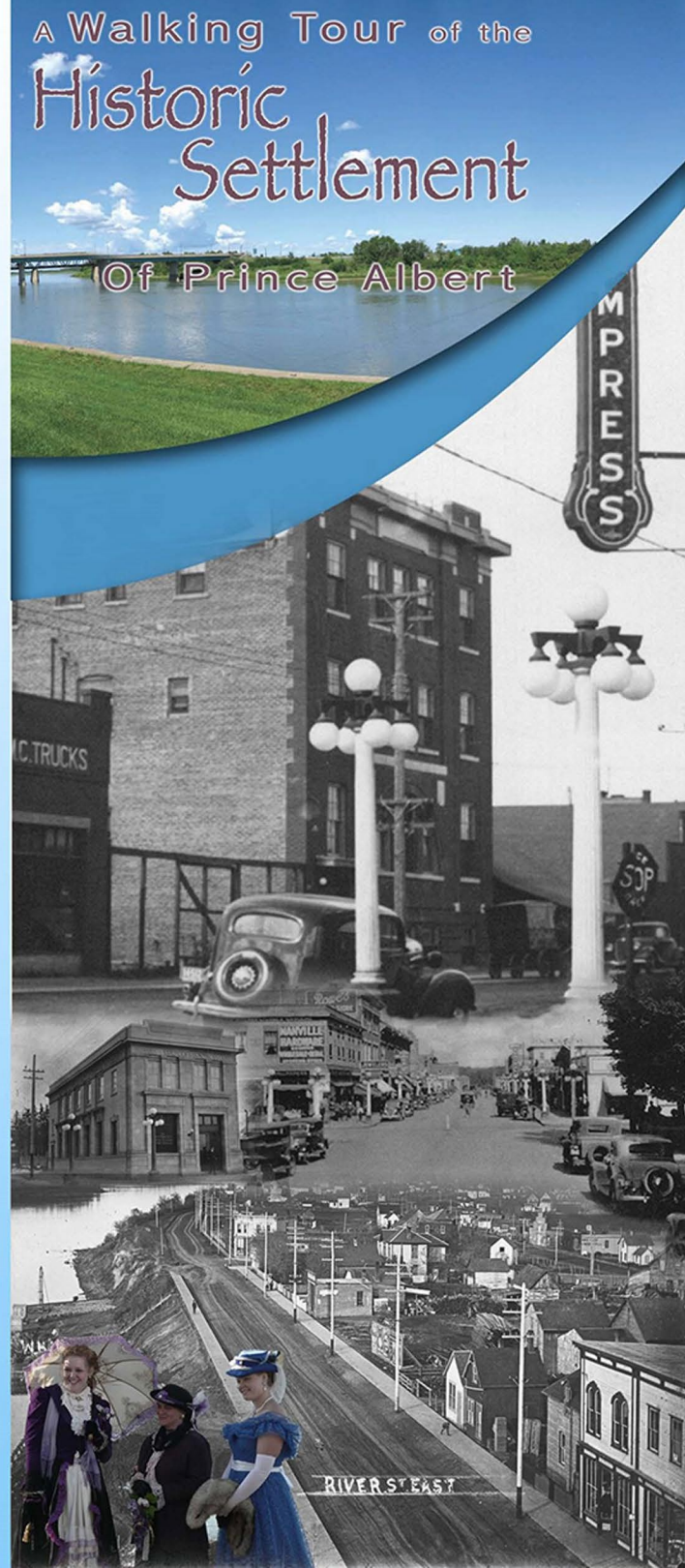


In partnership with the
 Prince Albert Downtown
 Improvement District
 Association

For more information,
 please contact the
 Prince Albert
 Historic Museum
 (306) 764-2992





6 The Court House is located on the site that was once home to the Telegraph and Post Office and Treston Hall a place used for public gatherings. On July 19, 1884, Louis Riel spoke to a large crowd there.

