AGENDA

Monday, January 26, at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers at the Tom Hornecker
Recreation Centre, 2nd Floor, 2122 – 18 Street

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF COUNCIL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER & ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

1.1 Call to order

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

2. DELEGATIONS:

2.1 Heritage Building Inventory Project – Community Design Strategies Inc. - E

2.2 "Planning 101" Orientation – Oldman River Regional Services Commission - E

2.3 Northwest Area Structure Plan – Oldman River Regional Services Commission – E

3. PRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENTS:

Planning and Development

3.1 Information Brief Westview Development – E

4. MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR INQUIRIES:

5. NEXT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING:

5.1 February 23, 2026

6. ADJOURNMENT:

NANTON'S HERITAGE BUILDING EVALUATION PROJECT

Overview of process, evaluations, and Statements of Significance





PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Overview of the Heritage Building Evaluation Project
- Research and Data Collection
- Heritage Assessment and Evaluation Process
- Statements of Significance (SoS)
- The Next Step

OVERVIEW OF THE HERITAGE BUILDING EVALUATION PROJECT

- Purpose of Project
- Scope
- Partnerships

PURPOSE OF PROJECT

Identify Heritage Buildings

- To arrive at a “Places of Interest List” that contains high-priority heritage resources that have made significant contributions to Nanton’s history.

Evaluate Heritage Value

- To assess and evaluate the resources to determine eligibility for potential municipal designation.

Draft Statements of Significance

- To prepare documentation required for designation and assist with conservation, adaptive reuse, and grant applications.

Enhance Community Awareness

- To strengthen Nanton’s reputation as a heritage-rich community with an intact historic downtown core.





PROJECT SCOPE

Defined Scope

- To identify, evaluate, and prioritize 6-10 historic buildings in Nanton that are historically significant, with particular focus on the downtown core.

Historical Significance

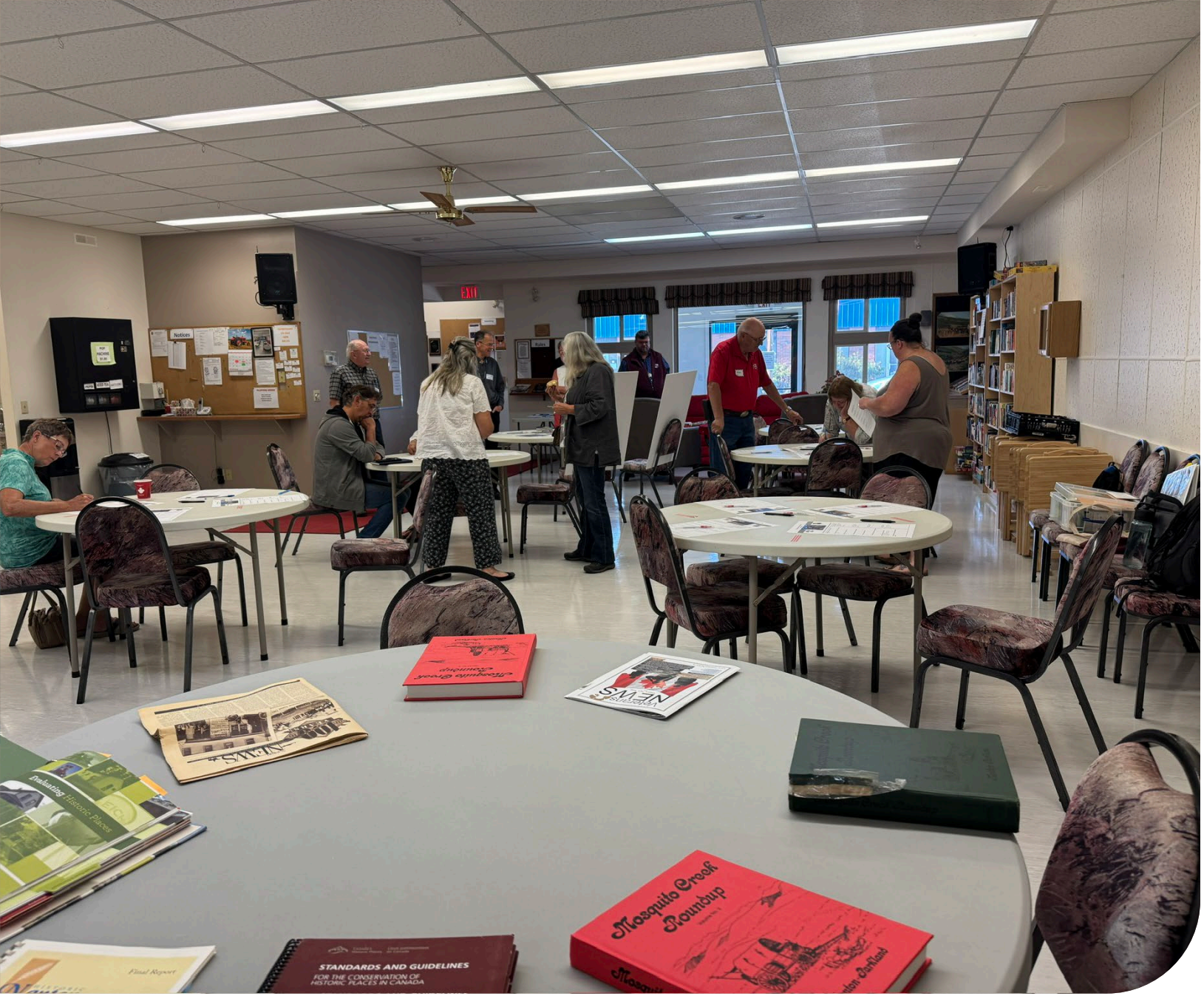
- To select buildings for their importance and impact on local and provincial history.

Architectural Value

- To select buildings that are architectural unique or representative of a particular style or method of construction.

Social/Cultural Relevance

- To select buildings that have social/cultural relevance in the growth of Nanton.



PROJECT PARTNERS.

Funding

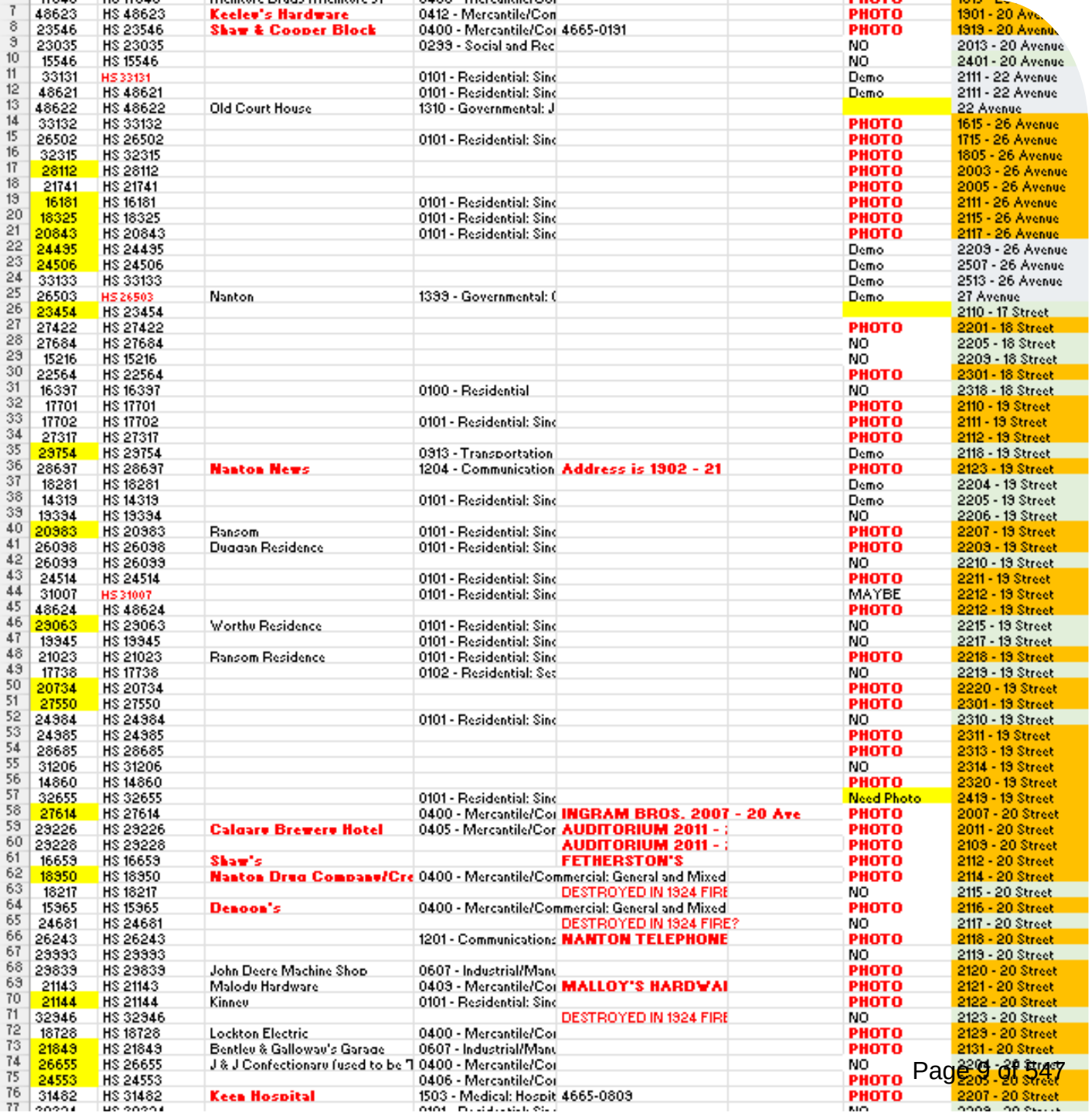
- Town of Nanton
- Project was also funded in part by the Government of Alberta

Collaborative Partnership

- Town of Nanton
- Heritage Preservation Partnership Program (HPPP)
- Community Stakeholders
- Community Design Strategies Inc

RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

- Heritage Resources Management Information System (HeRMIS)
- Places of Interest List (POIL)
- Community Engagement
- Research and Data Collection
- Heritage Survey Site Form Data Updates



48623	HS 48623	Keeley's Hardware	0412 - Mercantile/Con		PHOTO	1901 - 20 Ave
23546	HS 23546	Shaw & Cooper Block	0400 - Mercantile/Cor	4665-0191	PHOTO	1919 - 20 Avenu
23035	HS 23035		0299 - Social and Rec		NO	2013 - 20 Avenue
15546	HS 15546				NO	2401 - 20 Avenue
33131	HS 33131		0101 - Residential: Sinc		Demo	2111 - 22 Avenue
48621	HS 48621		0101 - Residential: Sinc		Demo	2111 - 22 Avenue
48622	HS 48622	Old Court House	1310 - Governmental: J			22 Avenue
33132	HS 33132				PHOTO	1615 - 26 Avenue
26502	HS 26502		0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	1715 - 26 Avenue
32315	HS 32315				PHOTO	1805 - 26 Avenue
28112	HS 28112				PHOTO	2003 - 26 Avenue
21741	HS 21741				PHOTO	2005 - 26 Avenue
16181	HS 16181		0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2111 - 26 Avenue
18325	HS 18325		0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2115 - 26 Avenue
20843	HS 20843		0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2117 - 26 Avenue
24435	HS 24435				Demo	2209 - 26 Avenue
24506	HS 24506				Demo	2507 - 26 Avenue
33133	HS 33133				Demo	2513 - 26 Avenue
26503	HS 26503	Nanton	1399 - Governmental: (		Demo	27 Avenue
23454	HS 23454					2110 - 17 Street
27422	HS 27422				PHOTO	2201 - 18 Street
27684	HS 27684				NO	2205 - 18 Street
15216	HS 15216				NO	2209 - 18 Street
22564	HS 22564				PHOTO	2301 - 18 Street
16397	HS 16397		0100 - Residential		NO	2318 - 18 Street
17701	HS 17701				PHOTO	2110 - 19 Street
17702	HS 17702		0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2111 - 19 Street
27317	HS 27317				PHOTO	2112 - 19 Street
29754	HS 29754		0313 - Transportation		Demo	2118 - 19 Street
28697	HS 28697	Nanton News	1204 - Communication	Address is 1902 - 21	PHOTO	2123 - 19 Street
18281	HS 18281				Demo	2204 - 19 Street
14319	HS 14319		0101 - Residential: Sinc		Demo	2205 - 19 Street
19394	HS 19394				NO	2206 - 19 Street
20983	HS 20983	Ransom	0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2207 - 19 Street
26098	HS 26098	Duggan Residence	0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2209 - 19 Street
26099	HS 26099				NO	2210 - 19 Street
24514	HS 24514		0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2211 - 19 Street
31007	HS 31007		0101 - Residential: Sinc		MAYBE	2212 - 19 Street
48624	HS 48624				PHOTO	2212 - 19 Street
29063	HS 29063	Worthy Residence	0101 - Residential: Sinc		NO	2215 - 19 Street
19945	HS 19945		0101 - Residential: Sinc		NO	2217 - 19 Street
21023	HS 21023	Ransom Residence	0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2218 - 19 Street
17738	HS 17738		0102 - Residential: Sec		NO	2219 - 19 Street
20734	HS 20734				PHOTO	2220 - 19 Street
27550	HS 27550				PHOTO	2301 - 19 Street
24984	HS 24984		0101 - Residential: Sinc		NO	2310 - 19 Street
24985	HS 24985				PHOTO	2311 - 19 Street
28685	HS 28685				PHOTO	2313 - 19 Street
31206	HS 31206				NO	2314 - 19 Street
14860	HS 14860				PHOTO	2320 - 19 Street
32655	HS 32655		0101 - Residential: Sinc		Need Photo	2419 - 19 Street
27614	HS 27614		0400 - Mercantile/Cor	INGRAM BROS. 2007 - 20 Ave	PHOTO	2007 - 20 Street
29226	HS 29226	Calgary Brewery Hotel	0405 - Mercantile/Cor	AUDITORIUM 2011 - :	PHOTO	2011 - 20 Street
29228	HS 29228			AUDITORIUM 2011 - :	PHOTO	2109 - 20 Street
16659	HS 16659	Shaw's		FETHERSTON'S	PHOTO	2112 - 20 Street
18950	HS 18950	Nanton Drug Company/Cre	0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed		PHOTO	2114 - 20 Street
18217	HS 18217			DESTROYED IN 1924 FIRE	NO	2115 - 20 Street
15965	HS 15965	Denoon's	0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed		PHOTO	2116 - 20 Street
24681	HS 24681			DESTROYED IN 1924 FIRE?	NO	2117 - 20 Street
26243	HS 26243		1201 - Communications	NANTON TELEPHONE	PHOTO	2118 - 20 Street
29393	HS 29393				NO	2119 - 20 Street
29839	HS 29839	John Deere Machine Shop	0607 - Industrial/Manu		PHOTO	2120 - 20 Street
21143	HS 21143	Malody Hardware	0409 - Mercantile/Cor	MALLOY'S HARDWAI	PHOTO	2121 - 20 Street
21144	HS 21144	Kinney	0101 - Residential: Sinc		PHOTO	2122 - 20 Street
32946	HS 32946			DESTROYED IN 1924 FIRE	NO	2123 - 20 Street
18728	HS 18728	Lockton Electric	0400 - Mercantile/Cor		PHOTO	2129 - 20 Street
21849	HS 21849	Bentley & Galloway's Garage	0607 - Industrial/Manu		PHOTO	2131 - 20 Street
26655	HS 26655	J & J Confectionary (used to be T	0400 - Mercantile/Cor		NO	2201 - 20 Street
24553	HS 24553		0406 - Mercantile/Cor		PHOTO	2205 - 20 Street
31482	HS 31482	Keen Hospital	1503 - Medical: Hospit	4665-0809	PHOTO	2207 - 20 Street

HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HERMIS)

Provincial HeRMIS Database of Nanton's Surveyed Heritage Sites

- **309** heritage sites (HS) in or near the Town of Nanton listed in database
- **190** heritage sites have municipal addresses within the Town of Nanton

Windshield Survey

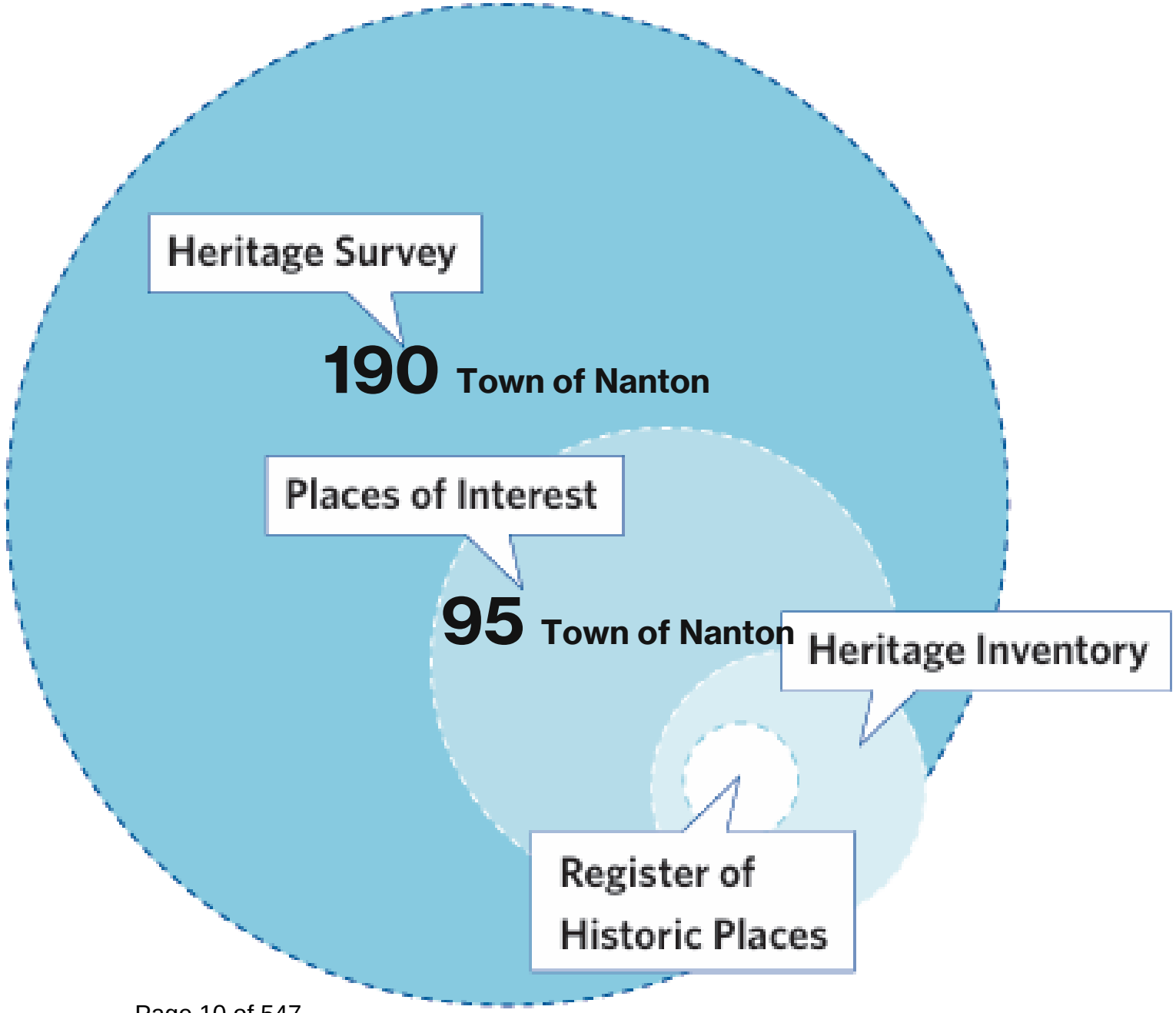
- **41** sites lost over a 45-year period
- **149** sites remain
- **54** sites with questionable integrity

95 Places of Interest

PLACES OF INTEREST LIST (POIL)

Resource Typologies

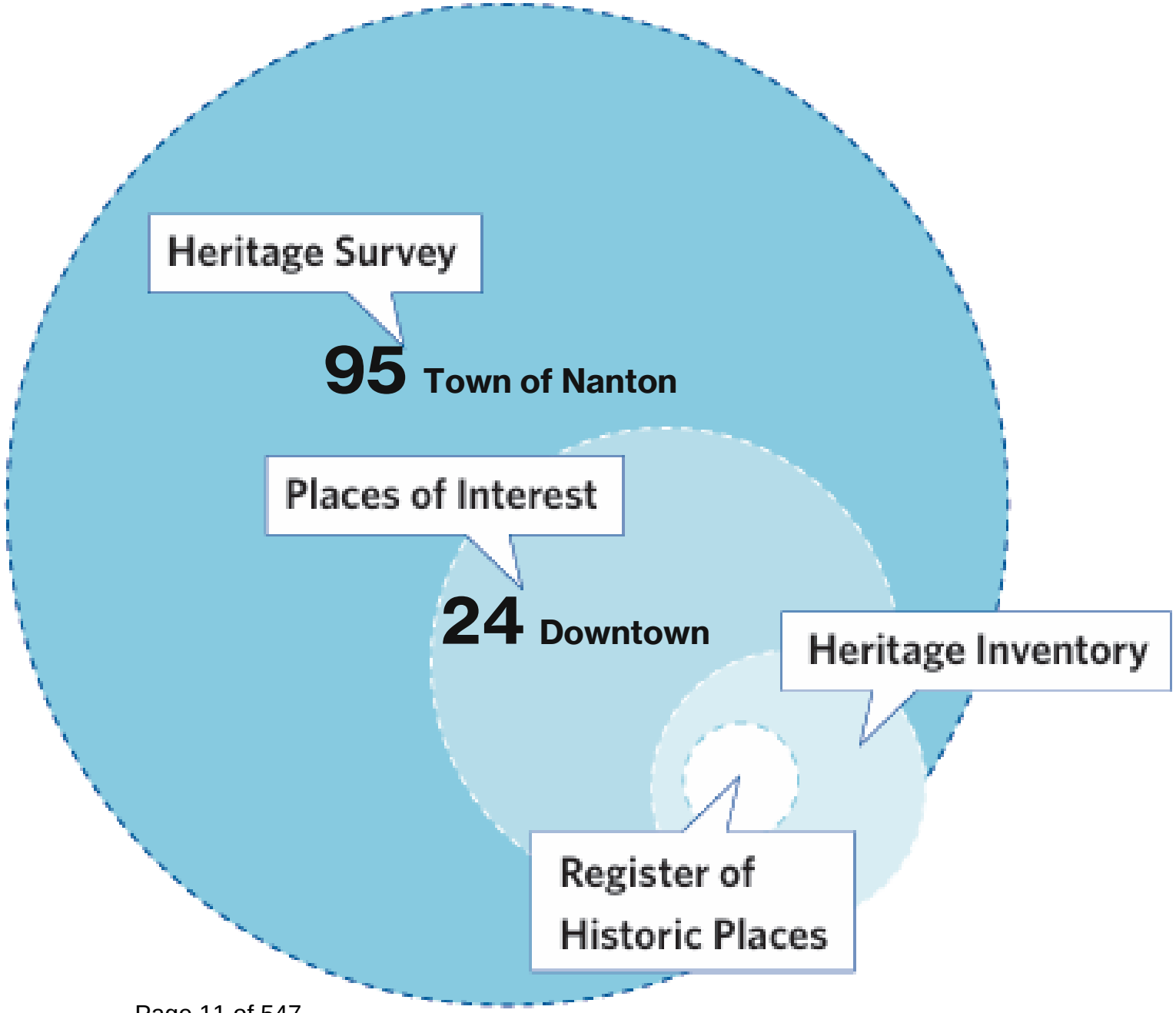
- Commercial
- Residential
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Landmark



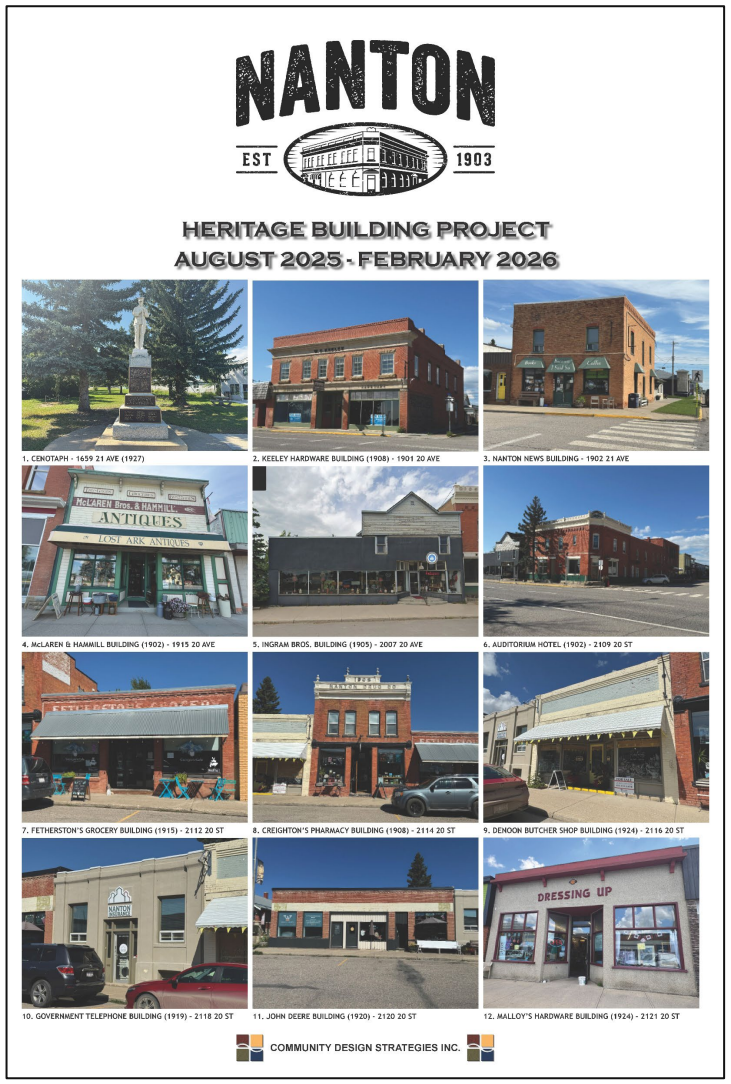
PLACES OF INTEREST LIST (POIL)

Resource Typologies

- Commercial
- Residential
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Landmark



PLACES OF INTEREST LIST (POIL)





1. Cenotaph
2. Keeley Hardware
3. Nanton News
4. McLaren & Hammill Building
5. Ingram Bros. Building
6. Auditorium Hotel
7. Fetherston's Grocery
8. Creighton's Pharmacy
9. Denoon Butcher Shop
10. Government Telephone Building
11. John Deere Building
12. Malloy's Hardware
13. Nanton United Church
14. The Kinney House
15. Lockton Electric Building
16. Dr. McKeage's Dental Office
17. Eaton's Kit House (Creighton's)
18. Nanton Hospital (Keen Building)
19. Worker's House
20. Christ Church – Anglican
21. St. Cecilia's Church
22. Masonic Hall
23. Shaw and Cooper Block
24. Scout Hall

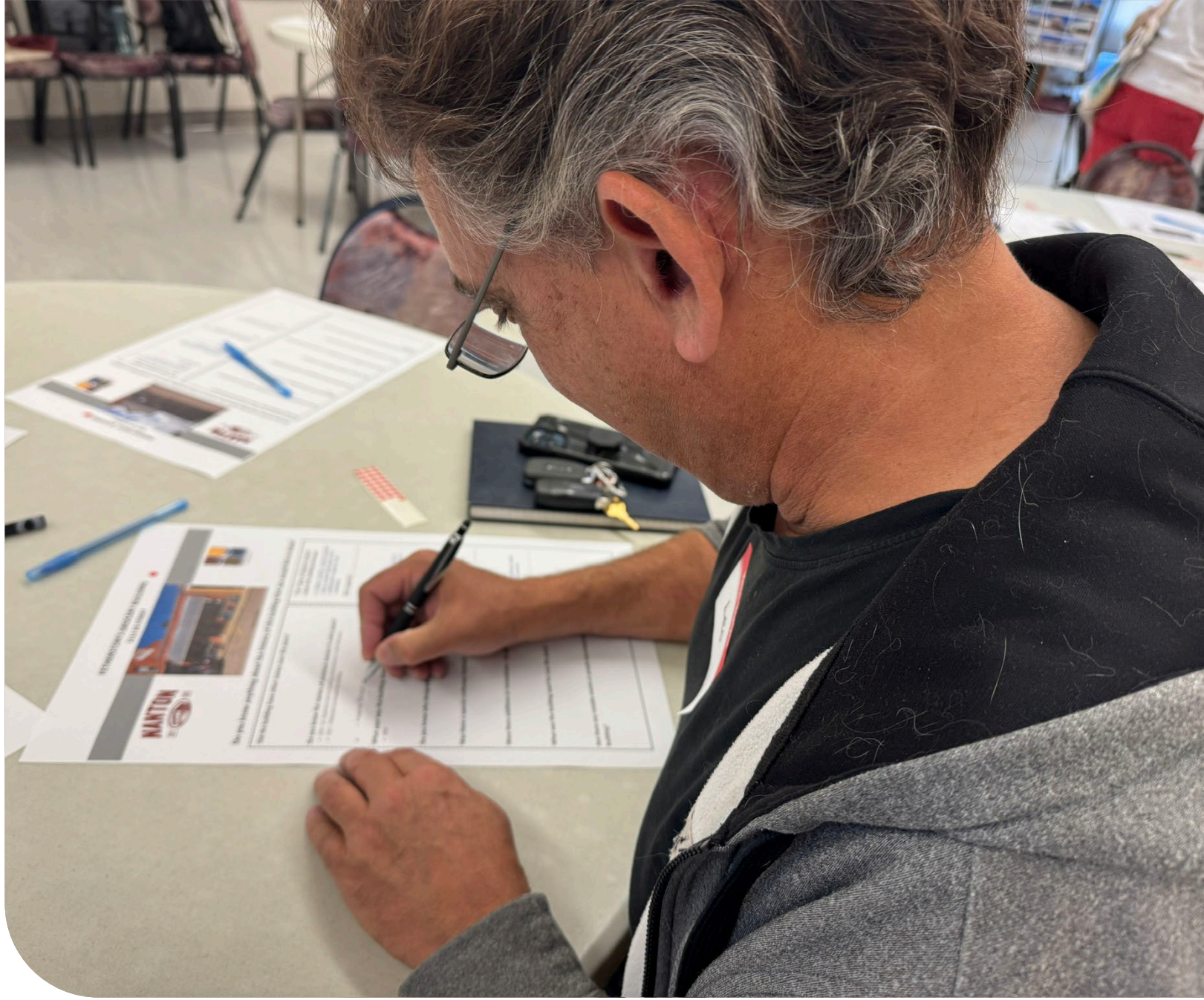
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Local Resident Engagement

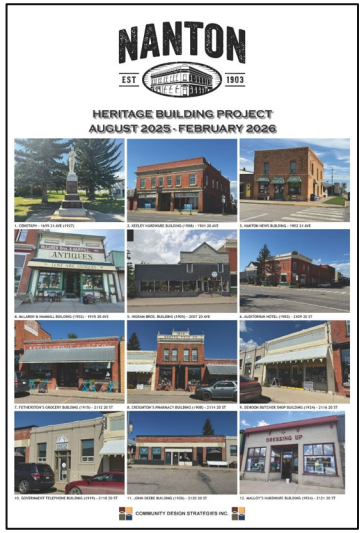
- Engaging residents fosters trust and provides critical insights into community values and perspectives.

Stakeholder Interviews

- Interviews with stakeholders and community seniors gather diverse viewpoints that enrich evaluation and decision-making processes.



DOTMOCRACY RESULTS





A-LIST

1. Keeley Hardware
2. Auditorium Hotel
3. Fetherston's Grocery
4. Creighton's Pharmacy
5. Denoon Butcher Shop
6. Shaw and Cooper Block

B-LIST

1. Nanton News
2. Government Telephone Building
3. The Kinney House
4. Lockton Electric Building
5. Eaton's Kit House (Creighton's)
6. Nanton Hospital (Keen Building)

C-LIST

1. Cenotaph
2. McLaren & Hammill Building
3. Ingram Bros. Building
4. John Deere Building
5. Malloy's Hardware
6. Nanton United Church
7. Dr. McKeage's Dental Office
8. Worker's House
9. Christ Church – Anglican
10. St. Cecilia's Church
11. Masonic Hall
12. Scout Hall

RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

Example of Sources

- Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland, 1975
- Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland, Vol. 2., 2005
- Nanton News, University of Lethbridge Library
- Library and Archives Canada
- The University of Calgary Archives
- The Vulcan Advocate, Internet Archive
- Bomber Command Museum of Canada Archives
- Canadian Register of Historic Places
- Nanton Main Street Records
- Local oral interviews and email



RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

Archival Research

- Thorough archival research involved gathering historical records and documents related to heritage buildings.

Photographic Documentation

- Historical photographs were collected to visually document the heritage buildings' past and changes over time.



RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

Archival Research

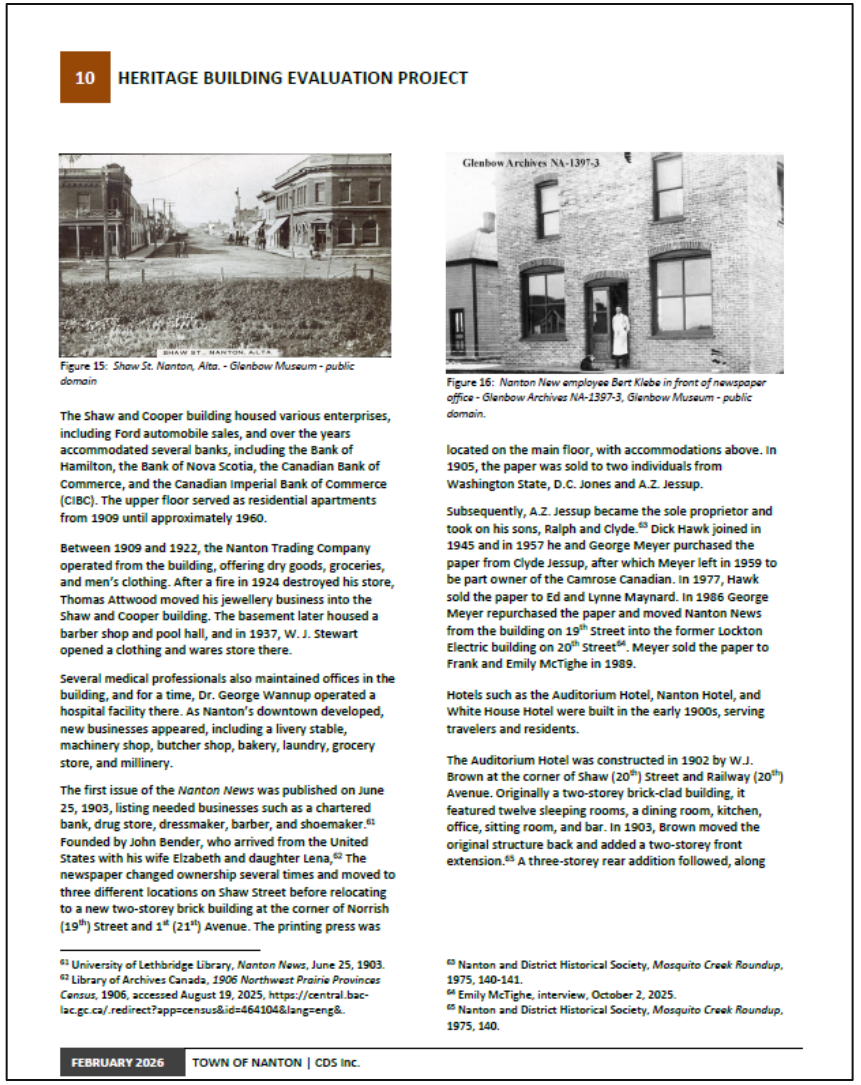
- Thorough archival research involved gathering historical records and documents related to heritage buildings.

Photographic Documentation

- Historical photographs were collected to visually document the heritage buildings' past and changes over time.

Context Paper

- Nanton's historical development was documented to understand its cultural history in context with Alberta's "In Time and Place."



10 HERITAGE BUILDING EVALUATION PROJECT

Figure 15: *Shaw St. Nanton, Alta. - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Figure 16: *Nanton New employee Bert Klebe in front of newspaper office - Glenbow Archives NA-1397-3, Glenbow Museum - public domain.*

The Shaw and Cooper building housed various enterprises, including Ford automobile sales, and over the years accommodated several banks, including the Bank of Hamilton, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). The upper floor served as residential apartments from 1909 until approximately 1960.

Between 1909 and 1922, the Nanton Trading Company operated from the building, offering dry goods, groceries, and men's clothing. After a fire in 1924 destroyed his store, Thomas Attwood moved his jewellery business into the Shaw and Cooper building. The basement later housed a barber shop and pool hall, and in 1937, W. J. Stewart opened a clothing and wares store there.

Several medical professionals also maintained offices in the building, and for a time, Dr. George Wannup operated a hospital facility there. As Nanton's downtown developed, new businesses appeared, including a livery stable, machinery shop, butcher shop, bakery, laundry, grocery store, and millinery.

The first issue of the *Nanton News* was published on June 25, 1903, listing needed businesses such as a chartered bank, drug store, dressmaker, barber, and shoemaker.[61] Founded by John Bender, who arrived from the United States with his wife Elzabeth and daughter Lena,[62] The newspaper changed ownership several times and moved to three different locations on Shaw Street before relocating to a new two-storey brick building at the corner of Norrish (19th) Street and 1st (21st) Avenue. The printing press was located on the main floor, with accommodations above. In 1905, the paper was sold to two individuals from Washington State, D.C. Jones and A.Z. Jessup.

Subsequently, A.Z. Jessup became the sole proprietor and took on his sons, Ralph and Clyde.[63] Dick Hawk joined in 1945 and in 1957 he and George Meyer purchased the paper from Clyde Jessup, after which Meyer left in 1959 to be part owner of the Camrose Canadian. In 1977, Hawk sold the paper to Ed and Lynne Maynard. In 1986 George Meyer repurchased the paper and moved Nanton News from the building on 19th Street into the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street[64]. Meyer sold the paper to Frank and Emily McTighe in 1989.

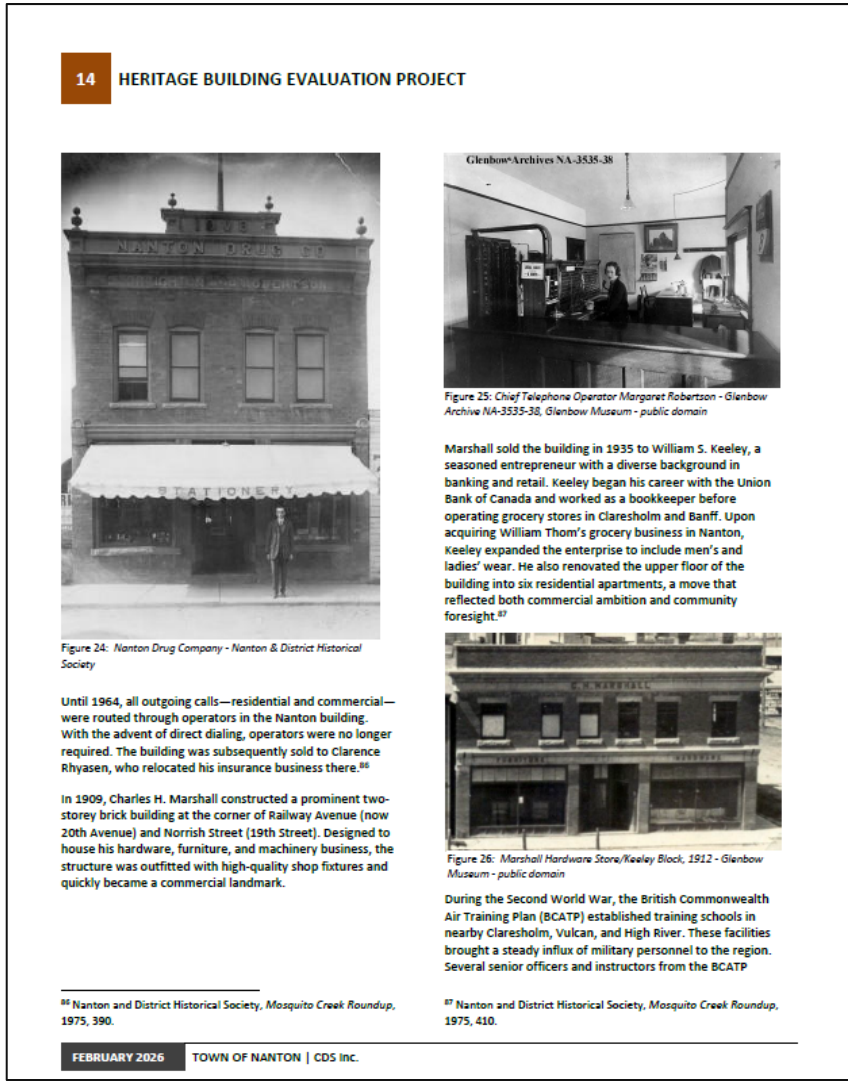
Hotels such as the Auditorium Hotel, Nanton Hotel, and White House Hotel were built in the early 1900s, serving travelers and residents.

The Auditorium Hotel was constructed in 1902 by W.J. Brown at the corner of Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. Originally a two-storey brick-clad building, it featured twelve sleeping rooms, a dining room, kitchen, office, sitting room, and bar. In 1903, Brown moved the original structure back and added a two-storey front extension.[65] A three-storey rear addition followed, along

[61] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News*, June 25, 1903.
[62] Library of Archives Canada, *1906 Northwest Prairie Provinces Census*, 1906, accessed August 19, 2025, https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=census&id=464104&lang=eng&.

[63] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140-141.
[64] Emily McTighe, interview, October 2, 2025.
[65] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140.

FEBRUARY 2026 TOWN OF NANTON | CDS Inc.



14 HERITAGE BUILDING EVALUATION PROJECT

Figure 24: *Nanton Drug Company - Nanton & District Historical Society*

Until 1964, all outgoing calls—residential and commercial—were routed through operators in the Nanton building. With the advent of direct dialing, operators were no longer required. The building was subsequently sold to Clarence Rhyasen, who relocated his insurance business there.[86]

In 1909, Charles H. Marshall constructed a prominent two-storey brick building at the corner of Railway Avenue (now 20th Avenue) and Norrish Street (19th Street). Designed to house his hardware, furniture, and machinery business, the structure was outfitted with high-quality shop fixtures and quickly became a commercial landmark.

[86] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 390.

Figure 25: *Chief Telephone Operator Margaret Robertson - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-38, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Marshall sold the building in 1935 to William S. Keeley, a seasoned entrepreneur with a diverse background in banking and retail. Keeley began his career with the Union Bank of Canada and worked as a bookkeeper before operating grocery stores in Claresholm and Banff. Upon acquiring William Thom's grocery business in Nanton, Keeley expanded the enterprise to include men's and ladies' wear. He also renovated the upper floor of the building into six residential apartments, a move that reflected both commercial ambition and community foresight.[87]

Figure 26: *Marshall Hardware Store/Keeley Block, 1912 - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

During the Second World War, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) established training schools in nearby Claresholm, Vulcan, and High River. These facilities brought a steady influx of military personnel to the region. Several senior officers and instructors from the BCATP

[87] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 410.

FEBRUARY 2026 TOWN OF NANTON | CDS Inc.

RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

Archival Research

- Thorough archival research involved gathering historical records and documents related to heritage buildings.

Photographic Documentation

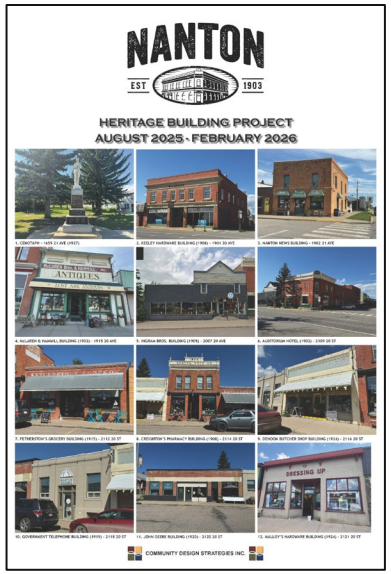
- Historical photographs were collected to visually document the heritage buildings' past and changes over time.

Context Paper

- Nanton's historical development was documented to understand its cultural history in context with Alberta's "In Time and Place."



13 PLACES OF INTEREST IDENTIFIED





A-LIST

1. Keeley Hardware
2. Auditorium Hotel
3. Fetherston's Grocery
4. Creighton's Pharmacy
5. Denoon Butcher Shop
6. Shaw and Cooper Block

B-LIST

1. Nanton News
2. Government Telephone Building
3. ~~The Kinney House~~
4. ~~Lockton Electric Building~~
5. Eaton's Kit House (Creighton's)
6. Nanton Hospital (Keen Building)

C-LIST

1. ~~Cenotaph~~
2. ~~McLaren & Hammill Building~~
3. ~~Ingram Bros. Building~~
4. ~~John Deere Building~~
5. ~~Malloy's Hardware~~
6. ~~Nanton United Church~~
7. Dr. McKeage's Dental Office
8. ~~Worker's House~~
9. ~~Christ Church – Anglican~~
10. ~~St. Cecilia's Church~~
11. Masonic Hall
12. Scout Hall

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 23456
[2]Site Name: Shaw and Cooper Block
[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	1	

[15]Address: 1919 - 20 Avenue [16]Number: 19
[17]Street: 19
[18]Avenue: 20
[19]Other:
[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:
[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348742	-113.771664	NAD83	

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-027 [38]View: South East [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.

HERITAGE SURVEY SITE FORM - DATA UPDATES

Heritage Survey Form – Data Update

- Visual on-site evaluations conducted to assess the current exterior condition of the buildings and to update the existing provincial Heritage Survey Database (HeRMIS).
    - Confirmed existing entries



36 Type:	Image
37 Number:	25-D0024-028
38 View:	North West
39 Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
40 Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



36 Type:	Image
37 Number:	25-D0024-029
38 View:	East
39 Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
40 Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

41 Style

Type

42 Plan Shape

Type
1201 - Square

43 Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

44 Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

45 Superstructure

Type

46 Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher
2208 - Stone - Finish: Rusticated

47 Roof Structure

HERITAGE SURVEY SITE FORM - DATA UPDATES

Heritage Survey Form – Data Update

- Visual on-site evaluations conducted to assess the current exterior condition of the buildings and to update the existing provincial Heritage Survey Database (HeRMIS).
  - Confirmed existing entries
  - Photographed sites with specialized digital camera meeting provincial specifications

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
1612 - Number of Bays - Facade: First or Ground Floor, 2 Bays
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3510 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Decorated Soffit
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
4709 - Roof Trim - Special Features: Monumental Pediment
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4906 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Semi-Circular
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5007 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5404 - Window - Sill Material: Stone
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
5509 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Shaped Transom, Single Light
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6104 - Main Entrance - Location: Corner
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6307 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6606 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6802 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 2
6902 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 2
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: Finished sandstone base. Mid-projecting cornice with plain frieze. Sandstone lintels above all upper floor windows. Main floor voussoirs bookended with sandstone central key. Door codes relate to door at west end.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on the north west corner of 20th Street and 20th Avenue. Building abuts the street and avenue public sidewalks.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct 2025).

[54]Alterations: Two major bays altered with new slip covers. Retracting awnings.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1909.	1909/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Bank, Offices, Store, Apartments	1909/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
H. Shaw and J. Cooper	1909/01/01
Cecilia Burns	1977/08/17
645927 Alberta Ltd.	2025/10/01

[63]Architect: William Dodd.

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

HERITAGE SURVEY SITE FORM - DATA UPDATES

Heritage Survey Form – Data Update

- Visual on-site evaluations conducted to assess the current exterior condition of the buildings and to update the existing provincial Heritage Survey Database (HeRMIS).

Architectural Feature Documentation

- Key architectural elements were carefully recorded to document and preserve design integrity.
- Entered coding for all features that physically describe the building, including condition and any alterations.

66 History: Constructed in 1909 at the prominent corner of 20th Avenue and 20th Street in Nanton, the Shaw and Cooper Block is a two storey brick and sandstone commercial building designed by Calgary architect William Dodd. Commissioned by H.M. Shaw, founder of Nanton and Member of Parliament for the Macleod riding, together with J.T. Cooper, the town's first mayor, the block reflects the civic ambition and entrepreneurial spirit of its builders. Originally housing the Bank of Hamilton and Sibbett and Hallett's variety store, the building has remained a centre of commerce and finance for more than a century, later serving the Canadian Bank of Commerce and CIBC. With its Romanesque Revival windows, classical pedimented entrances, and angled corner façade bearing the inscription "Shaw and Cooper, 1909," the block continues to anchor Nanton's main street as a landmark of permanence and prosperity. Recognized as an Alberta Registered Historic Resource in 1979, it stands today as a symbol of the town's early development and enduring identity.

67 Sources: Alberta Register of Historic Places. "Shaw and Cooper Block (HS 23546)." Government of Alberta. Accessed December 4, 2025. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.

OFFICE USE

Status

68 Status	69 Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

70 Designation Status	71 Date

72 Priority

Type

73 Geo Code: **74 Borden Number:** **75 Register:**

Internet Link

76 Link	77 Date

Internet Link Description

78 Description	79 Date

Internet Link Type

80 Type	81 Date

Internet Link Title

82 Title	83 Date

84 Related Significant Sites Record:

HERITAGE SURVEY SITE FORM - DATA UPDATES

Heritage Survey Form – Data Update

- Visual on-site evaluations conducted to assess the current exterior condition of the buildings and to update the existing provincial Heritage Survey Database (HeRMIS).

Architectural Feature Documentation

- Key architectural elements were carefully recorded to document and preserve design integrity.
    - Enter coding for all features that physically describe the building, including condition and any alterations.

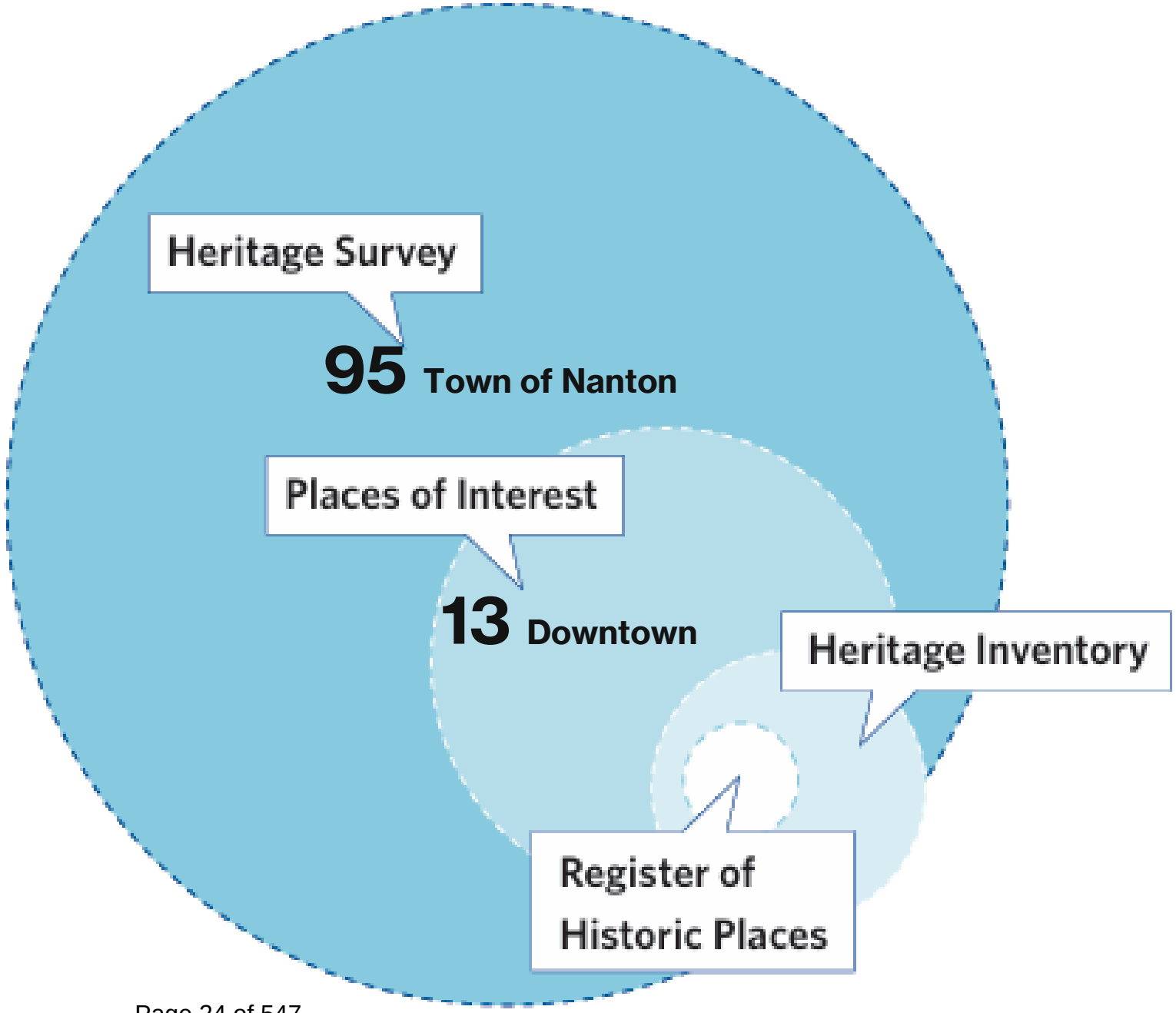
History of Site

- Provided a tombstone narrative of the building's history with sources.

13 PLACES OF INTEREST LIST (POIL)

Resource Typologies

- Commercial
- Residential
- Institutional



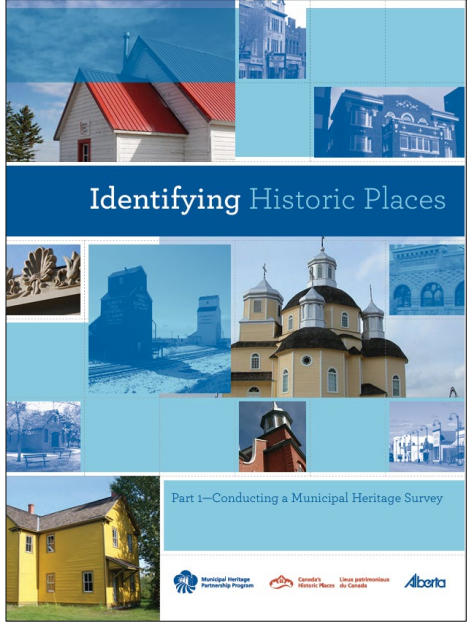
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION REPORTS

- Eligibility Assessment
- Assess Significance,
- Assess Integrity
- Final Evaluation and Recommendation

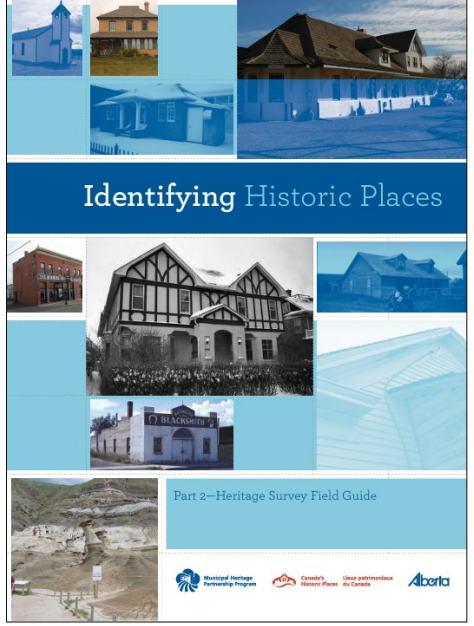
EVALUATION CRITERIA

Creating a Future

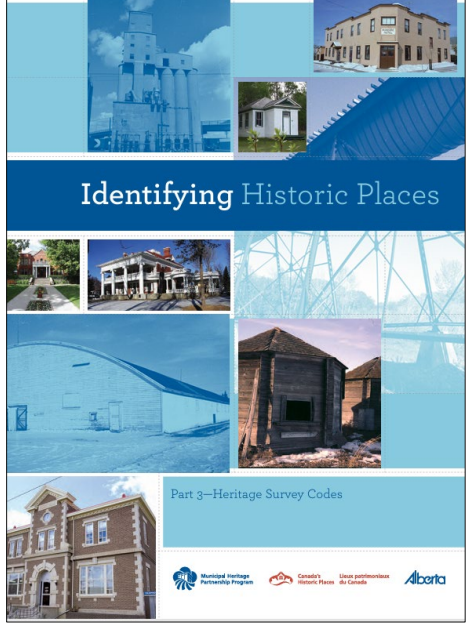
- Conducting a Municipal Heritage Survey
- Heritage Survey Field Guide
- Heritage Survey Codes
- Eligibility, Significance and Integrity
- Protection and Stewardship of Your Local Heritage
- Designating Municipal Historic Resources



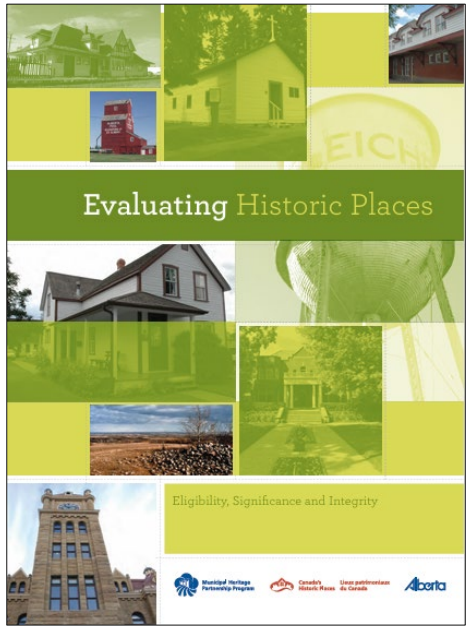
Conducting a Municipal Heritage Survey



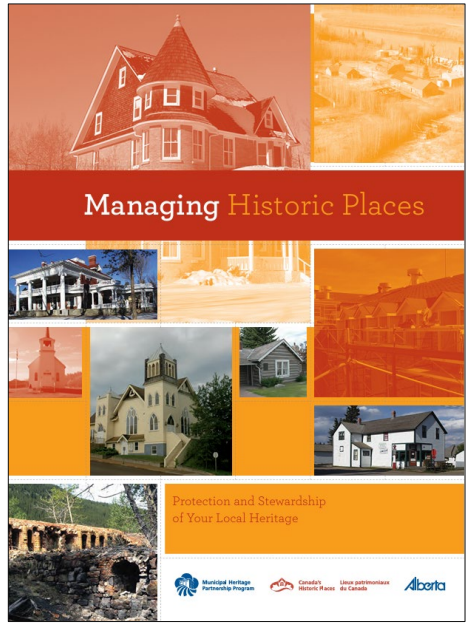
Heritage Survey Field Guide



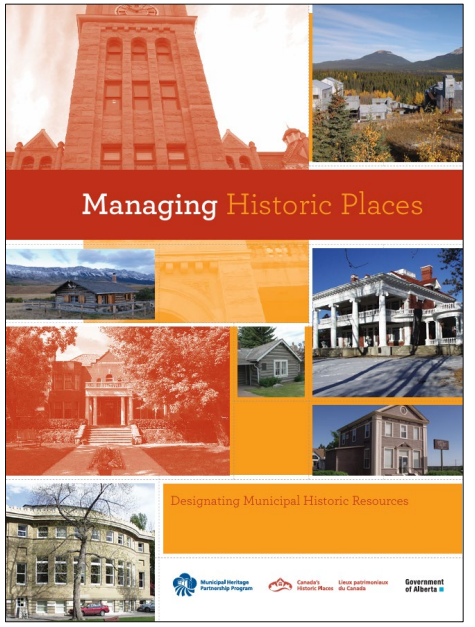
Heritage Survey Codes



Eligibility, Significance and Integrity



Protection and Stewardship of Your Local Heritage

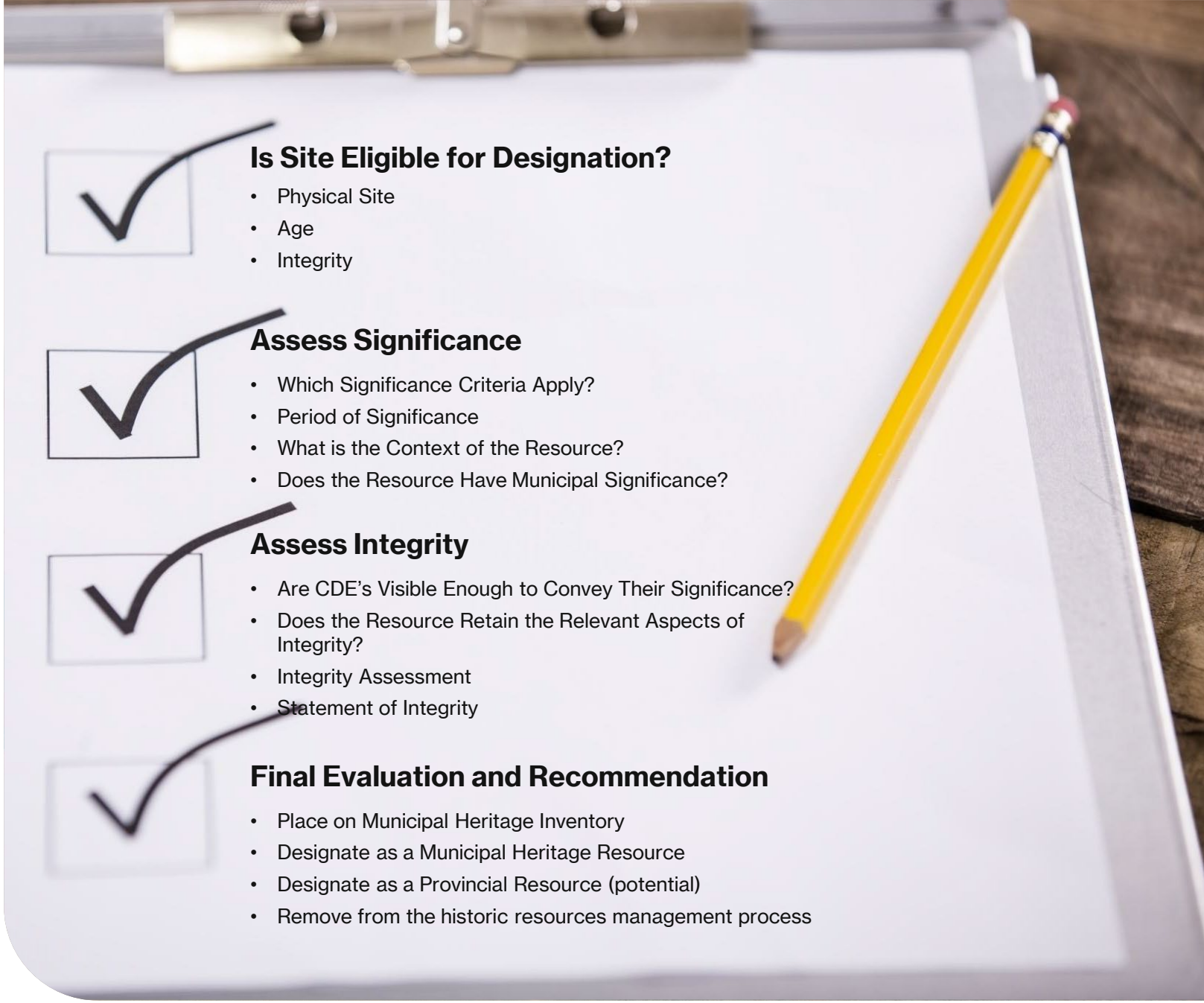


Designating Municipal Historic Resources

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Tailored Assessment Criteria

- Specific criteria were designed by the province to evaluate historic, architectural, and contextual significance in a structured way.



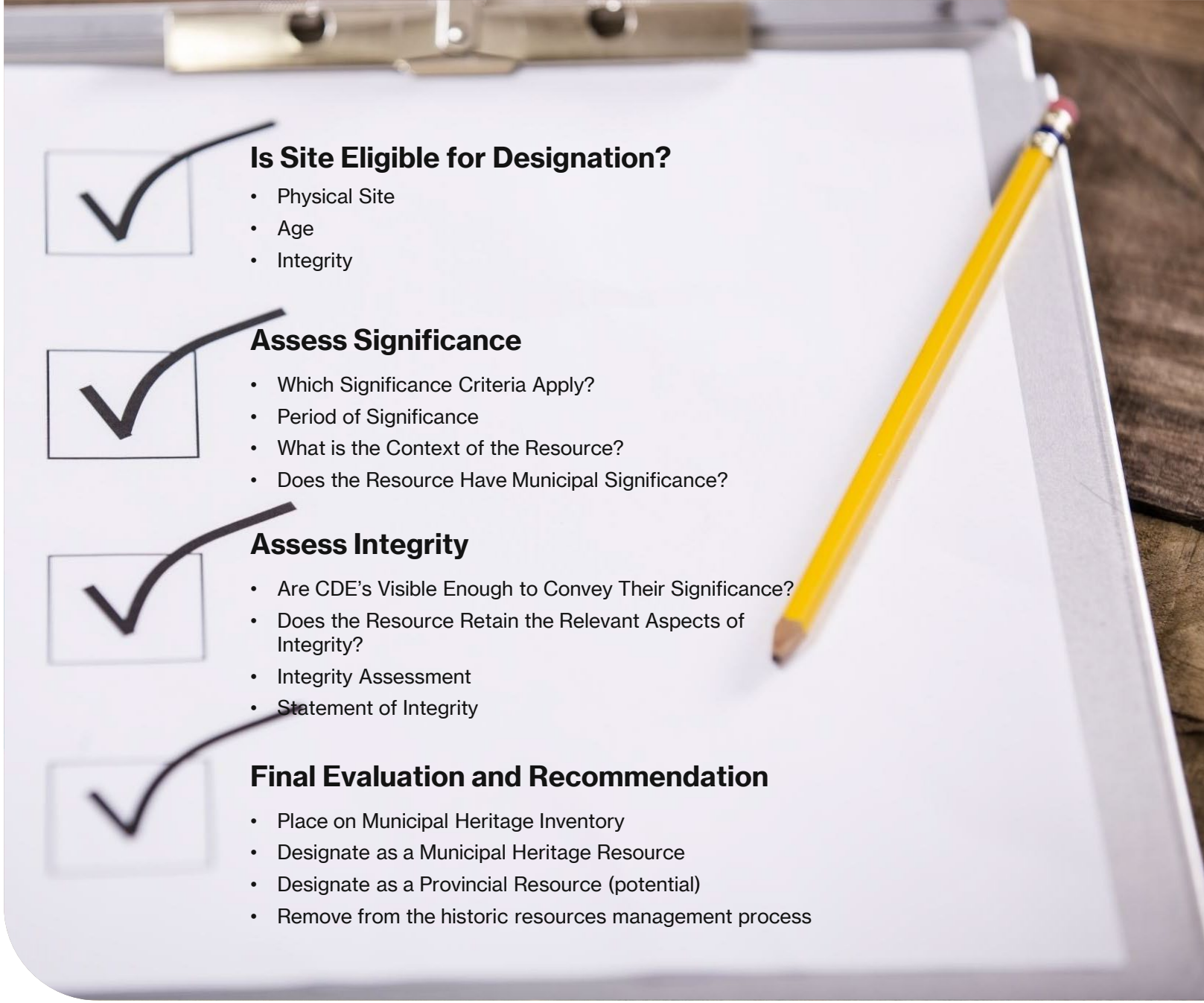
EVALUATION CRITERIA

Tailored Assessment Criteria

- Specific criteria were designed by the province to evaluate historic, architectural, and contextual significance in a structured way.

