a component of a collection of intact historic residences in one of Medicine Hat's oldest neighbourhoods (**Landmark Value**).

Period of Significance

1914 - 1918 First World War

Chronology of Alterations

Post 1950s - Two-storey addition to rear of residence

Aspects of Integrity

LOCATION ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The location of the building has not been altered.

DESIGN ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The design of the building has not substantially changed, however a two-storey addition has been added to the rear of the house.

ENVIRONMENT ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The building continues to be situated in a residential neighbourhood in Medicine Hat.

MATERIALS ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

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

WORKMANSHIP ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The high quality of the workmanship of the building is evident in the building materials used and its condition.

FEELING ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The feeling of the residence remains unchanged.

ASSOCIATION ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

The association of the residence has not been altered.

Statement of Integrity continued on next page...

Statement of Integrity - Woodland Smythe Residence (234 - 1 Street SE)

Statement of Integrity

Woodland Smythe Residence maintains all the aspects of integrity necessary for it to convey its significance / heritage value.

The Woodland Smythe Residence is an exceptional intact Edwardian Classical Revival-style residence. The two and one-half storey red brick home retains a high degree of its original fabric. The brick exterior is in good condition with minimal evidence of mortar loss, however, mortar loss and brick spalling is evident on the residence's chimneys. Efflorescence of the brick on the front verandah balustrade indicates moisture issues, which should be further investigated. Mortar loss is also present in the sandstone banding of the second storey. The original front verandah configuration has been altered as the western portion was in-filled to provide additional interior living space. The windows of the first and second storeys are original with many possessing their original wooden storms. The windows in the dormers have been replaced; however, their opening configuration has been maintained. The roof, soffits, and dentils are all in good condition. The impact to the brick of the tendrils of the vegetative growth on the east façade should be monitored. Furthermore, multiple locations of pest infiltration are present, which should be addressed to mitigate their impact on the building.


Additional Images - Woodland Smythe Residence

The front and west elevations of the Woodland Smythe Residence, showing the side entrance and large rear addition

Donald Luxton & Associates
April 2013



Heritage Evaluation Form - Woodland Smythe Residence (234 - 1 Street SE)

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

Site Name(s): Woodland Smythe Residence			
Municipal Address: 234 - 1 Street SE		Date of Construction:	^Y 1914
Consultant(s): Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.		Evaluation Date:	^Y 13 ^M 05 ^D 17
Heritage Committee: Heritage Resource Committee			
Heritage Planner: Chris Reddy			
		Total	
		85	

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 Woodland Smythe Residence is valued for its association with development of Medicine Hat's health care services during the pre-First World War period through its ties with its original owner, Dr. George Hart Woodland. H.2 Constructed in 1914.							

Architecture (A)	E	VG	G	F	P		(A) SCORE
A.1 Style/Type/Design	X					40	35
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 Woodland Smythe Residence is an excellent example of Edwardian Classical Revival-style architecture. A.2 Architect – McCoy & Levine Engineering, Contractor – J.E. Stacey A.3 Building constructed using red pressed brick. A.4 Unknown original interior elements. A.5 Original dormer windows have been replaced and portion of the front verandah enclosed.							

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 Woodland Smythe Residence is further valued as a component of a collection of intact historic residences in one of Medicine Hat's oldest neighbourhood. C.2 The residence contributes to the historic aesthetic of the street.							