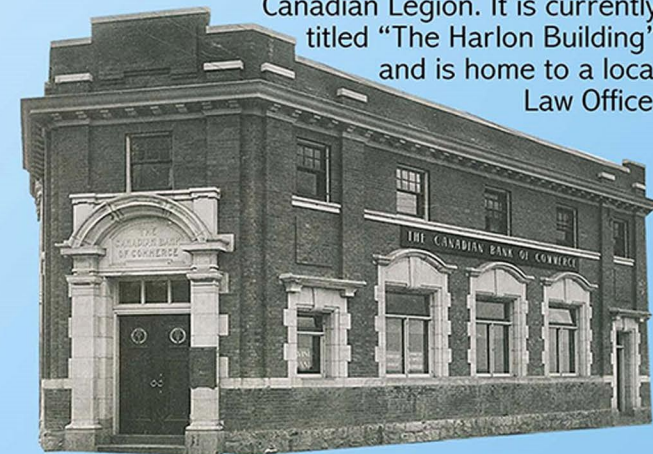
7 The Two Bridges that span the North Saskatchewan River are the Diefenbaker Traffic Bridge, opened in 1960, and a train bridge completed in 1909. The centre span of the rail bridge turned allowing large vessels to navigate the river. .

8 River Street & First Ave. West takes us onto what was once known as P.A.'s "bank corner." At the South-West corner of River Street and First Avenue West you will see the red brick triangular shaped Canadian Bank of Commerce;

9 Just south you will see the stately structure of the **Bank of Ottawa** (St. Johns Ambulance)

10 The South East corner of Tenth Street you will see the red brick structure that housed the **Imperial Bank**

11 when you walk South, at the Eleventh Street intersection you will see a grey building which was the **Bank of Nova Scotia** It later became home of Branch #2 of the Royal Canadian Legion. It is currently titled "The Harlon Building" and is home to a local Law Office.



3 The Totem Pole The pole was carved at the P.A. Penitentiary by an inmate from Manitoba who was incarcerated in the Federal Penitentiary. *"He presented it to the city in gratitude for our hospitality."* (From A Self-Conducted Walking Tour, by the P.A. Historic Museum)

4 The Cairns The large cairn was erected by the P.A. Historical Society in 1922 to commemorate the arrival of Mary and James Nisbet and their party. Nisbet and his co-workers, John McKay and George Flett arrived on or near this spot, at 8:00 am, on July 26, 1866. The site chosen for the settlement was known as kista-pinnanick in Cree, and was a meeting place for Aboriginal people.

5 The Red River Cart is an ingenious piece of prairie technology. Its total wood construction made it easy to repair in the middle of a long journey far from any settlement. No grease was ever applied to any moving part, making the journey across the plains a noisy undertaking. The carts were also used to ford streams and rivers. At a river crossing the carts would be unloaded and the wheels taken off and lashed together. Four poplar tree poles would be lashed to the wheels forming a quadrangle over which greased or green buffalo hide would be bound. After being in the water for a while the cart would be come watertight allowing for a load to be floated across the river.

1 The Museum was constructed as a Fire Hall in 1912. It was made from local brick produced at the Red Rock Brick Factory, one of three brick factories located in P.A at the time. This building functioned as the City's Fire Hall until 1975 when it became the Prince Albert Historic Museum; opening in 1977.

2 The Band Stand was located on the site that is now Memorial Square at City Hall. As far back as 1887 Prince Albert had a band that was supported by the City at a cost of \$100 per year, and free use of City Council Chambers for practice and performance. Through the early part of the Twentieth Century the P.A. City Band used the bandstand in the summer months to present weekly public performances. The Band Stand was built on the river bank, later moved to memorial square, and now resides on the river bank not far from its original location.

12 The Prince Albert Hotel

was located on the site where the National Hotel now stands. The Prince Albert Hotel was a large three story structure that was built during the days of the lumber boom. The P.A. Hotel, along with five other wooden built hotels would house lumberjacks who came to town when work in the bush was impossible because of weather.