Objective and Consistent Evaluation

- Criteria ensure evaluations are objective, consistent, and standardized across different contexts and projects.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Is Site Eligible for Designation?

- Description of Resource
- Physical Site
- Age
- Integrity

Assess Significance

- Which Significance Criteria Apply?
- Period of Significance
- What is the Context of the Resource?
- Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Drug Company

2114 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton Drug Company**
Other Names	Creighton Drug, Creighton Pharmacy
Legal Description	Lot: 23 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Drug Company building is a modest early 20th century commercial building constructed in 1908 and located in the historic downtown core of Nanton. The structure is characterized by its street-facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk, two-storey rectangular massing and brick exterior, a utilitarian storefront design with a recessed central entry flanked by large, fixed windows, and a second storey with four single-hung windows. The building is crowned by a stepped entablature with decorative urn finials, with the inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co."
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1908, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with the development of health care and commerce and its role in the modernization of rural services.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event .** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1908 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Nanton Drug Company building, which later became known as Creighton Pharmacy, was constructed in 1908 and stands out as a prominent two-storey brick structure in downtown Nanton. The building is notable for its ornate architectural details, including an entablature, urn finials, and decorative mid-cornice, and brick voussoirs crowing the second storey windows. The pharmacy played a central role in the community's development, serving as the local drugstore from its early days. The building's inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" marks its historic roots. Dr. John Creighton served as a medical officer in the South African War (Boer War) for which he was awarded the Queen's Medal. He arrived in Nanton in 1903 and filed on a homestead east of Nanton and became Nanton's first doctor, and made his rounds by horseback to visit his patients. Dr. Creighton was instrumental in establishing medical services in the town as many of the first drug stores were opened by a local physician. He partnered with G.M. Robertson to purchase the drug business of W.A. Chisholm in 1908, built the brick Nanton Drug Company building and opened a pharmacy, which became a cornerstone of healthcare in the area. He sold the drug store in 1923 but a short time later he returned and resumed the business until 1955 when his son, James Creighton, assumed the operations of the drug store. Dr. Creighton also contributed to the local hospital, which was built in 1927 by Dr. William Keen. Both doctors treated patients from their offices and later at the hospital, which included its own dispensary. The pharmacy and its associated medical practitioners were vital to Nanton's growth, providing essential services to residents and supporting the town's transition from a small railway community to a district metropolis. This dual medical-pharmaceutical model was common in small Alberta towns where physicians often dispensed medications directly. The pharmacy's location and enduring presence reflect its importance in the commercial and social life of Nanton. The Nanton Drug Store Co/Creighton Pharmacy architectural style is typical of early 20th century mercantile buildings in Alberta, designed to stand out in the commercial core of Nanton's main street. The building's brick superstructure was chosen for durability and fire resistance, which was important for commercial buildings of the era. The decorative elements that include the entablature urns and voussoirs over the second-floor window surrounds were intended to convey stability and trustworthiness – qualities desirable for a pharmacy and community business. Overall, the building is a well-preserved example of early 20th century commercial architecture in Alberta. Its brick construction, classical detailing, and prominent location reflect both the aspirations of Nanton's early business community and the architectural trends of the time. The building remains a key part of Nanton's heritage landscape, valued for its character-defining elements and its role in the town's history.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building is significant in the theme of Health Care and Commerce and represents the intersection of early medical practice and commercial enterprise in southern Alberta. As both a pharmacy and a medical office, it reflects the dual roles often held by rural physicians in the early 20th century. It is also significant for its association with railway-era town development. Creighton Pharmacy emerged during Nanton's rapid growth following the extension of the Calgary-Edmonton Railway and the establishment of the Dominion Land Office in 1904. It exemplifies the pattern of service-oriented businesses clustering in prairie towns during this period. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building is strongly associated with Dr. John Creighton, one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders. Dr. Creighton arrived in Nanton in 1903 and was instrumental in establishing medical services in the town, and he was also instrumental in shaping the town's infrastructure and public services. His collaboration with G.M. Robertson to open the pharmacy illustrates the entrepreneurial and civic-minded spirit of early settlers. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The Nanton Drug Co. building is a modest commercial structure typical of early prairie towns, with utilitarian design and storefront orientation. While not typically rare, it represents the vernacular of its era and complements the historic streetscape. The building's brick superstructure was also chosen for durability and fire resistance, which was important for commercial buildings of the era. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building served as a cultural and medical landmark during a formative period in Nanton's development and survived the fire of 1924. The façade is

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Assess Integrity

- Are CDE's Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?
- Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?
- Integrity Assessment
- Statement of Integrity

Final Evaluation and Recommendation

- Place on Municipal Heritage Inventory
- Designate as a Municipal Heritage Resource
- Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)
- Remove from the historic resources management process

	adorned with ornate cornice work on the first floor shelf and top entablature, giving the building a sense of grandeur and permanence. The inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" is prominently displayed at the top of the building marking its historic origins and serving as a visual anchor in the streetscape.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ Yes ☐ No List: • Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core abutting public sidewalk • Two-storey form and massing with brick superstructure cover and stone foundation • Long rectangular plan with short façade, stepped sidewall parapet, and flat roof • Central recessed raked entrance with multi-panelled wood door with original hardware flanked by multi-panelled wood transoms and fixed storefront windows above • Sandstone lug sills • Upper entablature with decorated parapet, classical detailing and decorative brackets and urn finials • Ornate metal mid-cornice with decorated brackets • Brick voussoirs over second-floor windows • Prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" within the entablature • Association with Dr. Creighton and its dual development of healthcare and commerce.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** Surrounded by other historic structures, Creighton Pharmacy contributes to the overall character of Nanton's downtown and supports the town's heritage landscape. ■ **2. Design** The two-story brick construction, rectangular plan, flat roof, and classical detailing—including ornate cornice work, entablature, urns, and voussoirs—are intact and clearly visible. ■ **3. Environment** The Nanton Drug Co/Creighton Pharmacy continues to contribute to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials** The brick exterior, wood-frame windows, brick voussoirs over second-storey windows, lug sills, mid-cornice and upper entablature with urn finials are all intact and their original inter-relationship retained. ■ **5. Workmanship** The craftsmanship evident in the facade's decorative elements and masonry reflects early 20th century building practices and remains well-preserved. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to evoke its historic role as a pharmacy and commercial hub, maintaining its visual prominence and connection to the community's heritage. ■ **7. Association** The structure continues to evoke its original function and the "Nanton Drug Co" inscription in the entablature contributes to the building's contribution to health care and commerce in the early 20th century in southern Alberta.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Although the specific business operations have evolved, the building's function as a commercial space in the heart of Nanton's business district remains. Its continued use and preservation reflect its enduring role in the community's commercial landscape. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building's preservation as a heritage site ensures that its historical significance in health care and commerce is maintained, making it familiar to anyone with knowledge of its past. Additionally, the inscription of "1908 Nanton Drug Co" solidifies its ongoing association with health care and its earliest physicians in Nanton. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The two-storey brick construction, rectangular plan, flat roof, and classical detailing – including ornate cornice work, entablature, urns and voussoirs – are intact and clearly visible. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The pharmacy's classical façade, prominent location, and preservation of the exterior make it a landmark in Nanton.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Drug Company/Creighton Pharmacy** building stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of early 20th century commerce and health care in Nanton. Situated at its original location on 20th Street, the building continues to anchor the historic downtown, maintain its longstanding relationship with the surrounding streetscape and community. From the moment of construction in 1908, the pharmacy's two-storey brick façade, rectangular plan, and flat roof have defined its architectural presence. The classical detailing – ornate cornice work, entablature, urns and voussoirs – remain intact, reflecting the aspirations and craftsmanship of its era. These features, along with the original brickwork, stone foundation, and window surrounds, have been carefully preserved, with any repairs undertaken using materials that respect the building's historic character. The workmanship evident in the masonry and decorative elements continues to convey the quality and standards of the period, while the building's setting among other heritage structures reinforces its role as a visual and cultural landmark in Nanton's downtown. The pharmacy's enduring presence evokes its historic function as a centre for health care and commerce, sustaining its associative value and its significance within the community. Through the preservation of its original location, design, materials, and workmanship, the Nanton Drug Company/Creighton Pharmacy building remains an authentic and recognizable representation of Nanton's heritage. Its integrity ensures that the story of early commerce and health care in the town is effectively conveyed to present and future generations.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nanton Drug Company

2114 20th Street
Nanton, AB

Description of Resource

The Nanton Drug Company building, which later became known as Creighton Pharmacy, is a modest early 20th century commercial building constructed in 1908 and located in the historic downtown core of Nanton. The structure is characterized by its street-facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk, two-storey rectangular massing and brick exterior, a utilitarian storefront design with a recessed central entry flanked by large, fixed windows, and a second storey with four single-hung windows. The building is crowned by a stepped entablature with decorative urn finials, with the inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co."

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Drug Company lies in its association with the development of health care and commerce in Nanton and its connection to Dr. John Creighton as one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders, its representation of early 20th century commercial architecture, and its significance as a landmark.

The heritage value of the Nanton Drug Company is deeply rooted in its pivotal role in the evolution of health care and commerce in Nanton. Constructed in 1908, the building became the town's first dual-medical-pharmaceutical pharmacy where it served not only as a dispensary but also as a community hub for medical advice and supplies, especially during a time when Nanton lacked a formal hospital. This marked a significant advancement in local health services and commercial infrastructure. Its association with Dr. John Creighton is especially noteworthy. Dr. Creighton arrived in Nanton in 1903 after serving as a medical officer in the South African War, where he was awarded the Queen's Medal. As Nanton's first doctor, Dr. Creighton was instrumental in establishing medical services, often traveling by horseback to reach patients in rural areas. At the time, many of the first drug stores in Alberta were opened by a local physician. In partnership with Dr. G.M. Robertson, he purchased the drug business of W.A. Chisholm and built the brick Nanton Drug Company building, which quickly became a cornerstone of health care in the region.

The pharmacy's dual function as both a dispensary and a medical office exemplifies the common practice in small Alberta towns, where physicians frequently dispensed medications directly to patients. This model was crucial for rural communities, providing accessible health care and pharmaceutical services at a time when such resources were scarce. Its role in supporting the Keen Hospital (1927 – 1940) further underscores its importance in the town's early healthcare infrastructure.

Beyond its medical significance, the Nanton Drug Company contributed to the commercial growth of Nanton. Its prominent location on Main Street and its durable, fire-resistant brick construction reflected the aspirations of the town's early business community. The building represents early 20th century commercial architecture, characterized by its two-storey brick construction, utilitarian storefront design, ornate entablature with decorative urn finials, and the prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co.", and conveyed stability and trustworthiness—qualities essential for a pharmacy and

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Description of Resource

- Answers the question*: "What is the resource?"*
- Paints a picture of the resource.
- Describes what the resource consists of, location, age, features.

Heritage Value

- Answers the question*: "Why is this resource important or significant?"*
- Draws on the Significance Criteria selected in the evaluation.
- If more than one Significance Criteria, each criterion explained separately, if necessary.

community business. Its significance as a landmark is reinforced by its enduring presence in the historic downtown core, its role as a visual anchor in the streetscape, and its survival through key events such as the fire of 1924.

This resource is important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social value. It served as the local pharmacy and medical office, reflecting the dual roles often held by rural physicians in early Alberta towns, and supported the town's transition from a small railway community to a district metropolis. The building's well-preserved architectural features and its association with the modernization of rural services make it a valued part of Nanton's heritage landscape.

The Nanton Drug Company embodies the history and identity of Nanton by illustrating the pattern of service-oriented businesses clustering in prairie towns during the railway era, and by showcasing the aspirations and craftsmanship of its era through its classical detailing and durable construction. Its continued use and preservation reflect its enduring role in the community's commercial and social life, ensuring that the story of early commerce and healthcare in Nanton is effectively conveyed to present and future generations.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core abutting public sidewalk
- Two-storey form and massing with brick superstructure cover and stone foundation
- Long rectangular plan with short façade, stepped sidewall parapet, and flat roof
- Central recessed raked entrance with multi-panelled wood door with original hardware flanked by multi-panelled wood transoms and fixed storefront windows above
- Sandstone lug sills
- Upper entablature with decorated parapet, classical detailing and decorative brackets and urn finials
- Ornate metal mid-cornice with decorated brackets
- Brick voussoirs over second-floor windows
- Prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" within the entablature
- Association with Dr. Creighton and its dual development of healthcare and commerce.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Penley, Ken. *The History of Pharmacy in Alberta: The First One Hundred Years*. Edmonton: The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, 1993. https://archive.org/details/historyofpharmac0000unse/page/n13/mode/2up.
- Bomber Command Museum Archives. *Nanton's Fetherston's Grocery Store*. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/s,fetherstongrocerystore.pdf
- Nanton and District Historical Society Collection – Glenbow Archives https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/nanton-and district-historical-society-collection.
- Creighton Pharmacy Postcard – Internet Archive https://archive.org/details/PC004486.
- "History of the Keen Building – Mainstreet Apartments." Mainstreet Nanton. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.mainstreetnanton.com/historyofthekeenbuilding.
- "1908 - Nanton Drug Co, Nanton, Alberta - Dated Buildings and Cornerstones." Waymarking.com. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wmZD3N_1908_Nanton_Drug_Co_Nanton_Alberta.Bomber Command Museum Archives. *Nanton's Fetherston's Grocery Store*. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/s,fetherstongrocerystore.pdf.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. *(HS 18950)*. Government of Alberta. Accessed December 7, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+18950.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (SoS)

Character-Defining Elements (CDEs)

- Answers the question: *"What features embody the heritage value of the resource?"*
- Identify the principal features such as the materials, forms, locations, spatial configurations, uses, and cultural associations, or meanings that contribute to heritage value.
- Must be retained to preserve the building's heritage value.
- Provide guidance in conserving or rehabilitating the resource.

Sources

- Identify sources of information for future reference.

STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 13 Places of Interest become part of Nanton’s Heritage Inventory

W.S. KEELEY BUILDING

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the commercial, social, and institutional development of Nanton;
- Its enduring significance as a landmark anchoring the historic downtown core;
- Its association with notable local merchants C.H. Marshall and William S. Keeley;
- Its symmetrical arrangement of large display windows on the ground floor, framed by brick pilasters, reflects the building's original commercial function.





AUDITORIUM HOTEL

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the early 20th century transportation and hospitality industry;
- Its representation of Edwardian Commercial design demonstrating the craftsmanship and material authenticity of the period;
- Its role in music, culture, community gatherings, and local folklore;
- Its significance as a landmark with symbolic value as a visual anchor in Nanton's historic commercial core.

FETHERSTON'S GROCERY

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with Orie Fetherston, a prominent local businessman and former mayor;
- Its significant role as a hub for groceries and community social interaction in Nanton's mid-20th century commercial life;
- Its modest 20th century architecture characterized by its simple massing, a street-facing orientation, and a utilitarian storefront.





NANTON DRUG COMPANY

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the development of health care and commerce in Nanton;
- Its connection to Dr. John Creighton as one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders;
- Its representation of early 20th century commercial architecture;
- Its significance as a landmark reinforced by its enduring presence in the historic downtown core.

DENOON MEAT MARKET

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with entrepreneurial spirit of early settlers and the Denoon family;
- Its representation of early 20th century prairie commercial architecture with a distinctive false-front brick façade;
- Its significance as a community landmark as a recognizable and feature of Nanton's historic main commercial street.





SHAW AND COOPER BLOCK

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the entrepreneurial leadership of early business owners, Nanton founder H.M. Shaw and first Nanton mayor J.T. Cooper;
- Its association with the development of commerce and banking offices;
- Its representation of early 20th century commercial design, including the building's angled corner façade, inscribed with "Shaw & Cooper, 1909";
- Its significance as a landmark, which serves as a visual anchor in Nanton's historic downtown.

NANTON NEWS BUILDING

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with journalism, providing coverage of agricultural issues, local politics, community events and civic engagement;
- Its central role in the community's growth;
- Its serving as a link between residents and the wider province;
- Its technological adaptation evolving from hand press to linotype;
- Its representation of a purpose-built commercial structure projecting permanence and prosperity with he surviving materials and workmanship from its 1908 construction remaining intact.





NANTON TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the development and modernization of provincial telecommunications infrastructure in Alberta;
- Its role as a local switching station and operations hub for telephone service in Nanton and surrounding areas;
- Its representation of mid-century utility design featuring a modest, single-storey structure, typical of Alberta Government Telephone's mid-century rural exchanges;
- Its significance as a landmark with symbolic value of early telecommunications.

CREIGHTON RESIDENCE

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the pioneering Creighton family, notably Dr. John A. Creighton, the first doctor in the Nanton area;
- Its development of healthcare and business in Nanton;
- Its association with his son, James Forbes Creighton, a WWII air force veteran, local pharmacist, and active in sports and community development;
- Its representation of early 20th century residential architecture exemplified by its design as a 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit house.





KEEN HOSPITAL

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the pioneering efforts of Dr. William H. Keen and nurse Edith Keen to establish a modern healthcare facility in Nanton;
- Its association with the provision of accessible local medical services, eliminating the need to travel for some services;
- Its representation of early 20th century institutional design and construction;
- Its significance as a symbolic landmark of small-town hospitals.

DR. G.E. MCKEAGE RESIDENCE AND DENTAL OFFICE

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with Dr. George Ernest McKeage, Nanton's first full-time dentist;
- Its delivery of healthcare through home-based dental practice exemplifying the integration of professional services into the daily life of Nanton;
- Its representation of modest, utilitarian design and craftsmanship of local builders;
- Its distinguished example of early 20th century prairie domestic design.





NANTON MASONIC HALL

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the religious, civic, and fraternal life of Nanton, notably as used by the Presbyterian, Methodist and United Church of Canada congregations;
- Its association with Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons;
- Its value as a representation of a modest early 20th century wood-frame hall design and its adaptive reuse;
- Its representation of a modest wood-frame design typical of early 20th century prairie community halls.

NANTON SCOUT-GUIDE HALL

Heritage Value lies in:

- Its association with the development of Scouting and Guiding in Nanton;
- Its example of community resourcefulness to conceive, fund, and construct the hall through the collective volunteer efforts of Nanton residents;
- Its representation of mid-century log construction;
- Its significance as a modest but enduring community landmark.




HOTEL
TAVERN
CAFE
ROOMS
HOTEL
SHAW & COOPER
CIBC BANKING CENTRE
20 St.
MEDICAL CLINIC
TOWN OFFICE
CANADA POST
BANK
BARON

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Open House – January 14, 2026

- Strong attendance by the community and building owners.
- Initial concerns about designation calmed
- People were engaged in the conversation
- Asked a lot of questions
- Received clarification about the meaning of designation
- Presented with the benefits of municipal designation

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for Building Owners

What Stays the Same

- Full ownership and control
- Daily operations unaffected.
- Flexibility in use
- Property remains marketable

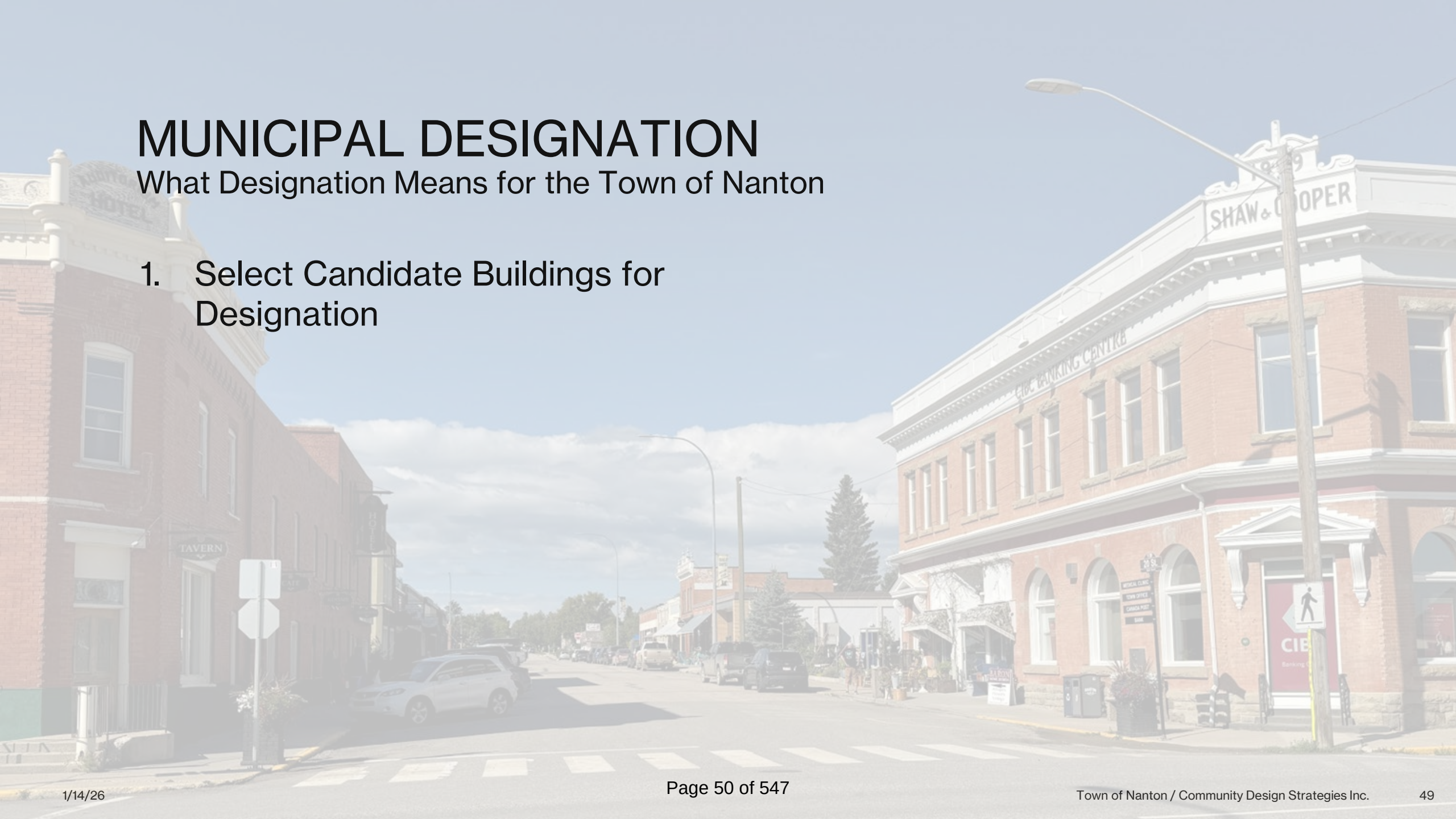
What Changes (in a Good Way)

- Protection of key heritage features
- Access to funding
- Technical support
- Official recognition

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for the Town of Nanton

1. Select Candidate Buildings for Designation



MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for the Town of Nanton

1. Select Candidate Buildings for Designation

2. Engage Property Owners Early and Clearly

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for the Town of Nanton

1. Select Candidate Buildings for Designation

2. Engage Property Owners Early and Clearly

3. Prepare a Draft Designation Bylaw

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for the Town of Nanton

1. Select Candidate Buildings for Designation

2. Engage Property Owners Early and Clearly

3. Prepare a Draft Designation Bylaw

4. Issue Notice of Intention to Designate (NOI)

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for the Town of Nanton

1. Select Candidate Buildings for Designation
2. Engage Property Owners Early and Clearly
3. Prepare a Draft Designation Bylaw
4. Issue Notice of Intention to Designate (NOI)
5. Finalize and Pass the Designation Bylaw

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for the Town of Nanton

1. Select Candidate Buildings for Designation
2. Engage Property Owners Early and Clearly
3. Prepare a Draft Designation Bylaw
4. Issue Notice of Intention to Designate (NOI)
5. Finalize and Pass the Designation Bylaw
6. Provide ongoing support to designated property owners

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for the Town of Nanton

1. Select Candidate Buildings for Designation
2. Engage Property Owners Early and Clearly
3. Prepare a Draft Designation Bylaw
4. Issue Notice of Intention to Designate (NOI)
5. Finalize and Pass the Designation Bylaw
6. Provide ongoing support to designated property owners
7. Celebrate and communicate the designation

MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION

What Designation Means for the Town of Nanton

1. Select Candidate Buildings for Designation
2. Engage Property Owners Early and Clearly
3. Prepare a Draft Designation Bylaw
4. Issue Notice of Intention to Designate (NOI)
5. Finalize and Pass the Designation Bylaw
6. Provide ongoing support to designated property owners
7. Celebrate and communicate the designation
8. Continue designation in phases

RECOMMENDATIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource

2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners
6. Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners
6. Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework
7. Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners
6. Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework
7. Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings
8. Expand and Update Heritage Survey

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners
6. Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework
7. Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings
8. Expand and Update Heritage Survey
9. Develop a Heritage Resource Management Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners
6. Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework
7. Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings
8. Expand and Update Heritage Survey
9. Develop a Heritage Resource Management Plan
10. Consider a Downtown Historic District

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners
6. Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework
7. Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings
8. Expand and Update Heritage Survey
9. Develop a Heritage Resource Management Plan
10. Consider a Downtown Historic District
11. Initiate a Building Plaque Program

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners
6. Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework
7. Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings
8. Expand and Update Heritage Survey
9. Develop a Heritage Resource Management Plan
10. Consider a Downtown Historic District
11. Initiate a Building Plaque Program
12. Integrate Heritage into Broader Initiatives

RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Outcomes – Moving Into Action

1. Adopt Findings as a Planning Resource
2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw
3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Designation
4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee
5. Strengthen Relationships with Property Owners
6. Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework
7. Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings
8. Expand and Update Heritage Survey
9. Develop a Heritage Resource Management Plan
10. Consider a Downtown Historic District
11. Initiate a Building Plaque Program
12. Integrate Heritage into Broader Initiatives
13. Maintain Public Engagement

CONCLUSION



Recognizing The Places That Matter

Stories, Craftsmanship, Character

Designation is a Partnership



HISTORICAL CONTEXT PAPER

Based on Alberta's "*In* Time *and* Place" Thematic Approach

Town of Nanton

Introduction

This context paper explores the rich and layered history of the Town of Nanton, Alberta, through the lens of the province's "In Time and Place" thematic approach. By tracing the evolution of Nanton from its prehistoric foundations to its emergence as a vibrant rural community, the paper situates local developments within broader patterns of Alberta's past. The narrative begins with the ancient landscapes shaped by glacial forces and Indigenous stewardship, moves through the fur trade era and early settlement, and follows the town's growth in agriculture, transportation, and industry. Each chapter highlights how natural resources, cultural exchanges, and community initiatives have shaped Nanton's identity over time. In doing so, this paper not only documents the milestones and challenges faced by Nanton, but also reflects on the enduring connections between people, place, and history in southern Alberta.

Prehistoric Foundations

Long before the town of Nanton was established in 1903, its landscape was part of a dynamic prehistoric world shaped by ancient seas, glacial forces, and Indigenous presence. Situated in southern Alberta near Mosquito Creek, Nanton lies atop sedimentary bedrock formed during the Cretaceous period,[1] when much of the province was submerged beneath the Western Interior Seaway—a vast inland sea that left behind marine fossils and rich deposits of sandstone and shale.[2]

As the Ice Age ended roughly 12,000 years ago, glacial meltwaters carved the foothills and plains, depositing fertile soils that would later support agriculture and settlement.[3] These post-glacial landscapes became seasonal hunting grounds for Indigenous peoples, who followed bison herds and left behind archaeological traces such as stone tools and campsites throughout the Foothills region.[4] While no major prehistoric sites have been documented directly within Nanton's town limits, its proximity to known sites near the Porcupine Hills and Highwood River suggests it was part of a broader cultural corridor used for thousands of years.[5]

The prehistoric legacy of the land continued to shape Nanton's development. The town's early success as a ranching and farming hub was made possible by the ancient processes that formed its soils and terrain.[6] Even today, the subtle contours of the land—its coulees, creek beds, and glacial till—echo the deep time that preceded settlement.

In this way, Nanton's story within *Prehistoric Alberta* is not defined by dramatic fossil finds or monumental ruins, but by its embeddedness in a landscape shaped over eons. From ancient seas to Indigenous stewardship, the land beneath Nanton holds a quiet but profound record of Alberta's deep past.

Fur Trade

Peter Fidler was the first European-born traveler to explore the Nanton region, seeking to expand the fur trade for the Hudson's Bay Company. Fedler's extensive career with the Hudson's Bay Company included surveying and mapping the western plains. His journals detail his travels through the Porcupine Hills, which was known as "the gap", where the Oldman River originates from the mountains.[7] and interactions with Indigenous peoples in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. His work contributed significantly to the mapping and understanding of the region's geography and fur trade networks.[8] [9] [10]

[1] Alberta Geological Survey, *Geology of Southern Alberta*, Alberta Energy Regulator, accessed October 27, 2025, https://static.ags.aer.ca/files/document/MAP/Map_601.pdf.
[2] Aaron Kilmury, "Western Interior Seaway," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, February 28, 2025, accessed October 28, 2025, https://www.the canadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/western-interior-seaway.
[3] Britannica, "Meltwater deposits," accessed October 28, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/science/glacial-landform/Meltwater-deposits.
[4] Alberta Government, "*Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*," November 1, 2013, 1.
[5] Alberta Government, "*Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta"*.
[6] Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland* **(**Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975), 10.
[7] Peter Fidler, J*ournal of a Journey over Land from Buckingham House to the Rocky Mountains in 1792-93*, except from Fidler's Journal, accessed October 30, 2025, http://www.ulethbridge.ca/lib/digitized_collections/ourheritage/index_page_stuff/following_trails/fidler/Fidler1.html.
[8] "Barbara Belyea, David J. Wishart, ed., "FIDLER, PETER (1769-1822)," *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/.
[9] "Peter Fidler," *Wikipedia*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Fidler.
[10] Robert S. Allen, "FIDLER, PETER," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 6, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-. Accessed October 30, 2025, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?Biold=36989.

Subsequent fur traders traveling between Fort Macleod and Calgary followed established Indigenous trails, which ran approximately two kilometers west of what would become Nanton and crossed Mosquito Creek three kilometers to the north. These routes, such as the Old Macleod Trail, were vital for transporting goods and were used long before the arrival of the railway, reflecting the deep historical connections between Indigenous travel networks and the fur trade.[11] [12] [13]

Aboriginal Life

The earliest known inhabitants of the Nanton region in southern Alberta were Indigenous groups who settled in the area after the last glacial period, over 13,000 years ago.[14] The Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre, located south of Nanton, provides a comprehensive overview of the 6,000-year history of Plains Buffalo Culture.[15] Additionally, the Old Women's Buffalo Jump, situated to the north of Nanton and west of Cayley, was utilized for approximately 2,000 years beginning in 500 CE.[16] Radiocarbon dating has also provided evidence of an earlier Indigenous presence in the area.[17]

Closer to Nanton, rock art was found at William's Coulee in the Porcupine Hills, ten kilometres west of the town. The site, dated to 1500 CE,[18] is described as "…one of the most vivid, compelling, and most complete views of Biographical rock art outside of Writing-on-Stone".[19]

Nanton is situated within the territory defined by the 1877 Treaty 7, an agreement between the Crown and the member First Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy. The Blackfoot Confederacy inhabited the southern plains, where they hunted bison for sustenance and clothing.

Resource Development

The Findlay brothers established a lumber camp in the hills west of Nanton, and according to a 1903 article published in the Nanton News, they produced one million feet of lumber, which was used in constructing many of Nanton's early buildings.[20]

In 1931, rumors of gold in the mountains west of Nanton sparked a brief gold rush and renewed interest in the legendary Lost Lemon Mine. The Lost Lemon Mine story, which dates back to the late 19th century, involves tales of murder, mystery, and a lost gold vein that prospectors have searched for over generations. Reports from that year mention a gold deposit discovered at the headwaters of Livingstone River, although geological surveys indicate that gold found in Alberta rivers is typically fine "flour gold" and not easily recovered in large quantities.[21]

During this gold rush period, Marshall Brothers Hardware in Nanton reportedly received a letter from a Vancouver company offering gold panning equipment, reflecting the surge in local interest in prospecting and mining supplies.[22]

Transportation

Early traders traveling between Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary relied on established Indigenous pathways.[23] Before the Calgary and Edmonton (C&E) Railway was built, most supplies and goods arrived by pack trains of horses and mules from Fort Benton, Montana, with many items originating in New Orleans and transported via the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Fort Benton.

[11] Stephen Strand, "Historic Trade Route Still Has a Presence in the Foothills," *OkotoksOnline,* October 7, 2024, accessed October 30, 2025, https://okotoksonline.com/articles/historic-trade-route-still-has-a-prescence-in-the-foothills.
[12] Scott Berthelette, "Fur Trade Route Networks," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, February 2, 2023, accessed October 27, 2025, https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/fur-trade-routes.
[13] Alberta Register of Historic Places, *Macleod Trail Cultural Landscape*, Government of Alberta, accessed October 27, 2025, https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=1&ObjectID=4664-0450.
[14] Alberta.ca, *Archaeological Sites Alberta*, accessed August 15, 2025, https://www.alberta.ca/archaeological-sites-alberta.
[15] "Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre, "About The Jump!," *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jum World Heritage Site*, accessed October 28, 2025, https://headsmashedin.ca/about-jump.
[16] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Old Women Buffalo Jump*, accessed October 5, 2025, https://parks.canada.ca/culture/designation/lieu-site/old-women-buffalo-jump.
[17] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Old Women Buffalo Jump*.
[18] Jack Brink, *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site, EcPl-16, Southwestern Alberta* (Edmonton: Archaeological Survey of Alberta, April 13, 2008), 48.
[19] Brink, *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site*, 49.
[20] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 138.
[21] "Lost Lemon Mine, *Wikipedia & Mysteries of Canada*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Lemon_Mine.
[22] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 90-92.
[23] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 11.