13 The A&W Restaurant is an unsuspecting but important historic site because it is the place James Nisbet, a trained carpenter, built the first Church and school house in 1867. The original building is now located at the north-west corner of Kinsmen Park (at the corner of 22nd Street West and 1st Avenue). This site was also the home of the Empress Hotel, one of "the places" to stay in Prince Albert. On November 19, 1952 the Empress Hotel was the site of the formation of an unusual political movement. One hundred people from across the political spectrum came together to form an election committee that would support John G. Diefenbaker for many years.

14 The Empress Theatre

was located south of the original Bank of Nova Scotia; which is now the Harlon Building. The Theatre was renowned for its stage performances. It was partially destroyed by fire in the early 1920's but was rebuilt. Road shows, concerts and plays from New York and major European cities entertained on stage at the Empress. Early in his career, Boris Karloff was employed by the Empress Theatre. The owner of the Theatre, Nelson Morton, boasted that the Empress was "Saskatchewan's finest play house."

15 The Rivercrest Apartments

are located on the south side of 11th Street across First Avenue West. The building was constructed at the turn of the Twentieth Century, and it housed the Daily Herald Press in the basement. There were windows at sidewalk level so one could walk along and glance at the paper rolling off the press and typesetters at work. For many years the building was known as the Medical Arts Building and was owned and managed by Dr. Humphrey. A major annual event, "The 6-mile Herald Road Race," started at the front door, went to the west Penitentiary fence, and back again.

16 The Old Library was originally built for the Prince Albert Men's Club in 1912. The hardship caused by World War I and a downturn in the economy meant decline for the Men's Club. In 1916 its doors were closed. The building was sold to the Province and it became the Divisional Headquarters for the Provincial Police. In the early 1950's it became the home of the Prince Albert Public Library. It was said to be the only Library in the West with a wine cellar and lock up.

17 Twelfth Street & Central Avenue

At this corner the Prince Albert Land Show Building, which housed the Board of Trade in a grand ornate structure was located where the "Wilcox, Zuk, Chovin Law Office" now sits. "Complete with miniature turrets, the building was finished in time for a grand opening on May 24th, 1912." (Abrams, *Prince Albert...* 182) Many hoped and believed that with the expected coming of cheap hydroelectric power from La Colle Falls, the Land Show Building could be used to show-case P.A. and convince new businesses and industry to locate here. This, however, did not come to pass. From the 1950's until 2007, this was considered the four bank corner.

18 St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

This is the forth Presbyterian Church built in the settlement. The corner stone at the south-east corner of the building was laid in 1906. It is an imposing red brick structure, fashioned in the "neo-Gothic" style. Two turrets support the south wall, the east turret being almost twice as high as the west one. Three beautifully constructed stain glass windows open up the centre of the south wall. William Cowan, the Mayor of P.A. and overseer of the building project, donated the windows. The windows were made in Toronto then shipped and installed in the new church. The inside of the church sanctuary is constructed in oak and houses a magnificent pipe organ. It seats about 750 people and contains some of Prince Albert's most precious historic items; such as one of Rev. James Nisbet's working diaries

19 Wesley United Church

was originally Prince Albert's first Methodist congregation. The Methodists purchased property at the present location in 1885 and built a wooden clapboard structure that served the congregation for over seventy years. In 1925, a twenty-year conversation and debate was ended with the formation of the United Church of Canada. By 1952 Wesley Church had outgrown its small wooden building and the red brick structure that now serves the congregation was dedicated on May 2nd, 1954.



20 First Baptist Church

was originally located where Memorial Square (City Hall Square) currently sits. The congregation was formed in 1903, and by 1907 they had built a church and parsonage on their corner lot. The minister of First Baptist from 1909 to 1916, Rev. C.B. Freeman was the father of Olive Diefenbaker. The Diefenbaker's were loyal members of First Baptist. The last service in the original downtown location of First Baptist happened on May 29th, 1977. The congregation is presently located at 1351, 28th Street East.