Figure 1: *Nanton Train Station – Nanton & District Historical Society*

The completion of the railway between Calgary and Fort Macleod in 1892, with Thomas Field as the section man in Nanton, marked a turning point. The first building in what would become Nanton was the section house for the C&E Railway, which also served as accommodation for travelers before a hotel was available.[24]

The railway connected the region to the outside world and dramatically reduced travel times. An 18-hour train journey between Calgary and Edmonton was much faster than the previous five-day stagecoach trip.[25]



Figure 2: *Hewer Garage - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-36, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Roads gradually improved over time, with the construction of a steel bridge over Mosquito Creek and some roads being gravelled. However, road maintenance was a persistent challenge, as winter snow and spring rains often made roads impassable. Local farmers frequently repaired roads themselves.[26]

In 1929, the Auto Trails Association established a new 'auto trail' through Nanton, designed so vehicles would pass by every local garage.[27] One notable garage was a concrete building constructed by Julius Osterbauer around 1917 for Gordon Hewer, the Buick agent. Hewer operated the garage until 1920, after which it was sold to Galloway and Bentley. Galloway continued to run the garage until 1935.[28]

Agricultural Development

By the 1880s, the federal government had surveyed the southern Alberta region and offered ranchers leases of up to 10,000 acres for one cent per year.[29] This policy is documented in local histories such as *Mosquito Creek Roundup* and Alberta government land records. Both cattle companies and individual ranchers established operations in the area, driving herds north from Montana.



Figure 3: *Round up crew on CC Ranch near Nanton - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Many of these ranches, including the Oxley Ranch and the Walrond Ranch (now Waldron), have operated for more than 140 years. The Northwest Cattle Company's legacy

[24] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 137.
[25] Tony Cashman, *A Picture of Alberta* (Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1979), 39.
[26] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 188.
[27] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News* (Southern Alberta Collection, September 12, 1929), accessed December 4, 2025, https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/sanews/search/searchterm/nanton+news/field/title/mode/all/conn/and/order/date/ad/asc/cosuppress/1.
[28] Osler, Hammond & Nanton, *New Homes, Free Farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Western Canada* (Winnipeg: Osler, Hammond & Nanton, ca. 1901).
[29] Alberta Department of Industry and Development, *Survey of Nanton* (Edmonton: Government of Alberta, 1960), 2.



Figure 4: *Homestead Shack - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

continues as the Bar U National Historic Site, recognized by Parks Canada for its role in Alberta's ranching history.

In 1893, the Winnipeg-based company Osler, Hammond & Nanton managed the sale of "New Homes…Free Farms" along the Calgary & Edmonton (C&E) rail right-of-way. Sir Augustus Nanton, the company's president, gave his name to the town. The company promoted even numbered sections of Dominion Government land as free homesteads for settlers, while odd-numbered sections were available for purchase at $2.50 per acre. These details are supported by historical land sale advertisements and local government archives.[30]

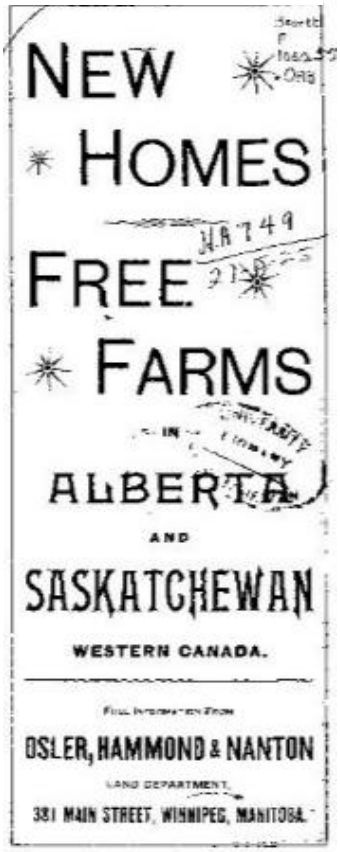


Figure 5*: Osler, Hammond, Nanton Pamphlet - Archive.org*

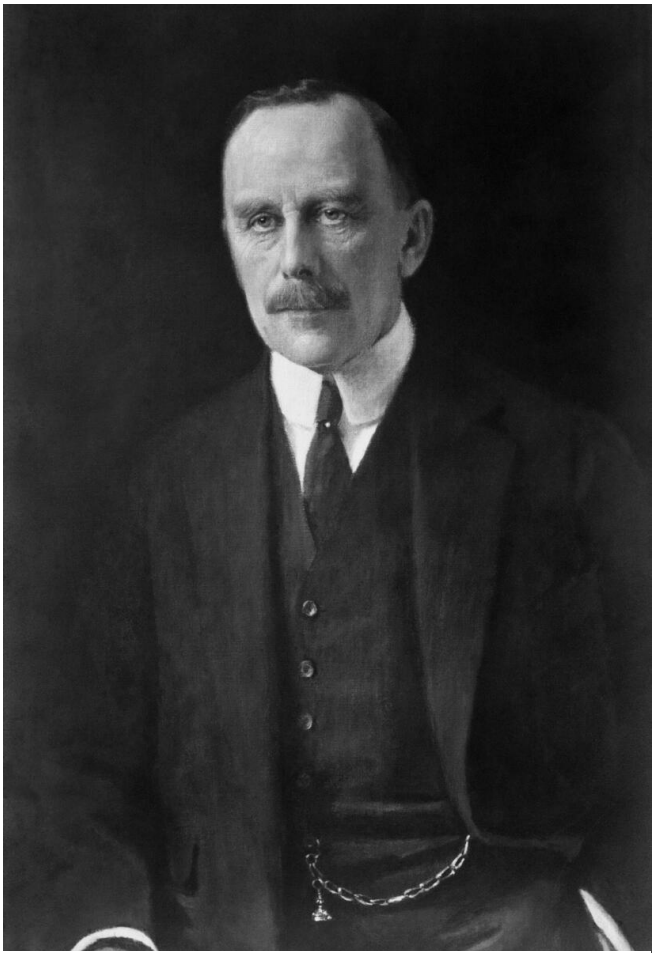


Figure 6: *Sir Augustus Nanton, early 1900s - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

The first shipment of grain from Nanton by rail occurred in 1905, from the farm of A.E. Burnett, with the grain sent directly to Winnipeg.[31]

The construction of the first grain elevator in 1906 by the Nanton Lumber and Grain Company marked the beginning of large-scale grain handling in the region. By the 1920s, seven elevators operated along the C&E rail line, handling up to one million bushels of grain annually.[32] Elevator companies also engaged in the coal business, with coal mined locally and transported by train from southern Alberta, then stored in sheds near the elevators. These developments are documented in local newspapers and historical society publications.

[30] Osler, Hammond and Nanton, *New Homes, Free Farms*.
[31] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 177.
[32] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 188.



Figure 7*: Nanton Grain Elevators - Archive.org*

It was common for residents to combine town life with agricultural pursuits. *Bernard Kinney's* family lived in a one-storey wood-frame house on Shaw (20th) Street. His parents, *William and Anna (Dunn) Kinney*, originally from Illinois, settled northeast of Nanton in the early 1900s to farm. After William's death in 1929, Anna and later Bernard continued the farm operations.



Figure 8: *Half-way house near Nanton, Alberta - Archive.org*

Urban Development

In 1880-81, Joe Trollinger, a former American army soldier, and his wife Lucy constructed a sod building at Mosquito Creek Crossing, serving as a stopping place along the Fort Macleod-Calgary trail. Trollinger, once a whisky trader, became known for his gardening skills, while Lucy's cooking earned their establishment a reputation as a "popular eating spot." Notable guests included Governor General Marquis of Lorne and Bishop Pinkham, who praised Lucy's culinary talents in his diary.[33]



Figure 9: *Ingram's Meat Market, 1906-07 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-19, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

The townsite that would become Nanton was selected by Osler, Hammond, and Nanton.[34] The first commercial buildings appeared in 1902, including Hugh M. Shaw's general store and machinery business, the Auditorium Hotel, blacksmith shops operated by Ianson and William White, Ingram's Meat Market, and White's boarding house.

Walter Donnelly moved to Nanton in 1914, working as a buyer for the N. Bawlf Grain Company and later as elevator manager until 1940.[35] His family lived in a modest home on Shaw (20th) Street, constructed by the railway around 1900.[36] This property, known as the Donnelly House, was reportedly owned by the grain company.[37]

In 1941, Clyde Stroud became elevator manager, residing in the elevator house on main street with his family until their relocation to Oregon in 1948.

Efforts to secure a reliable water source began in 1904, with a proposed pipeline from a spring ten kilometers west



Figure 10*: Worker's House - Prairie Towns website*

[33] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Round Up*, 1975, 13.
[34] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 170.
[35] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News* ("W.S. Donnelly Passes in Nanton", 1949-09-01), 1.
[36] M. Kimmerly, email message to author, October 29, 2025.
[37] Alberta Heritage Survey, *HS 26146*, 1981.



Figure 11: *Railway Avenue, 1913-19 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-11, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

of the village, though the plan was deemed too costly.[38] In 1909, the town hired Galt and Smith to investigate a gravity water system from local springs, which eventually became Nanton's water source in 1955.[39]

That same year, land was purchased east of the railway for an electrical power plant. Initially powered by coal, the plant switched to natural gas in 1917 and only generated power at night. After a fire destroyed the plant, an agreement with Calgary Power ensured continued electricity supply, with local distribution lines connected to the main transmission line. Calgary Power had a local office for a period before operations were moved to High River.[40]

A volunteer fire brigade formed in 1911 played a crucial role in stopping two fires the following year, notably preventing the destruction of the Nanton Hotel.[41]

Politics and Government

During a period of rapid development, Nanton was officially incorporated as a village on June 22, 1903. Jim Bender was elected as the first overseer, serving as the sole elected official at the time. Just over four years later, in 1907, the province approved Nanton's incorporation as a town. The current overseer, Hugh Shaw, was instructed to organize an election for a council consisting of a mayor and six councillors. John Cooper was subsequently elected as the first mayor.[42]

Health

The first physician in the Nanton area was Dr. John A. Creighton, who established his homestead just east of town and operated his medical office in the Ingram Building on Railway (20th) Avenue. In 1908, Dr. Creighton and Dr. G.M. Robertson acquired the Nanton Drug Company.

Efforts to build a hospital in Nanton began in 1905 when a group of local women organized a fundraiser and secured a parcel of land on Shaw (20th) Street from the town. Despite these efforts, the hospital project did not receive enough support to proceed.[43]

A boarding house on Alberta (21st) Street was converted into a hospital, operating from approximately 1927 to 1929. After its closure, the building returned to use as a boarding house and was eventually demolished around 1945.

Dr. William H. Keen arrived in 1905 and practiced medicine above the office of Ferris and Ransom. His house calls extended from Cayley to Stavely, Lomond, and into the mountains. In 1927, Dr. Keen built the Nanton General Hospital (also known as the Keen Hospital), which served the region until about 1940. The hospital accommodated twelve patients and featured its own dispensary, modern amenities such as advanced electrical equipment for disease treatment, two bathrooms, a kitchen, a sunroom, and a water system with an electric pump, as reported by the Nanton News. After the hospital closed, the building was converted into apartments.

Work and Leisure

Mosquito Creek was a central feature for recreation in Nanton, offering swimming holes formed by beaver dams. A swimming pool was built next to the power plant, where steam from the generators was used to heat the water—a notable luxury for the time. In 1928, L. Carmack constructed a new pool, but it was destroyed by fire in 1930, leading residents to return to creek swimming until a new municipal pool was completed in 1969.[44]

[38] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 49.
[39] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 178.
[40] Nanton and District Historical Society, Mosquito Creek Roundup, 1975, 125,153, 178.
[41] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 176.
[42] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland,* vol. 2 (Mosquito Creek Historical Society, 2005), 137.
[43] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 182.
[44] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 168,192, 233.



Figure 12: *Children swimming in Mosquito Creek - Nanton & District Historical Society*

The creek also served as a popular spot for picnics, fishing, hiking, and skating.

Community organizations played a significant role in local leisure activities. The first meeting of the Nanton Masonic Lodge was held in Shaw's Opera House, owned by H.M. Shaw, one of the lodge's founding members. The lodge later purchased St. Andrew's Hall, previously owned by the Presbyterian Church.[45]

The Boy Scout troop was established in February 1912 with twelve members, led by Walter Frantzen as the first Scout Master. Meetings were initially held at various locations until a group of fathers decided a dedicated facility was needed. Logs were sourced from the Priddis area, and with the help of a carpenter, the fathers built the Scout-Guide Hall, officially opened on April 24, 1957.[46]

Pistol and rifle target shooting became a hobby for a group of men in 1937, with shooting taking place in the curling rink or Maple Leaf Hall. The Nanton Rifle and Revolver Club was formed in 1941, and members competed in local and national competitions. When an Air Cadet unit was formed in 1942, club members provided shooting lessons to the cadets. Over time, both indoor and outdoor ranges were constructed.[47]

Entertainment venues also contributed to community life. The Rex Theatre opened in 1908, showing silent films and charging 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. Originally a retail store selling sewing machines, pianos, and organs, the building was converted to a garage in 1932. The Elks Lodge built the Elkland Theatre in 1925 for



Figure 13*: Masonic Hall - Prairie Towns website*

organizational and public entertainment purposes, including film screenings and dances. William McKay managed film presentations as part of a circuit serving small communities, and the theatre operated until 1956.[48]



Figure 12: *Nanton Rhythm Aces early 1930s - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-57, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

In the early 1980s, Bridget Jones, a former choral music instructor, and Nanton resident Janice Ackroyd, was inspired by a theatre production in High River and founded the Chinook Players and Singers in Nanton. Their first performance was "HMS Pinafore."[4950] Building on this success, Jones and Gordon Denoon established the Foothills Choir, with Jones as director and Denoon as

[45] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 222.
[46] Nanton Scout-Guide Hall, *Program for Official Opening*, April 24, 1957.
[47] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 233-234.
[48] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 167.
[49] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol.2*, 73.
[50] Bridget Jones, interview, October 4, 2025.

manager. The choir's first meeting drew 60 participants, eventually growing to 200 members from surrounding communities, such as Longview and Claresholm.[51] Both organizations remain active today.

Spiritual Life

As soon as the first ranchers settled in the region, church services were held in homes and ranches. St. Cecilia Roman Catholic Church was constructed by Frank Du Rocher, who owned a lumber mill and coal mine west of Nanton. The first Catholic services in the area took place either in 1900 at the train station or in 1904 at the Coughlin Ranch. Later, services were held at the Nanton Hotel in the sample room, where traveling sales agents displayed their merchandise. St. Cecilia was completed on June 3, 1907, and consecrated by Bishop Legal of St. Albert.[52]

Presbyterian church services in Nanton began in 1899, led by summer student ministers. Early gatherings were held in the Auditorium Hotel, private homes, and a school. The congregation raised funds to build St. Andrew's Hall across the street from the Methodist Church.[53]

After years of discussion, the national congregations of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches united as the United Church of Canada. In Nanton, services were held in the former Methodist church, while the Presbyterian Church building became the Masonic Hall. In 1930, C.H. Marshall bequeathed $1,000 for a new United Church building, and the congregation raised an additional $7,000. In 1950, Grace Hall was moved, and the Nanton United Church was built on the site, opening the following year.[54]

The first Anglican Christ Church was dedicated on August 20, 1905. Within a few decades, the congregation outgrew the building, and a larger church was dedicated by the Bishop of Calgary in 1929. The original church became the attached Parish Hall.[55]

Methodist Church services began in the home of William White and at the train station in 1902. Grace Methodist Church was completed two years later at the corner of Alberta (21st) Street and 1st (21st) Avenue, where the United Church now stands.

The Nanton First Baptist Church held its initial meetings in the local schoolhouse and then in the Methodist Church. Planning for their own building began, and the new church opened in March 1907. In 1914, a parsonage was built to the west of the church.[56]

Business and Industry

Hugh Shaw arrived in High River in 1891 at age 15 and, after working on several ranches, established his own homestead east of the future Nanton townsite. Recognizing an opportunity to serve local ranchers, he built a small store at the corner of what became Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. [57] The store was later reoriented to face Railway Avenue. Shaw sold his business to Bob McLaren and Alan Hammill in 1904, who then sold it to Charles Marshall in 1906. Marshall acquired several hardware stores in the area.[58]

In 1903, Shaw partnered with John T. Cooper to sell real estate for the C&E Railway and Hudson's Bay Company, also representing insurance and loan companies. In 1909, Shaw and James Cooper commissioned a prominent two-storey brick building at the entrance to downtown Nanton, situated at the intersection of Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. The building was designed by distinguished Calgary architect William Dodd, whose works are recognized in the Canadian Register of Historic Places, including notable buildings in Vancouver, Regina, Qu'Appelle, and Calgary's City Hall constructed between 1907and 1911.[59] Dodd also designed the Nanton Consolidated School, which opened in 1909. The contractor for both the Shaw and Cooper building and the school was Andrew Davis, with Allen Brown serving as the bricklayer.[60]

[51] Jones, interview.
[52] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 70, 212.
[53] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 213.
[54] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 212-216.
[55] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 210-211.
[56] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup vol. 2*, 56.
[57] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 138.
[58] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 138, 421.
[59] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Canadian Register of Historic Places*, accessed October 5, 2025, https://www.historicplaces.ca.
[60] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 381.



Figure 15: *Shaw St. Nanton, Alta. - Glenbow Museum - public domain*



Figure 16: *Nanton New employee Bert Klebe in front of newspaper office - Glenbow Archives NA-1397-3, Glenbow Museum - public domain.*

The Shaw and Cooper building housed various enterprises, including Ford automobile sales, and over the years accommodated several banks, including the Bank of Hamilton, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). The upper floor served as residential apartments from 1909 until approximately 1960.

Between 1909 and 1922, the Nanton Trading Company operated from the building, offering dry goods, groceries, and men's clothing. After a fire in 1924 destroyed his store, Thomas Attwood moved his jewellery business into the Shaw and Cooper building. The basement later housed a barber shop and pool hall, and in 1937, W. J. Stewart opened a clothing and wares store there.

Several medical professionals also maintained offices in the building, and for a time, Dr. George Wannup operated a hospital facility there. As Nanton's downtown developed, new businesses appeared, including a livery stable, machinery shop, butcher shop, bakery, laundry, grocery store, and millinery.

The first issue of the *Nanton News* was published on June 25, 1903, listing needed businesses such as a chartered bank, drug store, dressmaker, barber, and shoemaker.[61] Founded by John Bender, who arrived from the United States with his wife Elzabeth and daughter Lena,[62] The newspaper changed ownership several times and moved to three different locations on Shaw Street before relocating to a new two-storey brick building at the corner of Norrish (19th) Street and 1st (21st) Avenue. The printing press was located on the main floor, with accommodations above. In 1905, the paper was sold to two individuals from Washington State, D.C. Jones and A.Z. Jessup.

Subsequently, A.Z. Jessup became the sole proprietor and took on his sons, Ralph and Clyde.[63] Dick Hawk joined in 1945 and in 1957 he and George Meyer purchased the paper from Clyde Jessup, after which Meyer left in 1959 to be part owner of the Camrose Canadian. In 1977, Hawk sold the paper to Ed and Lynne Maynard. In 1986 George Meyer repurchased the paper and moved Nanton News from the building on 19th Street into the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street[64]. Meyer sold the paper to Frank and Emily McTighe in 1989.

Hotels such as the Auditorium Hotel, Nanton Hotel, and White House Hotel were built in the early 1900s, serving travelers and residents.

The Auditorium Hotel was constructed in 1902 by W.J. Brown at the corner of Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. Originally a two-storey brick-clad building, it featured twelve sleeping rooms, a dining room, kitchen, office, sitting room, and bar. In 1903, Brown moved the original structure back and added a two-storey front extension.[65] A three-storey rear addition followed, along

[61] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News*, June 25, 1903.
[62] Library of Archives Canada, *1906 Northwest Prairie Provinces Census*, 1906, accessed August 19, 2025, https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=census&id=464104&lang=eng&.
[63] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140-141.
[64] Emily McTighe, interview, October 2, 2025.
[65] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140.



Figure 17: *Auditorium Hotel, 1902-03 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-13, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

with the installation of steam heating and an ice house to store ice for keeping meat and produce cool.[66]

Area rancher *Jack Bruen* built the *Nanton Hotel* in 1906 at the corner of Railway (20th) Avenue and Alberta (21st) Street. The hotel served the community for over five decades before being destroyed by fire in 1960.[67] The *White House Hotel and Boarding House*, built by Thomas Fetherston around 1906 at Railway (20th) Avenue and Grieg (22nd) Street, was tragically destroyed by fire the same year. Although fires destroyed some of these buildings, owners often rebuilt.


Figure 18: *Fetherston Store interior- Nanton & District Historical Society*

Other businesses included grocery stores, butcher shops, hardware stores, and jewellery shops, many of which changed ownership or expanded over the years. After working in various Nanton businesses, *James Orville (Orie) Fetherston* launched his own grocery store in a building constructed by Dr. Robertson on Shaw (20th) Street. In 1917, Fetherston purchased the building and added an extension.[68]

Between 1910 and 1932, the *T. Eaton Company Limited* sold mail-order kit homes through its catalogue. Lumber was shipped by rail from British Columbia to the nearest station. The packages included lumber, windows, doors, and frames, though the lumber was not pre-cut. This often left surplus material, which could be used to build a shed or garage.


Figure 19: *Eastbourne, model 666 - Les Henry, Catalogue Houses*

One such home in Nanton was built by *Dr. James Creighton* and his wife *Minnie (Wardrobe)*. Their house was the Eaton's Eastbourne, model 666. It was priced at $1,116 in the 1916 catalogue and $1,519 in the 1919 edition.[69] Eaton's described the model as "...a modern type of square houses...where you obtain the maximum space at the minimum cost of both material and labor."[70]

Across the street, *Dr. McKeage*, Nanton's first full-time dentist, purchased a house built in 1904 by Mr. Hammill. Initially working from an office above a store, McKeage later added a dental office to his residence, where he practiced until his retirement in 1948.[71]

In the 1950s, Nanton earned the nickname *"Tap Town"* after Howard Armstrong, owner of Armstrong's Department and Variety Store, boldly declared that the spring water piped from the Porcupine Hills was *"Canada's Finest Drinking Water."* A public tap was installed along the highway, encouraging motorists to stop and fill their

[66] University of Lethbridge, *Nanton News*, May 2, 1912.
[67] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol. 2*, 9.
[68] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 391.
[69] Les Henry, *Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others* (Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000), 51.
[70] Henry, *Catalogue Houses,* 50.
[71] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 155.



Figure 20: *McKeage House (centre-left) - Prairie Towns website*

containers.[72] Armstrong's promotional efforts, along with those of other local businessmen, helped popularize the town's reputation.

In 1979, *Paul Abildgaard* recognized the commercial potential of this reputation and founded the *Nanton Water and Soda Company* (later Nanton Water Ltd.). By 1984, the company was producing 12 million bottles annually, with distribution across Canada and the U.S. The Abildgaard family's entrepreneurial approach—relying on personal financing and grassroots marketing—helped establish one of Canada's first bottled water brands.[73]

In 1886, brothers *James and John Ingram* left Quebec and established a ranch along the Little Bow River. By 1903, they had constructed a two-storey commercial building on Railway (20th) Avenue, just south of the Auditorium Hotel.



Figure 21: *Ingram's Meat Market, 1906-07 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-19, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

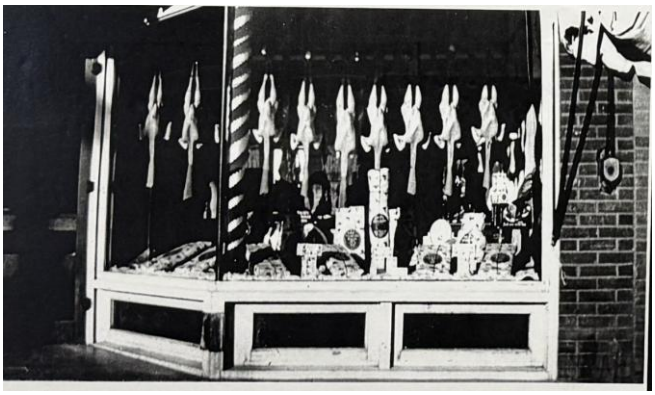


Figure 22*: Denoon Butcher Shop at Christmas - Nanton & District Historical Society*

The upper floor served as a hall. In 1904, they sold the building to rancher *Jack Bruen*, builder of the Nanton Hotel. The Ingrams then built a one-storey butcher shop and grain warehouse on the adjacent lot. Their business expanded to include butcher shops in *Cayley* and *Stavely*, and a hotel in Cayley. In 1907, they sold the Nanton butcher shop to *Alex and W.J. Grieg.*[74]

In 1917, *Bill Denoon*, a butcher from Ontario with experience in Didsbury, Crossfield, and Calgary, purchased Billy Greig's butcher shop on Railway Avenue. In the early 1920s, he built a new shop on Shaw (20th) Street and later added a meat locker.

His son *Gordon Denoon* joined the business in 1945, and it was renamed *Denoon and Son.*[75]

In 1965, *George Wolstenholme* constructed a cinder block building for his jewellery business in Nanton. He later served as the *Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)* for the Macleod riding from 1975 to 1982, representing the Progressive Conservative Party.[76]

A hardware store was essential to Nanton's early growth. *Ed and Dan Malloy*, originally from Colorado, opened *Malloy's Hardware* in 1905 at the corner of Railway Avenue and Norrish Street. Dan returned to the U.S. in 1908. In 1917, the business moved to Shaw (20th) Street. The building was destroyed in a major fire on February 9, 1924, which consumed eight businesses in Nanton's commercial core. A new brick building replaced it, and the store operated until 1929, when it was sold to the *Marshall*

[72] Bomber Command Museum of Canada Archives, *The Tap Town Years – History of the Nanton Tap*, accessed August 8, 2025, www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/nanton/nantontap.html.

[73] Nanton and District Historical Society*, Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol.2,* 50.

[74] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 60,138-139.

[75] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 382-383.

[76] "George Wolstenholme," *Wikipedia*, accessed October 30, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wolstenholme

Brothers. Ed and Mary Malloy subsequently returned to Colorado.[77]

The *Nanton Trading Company* was the first local business to sell *John Deere* farm equipment. In 1904, it was purchased by *Charles Marshall*, who expanded its agricultural offerings. Over the years, ownership passed through several hands, including *Frank and Walter Carpenter*, *Reg Brydon*, *Jason Brown*, *W.C. Ebbert*, *L.C. Bonner*, and *Cliff Gould.*[78]

On February 9, 1924, a devastating fire broke out in Nanton's downtown commercial district, destroying eight buildings and severely damaging a ninth on the south side of Shaw Street (now 20th Street).

The blaze began at approximately 1:00 a.m. in a small structure behind H.A. Garrett's grocery store. Although wind conditions were calm, the town's limited water supply hindered firefighting efforts. By 2:00 a.m., a request for assistance was sent to the Calgary Fire Department. A fire engine and hose were loaded onto a train and arrived in Nanton by 4:00 a.m. As the flames advanced, they reached the brick-clad Paris Café, which slowed the fire's progress and allowed firefighters to contain the blaze and merchants time to salvage some of their inventory.[79] Shaw and Cooper, who lost seven buildings, announced plans to rebuild those that had been occupied. Other business owners began relocating and reassessing their futures.[80]



Figure 23: *1924 fire on Shaw Street - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

The Paris Café, a key structure in halting the fire, had originally been known as the Excelsior Café. In 1918, Lem Sam and Low On purchased an existing building, moved it back on the lot, and constructed a two-storey brick façade. By 1924, George Mah had taken ownership and renamed it the Paris Café.[81]

Among those who rebuilt was Bill Roney, a Scottish immigrant who arrived in Canada in 1910 and settled in Nanton in 1918 with his wife Elizabeth (née White). He purchased William Thom's bakery and operated it until his retirement in 1949.[82]

W.A. Chisholm, a graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, arrived in Nanton in 1904 and established the Nanton Drug Store, which included living quarters above. He sold the business in 1905 to Drs. Creighton and Robinson, who constructed a new two-storey brick building. Dr. Creighton operated the store until selling it in 1923 but later reacquired it and ran the business until his son James took over in 1955.[83]

In 1907, the Prairie Farmers Telephone Company was founded to transmit telephone conversations using barbed wire fencing. This unconventional system was introduced by rancher Dan Richmond, who had seen similar setups in Oregon. The network extended from a point 30 kilometers east of Nanton to Charles Marshal's hardware store, and then to Old Brant, where it connected to High River's line.

The system was phased out when Alberta Government Telephones began installing rural lines.[84]

By 1919, Alberta Government Telephones operated out of a newly built brick structure with residential quarters at the rear. Financial strain in 1934 led the provincial agency to consider ending rural service, prompting municipalities to form local telephone companies. By March 1935, five such companies were serving the region.[85]

[77] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 159-160.
[78] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 163.
[79] University of Lethbridge, *Nanton News*, February 14, 1924, 1.
[80] Charles A. Clark, *The Vulcan Advocate*, February 13, 1924, Internet Archive, 3.
[81] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 165.
[82] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 190.
[83] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 155, 370.
[84] Tony Cashman, *Singing Wires: The Telephone in Alberta (Edmonton: Alberta Government Telephones Commission, 1972)*, 158.
[85] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 166.



Figure 24: *Nanton Drug Company - Nanton & District Historical Society*

Until 1964, all outgoing calls—residential and commercial—were routed through operators in the Nanton building. With the advent of direct dialing, operators were no longer required. The building was subsequently sold to Clarence Rhyasen, who relocated his insurance business there.[86]

In 1909, Charles H. Marshall constructed a prominent two-storey brick building at the corner of Railway Avenue (now 20th Avenue) and Norrish Street (19th Street). Designed to house his hardware, furniture, and machinery business, the structure was outfitted with high-quality shop fixtures and quickly became a commercial landmark.



Figure 25: *Chief Telephone Operator Margaret Robertson - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-38, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Marshall sold the building in 1935 to William S. Keeley, a seasoned entrepreneur with a diverse background in banking and retail. Keeley began his career with the Union Bank of Canada and worked as a bookkeeper before operating grocery stores in Claresholm and Banff. Upon acquiring William Thom's grocery business in Nanton, Keeley expanded the enterprise to include men's and ladies' wear. He also renovated the upper floor of the building into six residential apartments, a move that reflected both commercial ambition and community foresight.[87]



Figure 26*: Marshall Hardware Store/Keeley Block, 1912 - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

During the Second World War, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) established training schools in nearby Claresholm, Vulcan, and High River. These facilities brought a steady influx of military personnel to the region. Several senior officers and instructors from the BCATP

[86] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 390.

[87] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 410.

schools resided in the Keeley Block apartments, which offered convenient access to local amenities and a stable housing option during wartime.[88]

Keeley retired in 1941, passing the business to his son James Keeley, who continued operating the general store and managing the residential units.[89] The building remained a vital part of Nanton's commercial and residential landscape for decades, and its preservation reflects the town's commitment to heritage and adaptive reuse.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Nanton began in 1887 when the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) took over the lease for the stopping house at Mosquito Crossing, maintaining a detachment there until relocating to Nanton in 1902. The town's first police officer was Constable Charles Aspden, known locally as Grousing Charlie.[90]

One of the most notable incidents in Nanton's history was the Great Train Robbery of 1907. During a harsh winter, coal deliveries to the town were delayed, causing significant hardship. On February 5th, as a train hauling coal was leaving the station, several men boarded and disconnected the rail cars. Despite RNWMP Constable S. Currie firing a warning shot, the men persisted, repeatedly applying the brakes as the train crew tried to release them. Eventually, a meeting was held where the men agreed to unload 1,000 pounds of coal each, provided they signed to pay the railway six dollars per ton. Sixty men received coal, and Constable Currie reported that he could not confront about one hundred men alone. No charges were laid.[91]

Military

When World War I began in 1914, more than 250 men from the Nanton area enlisted to serve, with many never returning to their families, homes, and ranches. Horses from the region were purchased by the British Army and shipped overseas, playing a vital role in military logistics and operations. Local Red Cross groups assembled care packages for Canadian soldiers, providing essential supplies and comfort during the conflict.[92]



Figure 27: *Nanton Cenotaph Dedication, 1927 - Nanton & District Historical Society*

On August 13, 1927, the Earl of Haddington unveiled a cenotaph in Nanton to honour the local military personnel who lost their lives in World War I. Originally located beside Railway (20th) Avenue, across from the east end of Shaw (20th) Street on land provided by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the memorial features a statue of a soldier at rest with reversed arms—a traditional pose for military funerals. The dedication ceremony was led by Mayor John Cooper, with Calgary West MP R.B. Bennett delivering the principal address; Bennett would later become Prime Minister in 1930. In 2001, the cenotaph was relocated to a site next to the Bomber Command Museum of Canada, where it continues to serve as the focal point for annual memorial services.[93]

Education

Education has always been a cornerstone of the Nanton community. The first school was founded in May 1903, just before Nanton officially became a village. In its inaugural year, the school welcomed thirty-three students, but rapid population growth saw enrollment rise to ninety-seven within two years. To accommodate this increase, a four-room brick schoolhouse was constructed at the intersection of 20th Street and 23rd Avenue, costing $4,000.

[88] Dave Birrell, interview, October 2, 2025.
[89] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 14.
[90] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 145.
[91] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975*, 181-182.*
[92] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 176.
[93] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 228.

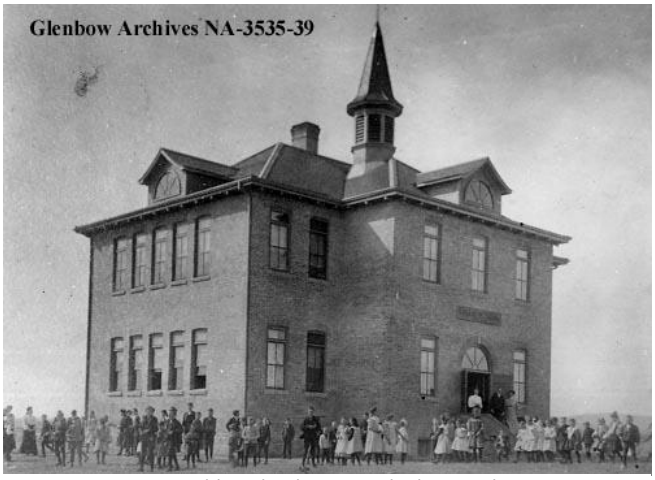


Figure 28: *Nanton Public School, 1907 - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-39, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

As the community expanded, so did its educational infrastructure. In 1918, the creation of the Nanton Consolidated School District brought together the town and surrounding rural areas, prompting further additions to the original school building—including four new classrooms and an assembly hall on the third floor.[94] Over the following decades, several new schools were built to meet the needs of a growing student population and to replace aging facilities. Notably, in 1951, a four-room "steel school" was erected on Alberta (21st) Street next to the brick school. The J.T. Foster School, named after long-serving teacher Jack T. Foster, opened in February 1963 with an initial enrollment of 325 students.

Sports

Nanton has a rich sporting history, with baseball and hockey both beginning in the community as early as 1903. Rivalries between towns were fierce, and some teams even recruited outside players to strengthen their lineups. For example, Buzz Geddes was retained on the Nanton team by employing him as the town constable.[95]

By 1907, women were also actively participating in sports, with the formation of a women's baseball team known as the "Aura Lee." The Nanton Skating Rink Association played a key role in developing local recreation, raising funds to build an outdoor rink on a pond created by the C & E dam.



Figure 29: *Nanton Hockey Team, 1912-13 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-42, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

The rink was surrounded by high boards and included two changing rooms, but maintaining the ice was difficult due to frequent Chinook winds that caused melting. The first recorded game at the rink was a playful match between married men and bachelors, using a football as the puck and brooms as hockey sticks, though the result was never documented.[96]

Winter sports expanded with the establishment of the Penguin Ski Club in 1946. Initially located on a farm southeast of town, the club relocated several times due to unreliable snow conditions before constructing a 250-metre ski run at Williams Coulee. A rope tow powered by a 100-horsepower motor helped skiers reach the top, and a clubhouse offered refreshments. Unfortunately, after several winters with little snow, the club eventually closed.[97]

Golf also has deep roots in Nanton. The original nine-hole course opened in 1921, but limited resources meant play was mostly restricted to spring when the grass was short. In 1930, a new course was laid out, and sheep were used to keep the grass trimmed.[98] The course was expanded with the addition of a back nine in 1984.[99]

[94] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 202.

[95] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 230.

[96] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 234.

[97] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 236.

[98] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 237.

[99] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol. 2*, 86.

Over the years, Nanton residents have enjoyed a variety of other sports, including tennis, badminton, wrestling, and boxing.

Intellectual Life

The foundation of Nanton's intellectual life can be traced back to the establishment of its first school in May 1903, even before the village was officially incorporated. The rapid increase in student enrolment necessitated the construction of additional facilities, including a four-room brick building at the intersection of 20th Street and 23rd Avenue. The creation of the Nanton Consolidated School District in 1918 further expanded educational opportunities, with the addition of more classrooms and an assembly hall. The J.T. Foster School, named after a long-serving teacher, opened in 1963 and continues to serve the community.

Libraries and literary societies have also played a crucial role in Nanton's intellectual life. The Nanton Public Library, established in the early 20th century, provided residents with access to a wide range of books and resources. Literary societies and book clubs were popular among the townspeople, fostering a love for reading and intellectual discussions.

Cultural organizations and events have significantly contributed to the intellectual vibrancy of Nanton. The Nanton Masonic Lodge, established in the early 1900s, was one of the first organizations to promote intellectual and social development. The Boy Scout troop, founded in 1912, provided young boys with opportunities to learn new skills and engage in community service. The Nanton Rifle and Revolver Club, formed in 1941, offered members a chance to participate in local and national competitions.

Museums and historical societies have preserved and promoted Nanton's rich history and heritage. The Nanton and District Historical Society, established in the mid-20th century, has been instrumental in documenting and preserving the town's history. The Bomber Command Museum of Canada located in Nanton is dedicated to preserving the history of the Bomber Command and educating the public about its significance.

The intellectual contributions of Nanton's residents have also played a significant role in shaping the town's intellectual life. Many residents have made notable contributions to various fields, including education, literature, and the arts. Their achievements have brought recognition to the town and inspired future generations.

Nanton's intellectual life has been shaped by its commitment to education, the presence of cultural organizations, and the contributions of its residents. The town's rich history and vibrant community continue to foster intellectual growth and development.

The Face of Alberta

After Nanton was incorporated as a village in 1903, the first Canadian census to include the community was the 1906 Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Nanton was grouped with nearby areas such as Cayley and High River in subdistrict 27. The census provided details about residents' birthplaces and immigration dates. Of the roughly 700 people living in the subdistrict, more than half—about 53 percent—had immigrated from the United States. Other settlers arrived from Canadian provinces of Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick, and various regions within Alberta.

The census also recorded a wide range of European origins among Nanton's residents, including England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Norway, Poland, and Switzerland. There were also individuals from Australia and China.

By the time of the 1911 Census, more specific information was available for Nanton itself. While Americans still made up the largest immigrant group, their proportion had dropped to 29 percent. The next largest group included people who had moved from other parts of Alberta or were born in Nanton, accounting for 21 percent of the population. Residents from Great Britain made up 22 percent, showing strong representation. Other Canadian provinces such as Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec were also well represented. International origins expanded to include Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Galicia, Sweden, Austria, Russia, Iceland, and China.

The census distinguished between ethnicity and nationality. For example, someone might have immigrated from the United States, identified as Scottish by ethnicity, and reported Canadian nationality. Others might have arrived from Ontario, listed Irish ethnicity, and held Canadian nationality. This diversity reflected the complex and multicultural makeup of Nanton's early population.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

- Alberta Government. *"Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."* November 1, 2013.
- Alberta Heritage Survey**.** HS 26146. 1981.
- Birrell, Dave. *Interview*. October 2, 2025.
- Jones, Bridget. *Interview*. October 4, 2025.
- Kimmerly, M. Email. October 9, 2025.
- McTighe, Emily. *Interview*. October 2, 2025.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland***.** Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland***.** Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- University of Lethbridge Library. *Nanton News*. Southern Alberta Collection. https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/sanews/search/searchterm/nanton+news/field/title/mode/all/conn/and/order/date/ad/asc/cosuppress/1.
- Nanton Scout-Guide Hall. *Program for Official Opening*. April 24, 1957.
- Alberta Department of Industry and Development. *Survey of Nanton*. Edmonton: Government of Alberta, 1960.
- Library and Archives Canada. *1906 Northwest Prairie Provinces Census*. 1906. Accessed August 19,2025. https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=census&id=464104&lang=eng&.
- Clark, Charles A., *The Vulcan Advocate*. February 13, 1924. Internet Archive.

Secondary Sources

- Alberta Geological Survey. *Geology of Southern Alberta*. Alberta Energy Regulator. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://static.ags.aer.ca/files/document/MAP/Map_601.pdf.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. *Macleod Trail Cultural Landscape*. Government of Alberta. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=1&ObjectID=4664-0450.
- Alberta.ca. *Archaeological Sites Alberta*. Accessed August 15, 2025. https://www.alberta.ca/archaeological-sites-alberta.
- Bomber Command Museum of Canada Archives. *The Tap Town Years – History of the Nanton Tap*. Accessed August 8, 2025. http://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/nanton/nantontap.html.
- Brink, Jack. *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site, EcPl-16, Southwestern Alberta*. Edmonton: Archaeological Survey of Alberta, April 13, 2008.
- Britannica. "Meltwater Deposits." Accessed October 28, 2025. https://www.britannica.com/science/glacial-landform/Meltwater-deposits.
- Canadian Register of Historic Places. *Canadian Register of Historic Places*. Accessed October 5, 2025. https://www.historicplaces.ca.
- Canadian Register of Historic Places. *Old Women Buffalo Jump*. Accessed October 5, 2025. https://parks.canada.ca/culture/designation/lieu-site/old-women-buffalo-jump.
- Cashman, Tony. *A Picture of Alberta*. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1979.
- Cashman, Tony. *Singing Wires: The Telephone in Alberta*. Edmonton: The Alberta Government Telephones Commission, 1972.
- Fidler, Peter. J*ournal of a Journey over Land from Buckingham House to the Rocky Mountains in 1792-93*. Except from Fidler's Journal. Accessed October 30, 2025. http://www.ulethbridge.ca/lib/digitized_collections/our heritage/index_page_stuff/following_trails/fidler/Fidler 1.html.
- Belyea, Barbara. David J. Wishart, ed. "FIDLER, PETER (1769–1822)." *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/.
- Allen, Robert S. "FIDLER, PETER." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 6, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-. Accessed October 30, 2025. https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?Biold=36989.
- "George Wolstenholme." *Wikipedia*. Accessed October 30, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wolstenholme.
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre. "About The Jump!" *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jum World Heritage Site*. Accessed October 28, 2025. https://headsmashedin.ca/about-jump
- Henry, Les. *Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others*. Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000.
- "Lost Lemon Mine." *Wikipedia & Mysteries of Canada*. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Lemon_Mine.
- Strand. Stephen. "Historic Trade Route Still Has a Presence in the Foothills." *OkotoksOnline.* October 7, 2024. Accessed October 30, 2025. https://okotoksonline.com/articles/historic-trade-route-still-has-a-prescence-in-the-foothills.
- Osler, Hammond & Nanton. *New Homes, Free Farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Western Canada*. Winnipeg: Osler, Hammond & Nanton, ca. 1901.
- "Peter Fidler." *Wikipedia*. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Fidler.

- Berthelette, Scott. “Fur Trade Route Networks.” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. February 2, 2023. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/fur-trade-routes.
- Kilmury, Aaron. “Western Interior Seaway.” *The Canadian Encyclopedia.* February 28, 2025. Accessed October 28, 2025. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/western-interior-seaway.



Final Report

for

HERITAGE BUILDING SITE EVALUATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

PREPARED BY:

COMMUNITY DESIGN STRATEGIES

Alberta

This project was funded in part by the Government of Alberta.

January 26th, 2026

PREPARED FOR:

NANTON EST 1903

Town of Nanton
1907 21 Avenue, Nanton, AB T0L 1R0

Page Left Blank Intentionally

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of Project..... 7
1.2. Project Scope.....8

2. Heritage Site Identification

2.1. Project Launch..... 11
2.2. Brief History of Nanton..... 12
2.3. Windshield Survey..... 13
2.4. High Priority Sites.....13
2.5. Stakeholder Consultation.....14
2.6. Research and Data Collection..... 16
2.7. Historical Context Paper.....17
2.8. Places of Interest.....17
2.9. Field Assessments..... 18
2.10. Assessment and Evaluation..... 18
2.11. Statement of Significance.....21
2.12. Stakeholder Feedback.....22

3. Project Outcome

3.1. Successes and Challenges.....27
3.2. Recommendations.....28

4. The Benefits of Heritage Conservation

4.1. Why Preserve Heritage Buildings..... 31
4.2. The Benefits of Heritage Designation..... 32
4.3. The Process of Designation..... 33

5. Nanton Historical Context Paper

5.1. Thematic Framework.....35
5.2. Historical Context Paper.....36

6. Map of Historic Places

7. Statements of Significance

7.1. The Structure and Purpose of a Statement of Significance.....57

1. W.S. Keeley Building..... 58
1901 20th Avenue
2. Auditorium Hotel..... 60
2001 20th Avenue
3. Fetherston's Grocery..... 62
2112 20th Street
4. Nanton Drug Company.....64
2114 20th Street
5. Denoon Butcher Shop..... 66
2116 20th Street
6. Shaw and Cooper Block.....68
1919 20th Avenue
7. Nanton News.....70
1902 21st Avenue
8. Nanton Telephone Exchange..... 72
2118 20th Street
9. Creighton Residence..... 74
2203 21st Street
10. Keen Hospital..... 76
2207 20th Street
11. Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office.....78
2204 21st Street
12. Nanton Masonic Hall.....80
2120 21st Street
13. Nanton Scout-Guide Hall..... 82
2222 18th Street

Appendix A

Heritage Resource Assessments and Evaluations.....85

1. W.S. Keeley Building
1901 20th Avenue
2. Auditorium Hotel
2001 20th Avenue
3. Fetherston's Grocery
2112 20th Street

4. Nanton Drug Company
2114 20th Street
5. Denoon Butcher Shop
2116 20th Street
6. Shaw and Cooper Block
1919 20th Avenue
7. Nanton News
1902 21st Avenue
8. Nanton Telephone Exchange
2118 20th Street
9. Creighton Residence
2203 21st Street
10. Keen Hospital
2207 20th Street
11. Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office
2024 21st Street
12. Nanton Masonic Hall
2120 21st Street
13. Nanton Scout-Guide Hall
2222 18th Street

Appendix B
Heritage Site Surveys.....141

1. W.S. Keeley Building
1901 20th Avenue
2. Auditorium Hotel
2001 20th Avenue
3. Fetherston's Grocery
2112 20th Street
4. Nanton Drug Company
2114 20th Street
5. Denoon Butcher Shop
2116 20th Street
6. Shaw and Cooper Block
1919 20th Avenue
7. Nanton News
1902 21st Avenue
8. Nanton Telephone Exchange
2118 20th Street
9. Creighton Residence
2203 21st Street
10. Keen Hospital
2207 20th Street
11. Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office
2024 21st Street
12. Nanton Masonic Hall
2120 21st Street
13. Nanton Scout-Guide Hall
2222 18th Street

Appendix C
Media Coverage.....199

LIST OF FIGURES IN THE NANTON HISTORIC CONTEXT PAPER

Figure

1. Nanton Train Station – Nanton & District Historical Society.....38
2. Hewer Garage - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-36, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....38
3. Round up crew on CC Ranch near Nanton - Glenbow Museum - public domain.....39
4. Homestead Shack - Glenbow Museum – public domain.....39
5. Osler, Hammond, Nanton Pamphlet - Archive.org.....39
6. Sir Augustus Nanton, early 1900s - Glenbow Museum - public domain..... 39
7. Nanton Grain Elevators - Archive.org.....40
8. Half-way house near Nanton, Alberta - Archive.org.... 40
9. Ingram's Meat Market, 1906-07 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-19, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....40
10. Worker's House - Prairie Towns website..... 41
11. Railway Avenue, 1913-19 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-11, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....41
12. Children swimming in Mosquito Creek - Nanton & District Historical Society..... 42
13. Nanton Rhythm Aces early 1930s - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-57, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....43
14. Masonic Hall - Prairie Towns website..... 43
15. Shaw St. Nanton, Alta. - Glenbow Museum - public domain.....44
16. Nanton News employee Bert Klebe in front of newspaper office - Glenbow Archives NA-1397-3, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....45
17. Auditorium Hotel, 1902-03 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-13, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....45
18. Fetherston Store interior- Nanton & District Historical Society..... 45
19. Eastbourne, model 666 - Les Henry, Catalogue Houses.....46
20. McKeage House (centre-left) - Prairie Towns website..... 46
21. Ingram's Meat Market, 1906-07 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-19, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....47
22. Denoon Butcher Shop at Christmas - Nanton & District Historical Society..... 47
23. 1924 fire on Shaw Street - Glenbow Museum - public domain.....48
24. Nanton Drug Company - Nanton & District Historical Society..... 48
25. Chief Telephone Operator Margaret Robertson - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-38, Glenbow Museum - public domain..... 49
26. Marshall Hardware Store/Keeley Block, 1912 - Glenbow Museum - public domain.....49
27. Nanton Cenotaph Dedication, 1927 - Nanton & District Historical Society..... 50
28. Nanton Public School, 1907 - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-39, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....50
29. Nanton Hockey Team, 1912-13 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-42, Glenbow Museum - public domain.....51

Acknowledgements



The Town of Nanton extends its deepest appreciation to the Government of Alberta for its generous support through the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program. This important program, administered by the Historic Resources Management Branch of Alberta Culture, provides matching grant funding that enables municipalities and community organizations to safeguard, celebrate, and interpret Alberta's rich and diverse heritage. Without this provincial commitment to heritage preservation, projects of this scope and significance would not be possible.

The Town is sincerely grateful for the opportunity to partner with Community Design Strategies Inc. on this comprehensive heritage building inventory project. Their extensive knowledge, technical expertise, and thoughtful approach to heritage evaluation were integral to the project's success. Their guidance and professionalism ensured that Nanton's historic places were documented with care, accuracy, and respect, and their contributions were essential in bringing this work to completion.

The Town of Nanton also wishes to express heartfelt thanks to the many stakeholders, property owners, and community members who generously shared their time, knowledge, and lived experience.

Participation in the Open House events, the sharing of historical information, and the community's broad support enriched the project and helped ensure that Nanton's heritage is reflected not only in buildings, but in the stories and connections that give them meaning.

Together, these contributions have helped preserve an important record of Nanton's past while supporting thoughtful stewardship for the future.

The Community Design Strategies Inc. project team, consisting of Principal Merinda Conley and Associate Robert Earley, would like to recognize and thank the following individuals for their valuable participation and assistance in undertaking this heritage building evaluation project:

Town of Nanton

The following individuals from the Town of Nanton assisted CDS Inc. with the identification of potential sites, mapping, advertising, newsletter updates, address confirmations, contacting building owners, and looking after Open House logistics, printing, easels, and refreshments.

- Neil Smith, CAO
- Georgina Sharpe, Planning & Development Officer

Kozy Korner

Thanks to the Kozy Korner, two successful Open Houses were held in their accommodation space,

which also fulfilled furniture requirements for the open houses held in September 2025 and January 2026.

Open House #1 Attendees
September 16, 2025

- Neil Smith, CAO, Town of Nanton
- Georgina Sharpe, Planning & Development Officer, Town of Nanton
- Ken Sorenson, Councillor, Town of Nanton
- Madelaine Kimmerly, owner of "Eyeota Inc.," Keen Hospital and Worker's Residence
- Ann Howell, resident
- Jim Howell, resident
- Nicolle McKenna, resident
- Leo Wieser, President, Nanton Grain Elevator Board, Canadian Grain Elevator Discovery Centre
- Marcia Muldoon, St. Cecilia Catholic Church, President of the Catholic Women's League
- Bobbie Deno, resident
- Laurie Berger, resident, Creighton Residence
- Lil Wallace, resident
- Aldo Raffin, resident
- Beth Lievaart, Commissioner, Nanton Scouts
- Stephanie Balogh, Shaw & Cooper Building
- Ryan McTighe, member of Nanton Masonic Hall
- Shana McTighe
- David Gale, co-owner of Main Street Suites
- Barry Creighton, Creighton Residence
- Amanda Bustard, co-owner of Main Street Suites
- Kyle Lockton, Warden of Anglican Church
- Becky Scott, President of Chamber of Commerce, owner of "Tap Town Books"
- Ian McKenzie

Interviewees

- Dave Birrell, Interview on October 2, 2025
- Emily McTighe, Interview on October 2, 2025
- Bridget Jones, Interview on October 4, 2025

Open House #2 Attendees
January 14, 2026

- Neil Smith, CAO, Town of Nanton
- Georgina Sharpe, Planning & Development Officer, Town of Nanton
- Madelaine Kimmerly, owner of "Eyeota Inc.," Keen Hospital
- Barbara Wynnyk, building owner
- Brent Rawlinson, building owner
- Shauna Strong, Town Councillor
- Elaine Mahan, resident
- Beth Lievaart, Commissioner, Nanton Scouts
- Bobbie Deno
- Carol Evans, resident
- Rick Everett, former Mayor, member of the Masons
- Aldo Raffin, resident
- Leo Wieser, President, Nanton Grain Elevator Board, Canadian Grain Elevator Discovery Centre
- Becky Scott, President of Chamber of Commerce, owner of "Tap Town Books"
- Laurie Berger, resident, Creighton Residence
- Pam Woodall, owner of "Because I Said So"
- Dave Birrell, resident
- Susan Somerville, building owner
- Ken Dickens, Masonic Lodge, PM
- Brennen Pell, Masonic Lodge, MM
- Julia Anderson, resident
- Dorothy Kent, resident
- Vance Kent, resident
- Jen Handley, Mayor, Town of Nanton
- Anna Cairns, resident
- John Berger, resident
- Jean Berger, resident
- C. Tanzer, NCC 5
- Victor Czop, Town Councillor
- Rachel Herbert, resident
- Jennifer Slettede, Business Owner
- Adrian Dykstra, resident, Retired

Nanton Municipal Library

- Photographs of archival photos along entrance.

Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women, Historic Resources Management Branch

- Fraser Shaw, Heritage Conservation Advisor, Southern Region, Heritage conservation and protection
- Dorothy Field, Heritage Survey Program Coordinator, Alberta's Heritage Survey

Executive Summary



The Nanton Heritage Building Evaluation Project provides the Town of Nanton with a comprehensive, designation-ready foundation for long-term heritage conservation. Through detailed research, field assessment, and architectural analysis, the project evaluates thirteen historic buildings that collectively represent more than a half a century of community development, from 1902 to 1957. These buildings illustrate the evolution of Nanton as a railway service point, agricultural hub, commercial centre, and close-knit rural community with strong civic institutions.

The evaluation process followed a consistent, transparent methodology aligned with Alberta's heritage standards, including Statements of Significance, Character-Defining Elements, and integrity assessments for each building. The findings demonstrate that Nanton retains a remarkably intact historic core, with important levels of architectural integrity across its early commercial blocks, institutional buildings, and community halls. This intactness is rare among small Alberta towns and represents a significant cultural and economic asset.

The buildings included in the project reflect six major themes in Nanton's history: transportation and the railway; commerce and daily life; communication and information; healthcare and professional services; civic and social organizations; and residential development. Together, they form a cohesive heritage landscape that contributes to the town's identity, supports tourism potential, and strengthens community pride.

The report concludes that all thirteen buildings meet the criteria for Municipal Historic Resource designation. The document also provides recommendations that include preparing a designation bylaw template, identifying priority buildings for potential municipal designation, forming a Heritage Advisory Committee, strengthening ongoing engagement with property owners, developing a heritage conservation policy or framework, developing design guidelines for heritage buildings, continuing to expand and update the HeRMIS survey database, developing a heritage resource management plan, investigating the creation of a downtown historic district, initiating a building plaque program, integrating heritage into broader municipal initiatives, and maintaining public engagement and visibility.

By adopting these recommendations, the Town of Nanton can protect its most significant heritage assets, enhance its downtown revitalization efforts, and ensure that the stories embedded in its built environment remain visible and meaningful for future generations. The project positions the Town to make informed, strategic decisions that honour its past while supporting a vibrant and sustainable future.

1. Introduction



Nanton's historic core tells a story that is both deeply local and unmistakably Albertan. Its early commercial blocks, modest institutional buildings, and long-standing community halls form a streetscape that has evolved over more than a century yet still reflects the optimism, resilience, and ingenuity that shaped the town's beginnings. This report brings together months of research, fieldwork, archival investigations, and community engagement to document, evaluate, and celebrate the buildings that define Nanton's heritage character.

1.1. Purpose of Project

The main purpose of the Heritage Building Evaluation Project is to **identify, evaluate, and prioritize up to ten heritage sites within the Town of Nanton that are of historical significance** with a particular focus on the downtown core. The project aims to safeguard Nanton's cultural and architectural heritage by:

- **Researching and documenting the historical context** of Nanton, including its significant cultural themes, events and people.
- **Reviewing and confirming potential heritage sites** using the HeRMIS database and stakeholder input, to create a preliminary list of places of interest.
- **Engaging local organizations and stakeholders** to ensure community knowledge and priorities are reflected in the selection of high-priority sites.
- **Conducting detailed site evaluations** to assess the historical significance and integrity of selected buildings.
- **Drafting Statements of Significance (SoS)** for each prioritized site, which formally articulate their heritage value and the key elements that should be protected.
- **Providing recommendations for heritage designation** and strategies for ongoing preservation and integration of heritage into Nanton's tourism and economic development.
- **Fostering public engagement and support** for heritage conservation through presentations and open houses.

The project is designed to help the Town of Nanton protect its heritage assets for future generations, support community identity, and lay the groundwork for sustainable heritage management.

1.2. Project Scope

The scope of Nanton's Heritage Building Evaluation project future generations. The update of the Alberta Heritage Survey forms on the HeRMIS database was added to the scope to ensure a comprehensive approach to on-site assessment and evaluations.

Key Components

1. Historical Context Paper

Prepare a comprehensive context paper that reviews Nanton's historical records, themes, events, and people. This serves as a foundational reference for evaluating heritage resources and identifying places of interest.

2. Heritage Site Identification

Review Nanton's HeRMIS database of 309 town and area sites to confirm municipal sites and up to twenty-five high priority sites (particularly in the downtown area) for further assessment and stakeholder review.

3. Stakeholder Consultations

Engage with local residents, building owners, and organizations (such as the Lancaster Society, Canadian Grain Elevator Discovery Centre Society, and the Chamber of Commerce) to review a preliminary list of up to twenty-five potential sites, gather insights and recommend high-priority sites.

4. Places of Interest List

Based on the outcome of stakeholder consultations, identify six to ten high priority sites to focus the next stage of research activity.

5. On-Site Field Assessment

Update the Alberta Heritage Survey database (Heritage Resource Management Information System – HeRMIS) survey forms for each high priority site.

6. Heritage Site Evaluations

Conduct detailed site evaluations and integrity assessments on the recommended high-priority sites to determine heritage value, character-defining elements, and integrity, to confirm their eligibility for designation.

7. Draft Statement of Significance (SoS)

For each identified site, prepare a draft Statement of Significance that outlines its heritage value, cultural importance, and character-defining elements.

8. Recommendations for Designation

Provide a prioritized list of existing buildings that hold potential for heritage designation, based on their significance and risk of deterioration.

9. Public Engagement

Present findings to the community and local stakeholders to foster support for heritage conservation and designation efforts.

10. Final Report & Recommendations

Deliver a comprehensive report to the Town of Nanton, including the context paper, review of the HeRMIS database, SoS documents, and recommendations for next steps in the designation process. The report will also include strategies for integrating heritage preservation into Nanton's broader tourism and economic development efforts, and on creating a sustainable heritage management framework.

Methodology

The Nanton Heritage Building Evaluation project followed a structured, multi-phase methodology designed to document the community's historic places, assess their heritage value, and produce consistent, designation-ready evaluation materials. The approach combined archival research, field investigation, community engagement, and professional analysis, ensuring that the results were both evidence-based and locally informed.

Project Timeline

The project formally launched on August 1, 2025, with a completion date scheduled for February 2, 2026. A presentation of the final report to Committee of the Whole (CoTW) occurred on January 26, 2026, and submission of final report and project handoff occurred on February 2, 2026, supporting the Town's deadline of February 28, 2026, to submit all documentation to the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program, aligning with HPPP's funding requirements.

1. **Project Initiation and Background Review**
   (August – September 2025)
   - Confirmed project scope.
   - Reviewed existing heritage survey materials, municipal records, local heritage books and materials, and previous studies.

- Established research framework and engagement plan.

2. First Public Open House
(September 2025)
   - Presented introduction of project to the community.
   - Presented draft findings of windshield survey and preliminary list of high priority sites for community review, feedback, stories, and corrections.
   - Integrated latest information into collection of research.
3. Historical Context Development
(August – September 2025)
   - Conducted thematic research on Nanton's settlement, commercial growth, transportation history, and civic development.
   - Compiled archival sources to create a community specific historical context to guide evaluations.
4. Archival Research and Data Collection
(August – November 2025)
   - Completed detailed archival research for each priority building.
   - Reviewed municipal files, fire insurance maps, historic photographs, newspapers, and provincial / federal archives.
   - Gathered community-provided materials and oral histories.
5. Field Survey and Site Documentation
(October – December 2025)
   - Conducted on-site fieldwork for all priority buildings.
   - Photographed exteriors, documented materials and architectural features, and assessed integrity.
   - Updated survey information on the province's HeRMIS database.
6. Evaluation and Statement of Significance Preparation
(October - January 2026)
   - Applied Alberta's heritage value criteria to each priority building.
   - Assessed integrity across location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
   - Drafted designation-ready Statements of Significance and updated survey forms.
7. Second Public Open House
(January 2026)
   - Presented final evaluation and Statements of Significance documents.
   - Provided clear explanations of designation and benefits to the building owner.
   - Gathered final community input.
8. Refinement and Finalization of Evaluation Materials
(January 2026)
   - Revised Statements of Significance and evaluations based on feedback.
   - Prepared recommendations for presentation to Council.
   - Compiled all project deliverables into a comprehensive final package.
9. Final Reporting and Submission to Council
(January - February 2026)
   - Revised the Final Report based on feedback from CoTW presentation on January 26th, 2026.
   - Submitted final package to the Town of Nanton for Council's February 2nd meeting agenda.
   - Concluded project.

Kick-off Meeting

The project began with an initial kick-off meeting at the Town of Nanton municipal office on July 31, 2025, with Planning and Development Officer Georgina Sharpe, the Town's CAO Neil Smith, and Merinda Conley and Robert Earley of Community Design Strategies Inc. (CDS Inc.)

The purpose of the meeting was to launch the heritage evaluation process, confirm communications and public engagement strategies, and identify additional heritage sites beyond those listed on HeRMIS.

10 HERITAGE BUILDING EVALUATION PROJECT

Key Discussion Points

Process Review:

- CDS Inc. outlined the process for identifying and evaluating heritage sites.
- A context paper will be prepared to highlight Nanton's history and prioritize significant sites.
- Aim to include more than 6-10 high-priority sites if existing budget allows.

Priority Sites:

- Sixteen Main Street buildings with strong historical integrity were identified for consideration.
- Selection will focus on those with the greatest preservation.

Additional Sites to Consider:

- Several sites outside the Main Street were suggested, including:
  - Esso sign structure (north end)
  - Cenotaph
  - Community Centre
  - Notable residences on 26th, 20th, and 19th avenues
  - Churches (Anglican, St. Cecilia Catholic, United Church)
  - Masonic Hall
  - Eaton Kit home (Creighton Residence, 1917)
  - Worker's homes and other historic properties.

Communication Strategy:

- Multi-channel outreach: electronic billboard by office, website, email, Facebook, posters, direct mail, newsletter inserts, Survey Monkey, and open houses.
- Special efforts to engage seniors and property owners.

Open House Planning:

- Preferred venue: Seniors Centre (Kozy Korner)
- Proposed date: September 18 (to be confirmed)
- Format: Display up to twenty-five sites, invite property owners, provide educational materials, formal PPT presentation, encourage feedback, and use dotmocracy for prioritization.

Reference Materials & Mapping:

- Use Mosquito Creek books and Main Street's Final Report as the starting point.
- Mapping support from the Planning Commission.

Heritage Committee Potential:

- Consider forming an ad-hoc committee if there is enough community interest.
- Identify volunteers and contacts.

Next Steps & Assignments:

- Draft project introduction for utility bill insert.
- Conduct windshield survey of the HeRMIS-listed sites.
- Prepare formal town letter for survey activities.
- Final report to include Town logo and colour flexibility.
- Presentation of project outcomes at professional planning associations a possibility.

Value-Added Services

Additional services were provided to the Town of Nanton, within the given budget, to ensure a comprehensive approach to the Heritage Building Evaluation Project, such as:

- In-depth Windshield Survey of HeRMIS List
- Photograph all sites on the HeRMIS List
- Increase number of high-priority sites to be evaluated for completion of SoSs from the original 6-10 to potentially twelve or more sites.
- Complete formal surveys of the high-priority sites and submit to the Alberta Survey Program to update the HeRMIS database.

2. Heritage Site Identification



2.1. Project Launch

The project began with a simple but important question: *What parts of Nanton's built environment best represent the community's history, and how can they be protected for future generations?* To answer this, thirteen buildings were selected for detailed evaluation – structures that span from 1902 to 1957 and collectively illustrate the town's development from a railway service point to a thriving agricultural centre and, later, a close-knit rural community with strong civic institutions.

Each building included in this report contributes a unique chapter to Nanton's story. The early hotels and hardware stores speak to the town's role as a hub for ranchers, travellers, and railway workers. The grocery, butcher shop, and drugstore reflect the rhythms of daily life and the ambitious spirit that sustained local families. The newspaper office and telephone exchange mark the arrival of modern communication networks, while the hospital and dental office highlight the community's commitment to health and well-being. The Masonic Hall and Scout-Guide Hall reveal the importance of social organizations in building community identity, and the Creighton Residence offers a glimpse into early residential life.

Together, these buildings form a cohesive and remarkably intact heritage landscape – one that is rare among Alberta's small towns. Their survival is not accidental. It reflects decades of stewardship by property owners, the dedication of local volunteers, and a community-wide appreciation for the value of history. This report honours that legacy by providing the Town of Nanton with a clear, defensible, and designation-ready foundation for long-term heritage conservation.

The pages that follow present detailed evaluations for each building, including historical research, architectural analysis, integrity assessments, Statements of Significance, and Character-Defining Elements. They also outline broader themes that emerge from the collective heritage fabric, from transportation and commerce to communication, healthcare, and civic life. Finally, the report offers recommendations to guide future planning, designation, interpretation, and community engagement.

Nanton's heritage is more than a collection of old buildings – it is a living resource that strengthens community identity, supports local economic development, and connects residents and visitors to the stories that shaped this place. By documenting and celebrating these assets, the Town is taking a major step toward ensuring that its history remains

visible, meaningful, and accessible for generations to come.