21 Adams Celebrations By Design

is the oldest business building in this area. It has been the home of a drug store, a jewelry store and its present business. This structure is historically significant because its frontal facade is still original. Much of the glass front is original, including the scaled window domes at the top of the window case. Inside the original metal ceiling tiles are still present and exposed. This building stands as the last original witness to P.A. boom years in the early twentieth century.

22 Ted Matheson Men's Wear

is a notable site on Prince Albert's Central Avenue because it is now owned and managed by the third generation of Matheson's. In the store, at the very back, you will find a picture of Central Avenue taken around 1912. It shows how grand Central Avenue was in its heyday. As you look around the store you will see old copies of the P.A. Daily Herald framed, showing ads almost 70 years old. If you ask, someone might show you the receipt book J.G. Diefenbaker signed for a purchase.

23 Diefenbaker's Law Office

was located in a three story brick structure at 1109 Central Avenue (the building abutting Matheson's on the North). It still houses law offices today. For many years the main floor was occupied by Banque Canadienne Nationale.

24 The McDonald Building 1912

- this building was originally entitled to a druggist by the name of McDonald in 1913; it has been known as the McDonald block ever since.

25 The Forest Centre

was opened in September 2005 on a site that is historically significant and central to the life of this settlement. On this site a red brick Presbyterian Church was built. On what is now the East side of the courtyard, or entrance to the Forest Centre, a large brick, two story manse was built. In Mid-March 1885 the North-West Rebellion/Resistance was moving towards violence. There was a great deal of fear and anxiety among the settlers. Around the Presbyterian Church and manse a high wall of cordwood was erected, "forming a fort which was to serve as emergency protection for the women and children among nearly 1,000 persons who streamed in during the following week." (Abrams, 78) It is interesting to note that the present site of the Forest Centre was not only a "fort of Protection" during the North-West Rebellion/Resistance, it was also the grave site for the early settlement from 1866 to 1875. In October, 2004, when the Forest Centre was being constructed, human remains were found. The remains of 21 people were unearthed; four adults, two juveniles, and fifteen infants. The unearthed remains were re-interred in the Presbyterian section of the South Hill Cemetery on October 28th, 2005.

26 Memorial Square

In 1891 the City of P.A. purchased the Presbyterian Church and eastern portion of the church property. The Presbyterians built their third church on what is now the Forest Centre parking lot (formerly 11th Street and Avenue A). The City took down the old church building and constructed Central Avenue through the property. In 1893 the Town Hall was completed at a cost of just over \$13,000.

27 The "Old City Hall" is now the Arts Centre

The council chambers were two stories with a balcony. It was used for operas, concerts and large meetings. By the late 1960's the building was too small to accomodate the civic administration so it was moved to a different building. In 1985, after a heated debate whether the present property should be preserved for its history or developed for commercial use, the present City Hall as opened. It was in this square that the City Band entertained citizens from the band stand on Thursday evenings.

28 North on Central

and just North of the Arts Centre the public horse trough and drinking fountain were located.

29 The Prince Albert Daily Herald

has served the community for well over 100 years. The Herald traces its roots back to the Prince Albert Advocate which begun in 1894 as one of several weekly newspapers serving the community at the time.

30 "Strand Theatre"

The original building was burned and the new one finished with an ornate pleasing interior in the early 1930's. It was an attractive theatre and concert hall. This bulding currently houses North Star Trophies and Screen Printing.

31 The Mission House

Having taken the journey through Prince Albert's historic settlement we arrive back on the Southwest corner of Central Avenue, and we come up against the dream of what Nisbet and others hoped this community might become. On this spot, in 1867 Rev. James Nisbet built the "Mission House."