2.2. Brief History of Nanton

Long before the town of Nanton appeared on the map, its land was shaped by ancient seas and glaciers. The rolling hills and fertile soils, carved by the retreat of ice thousands of years ago, became a seasonal home for Indigenous peoples who followed bison herds and left traces of their lives in stone tools and campsites. The land's quiet history was written in its coulees and creek beds, echoing the deep time that preceded settlement.

As centuries passed, the region became a crossroads for the fur trade. Peter Fidler, a determined explorer and surveyor for the Hudson's Bay Company, ventured through the Porcupine Hills, mapping the terrain and forging connections with Indigenous communities. The trails he followed—well-worn by generations of Blackfoot travelers—would later guide traders and settlers, linking Nanton to the wider world.

With the arrival of ranchers and farmers in the late 1800s, the landscape began to change. The federal government offered vast tracts of land for a penny an acre, and soon cattle companies and homesteaders established ranches that would endure for generations. The Findlay brothers' lumber camp supplied timber for new buildings, and rumors of gold in the nearby mountains sparked brief excitement and prospecting.

The coming of the railway in 1892 was a turning point. The Calgary & Edmonton Railway brought people, goods, and opportunity, transforming Nanton from a remote outpost into a bustling hub. The first building—a humble section house—welcomed travelers, and soon hotels, stores, and grain elevators lined the streets. Roads and bridges followed, though winter snows and spring rains often made travel a challenge, with local farmers pitching in to repair the routes.

Nanton's growth was fueled by agriculture. Grain elevators rose along the rail line, handling millions of bushels each year, while coal sheds stored fuel for the town and its industries. Families like the Kinney's balanced town life with farming, their stories woven into the fabric of the community.

As the town grew, so did its spirit. Churches sprang up—Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican, Methodist, and Baptist—each serving as a gathering place for worship and fellowship. Schools were built, beginning with a modest classroom in 1903 and expanding to meet the needs of a growing population. The Nanton News chronicled daily life, while businesses adapted and rebuilt after fires and setbacks.

Community life flourished. Mosquito Creek offered swimming and skating, while organizations like the Masonic Lodge, Boy Scouts, and Rifle Club brought people together. Theatres showed silent films and hosted dances, and local musicians formed choirs that drew members from neighbouring towns.

Nanton's story was also shaped by its people's resilience. The town survived devastating fires, a legendary train robbery, and the hardships of war. During World War I, hundreds enlisted, and the community honored their sacrifice with a cenotaph that still stands today.

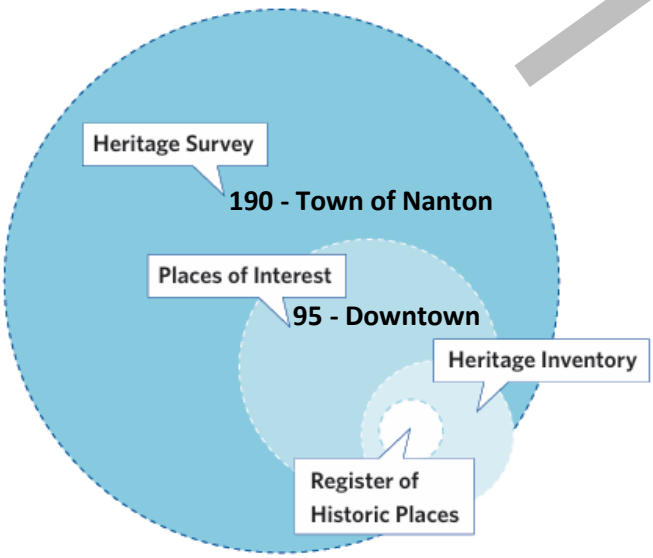
Over time, Nanton earned the nickname "Tap Town," celebrated for its pure spring water. Local entrepreneurs bottled and sold it across Canada and the U.S., turning a simple resource into a source of pride and prosperity.

Through all these changes, Nanton remained a place of diversity and connection. Immigrants from the United States, Europe, and across Canada made their homes here, bringing new traditions and shaping the town's identity. Today, Nanton's history lives on in its buildings, its stories, and the enduring bonds between people and place.

2.3. Windshield Survey

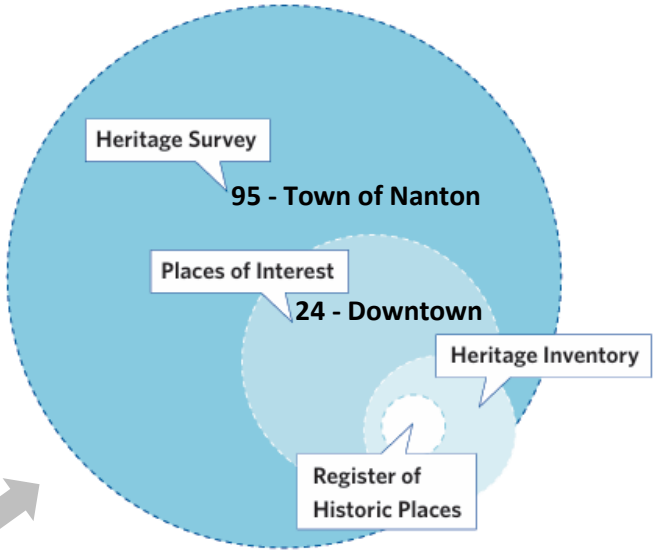
The Alberta Government maintains a Heritage Resource Management Information System – HeRMIS for short – which is a database of all heritage sites that have been surveyed in the province. Thanks to Dorothy Field, project started with CDS Inc. performing a comprehensive review of all 309 sites listed on HeRMIS database. After a list update was provided by Heritage Survey Program Coordinator Dorothy Field, the list was refined to 190 sites, which included commercial, institutional, industrial (provincially designated grain elevators) residential, community halls and landmarks.

The windshield survey involved photographing all sites to determine future eligibility for resource evaluation, not only for this project but for future considerations, and to determine if any sites had been lost. Of the 190 sites reviewed, approximately ninety-five sites were found to have good to particularly good integrity, and forty-one sites no longer existed.



The diagram above helps illustrate what this means withing the scope of the project. The provincial Heritage Survey database lists 190 sites within the Town of Nanton. Of the 190 sites, there are ninety-five sites that have good to very integrity, which means they may still convey their significance.

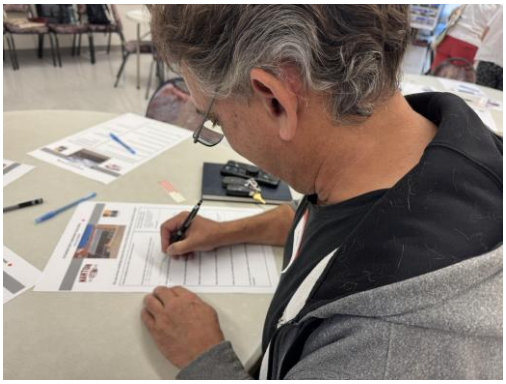
With the scope of this project focussed on the downtown, twenty-four sites from the ninety-five were identified in the downtown core area as “high priority sites” that should be presented to the community to determine level of heritage value and support for further evaluation.



2.4. High Priority Sites

The high priority sites become “Places of Interest” which is a working list of properties that may have heritage value and should be looked at more closely.

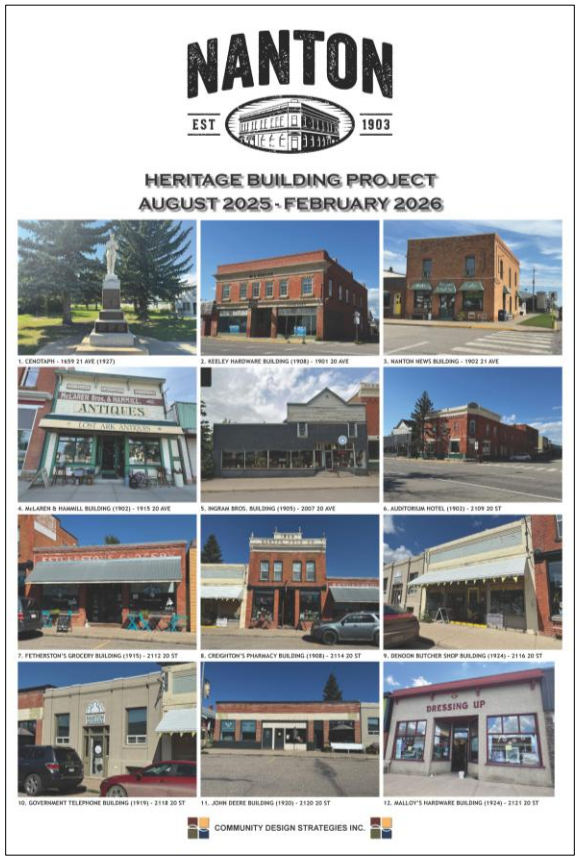
The 24 Places of Interest consisted of various typologies that functioned for commercial, institutional, medical, telecommunications, industrial, residential and social uses, including a relocated landmark originally unveiled in 1927 to honour Nanton and area military personnel who died during WWI.

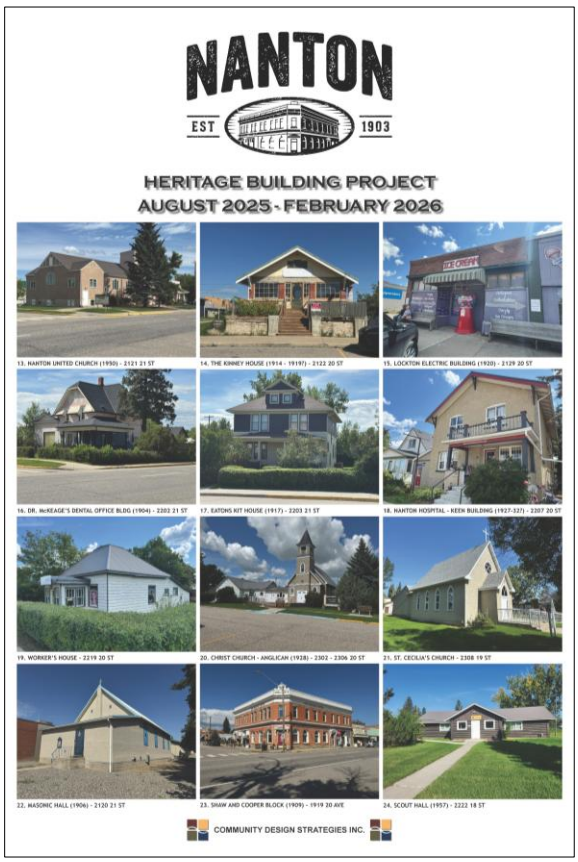




2.5. Stakeholder Consultation

With the downtown priority sites identified as "Places of Interest," the next step was to introduce the Heritage Building Evaluation Project to the community and present the initial twenty-four sites to the community for feedback. Early engagement with residents and stakeholders on September 16th, 2025, gave the consultant team and opportunity to ask specific questions about the buildings, collect insights, and gauge community values and perspectives as to which buildings are high priority and held more heritage value than others in the context of Nanton's history. It also helped narrow down the 24 Places of Interest to a sequential list of high priority sites basked on the outcome of the dotmocracy ratings gathered at the Open House. Oral interviews with stakeholders and longtime residents also contributed to digging deeper into Nanton's history.





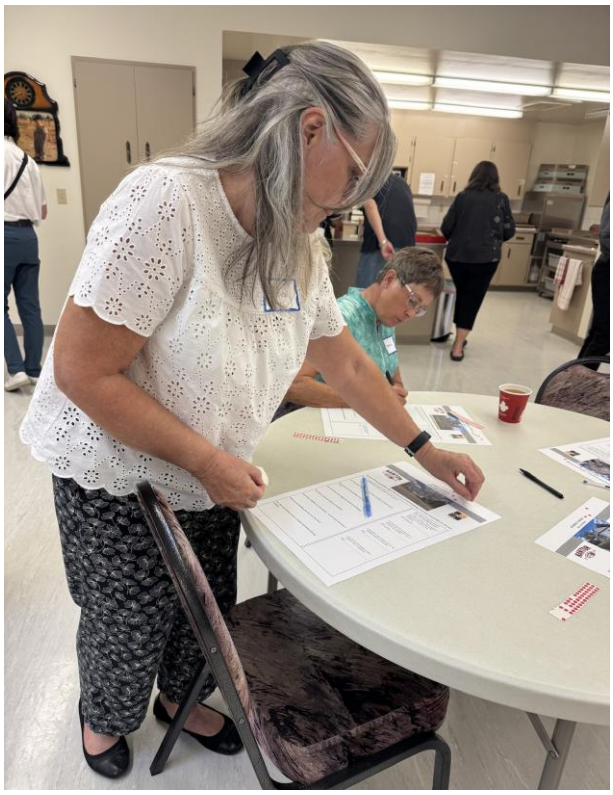

openhouse
here's an update


NANTON
NANTON









Open House #1 – September 16, 2025

Following the results of the Dotmocracy exercise, the heritage sites were divided into an A, B, and C list to help focus the research and identify six to ten heritage sites for further assessment and evaluation.

A-List

The **A-List** represents sites with the highest priority and therefore the greatest heritage value to the community. The **A-List** included:

Keeley Hardware (1908) – *1901 20 Avenue*

Auditorium Hotel (1902) – *2001 20 Avenue*

Fetherston's Grocery (1915) – *2112 20 Street*

Nanton Drug Company (1908) – *2114 20 Street*

Denoon's Butcher Shop (1924) – *2116 20 Street*

Shaw and Cooper Block (1909) – *1919 20 Avenue*

B-List

The **B-List** has slightly less priority than the A-List and of the six sites listed, two of the sties (Kinney House and Lockton Electric) have limited historical information.

The **B-List** included:

Nanton News (1908) – *1902 21 Avenue*

Nanton Telephone Exchange (1918) – *2118 20 Street*

Kinney House (1914) – *2122 20 Street*

Lockton Electric (1920) – *2129 20 Street*

Creighton Residence (1917) – *2203 – 21 Street*

Keen Hospital (1927) – *2207 20 Street*

C-List

The **C-List** has the least priority and has the greatest mix of typologies such as a landmark, commercial, industrial, institutional, residential, and social use.

The **C-List** included:

Cenotaph (1927) – *1659 21 Avenue*

McLaren Bros. & Hammill (1902) – *1915 20 Avenue*

Ingram Bros. (1905) – *2007 20 Avenue*

John Deere Building (1920) – *2120 20 Street*

Malloy's Hardware (1924) – *2121 20 Street*

Nanton United Church (1950) – *2121 21 Street*

Dr. McKeage's Dental Office (1904) – *2204 21 Street*

Worker's House (c1900) – *2219 20 Street*

Christ Church – Anglican (1928) – *2302-2306 20 Street*

St. Cecilia Church (c1905) – *2308 19 Street*

Masonic Hall (1906) – *2120 21 Street*

Scout Hall (1957) – *2222 18 Street*

2.6. Research and Data Collection

The next step was to conduct research to help with the evaluations. The research is important and helps answer questions about the history of the municipality, and where each building fits within the historical mosaic of the municipality and that of the province. The more information a municipality has available, the easier it is to decide what resources are locally significant and subsequently providing convincing arguments in support of municipal designation.

Primary and Secondary Sources

Research consists of gathering information from primary and secondary sources. The Context Paper in Section 5.2. in this document provides a detailed list of all primary and secondary sources, as does each Statement of Significance in Section 6.

Research for this project involved several sources and utilized such resources as local history books, Fire Insurance Maps, Nanton News Archives, the Bomber

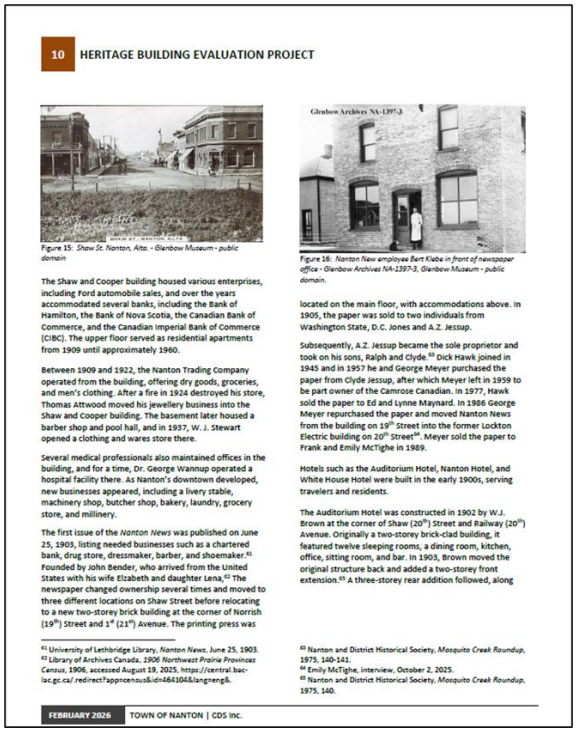

10 HERITAGE BUILDING EVALUATION PROJECT

Figure 15: *Shaw St. Nanton, Alta. - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Glenbow Archives NA-1397-3

Figure 16: *Nanton New employee Bert Klebe in front of newspaper office - Glenbow Archives NA-1397-3, Glenbow Museum - public domain.*

The Shaw and Cooper building housed various enterprises, including Ford automobile sales, and over the years accommodated several banks, including the Bank of Hamilton, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). The upper floor served as residential apartments from 1909 until approximately 1960.

Between 1909 and 1922, the Nanton Trading Company operated from the building, offering dry goods, groceries, and men's clothing. After a fire in 1924 destroyed his store, Thomas Attwood moved his jewellery business into the Shaw and Cooper building. The basement later housed a barber shop and pool hall, and in 1937, W. J. Stewart opened a clothing and wares store there.

Several medical professionals also maintained offices in the building, and for a time, Dr. George Wannup operated a hospital facility there. As Nanton's downtown developed, new businesses appeared, including a livery stable, machinery shop, butcher shop, bakery, laundry, grocery store, and millinery.

The first issue of the *Nanton News* was published on June 25, 1903, listing needed businesses such as a chartered bank, drug store, dressmaker, barber, and shoemaker.[61] Founded by John Bender, who arrived from the United States with his wife Elizabeth and daughter Lena,[62] The newspaper changed ownership several times and moved to three different locations on Shaw Street before relocating to a new two-storey brick building at the corner of Norrish (19th) Street and 1st (21st) Avenue. The printing press was located on the main floor, with accommodations above. In 1905, the paper was sold to two individuals from Washington State, D.C. Jones and A.Z. Jessup.

Subsequently, A.Z. Jessup became the sole proprietor and took on his sons, Ralph and Clyde.[63] Dick Hawk joined in 1945 and in 1957 he and George Meyer purchased the paper from Clyde Jessup, after which Meyer left in 1959 to be part owner of the Camrose Canadian. In 1977, Hawk sold the paper to Ed and Lynne Maynard. In 1986 George Meyer repurchased the paper and moved Nanton News from the building on 19th Street into the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street[64]. Meyer sold the paper to Frank and Emily McTighe in 1989.

Hotels such as the Auditorium Hotel, Nanton Hotel, and White House Hotel were built in the early 1900s, serving travelers and residents.

The Auditorium Hotel was constructed in 1902 by W.J. Brown at the corner of Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. Originally a two-storey brick-clad building, it featured twelve sleeping rooms, a dining room, kitchen, office, sitting room, and bar. In 1903, Brown moved the original structure back and added a two-storey front extension.[65] A three-storey rear addition followed, along

[61] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News*, June 25, 1903.
[62] Library of Archives Canada, *1906 Northwest Prairie Provinces Census*, 1906, accessed August 19, 2025, https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=census&id=664104&lang=eng&.
[63] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140-141.
[64] Emily McTighe, interview, October 2, 2025.
[65] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140.

FEBRUARY 2026 TOWN OF NANTON | CDS Inc.

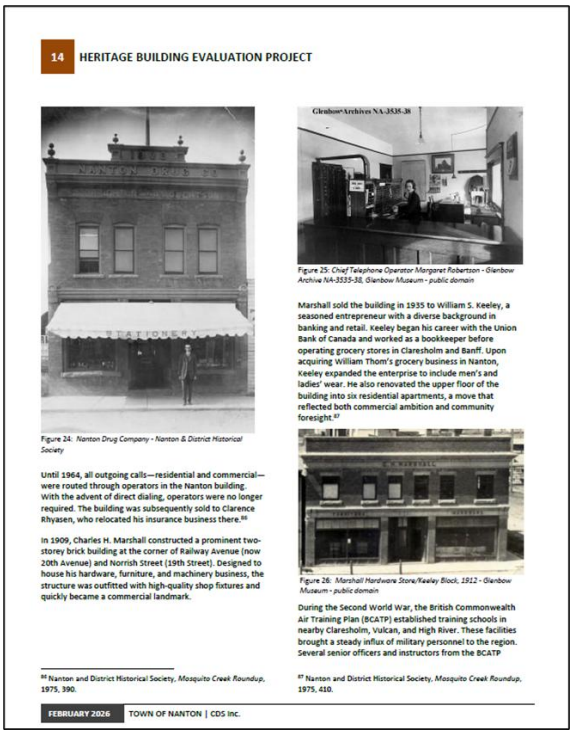

14 HERITAGE BUILDING EVALUATION PROJECT

Figure 24: *Nanton Drug Company - Nanton & District Historical Society*

Until 1964, all outgoing calls—residential and commercial—were routed through operators in the Nanton building. With the advent of direct dialing, operators were no longer required. The building was subsequently sold to Clarence Rhyasen, who relocated his insurance business there.[85]

In 1909, Charles H. Marshall constructed a prominent two-storey brick building at the corner of Railway Avenue (now 20th Avenue) and Norrish Street (19th Street). Designed to house his hardware, furniture, and machinery business, the structure was outfitted with high-quality shop fixtures and quickly became a commercial landmark.

Glenbow Archives NA-3535-38

Figure 25: *Chief Telephone Operator Margaret Robertson - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-38, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Marshall sold the building in 1935 to William S. Keeley, a seasoned entrepreneur with a diverse background in banking and retail. Keeley began his career with the Union Bank of Canada and worked as a bookkeeper before operating grocery stores in Claresholm and Banff. Upon acquiring William Thom's grocery business in Nanton, Keeley expanded the enterprise to include men's and ladies' wear. He also renovated the upper floor of the building into six residential apartments, a move that reflected both commercial ambition and community foresight.[87]

Figure 26: *Marshall Hardware Store/Keeley Block, 1912 - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

During the Second World War, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) established training schools in nearby Claresholm, Vulcan, and High River. These facilities brought a steady influx of military personnel to the region. Several senior officers and instructors from the BCATP

[85] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 390.

[87] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 410.

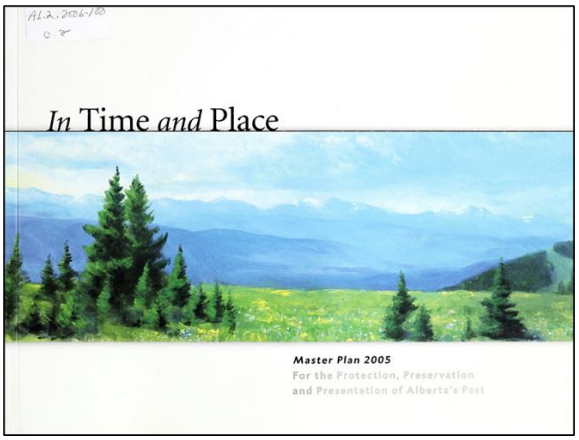
FEBRUARY 2026 TOWN OF NANTON | CDS Inc.

Command Museum of Canada Archives, Library and Archives Canada, Provincial Archives of Alberta, archival sources of The University of Calgary and University of Edmonton, the Vulcan Advocate, the Canadian Register of Historic Places, surveys from the Alberta's Survey Program database, Statements of Significance of similar typologies, journals, books, the internet, and local oral interviews and email, as well as sources to assist with archeological, cultural and construction trends.

In addition to the archival research, photographs are instrumental in confirming the site's location, architectural detailing, additions over time, adjacent structures, and sometimes the discovery of features that may have been later removed or may even exist under a more contemporary slipcover.

2.7. Historical Context Paper

As the research was underway, so was the development of a Nanton Historical Context Paper in *Section 5.2.* to expand the understanding of Nanton's historical development, such as historical themes or trends, ambitious spirit, optimism, and community building that all help create a picture of each building's place in Nanton's history, as well as



how Nanton's history fits within Alberta's "In Time and Place – Master Plan 2005," which is an outline of Alberta's history with eighteen themes in a thematic framework that emphasizes the social aspects of historical experiences. The Master Plan treats all heritage resources, whether buildings, portable objects, or archival documents, as artifacts with stories to tell. It also states that "the understanding and enjoyment of the province's history is increased when a broad selection of heritage resources are offered protection. This publication continues to maintain its relevance in preserving Alberta's history.

2.8. Places of Interest

The research and data collection assisted in identifying ten Places of Interest from the A and B-Lists required to move forward to the next step. However, three sites on the C-List were found to have a valued contribution and unique story apart from the other ten places of interest.

Dr. McKeage's 1905 home-based dental practice exemplifies the integration of professional services into the early daily life of Nanton and the way rural healthcare was delivered in Alberta at that time.

The 1906 Nanton Masonic Hall is an excellent example of adaptive reuse of what was initially St. Andrew's Hall, and then the Grace Hall, before the Freemason's purchased the building in 1951 and rotated the structure 180 degrees to suit lodge use.

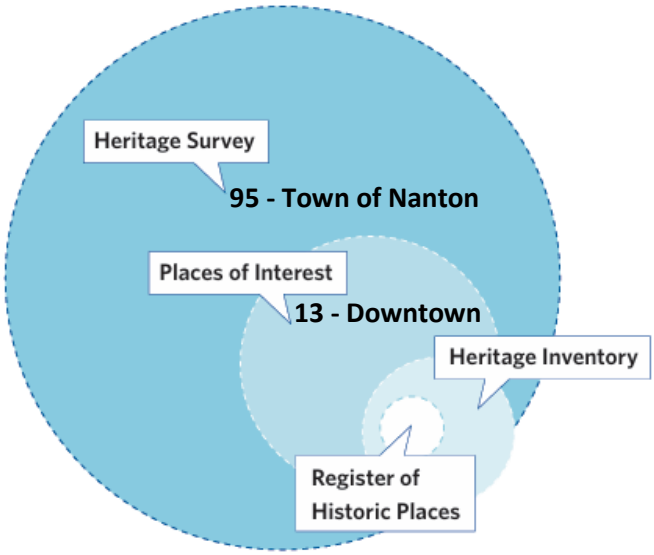
And the 1957 Scout Hall, formally titles as the Nanton Scout-Guide Hall, represents the mid-century collective volunteer efforts of Nanton residents to build a permanent home for youth organizations to

learn about leadership, life skills, citizenship, and community engagement.

At this point, it was decided to increase the Places of Interest List to thirteen sites and conduct an on-site survey of each building for confirmation of building features and further discovery.

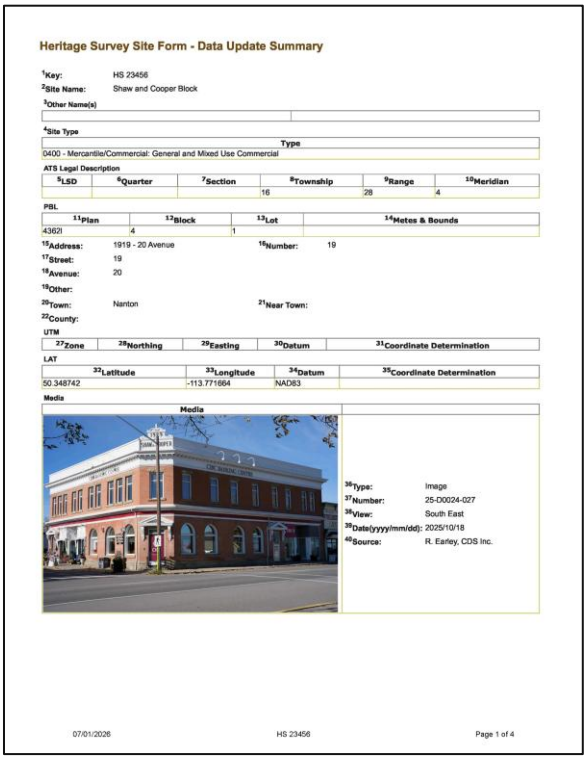
Places of Interest List

1. **Keeley Hardware** (1908) – *1901 20 Avenue*
2. **Auditorium Hotel** (1902) – *2001 20 Avenue*
3. **Fetherston's Grocery** (1915) – *2112 20 Street*
4. **Nanton Drug Company** (1908) – *2114 20 Street*
5. **Denoon's Butcher Shop** (1924) – *2116 20 Street*
6. **Shaw and Cooper Block** (1909) – *1919 20 Avenue*
7. **Nanton News** (1908) – *1902 21 Avenue*
8. **Nanton Telephone Exchange** (1918) – *2118 20 Street*
9. **Creighton Residence** (1917) – *2203 – 21 Street*
10. **Keen Hospital** (1927) – *2207 20 Street*
11. **Dr. McKeage's Dental Office** (1904) – *2204 21 Street*
12. **Masonic Hall** (1906) – *2120 21 Street*
13. **Scout Hall** (1957) – *2222 18 Street*



2.9. Field Assessments

With thirteen Places of Interest identified, field surveys were conducted to update the province's Heritage Survey database for these sites. This involved an on-site field assessment to confirm data entries from previous years, photographing the sites with a specialized digital camera meeting provincial



Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

1Key:	HS 23456
2Site Name:	Shaw and Cooper Block
3Other Name(s)	
4Site Type	
Type	
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial	

ATS Legal Description

5LSD	6Quarter	7Section	8Township	9Range	10Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

11Plan	12Block	13Lot	14Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	1	

15Address:	1919 - 20 Avenue	16Number:	19
17Street:	19		
18Avenue:	20		
19Other:			
20Town:	Nanton	21Near Town:	
22County:			

UTM

27Zone	28Northing	29Easting	30Datum	31Coordinate Determination

LAT

32Latitude	33Longitude	34Datum	35Coordinate Determination
50.348742	-113.771664	NAD83	

Media

Media

36Type:	Image
37Number:	25-D0024-027
38View:	South East
39Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
40Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

07/01/2026 HS 23456 Page 1 of 4

specifications, and entering codes that describe the physical features of the building, from its scale and footprint to every architectural element that describes its physical appearance, including its current condition and alterations to the structure. A brief narrative describing the history of the building, which is called a "tombstone" was also included with sources referenced.

The updated information was then entered into the on-line HeRMIS database, along with the digital photographs, for review and approval by the Alberta Survey Program coordinator, Dorothy Field.

2.10. Assessment and Evaluation

Following the completion of heritage survey form updates to the HeRMIS database, the information provided confirmation that all thirteen sites on the Places of Interest List should move through the assessment and evaluation process to become part of Nanton's future Heritage Inventory eligible for designation.

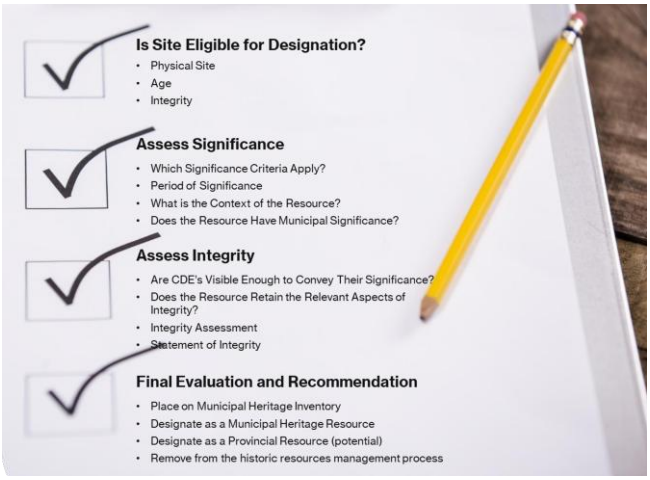
The evaluation criteria, designed and published by the province, is part of an excellent manual series called "Creating a Future" produced for municipalities to

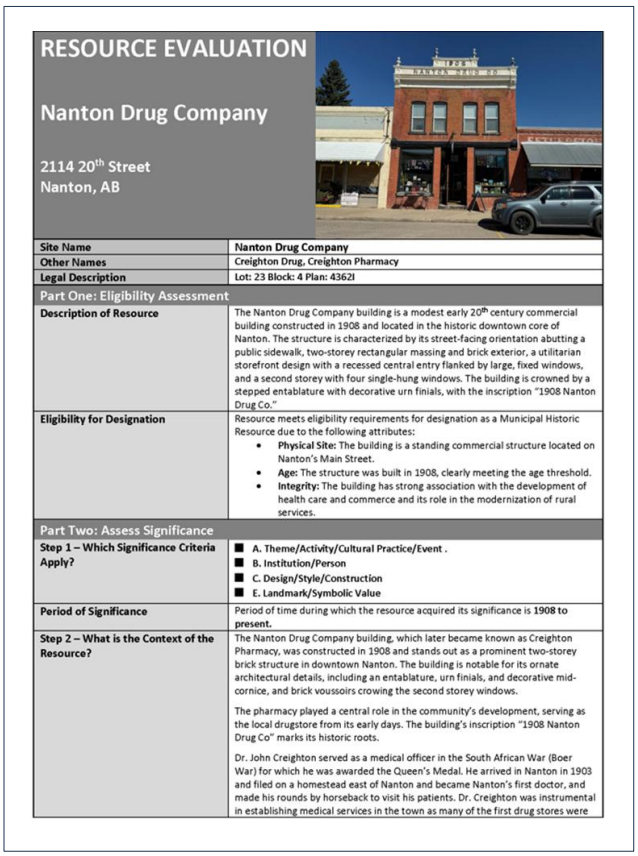


help them manage their historic places. Thes series is available on the the provinicial website through the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program.

Specific criteria were designed by the province to evaluate historic, architectural, and contextual significance in a structured manner. The criteria also ensures evaluations are objective, consistent, and standardized across differenct contexts and projects.

The Assessments and Evaluations for all thirteen Places of Interest can be found in *Appendix A: Heritage Resource Assessments and Evaluations*, and should be briefly reviewed prior to reading the following description that outlines the general completion of these documents.



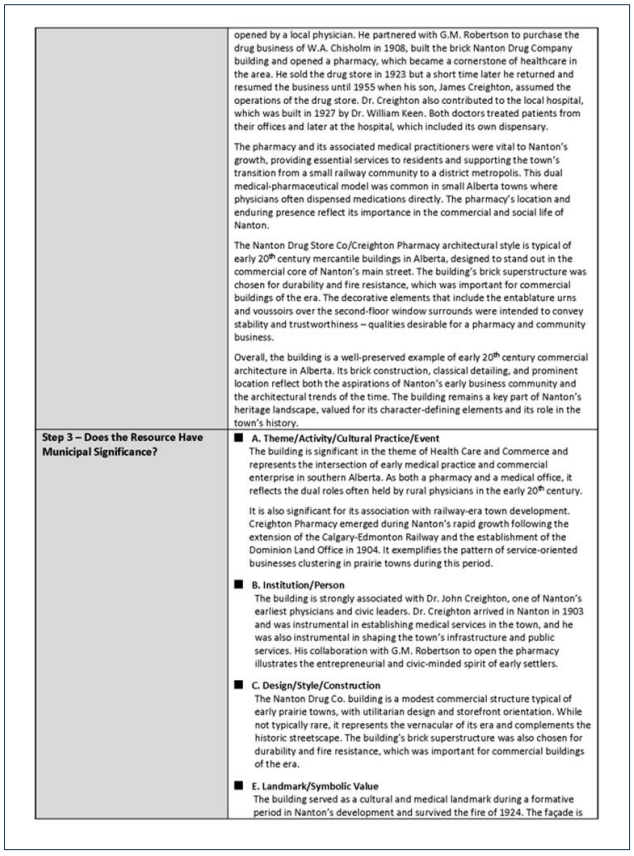


RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Drug Company

2114 20th Street
Nanton, AB

Site Name	**Nanton Drug Company**
Other Names	Creighton Drug, Creighton Pharmacy
Legal Description	Lot: 23 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Drug Company building is a modest early 20th century commercial building constructed in 1908 and located in the historic downtown core of Nanton. The structure is characterized by its street-facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk, two-storey rectangular massing and brick exterior, a utilitarian storefront design with a recessed central entry flanked by large, fixed windows, and a second storey with four single-hung windows. The building is crowned by a stepped entablature with decorative urn finials, with the inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co."
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1908, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with the development of health care and commerce and its role in the modernization of rural services.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event .** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1908 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Nanton Drug Company building, which later became known as Creighton Pharmacy, was constructed in 1908 and stands out as a prominent two-storey brick structure in downtown Nanton. The building is notable for its ornate architectural details, including an entablature, urn finials, and decorative mid-cornice, and brick voussoirs crowing the second storey windows. The pharmacy played a central role in the community's development, serving as the local drugstore from its early days. The building's inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" marks its historic roots. Dr. John Creighton served as a medical officer in the South African War (Boer War) for which he was awarded the Queen's Medal. He arrived in Nanton in 1903 and filed on a homestead east of Nanton and became Nanton's first doctor, and made his rounds by horseback to visit his patients. Dr. Creighton was instrumental in establishing medical services in the town as many of the first drug stores were



	opened by a local physician. He partnered with G.M. Robertson to purchase the drug business of W.A. Chisholm in 1908, built the brick Nanton Drug Company building and opened a pharmacy, which became a cornerstone of healthcare in the area. He sold the drug store in 1923 but a short time later he returned and resumed the business until 1955 when his son, James Creighton, assumed the operations of the drug store. Dr. Creighton also contributed to the local hospital, which was built in 1927 by Dr. William Keen. Both doctors treated patients from their offices and later at the hospital, which included its own dispensary. The pharmacy and its associated medical practitioners were vital to Nanton's growth, providing essential services to residents and supporting the town's transition from a small railway community to a district metropolis. This dual medical-pharmaceutical model was common in small Alberta towns where physicians often dispensed medications directly. The pharmacy's location and enduring presence reflect its importance in the commercial and social life of Nanton. The Nanton Drug Store Co/Creighton Pharmacy architectural style is typical of early 20th century mercantile buildings in Alberta, designed to stand out in the commercial core of Nanton's main street. The building's brick superstructure was chosen for durability and fire resistance, which was important for commercial buildings of the era. The decorative elements that include the entablature urns and voussoirs over the second-floor window surrounds were intended to convey stability and trustworthiness – qualities desirable for a pharmacy and community business. Overall, the building is a well-preserved example of early 20th century commercial architecture in Alberta. Its brick construction, classical detailing, and prominent location reflect both the aspirations of Nanton's early business community and the architectural trends of the time. The building remains a key part of Nanton's heritage landscape, valued for its character-defining elements and its role in the town's history.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building is significant in the theme of Health Care and Commerce and represents the intersection of early medical practice and commercial enterprise in southern Alberta. As both a pharmacy and a medical office, it reflects the dual roles often held by rural physicians in the early 20th century. It is also significant for its association with railway-era town development. Creighton Pharmacy emerged during Nanton's rapid growth following the extension of the Calgary-Edmonton Railway and the establishment of the Dominion Land Office in 1904. It exemplifies the pattern of service-oriented businesses clustering in prairie towns during this period. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building is strongly associated with Dr. John Creighton, one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders. Dr. Creighton arrived in Nanton in 1903 and was instrumental in establishing medical services in the town, and he was also instrumental in shaping the town's infrastructure and public services. His collaboration with G.M. Robertson to open the pharmacy illustrates the entrepreneurial and civic-minded spirit of early settlers. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The Nanton Drug Co. building is a modest commercial structure typical of early prairie towns, with utilitarian design and storefront orientation. While not typically rare, it represents the vernacular of its era and complements the historic streetscape. The building's brick superstructure was also chosen for durability and fire resistance, which was important for commercial buildings of the era. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building served as a cultural and medical landmark during a formative period in Nanton's development and survived the fire of 1924. The façade is

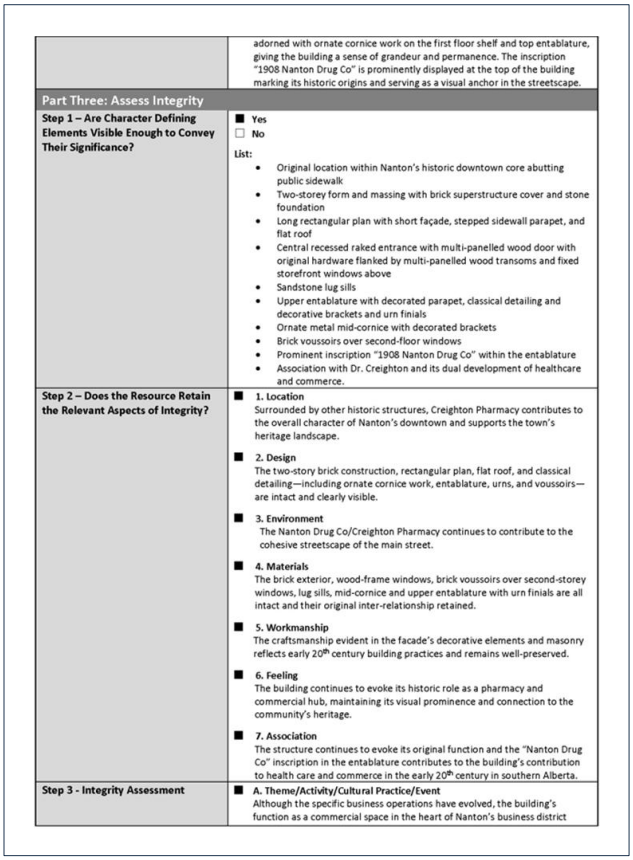
The forms included here provide an example of the Nanton and Drug Company assessment and evaluation, also known as Creighton Pharmacy. To be eligible for designation, resource must exist in its original location, meet a specific age threshold, and have integrity. Integrity means having significance for its association with a theme or cultural practice, and institution or person, its design, style or construction, and even its landmark value.

A 5th criterion – D – Information Potential is excluded from the list as it normally applies to archaeological sites rather than buildings. Thus, only criteria that apply are listed for each site.

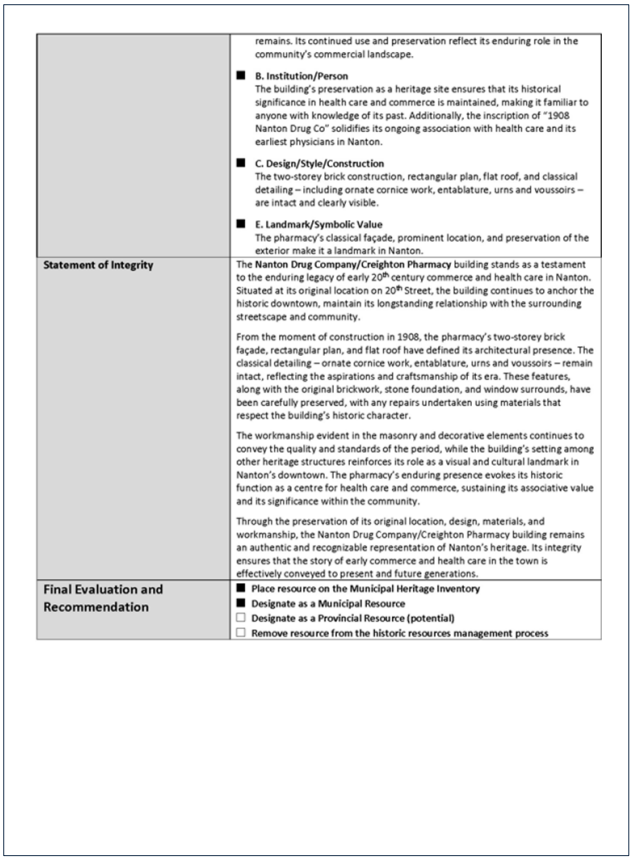
After identifying which criteria apply, the historical context of the building is summarized to understand its history, its role in Nanton's development, and its architectural features. This helps understand if the building has municipal significance. For instance, the Nanton Drug Company is significant in the theme of health care and commerce, its association with railway-era town development, and its association with Dr. John Creighton, one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders. It also represents the vernacular of its era, served as a cultural and medical landmark, and survived the 1924 fire.

Next, the Character-Defining Elements that are visually evident and speak to the building's integrity are listed, such as location, form and massing, its physical features, and its associations with Dr. Creighton.

Certain aspects of the resource's historic identity, called "Aspects of Integrity" also need to be retained for the building to communicate its historic significance. The aspects of integrity include: location, design, environment, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and even though retention of all is not necessary, the Nanton Drug Company does retain all aspects of integrity.



	adorned with ornate cornice work on the first floor shelf and top entablature, giving the building a sense of grandeur and permanence. The inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" is prominently displayed at the top of the building marking its historic origins and serving as a visual anchor in the streetscape.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ Yes ☐ No List: • Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core abutting public sidewalk • Two-storey form and massing with brick superstructure cover and stone foundation • Long rectangular plan with short façade, stepped sidewall parapet, and flat roof • Central recessed raked entrance with multi-panelled wood door with original hardware flanked by multi-panelled wood transoms and fixed storefront windows above • Sandstone lug sills • Upper entablature with decorated parapet, classical detailing and decorative brackets and urn finials • Ornate metal mid-cornice with decorated brackets • Brick voussoirs over second-floor windows • Prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" within the entablature • Association with Dr. Creighton and its dual development of healthcare and commerce.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** Surrounded by other historic structures, Creighton Pharmacy contributes to the overall character of Nanton's downtown and supports the town's heritage landscape. ■ **2. Design** The two-story brick construction, rectangular plan, flat roof, and classical detailing—including ornate cornice work, entablature, urns, and voussoirs—are intact and clearly visible. ■ **3. Environment** The Nanton Drug Co/Creighton Pharmacy continues to contribute to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials** The brick exterior, wood-frame windows, brick voussoirs over second-storey windows, lug sills, mid-cornice and upper entablature with urn finials are all intact and their original inter-relationship retained. ■ **5. Workmanship** The craftsmanship evident in the facade's decorative elements and masonry reflects early 20th century building practices and remains well-preserved. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to evoke its historic role as a pharmacy and commercial hub, maintaining its visual prominence and connection to the community's heritage. ■ **7. Association** The structure continues to evoke its original function and the "Nanton Drug Co" inscription in the entablature contributes to the building's contribution to health care and commerce in the early 20th century in southern Alberta.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Although the specific business operations have evolved, the building's function as a commercial space in the heart of Nanton's business district



	remains. Its continued use and preservation reflect its enduring role in the community's commercial landscape. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building's preservation as a heritage site ensures that its historical significance in health care and commerce is maintained, making it familiar to anyone with knowledge of its past. Additionally, the inscription of "1908 Nanton Drug Co" solidifies its ongoing association with health care and its earliest physicians in Nanton. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The two-storey brick construction, rectangular plan, flat roof, and classical detailing – including ornate cornice work, entablature, urns and voussoirs – are intact and clearly visible. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The pharmacy's classical façade, prominent location, and preservation of the exterior make it a landmark in Nanton.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Drug Company/Creighton Pharmacy** building stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of early 20th century commerce and health care in Nanton. Situated at its original location on 20th Street, the building continues to anchor the historic downtown, maintain its longstanding relationship with the surrounding streetscape and community. From the moment of construction in 1908, the pharmacy's two-storey brick façade, rectangular plan, and flat roof have defined its architectural presence. The classical detailing – ornate cornice work, entablature, urns and voussoirs – remain intact, reflecting the aspirations and craftsmanship of its era. These features, along with the original brickwork, stone foundation, and window surrounds, have been carefully preserved, with any repairs undertaken using materials that respect the building's historic character. The workmanship evident in the masonry and decorative elements continues to convey the quality and standards of the period, while the building's setting among other heritage structures reinforces its role as a visual and cultural landmark in Nanton's downtown. The pharmacy's enduring presence evokes its historic function as a centre for health care and commerce, sustaining its associative value and its significance within the community. Through the preservation of its original location, design, materials, and workmanship, the Nanton Drug Company/Creighton Pharmacy building remains an authentic and recognizable representation of Nanton's heritage. Its integrity ensures that the story of early commerce and health care in the town is effectively conveyed to present and future generations.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

The last step is the Integrity Assessment which determines if the resource retains its ability to convey its historical significance. The question becomes, "As it exists today, Is there sufficient integrity in the Nanton Drug Company building to communicate its heritage value?" The answer is yes, which is then fully described in the evaluation's Statement of Integrity at the end fo the document, including a recommendation to designate the building as a Municipal Historic Resource.

Again, the Assessments and Evaluations for all thirteen Places of Interest can be found in *Appendix A: Heritage Resource Assessments and Evaluations*.

2.10. Statement of Significance

The next step is drafting a Statement of Significance to add the resource to a Municipal Inventory, which is a list of resources that have been evaluated by the municipality and determined to be eligible for municipal designation.

The Statement of Significance includes three sections:

Description of Resource:

The first section answers the question – "What is the resource?" – The description is like painting a picture of the building and describing what it looks like, its location, year of construction and its features.

Heritage Value:

The second section is a description of Heritage Value that answers the question – "Why is this resource important or significant?" – It draws on all the Significance Criteria selected in the evaluation and explains them separately, if necessary.

Character-Defining Elements (CDEs):

The third section is a list of Character-Defining Elements that answers the question – "What features embody the heritage value of the resource?" Principal features are identified, such as location, form and massing, roof shape, materials, spatial configurations, uses, and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to its heritage value. The CDEs provide guidance to the building owner, planners, architects, and others who might be involved in conserving or rehabilitating the building, or preparing project proposals related to the resource.

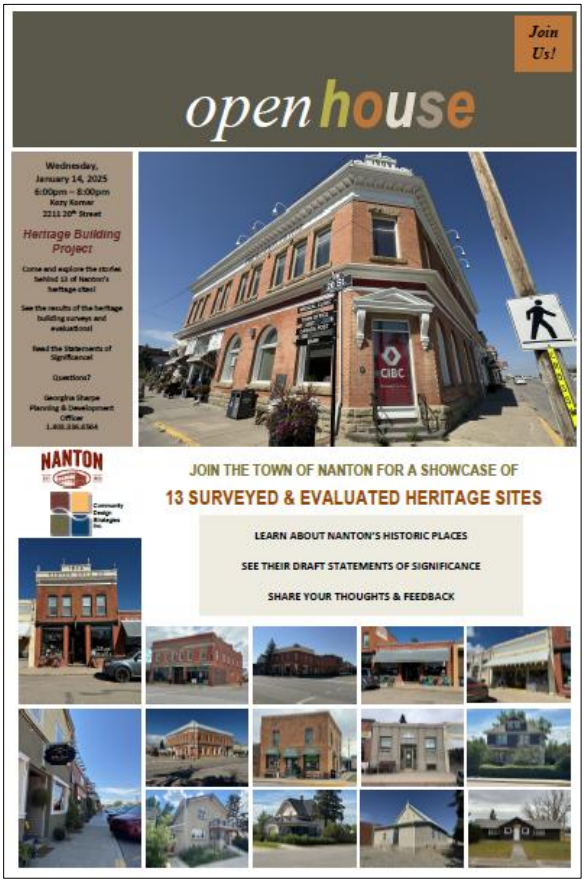
Research sources are also listed for future reference if the document needs to be revised for any reason. And for this reason, the document is normally referred to as a "Draft" Statement of Significance as it is actually a "living document" that can be updated or revised anytime up to the point of heritage designation.

Statements of Significance for all thirteen buildings are provided in *Section 7* of this document.

2.11. Stakeholder Feedback

Stakeholders had the opportunity to provide feedback on the Statements of Significance, and the assessment and evaluation and survey form update for each of the thirteen heritage resources at an Open House that also served to guide them through the process of heritage site identification, survey updates, the evaluation process, and the structure of a Statement of Significance.

The session also opened up discussion on what heritage designation means to the building owner, and the benefits that come with designation.



Open House #2 – January 14, 2026

Following the results of the survey updates, the assessment and evaluation of each site, and the drafting of Statements of Significance, the thirteen Places of Interest were presented to the stakeholders with recommendations for Municipal Heritage Designation. Statements of Significance are located in *Section 7* of this document.





NANTON

EST 1903

HERITAGE BUILDING PROJECT

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE - 13 PLACES OF INTEREST



W.S. Keeley Building - 1901 20 Avenue (1908)

The W. S. Keeley Building, commonly known as the Keeley Block, is a two-storey brick commercial structure prominently located at the corner of Highway 2 and 19th Street in downtown Nanton. Constructed in 1908 and completed in 1909 by C.H. Marshall, the building originally housed a hardware, machinery, and furniture store before being purchased in 1935 by William S. Keeley, a local merchant whose business contributed significantly to the town's economy. In 1941, Keeley adapted the second floor into apartments, reflecting the evolving needs of the community and the flexibility of small-town commercial blocks. Architecturally, the Keeley Block is representative of the early 20th century Commercial style, with its flat roof, corbelled parapet, entablature detailing, and evenly spaced upper-storey windows with sandstone lintels and sills. The ground floor retains its large shopfronts and recessed entrances, and many of the original materials are intact. Over time, the building has accommodated a variety of uses, including antique shops, and today continues to serve as a mixed-use commercial and residential property.



Auditorium Hotel - 2001 20 Avenue (1902,1903,1912)

Located at the heart of Nanton's historic downtown, the Auditorium Hotel stands as a testament to the town's early 20th century growth and enduring community spirit. Originally constructed in 1902, and expanded in 1912, this Edwardian Commercial-style landmark has served as a hotel, tavern, and social hub for over a century. Its brick-clad façade, symmetrical windows, and prominent signage reflect its architectural heritage, while its role as a stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge, music venue, and gathering place highlight its cultural significance.

Known locally as "The Aud," the hotel remains a symbol of Nanton's resilience, hospitality, and rich folklore, anchoring the town's identity and streetscape from 1902 to the present.

The Auditorium Hotel remains a a visual anchor within Nanton's downtown. Its layered history, architectural character, and enduring role in community life positions it as a meaningful and representative example of early 20th century prairie hotel development in Alberta.



Fetherston's Grocery - 2112 20 Street (1915)

A modest, one-storey brick commercial building constructed in 1915, Fetherston's Grocery is a representative example of early 20th century small-town Alberta architecture. Featuring simple massing, a utilitarian storefront, and a distinctive "Fetherston's Grocery" ghost sign, the building has served as a hub for groceries and community interaction on Nanton's historic main street (Shaw Street). Closely associated with Orie Fetherston, a prominent local businessman and former mayor, the store reflects the evolution of prairie commerce and family-run businesses in Alberta's post-settlement era.

Retaining its original location, brick cladding, and key exterior features, Fetherston's Grocery continues to contribute to the visual and cultural continuity of the downtown core, embodying the patterns of settlement, commerce, and community life that have shaped Nanton's heritage.



Denoon Meat Market - 2116 20 Street (1924)

Constructed in 1924, the Denoon Butcher Shop is a modest, one-storey brick commercial building featuring a distinctive brick false-front façade and original storefront details. Centrally located in Nanton's historic commercial core, the building reflects the entrepreneurial spirit of early prairie settlers and the growth of small-town commerce during Alberta's railway expansion era. Closely associated with the Denoon family, it played a significant role in the economic and social development of the community and serves as a representative example of commercial architecture from its era, reflecting both the practical needs and the aspirations of early settlers in the region.

Retaining its original location, brick cladding, and utilitarian storefront, the Denoon Meat Market maintains strong integrity in location, design, materials, and association, and continues to contribute to the heritage character and continuity of Nanton's Main Street.



Shaw and Cooper Block - 1919 20 Avenue (1909)

Constructed in 1909 at the prominent corner of 20th Avenue and 20th Street in Nanton, the Shaw and Cooper Block is a two-storey brick and sandstone commercial building designed by Calgary architect William Dodd. Commissioned by H.M. Shaw, founder of Nanton and Member of Parliament for the Macleod riding, together with J.T. Cooper, the town's first mayor, the block reflects the civic ambition and entrepreneurial spirit of its builders. Originally housing the Bank of Hamilton and Sibbett & Hallett's variety store, the building has remained a centre of commerce and finance for more than a century, later serving the Canadian Bank of Commerce and CIBC.

With its Romanesque Revival windows, classical pedimented entrances, and angled corner façade bearing the inscription "Shaw & Cooper, 1909," the block continues to anchor Nanton's main street as a landmark of permanence and prosperity. Recognized as an Alberta Registered Historic Resource in 1979, it stands today as a symbol of the town's early development and enduring identity.



Nanton News - 1902 21 Avenue (1908)

Constructed in 1908, the Nanton News Building is a two-storey, brick-clad commercial structure located on 19th Street in downtown Nanton. Built of nailed-frame construction on a stone foundation, the building features brick corbelling, a rectangular plan, and a prominent false-front façade typical of early prairie boomtown architecture. Historically, the ground floor housed the printing office and shop for the Nanton News, one of Alberta's earliest newspapers, while the second floor provided residential quarters.

The building is significant for its association with the development of communication, civic identity, and commercial growth in southern Alberta. It retains a high degree of integrity in location, design, materials, and workmanship, with minimal alterations since its construction. The Nanton News Building stands as a rare surviving example of early newspaper architecture in the province, contributing to the historic streetscape and collective memory of the community.

NANTON

EST 1903

HERITAGE BUILDING PROJECT

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE - 13 PLACES OF INTEREST



Nanton Telephone Exchange - 2118 20 Street (1918)

Built in 1918, the Nanton Telephone Exchange is a modest utility building in Nanton. It served as a vital hub for rural telecommunications, connecting the community to provincial and national networks. The building's original design - which likely followed standardized provincial plans emphasizing durability, fire resistance, and functional layout, reflecting the architectural and civic values of mid-century Alberta - and location remain largely intact, making it a significant symbol of early public infrastructure and local heritage.

Despite minor alterations over time, the building retains its original location, exterior form, and key architectural features, including its brick cladding under the applied stucco, symmetrical fenestration, and moulded name plate. These elements, along with its continued recognition within the community, embody the integrity and heritage value of the resource.



Creighton Residence - 2203 21 Street (1917)

Built in 1917, the Creighton Residence is a two-storey Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 606 kit house, ordered by Dr. John A. Creighton, Nanton's first physician. The home has remained in the Creighton family for generations, serving as the birthplace and lifelong residence of James Forbes Creighton and family.

Architecturally, the residence is significant as an Eaton kit house, representing the economic practicality and innovative spirit of early 20th century rural Alberta. The residence is notable for its shiplap and shingle-clad exterior, square layout, and robust construction, reflecting early 20th century mail-order home practices. Closely associated with the development of healthcare and businesses in Nanton, the Creighton Residence stands as a rare and enduring example of an Eaton kit house and a local landmark of generational continuity.



Keen Hospital - 2207 20 Street (1927)

Built in 1927 by Dr. William H. Keen, Keen Hospital was Nanton's first purpose-built hospital and stands as a testament to early rural healthcare innovation in southern Alberta. This two-and-a-half-storey brick (now with stucco cladding) building on Shaw Street (now 20th Street) provided modern medical care to the community, featuring a twelve-bed facility, a dispensary, medical office, bathrooms, kitchen and a sunroom, serving as a vital centre for treatment, surgery, and recovery. Operated by Dr. Keen and later Dr. Hector Mackenzie, the hospital addressed local needs until its closure in 1940.

The structure remains a prominent landmark with its institutional massing, and symmetrical fenestration pattern, now repurposed as Main Street Apartments, and continues to symbolize Nanton's commitment to community well-being and the legacy of its pioneering medical professionals.



Nanton Drug Company - 2114 20 Street (1908)

Constructed in 1908, the Nanton Drug Company / Creighton Pharmacy stands as a distinguished landmark in the heart of Nanton's historic downtown. Originally established as the Nanton Drug Company, this two-storey brick building has served generations as a centre for health care and commerce. Its classical façade adorned with ornate cornice work, urns, a stepped entablature, and the proud inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" reflects the optimism and craftsmanship of its era.

Associated with pioneering figures such as Dr. John Creighton and Dr. G.M. Robertson, the pharmacy played a vital role in the community's development, offering essential medical services and anchoring the commercial streetscape. As one of the earliest and most enduring businesses in Nanton, Creighton's Pharmacy contributed to the town's transformation from a railway outpost to a thriving district metropolis. The building's presence supported the establishment of local hospitals and medical infrastructure, making it a cornerstone of public health in southern Alberta.

Throughout its history, Creighton Pharmacy has witnessed and adapted to the changing landscape of rural commerce and medicine, serving as a gathering place for residents, a symbol of stability during times of growth and challenge, and a survivor of the devastating fire of 1924, as can be seen in the photograph below.





NANTON

EST 1903

HERITAGE BUILDING PROJECT

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE - 13 PLACES OF INTEREST



Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence - 2204 21 Street (1904-05)

Constructed in c1904-05 by local builder Elzie Robertson, the McKeage Residence and Dental Office is a two-storey, rectangular wood-frame dwelling with a high-hip gable roof, stone foundation, and shiplap and shingle wood cladding. The building originally served as a private residence and later housed the dental practice of Dr. G.E. McKeage, who advertised his office "at residence" in local newspapers during the 1920s.

The property illustrates the early development of Nanton as a railway-era service centre and reflects the cultural practice of professionals combining domestic and work spaces in small prairie towns. Its modest vernacular design, durable construction materials, and continued presence on its original site contribute to its heritage value as a representative example of early 20th century community architecture in southern Alberta.



Nanton Masonic Hall - 2120 21 Street (1906)

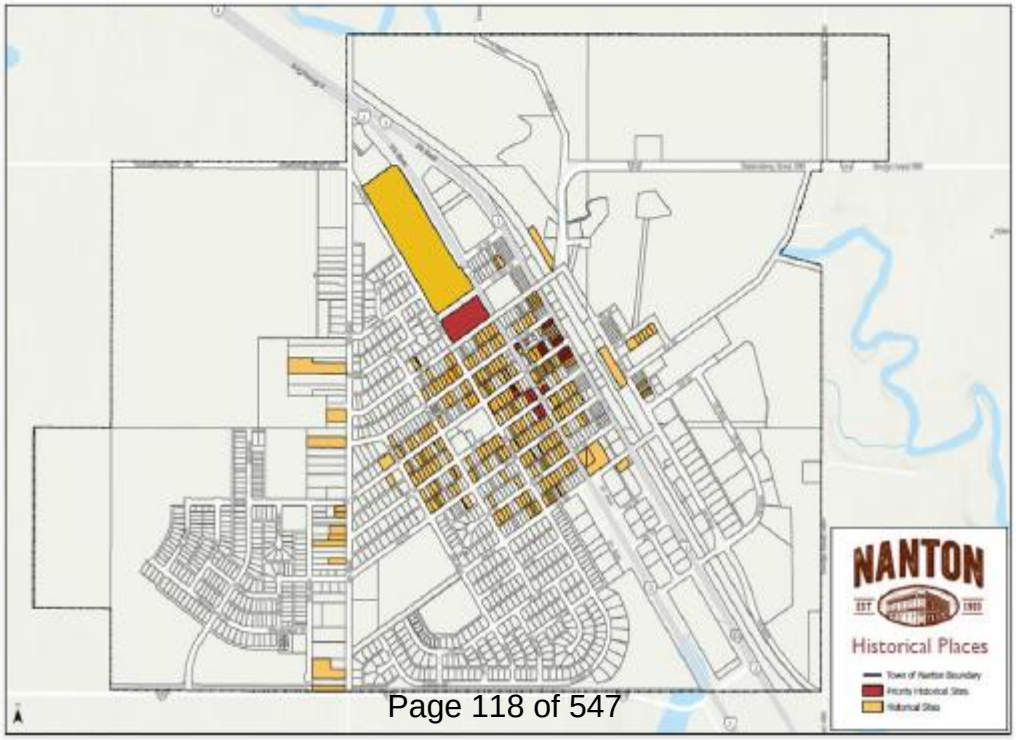
Constructed in 1906 as St. Andrew's Hall, this modest wood-frame building originally served the Presbyterian congregation in Nanton as a church hall, and later renamed Grace Hall. It functioned as a centre for worship-related activities, Sunday school, and community gatherings, reflecting the importance of auxiliary halls in prairie towns. Beyond its religious role, the hall hosted cultural programs and civic events. In 1951, the building was purchased and adapted by Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons, part of the province-wide expansion of fraternal organizations following the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 1905. The lodge reoriented the structure, turning the back into the front entrance, and has used it continuously for meetings, ceremonies, and charitable activities. The resource communicates its layered heritage value as a religious, civic, and fraternal landmark. Its uninterrupted role as a gathering place for over a century illustrates the adaptability of small-town institutions and their enduring contribution to Nanton's cultural identity.



Nanton Scout-Guide Hall - 2222 18 Street (1957)

Constructed in 1957, the Nanton Scout-Guide Hall is a modest, horizontal log constructed community building located within the town's civic core. Purpose-built through local fundraising and volunteer labour, the hall provided a permanent home for Scouting and Guiding organizations in Nanton during the postwar period. Its simple rectangular form, low-pitched roof, and utilitarian layout are representative of mid-20th century vernacular community halls across Alberta.

The hall is significant for its social and historical associations with youth programming, volunteerism, and civic pride. It served as a hub for meetings, training, and community events, shaping generations of local residents and reinforcing traditions of grassroots initiative. While architecturally modest, the building retains integrity of location, design, and association, and continues to symbolize Nanton's investment in youth development and community life.



3. Project Outcome



3.1 Successes and Challenges

The Nanton Heritage Building Evaluation Project has unfolded as a deeply collaborative, research-driven initiative that strengthened the community's understanding of its historic places. Its progress reflects both notable achievements and the practical challenges inherent in documenting a century of built history.

Successes

1. **A Comprehensive, Town-Wide Understanding of Heritage Resources**

The project successfully brought together survey data, archival research, and on-the-ground fieldwork to create the most complete picture to date of Nanton's heritage buildings. For the first time, the Town now has consistent, designation-ready evaluations and Statements of Significance for priority sites, supported by a clear historical context.

2. **Strong Community Engagement and Visibility**

Public interest exceeded expectations. Open Houses, social media updates, and local media coverage helped residents see the project as a shared effort rather than a technical exercise. Some community members contributed insights that enriched the historical narratives.

3. **Clear, Professional Documentation for Future Planning**

The project produced polished Statements of Significance, updated survey forms, and a contextual framework that will guide municipal decision-making for years. This documentation gives Council and administration a reliable foundation for designation, development review, and long-term conservation planning.

4. **Strengthened Municipal Capacity**

Staff and council gained a deeper understanding of heritage evaluation processes, criteria, and conservation principles. This capacity building ensures that heritage considerations can be integrated more confidently into planning and policy discussions.

Challenges

1. **Gaps and Inconsistencies in Historical Records**

Some buildings lacked clear histories, or archival photographs. Reconciling conflicting sources required careful interpretation, and in some cases, the project had to acknowledge uncertainty rather than force a definitive conclusion.

2. Balancing Technical Rigor with Public Accessibility

Heritage evaluation is methodical and criteria-driven, but public audiences often prefer narrative storytelling. Translating technical assessments into engaging, plain-language materials for Open Houses and media outreach required additional time and thoughtful communication.

3. Managing Expectations Around Designation

Many residents were enthusiastic about the project, but some were unsure whether evaluation and the Statement of Significance meant automatic designation. Clarifying the distinction between survey, evaluation, and formal protection was important to ensure clarity.

4. Time and Resource Constraints

Evaluating thirteen priority buildings in depth – while updating the broader survey – required significant coordination. Fieldwork, archival research, and drafting had to be balanced with municipal timelines, grant requirements, and the realities of a small-community context.

Overall, the Nanton Heritage Building Project stands as a major step forward in understanding and celebrating the town's historic places. Its success lie in the quality of research, the strength of community participation, and the creation of tools that will guide heritage stewardship for years to come. At the same time, the project navigated the real-world challenges of limited records, communication complexity, and the need to balance ambition with available resources.

Together, these experiences reflect a community that values its past and is actively shaped how that past informs the future.

3.2 Recommendations

The Heritage Building Evaluation Project has provided the Town of Nanton with a comprehensive understanding of its historic resources. Updated survey information, detailed Statements of Significance, and a community-informed historical context now form a solid foundation for long-term heritage stewardship. The following integrated recommendations outline strategic actions for Council's consideration..

1. Adopt the Evaluation Findings as a Municipal Planning Resource

The Statements of Significance, survey updates, and context paper should be formally adopted as reference documents within the Town's planning framework. Adoption ensures that heritage value is consistently considered during development review and municipal decision-making.

2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw

To support future municipal designations, the Town should prepare a standard Designation Bylaw template. This provides a clear legal framework for protecting heritage properties and ensures that the designation process is efficient, transparent, and aligned with provincial requirements.

3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Municipal Designation

The project identified several buildings with strong heritage value, integrity, and community visibility. Council may wish to select a small number of these properties for further exploration of municipal designation, undertaken collaboratively with property owners.

4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee

Establishing a Heritage Advisory Committee would provide Council with community-based expertise and support. The committee could review heritage applications, advise on policy development, and assist with public engagement and education initiatives.

5. Strengthen Ongoing Engagement With Property Owners

Continued outreach is essential to building trust and supporting informed decision-making. The Town should ensure that owners are aware of the free advisory services available from the Provincial Conservation Advisor, who can provide guidance on designation benefits, responsibilities, and conservation techniques.

6. **Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework**

A concise policy or framework would clarify how heritage value is addressed in planning processes, outline criteria for selecting future designation candidates, and establish expectations for alteration to heritage buildings.

7. **Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings**

Design guidelines tailored to Nanton's historic building stock would provide clear expectations for alterations, additions, and new construction. Guidelines help ensure that changes respect historic character while offering practical direction for owners and applicants.

8. **Continue Expanding and Updating the Heritage Survey**

Several areas and building types remain under-documented. The Town should apply for a grant to complete a Residential Heritage Survey, which will help identify additional properties of interest and support future evaluation work.

9. **Develop a Heritage Resource Management Plan**

A Heritage Resource Management Plan would establish long-term goals, priorities, and processes for managing heritage resources. The plan can outline designation strategies, conservation tools, incentive options, and integration with broader municipal planning initiatives.

10. **Investigate the Creation of a Downtown Historic District**

The downtown core exhibits strong historic character and community value. Council may consider investigating the feasibility of establishing a Downtown Historic District to support revitalization, tourism, and consistent design standards.

11. **Initiate a Building Plaque Program**

A building plaque program would celebrate Nanton's history and make it visible to residents and visitors. Plaques can highlight significant buildings, themes, and stories, contributing to community pride and enhancing the visitor experience.

12. **Integrate Heritage Into Broader Municipal Initiatives**

The project's findings can inform a range of municipal priorities, including downtown revitalization, tourism development, wayfinding, and community branding. Integrating heritage into these initiatives positions Nanton's historic places as strategic assets that contribute to economic development and community identity.

13. **Maintain Public Engagement and Visibility**

The strong public response to the project highlights the community's interest in local history. Ongoing engagement—through public updates, recognition programs, interpretive materials, and partnerships with local cultural organizations—will help sustain momentum and reinforce the value of Nanton's heritage resources.

These integrated recommendations build on the solid foundation established through the Heritage Building Evaluation Project. By preparing the key tools, expanding documentation, supporting property owners, and embedding heritage into broader municipal priorities, Council can steward Nanton's historic places with clarity, confidence, and long-term vision.

4. The Benefits of Heritage Conservation



Preserving and protecting heritage buildings in Nanton is a cornerstone of the community's revitalization strategy. plays a crucial role in revitalizing urban areas. These historic structures not only embody the town's unique character and history, but they also serve as powerful drivers of local economic growth. By maintaining and repurposing heritage buildings, Nanton attracts new businesses, professional services, and educational opportunities, transforming these sites into vibrant hubs for commerce and civic engagement.

Revitalizing the historic downtown district – encompassing both buildings and landscapes – directly enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors. Community-led initiatives, such as the Antique and Art Walk of Alberta and Doors Open events, foster active participation among seniors and youth, strengthening social bonds and encouraging ongoing involvement in local life. Heritage buildings are increasingly sought-after venues that bridge generations, offering vibrant spaces for businesses, professional services, education and civic engagement, while celebrating shared history.

Most importantly, heritage conservation delivers substantial economic benefits. Restored heritage buildings support local businesses, increase property values, and stimulate tourism, all of which contribute to sustainable development and long-term prosperity for Nanton. By investing in its historic assets, the town insures that its rich past continues to generate tangible value for current and future generations.

4.1. Why Preserve Heritage Buildings

Preserving heritage buildings is essential for maintaining community identity, fostering pride, and connecting present generations with the past. The Town of Nanton can enhance its unique character by identifying and protecting their historic assets for future generations.

The following list outlines some of the reasons why heritage buildings should be preserved:

1. **Community Pride** – Owners of historic properties take pride in their properties and choose to maintain them diligently. By doing so, they contribute to the preservation of historic properties that form an integral part of Nanton's rich architectural legacy.
2. **Adaptability/Sustainability** – Repurposing historic buildings is a form of recycling that prevents demolition and reduces landfill waste. Adapting these buildings for new purposes revitalizes the streetscape and promotes environmental sustainability.

3. **Economic Growth** – By leveraging Nanton's history and historic character, new investment and respectful development can be attracted. The conservation and protection of Nanton's historic buildings can serve as a marketing tool to drive economic growth and cultural sustainability in the downtown area.
4. **Tourism** – Heritage conservation attracts tourists and is one of the fastest growing sectors of the tourism industry. Preserving and adapting Nanton's historic buildings allows the retention of its history while creating opportunities for historical, architectural, and cultural attractions.
5. **Urban Design** – Historic buildings contribute to the unique sense of time and place in downtown Nanton. They create a pedestrian-friendly environment with warm, natural textures and reflect the rich traditions of the community, linking to the events, people, activities, and architectural styles that have shaped Nanton's identity. Heritage preservation is environmentally-friendly, pedestrian-friendly, and age-friendly.
6. **Job Creation** – The rehabilitation of historic buildings can utilize local and regional skills, labour, services, and materials. It often requires the craftsmanship of specialized trades, leading to training and development in these specializations within the local job market.
7. **Tax Base Stability** – Municipalities can strengthen their local tax base by retaining, enhancing, rehabilitating, conserving, and adapting existing historic buildings for new functions.
8. **Property Value Stability** – Historic buildings are desirable places to live and work when well-maintained. Their property values remain stable and are often less affected by market fluctuations due to the value of the historic character these buildings contribute.
9. **Funding Access** – At the request of the building owner, the municipality can protect the property by designating the historic building as a Municipal Historic Resource. The owner then has ongoing access, through an application, to provincial heritage building conservation funding through Alberta's Heritage Preservation Partnership Program.
10. **Expert Guidance** – If an owner of a heritage property is interested in conserving their heritage building, the Municipality can provide advice to help maintain, preserve, or sympathetically develop the property in a manner that ensures the building is protected in the best interest of its character-defining elements.

4.2. The Benefits of Heritage Designation

Heritage designation helps protect the unique character and value of historic buildings. Owners benefit from increased property stability and may access grants for repairs. Sensitive renovations are allowed, provided they respect the building's heritage features. By conserving these places, communities support local economies, foster tourism, and preserve their shared identity and history for future generations.

The following list outlines some of the benefits of heritage designation:

1. **Getting a historic designation usually increases property value.** Studies show that properties with historic designation, as well as historic districts or historic main streets, tend to increase in value and are more stable during economic downturns.
2. **Conservation of historic places is for all kinds of buildings.** Significant historic buildings are not just large architectural gems. Any heritage building, regardless of size or simplicity, is valued for its cultural and social significance.
3. **Heritage designation is good for the economy.** Heritage conservation is the foundation of many vibrant and economically sound tourist destinations in North America and around the world. Protecting and rehabilitating historic buildings has revitalized many historic main streets and residential districts in the province and North America.
4. **Conserving the building uses fewer new materials.** Using fewer new materials benefits the local economy by encouraging the use of local trades, supplies and equipment. This keeps the cost of these items with the local economy.

5. **Historic buildings need to be safe.** Many historic buildings were built more soundly than some contemporary buildings. However, some may need retrofits to increase structural stability or safety, but the building codes provide provisions for "grandfathering" to meet existing codes.
6. **Designation as a "Municipal Historic Resource" protects the building forever.** The designation does not support demolition and requires the building to be maintained in at least fair condition. The only exception is if the Municipality withdraws the designation bylaw or if the building is completely destroyed.
7. **The building owner can still make sensitive changes to the historic building.** Owners cannot destroy the building, but they can make sensitive alterations or additions as long as they respect the building's heritage value and do not impact the character-defining elements listed in the Statement of Significance. Owners also have access to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, which provide guidance on repairs, as well as appropriate preservation, rehabilitation, and/or restoration activities.
8. **Historic buildings must follow development regulations too.** All development must comply with zoning and development regulations and standards to protect public interest, the building owner's interest, and the building's interest by preventing inappropriate development.
9. **Purchasing a heritage building is a great investment because there may be government grants to help with repair or rehabilitation costs.** Owners of heritage buildings may access government grants to reduce repair and maintenance costs. After designation, applications can be submitted to Alberta's Preservation Partnership Program for potential funding.
10. **Conserving our heritage grounds us.** It is not about saving everything old. It is about saving what defines us, what makes us a better community, what sustains us, and what contributes to our unique quality and vibrancy.

4.3. The Process of Heritage Designation

To designate a historic site in Alberta, its heritage value is assessed and described. The property owner and municipality work together, and Town Council issues a Notice of Intention to designate, sometimes sharing it publicly by advertising the intention in the local press. After a 60-day waiting period for feedback, council may pass a bylaw to officially protect the site and register the designation bylaw on the property title. The site can then be nominated for listing on the Alberta Register of Historic Places, and building owner may benefit from grants and recognition.

The following list outlines the process of heritage designation:

1. **To determine if a place is worthy of protection it is essential to understand its heritage value and write a Statement of Significance.** This statement provides a description of the resource, explains it s heritage value, and lists the character-defining elements that need to be protected to maintain is integrity.
2. **Municipal council considers designation.** This requires a partnership between the owner and the municipality based on understanding the heritage values of the place. It is important that the designation process proceeds with the approval of the property owner.
3. **Council issues the property owner with a Notice of Intention (NOI) to design the place as a Municipal Historic Resource.** With the owner's agreement, council passes a motion for the written notice, which must occur 60 days before the council considers a designation bylaw.
4. **Council advertises the Notice of Intention.** Although not required, many municipalities choose to advertise the notice to ensure that the designation has informed public support.
5. **A 60-day waiting period follows.** This enables the owner to review all documentation and provides time for any public response following the advertisement of the Notice of Intention.
6. **Council considers a bylaw to designate as a Municipal Historic Resource.** Designation occurs when council passes a bylaw declaring the site a Municipal Historic Resource under the *Historical*

Resources Act. Council cannot consider the bylaw until the 60-day notice period has elapsed. Once this period has expired, council can proceed with the designation bylaw, which is managed in the same manner as a regular bylaw.

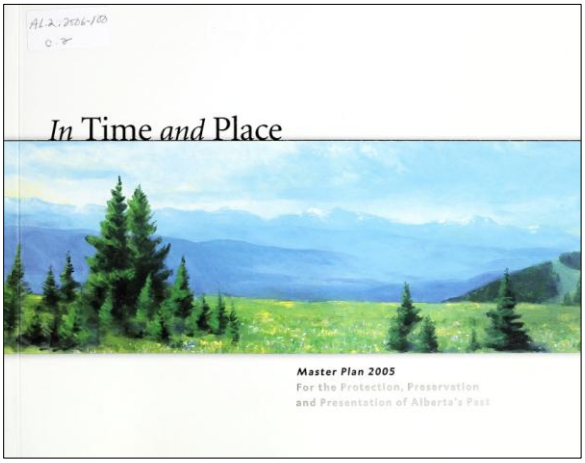
7. **Bylaw is registered on the title of the designated property and provided to the property owner.** This ensures that anyone with an interest in the property understands its status as a Municipal Historic Resource and that present and future owners are aware of the municipality's expectations for conservation.
8. **The site is nominated for listing on the Alberta Register of Historic Places.** Although not required, municipalities are encouraged to nominate Municipal Historic Resources for this listing.
9. **Designation opens doors for the property owner in the form of potential government grants and the prestige of owning a designated heritage property.** With the successful design, the property owner may have access to ongoing government funding to help with repairing, maintaining, and rehabilitating the resource.

5. Nanton Historical Context Paper



5.1. Thematic Framework

The thematic framework for the Town of Nanton is based on Alberta's "In Time and Place, Master Plan 2005," which guides the preservation, protection, and presentation of the province's history. This approach emphasizes local development themes to ensure relevance to community values and conditions. It enables the identification of unique heritage values and clarifies the significance of each historic resource within the broader context of Nanton's evolution and Alberta's history.



The framework assists in organizing the community's history by contextualizing historic sites, notable individuals, and key events. It promotes a broad and inclusive definition of heritage resources, encourages understanding of their interrelationships, and supports the preservation of intellectual, material, and experiential components. While the provincial framework considers Canada's national historical themes, the Nanton Heritage Building Evaluation Project prioritizes local and provincial context, aligning with Alberta's thematic approach for effective heritage conservation.

5.2. Historical Context Paper

Introduction

This context paper explores the rich and layered history of the Town of Nanton, Alberta, through the lens of the province's "In Time and Place" thematic approach. By tracing the evolution of Nanton from its prehistoric foundations to its emergence as a vibrant rural community, the paper situates local developments within broader patterns of Alberta's past. The narrative begins with the ancient landscapes shaped by glacial forces and Indigenous stewardship, moves through the fur trade era and early settlement, and follows the town's growth in agriculture, transportation, and industry. Each chapter highlights how natural resources, cultural exchanges, and community initiatives have shaped Nanton's identity over time. In doing so, this paper not only documents the milestones and challenges faced by Nanton, but also reflects on the enduring connections between people, place, and history in southern Alberta.

Prehistoric Foundations

Long before the town of Nanton was established in 1903, its landscape was part of a dynamic prehistoric world shaped by ancient seas, glacial forces, and Indigenous presence. Situated in southern Alberta near Mosquito Creek, Nanton lies atop sedimentary bedrock formed during the Cretaceous period,[1] when much of the province was submerged beneath the Western Interior Seaway—a vast inland sea that left behind marine fossils and rich deposits of sandstone and shale.[2]

As the Ice Age ended roughly 12,000 years ago, glacial meltwaters carved the foothills and plains, depositing fertile soils that would later support agriculture and settlement.[3] These post-glacial landscapes became seasonal hunting grounds for Indigenous peoples, who followed bison herds and left behind archaeological traces such as stone tools and campsites throughout the Foothills region.[4] While no major prehistoric sites have been documented directly within Nanton's town limits, its proximity to known sites near the Porcupine Hills and Highwood River suggests it was part of a broader cultural corridor used for thousands of years.[5]

The prehistoric legacy of the land continued to shape Nanton's development. The town's early success as a ranching and farming hub was made possible by the ancient processes that formed its soils and terrain.[6] Even today, the subtle contours of the land—its coulees, creek beds, and glacial till—echo the deep time that preceded settlement.

In this way, Nanton's story within *Prehistoric Alberta* is not defined by dramatic fossil finds or monumental ruins, but by its embeddedness in a landscape shaped over eons. From ancient seas to Indigenous stewardship, the land beneath Nanton holds a quiet but profound record of Alberta's deep past.

Fur Trade

Peter Fidler was the first European-born traveler to explore the Nanton region, seeking to expand the fur trade for the Hudson's Bay Company. Fedler's extensive career with the Hudson's Bay Company included surveying and mapping the western plains. His journals detail his travels through the Porcupine Hills, which was known as "the gap", where the Oldman River originates from the mountains.[7] and interactions with Indigenous peoples in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. His work contributed

[1] Alberta Geological Survey, *Geology of Southern Alberta*, Alberta Energy Regulator, accessed October 27, 2025, https://static.ags.aer.ca/files/document/MAP/Map_601.pdf.
[2] Aaron Kilmury, "Western Interior Seaway," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, February 28, 2025, accessed October 28, 2025, https://www.the canadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/western-interior-seaway.
[3] Britannica, "Meltwater deposits," accessed October 28, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/science/glacial-landform/Meltwater-deposits.
[4] Alberta Government, "*Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*," November 1, 2013, 1.
[5] Alberta Government, "*Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta*".
[6] Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland* (Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975), 10.
[7] Peter Fidler, *Journal of a Journey over Land from Buckingham House to the Rocky Mountains in 1792-93*, except from Fidler's Journal, accessed October 30, 2025, http://www.ulethbridge.ca/lib/digitized_collections/ourheritage/index_page_stuff/following_trails/fidler/Fidler1.html.

significantly to the mapping and understanding of the region's geography and fur trade networks.[8] [9] [10] Subsequent fur traders traveling between Fort Macleod and Calgary followed established Indigenous trails, which ran approximately two kilometers west of what would become Nanton and crossed Mosquito Creek three kilometers to the north. These routes, such as the Old Macleod Trail, were vital for transporting goods and were used long before the arrival of the railway, reflecting the deep historical connections between Indigenous travel networks and the fur trade.[11] [12] [13]

Aboriginal Life

The earliest known inhabitants of the Nanton region in southern Alberta were Indigenous groups who settled in the area after the last glacial period, over 13,000 years ago.[14] The Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre, located south of Nanton, provides a comprehensive overview of the 6,000-year history of Plains Buffalo Culture.[15] Additionally, the Old Women's Buffalo Jump, situated to the north of Nanton and west of Cayley, was utilized for approximately 2,000 years beginning in 500 CE.[16] Radiocarbon dating has also provided evidence of an earlier Indigenous presence in the area.[17]

Closer to Nanton, rock art was found at William's Coulee in the Porcupine Hills, ten kilometres west of the town. The site, dated to 1500 CE,[18] is described as "...one of the most vivid, compelling, and most complete views of Biographical rock art outside of Writing-on-Stone".[19]

Nanton is situated within the territory defined by the 1877 Treaty 7, an agreement between the Crown and the member First Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy. The Blackfoot Confederacy inhabited the southern plains, where they hunted bison for sustenance and clothing.

Resource Development

The Findlay brothers established a lumber camp in the hills west of Nanton, and according to a 1903 article published in the Nanton News, they produced one million feet of lumber, which was used in constructing many of Nanton's early buildings.[20]

In 1931, rumors of gold in the mountains west of Nanton sparked a brief gold rush and renewed interest in the legendary Lost Lemon Mine. The Lost Lemon Mine story, which dates back to the late 19th century, involves tales of murder, mystery, and a lost gold vein that prospectors have searched for over generations. Reports from that year mention a gold deposit discovered at the headwaters of Livingstone River, although geological surveys indicate that gold found in Alberta rivers is typically fine "flour gold" and not easily recovered in large quantities.[21]

[8] "Barbara Belyea, David J. Wishart, ed., "FIDLER, PETER (1769-1822)," *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/.
[9] "Peter Fidler," *Wikipedia*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Fidler.
[10] Robert S. Allen, "FIDLER, PETER," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 6, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-. Accessed October 30, 2025, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?Biold=36989.
[11] Stephen Strand, "Historic Trade Route Still Has a Presence in the Foothills," *OkotoksOnline,* October 7, 2024, accessed October 30, 2025, https://okotoksonline.com/articles/historic-trade-route-still-has-a-prescence-in-the-foothills.
[12] Scott Berthelette, "Fur Trade Route Networks," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, February 2, 2023, accessed October 27, 2025, https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/fur-trade-routes.
[13] Alberta Register of Historic Places, *Macleod Trail Cultural Landscape*, Government of Alberta, accessed October 27, 2025, https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=1&ObjectID=4664-0450.
[14] Alberta.ca, *Archaeological Sites Alberta*, accessed August 15, 2025, https://www.alberta.ca/archaeological-sites-alberta.
[15] "Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre, "About The Jump!," *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jum World Heritage Site*, accessed October 28, 2025, https://headsmashedin.ca/about-jump.
[16] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Old Women Buffalo Jump*, accessed October 5, 2025, https://parks.canada.ca/culture/designation/lieu-site/old-women-buffalo-jump.
[17] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Old Women Buffalo Jump*.
[18] Jack Brink, *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site, EcPl-16, Southwestern Alberta* (Edmonton: Archaeological Survey of Alberta, April 13, 2008), 48.
[19] Brink, *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site*, 49.
[20] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 138.
[21] "Lost Lemon Mine, *Wikipedia & Mysteries of Canada*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Lemon_Mine.

During this gold rush period, Marshall Brothers Hardware in Nanton reportedly received a letter from a Vancouver company offering gold panning equipment, reflecting the surge in local interest in prospecting and mining supplies.[22]

Transportation

Early traders traveling between Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary relied on established Indigenous pathways.[23] Before the Calgary and Edmonton (C&E) Railway was built, most supplies and goods arrived by pack trains of horses and mules from Fort Benton, Montana, with many items originating in New Orleans and transported via the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Fort Benton.

The completion of the railway between Calgary and Fort Macleod in 1892, with Thomas Field as the section man in Nanton, marked a turning point. The first building in what would become Nanton was the section house for the C&E Railway, which also served as accommodation for travelers before a hotel was available.[24]

The railway connected the region to the outside world and dramatically reduced travel times. An 18-hour train journey between Calgary and Edmonton was much faster than the previous five-day stagecoach trip.[25]



Figure 1. *Nanton Train Station – Nanton & District Historical Society*



Figure 2. *Hewer Garage - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-36, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Roads gradually improved over time, with the construction of a steel bridge over Mosquito Creek and some roads being gravelled. However, road maintenance was a persistent challenge, as winter snow and spring rains often made roads impassable. Local farmers frequently repaired roads themselves.[26]

In 1929, the Auto Trails Association established a new 'auto trail' through Nanton, designed so vehicles would pass by every local garage.[27] One notable garage was a concrete building constructed by Julius Osterbauer around 1917 for Gordon Hewer, the Buick agent. Hewer operated the garage until 1920, after which it was sold to Galloway and Bentley. Galloway continued to run the garage until 1935.[28]

[22] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 90-92.
[23] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 11.
[24] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 137.
[25] Tony Cashman, *A Picture of Alberta* (Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1979), 39.
[26] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 188.
[27] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News* (Southern Alberta Collection, September 12, 1929), accessed December 4, 2025, https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/sanews/search/searchterm/nanton+news/field/title/mode/all/conn/and/order/date/ad/asc/cosuppress/1.
[28] Osler, Hammond & Nanton, *New Homes, Free Farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Western Canada* (Winnipeg: Osler, Hammond & Nanton, ca. 1901).

Agricultural Development

By the 1880s, the federal government had surveyed the southern Alberta region and offered ranchers leases of up to 10,000 acres for one cent per year.[29] This policy is documented in local histories such as *Mosquito Creek Roundup* and Alberta government land records. Both cattle companies and individual ranchers established operations in the area, driving herds north from Montana.



Figure 3. *Round up crew on CC Ranch near Nanton - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Many of these ranches, including the Oxley Ranch and the Walrond Ranch (now Waldron), have operated for more than 140 years. The Northwest Cattle Company's legacy continues as the Bar U National Historic Site, recognized by Parks Canada for its role in Alberta's ranching history.

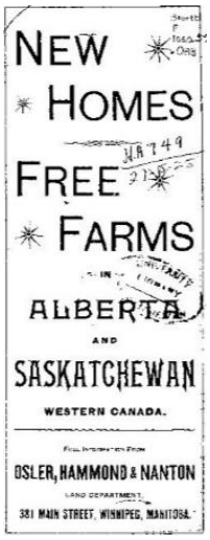


Figure 5. *Osler, Hammond, Nanton Pamphlet - Archive.org*

In 1893, the Winnipeg-based company Osler, Hammond & Nanton managed the sale of "New Homes…Free Farms" along the Calgary & Edmonton (C&E) rail right-of-way. Sir Augustus Nanton, the company's president, gave his name to the town. The company promoted even numbered sections of Dominion Government land as free homesteads for settlers, while odd-numbered sections were available for



Figure 4. *Homestead Shack - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

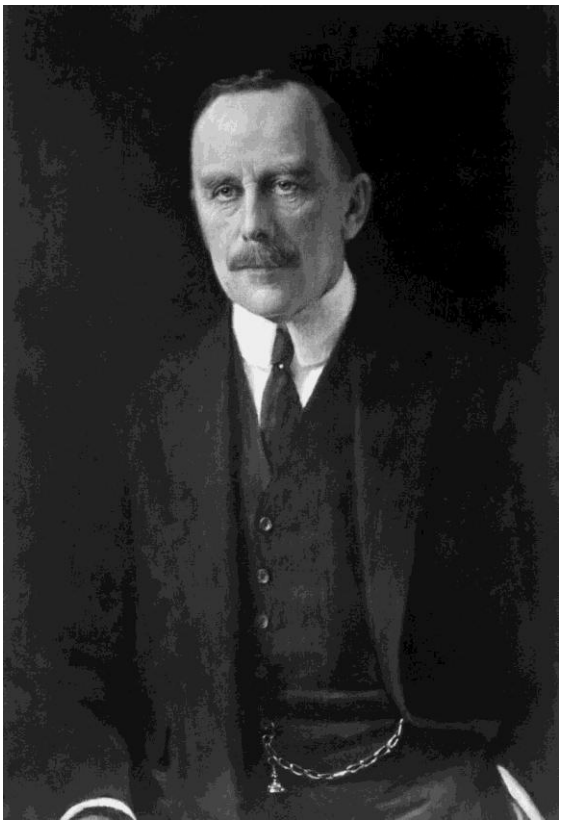


Figure 6. *Sir Augustus Nanton, early 1900s - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

[29] Alberta Department of Industry and Development, *Survey of Nanton* (Edmonton: Government of Alberta, 1960), 2.



Figure 7. *Nanton Grain Elevators - Archive.org*

purchase at $2.50 per acre. These details are supported by historical land sale advertisements and local government archives.[30]

The first shipment of grain from Nanton by rail occurred in 1905, from the farm of A.E. Burnett, with the grain sent directly to Winnipeg.[31]

The construction of the first grain elevator in 1906 by the Nanton Lumber and Grain Company marked the beginning of large-scale grain handling in the region. By the 1920s, seven elevators operated along the C&E rail line, handling up to one million bushels of grain annually.[32] Elevator companies also engaged in the coal business, with coal mined locally and transported by train from southern Alberta, then stored in sheds near the elevators. These developments are documented in local newspapers and historical society publications.



Figure 8. *Half-way house near Nanton, Alberta - Archive.org*

It was common for residents to combine town life with agricultural pursuits. *Bernard Kinney's* family lived in a one-storey wood-frame house on Shaw (20th) Street. His parents, *William and Anna (Dunn) Kinney*, originally from Illinois, settled northeast of Nanton in the early 1900s to farm. After William's death in 1929, Anna and later Bernard continued the farm operations.

Urban Development

In 1880-81, Joe Trollinger, a former American army soldier, and his wife Lucy constructed a sod building at Mosquito Creek Crossing, serving as a stopping place along the Fort Macleod-Calgary trail. Trollinger, once a whisky trader, became known for his gardening skills, while Lucy's cooking earned their establishment a reputation as a "popular eating spot." Notable guests included Governor General Marquis of Lorne and Bishop Pinkham, who praised Lucy's culinary talents in his diary.[33]



Figure 9. *Ingram's Meat Market, 1906-07 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-19, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

The townsite that would become Nanton was selected by Osler, Hammond, and Nanton.[34] The first commercial buildings appeared in 1902, including Hugh M. Shaw's general store and machinery business, the Auditorium Hotel, blacksmith shops operated by Ianson and William White, Ingram's Meat Market, and White's boarding house.

[30] Osler, Hammond and Nanton, *New Homes, Free Farms*.
[31] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 177.
[32] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 188.
[33] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Round Up*, 1975, 13.
[34] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 170.



Figure 10. *Worker's House - Prairie Towns website*

Walter Donnelly moved to Nanton in 1914, working as a buyer for the N. Bawlf Grain Company and later as elevator manager until 1940.[35] His family lived in a modest home on Shaw (20th) Street, constructed by the railway around 1900.[36] This property, known as the Donnelly House, was reportedly owned by the grain company.[37]

In 1941, Clyde Stroud became elevator manager, residing in the elevator house on main street with his family until their relocation to Oregon in 1948.

Efforts to secure a reliable water source began in 1904, with a proposed pipeline from a spring ten kilometers west of the village, though the plan was deemed too costly.[38] In 1909, the town hired Galt and Smith to investigate a gravity water system from local springs, which eventually became Nanton's water source in 1955.[39]



Figure 11. *Railway Avenue, 1913-19 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-11, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

That same year, land was purchased east of the railway for an electrical power plant. Initially powered by coal, the plant switched to natural gas in 1917 and only generated power at night. After a fire destroyed the plant, an agreement with Calgary Power ensured continued electricity supply, with local distribution lines connected to the main transmission line. Calgary Power had a local office for a period before operations were moved to High River.[40]

A volunteer fire brigade formed in 1911 played a crucial role in stopping two fires the following year, notably preventing the destruction of the Nanton Hotel.[41]

Politics and Government

During a period of rapid development, Nanton was officially incorporated as a village on June 22, 1903. Jim Bender was elected as the first overseer, serving as the sole elected official at the time. Just over four years later, in 1907, the province approved Nanton's incorporation as a town. The current overseer, Hugh Shaw, was instructed to organize an election for a council consisting of a mayor and six councillors. John Cooper was subsequently elected as the first mayor.[42]

Health

The first physician in the Nanton area was Dr. John A. Creighton, who established his homestead just east of town and operated his medical office in the Ingram Building on Railway (20th) Avenue. In 1908, Dr. Creighton and Dr. G.M. Robertson acquired the Nanton Drug Company.

Efforts to build a hospital in Nanton began in 1905 when a group of local women organized a fundraiser and secured a parcel of land on Shaw (20th) Street from the town. Despite these efforts, the hospital project did not receive enough support to proceed.[43]

[35] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News* ("W.S. Donnelly Passes in Nanton", 1949-09-01), 1.
[36] M. Kimmerly, email message to author, October 29, 2025.
[37] Alberta Heritage Survey, *HS 26146*, 1981.
[38] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 49.
[39] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 178.
[40] Nanton and District Historical Society, Mosquito Creek Roundup, 1975, 125,153, 178.
[41] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 176.
[42] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland,* vol. 2 (Mosquito Creek Historical Society, 2005), 137.
[43] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 182.

A boarding house on Alberta (21st) Street was converted into a hospital, operating from approximately 1927 to 1929. After its closure, the building returned to use as a boarding house and was eventually demolished around 1945.

Dr. William H. Keen arrived in 1905 and practiced medicine above the office of Ferris and Ransom. His house calls extended from Cayley to Stavely, Lomond, and into the mountains. In 1927, Dr. Keen built the Nanton General Hospital (also known as the Keen Hospital), which served the region until about 1940. The hospital accommodated twelve patients and featured its own dispensary, modern amenities such as advanced electrical equipment for disease treatment, two bathrooms, a kitchen, a sunroom, and a water system with an electric pump, as reported by the Nanton News. After the hospital closed, the building was converted into apartments.



Figure 12. *Children swimming in Mosquito Creek - Nanton & District Historical Society*

Work and Leisure

Mosquito Creek was a central feature for recreation in Nanton, offering swimming holes formed by beaver dams. A swimming pool was built next to the power plant, where steam from the generators was used to heat the water—a notable luxury for the time. In 1928, L. Carmack constructed a new pool, but it was destroyed by fire in 1930, leading residents to return to creek swimming until a new municipal pool was completed in 1969.[44]

The creek also served as a popular spot for picnics, fishing, hiking, and skating.

Community organizations played a significant role in local leisure activities. The first meeting of the Nanton Masonic Lodge was held in Shaw's Opera House, owned by H.M. Shaw, one of the lodge's founding members. The lodge later purchased St. Andrew's Hall, previously owned by the Presbyterian Church.[45]

The Boy Scout troop was established in February 1912 with twelve members, led by Walter Frantzen as the first Scout Master. Meetings were initially held at various locations until a group of fathers decided a dedicated facility was needed. Logs were sourced from the Priddis area, and with the help of a carpenter, the fathers built the Scout-Guide Hall, officially opened on April 24, 1957.[46]

Pistol and rifle target shooting became a hobby for a group of men in 1937, with shooting taking place in the curling rink or Maple Leaf Hall. The Nanton Rifle and Revolver Club was formed in 1941, and members competed in local and national competitions. When an Air Cadet unit was formed in 1942, club members provided shooting lessons to the cadets. Over time, both indoor and outdoor ranges were constructed.[47]

Entertainment venues also contributed to community life. The Rex Theatre opened in 1908, showing silent films and charging 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. Originally a retail store selling sewing machines, pianos, and organs, the building was converted to a garage in 1932. The Elks Lodge built the Elkland Theatre in 1925 for organizational and public entertainment purposes, including film screenings and dances. William McKay managed film presentations as part of a circuit serving small communities, and the theatre operated until 1956.[48]

In the early 1980s, Bridget Jones, a former choral music instructor, and Nanton resident Janice Ackroyd,

[44] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 168,192, 233.
[45] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 222.
[46] Nanton Scout-Guide Hall, *Program for Official Opening*, April 24, 1957.
[47] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 233-234.
[48] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 167.



Figure 13. *Nanton Rhythm Aces early 1930s - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-57, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

was inspired by a theatre production in High River and founded the Chinook Players and Singers in Nanton. Their first performance was "HMS Pinafore."[4950] Building on this success, Jones and Gordon Denoon established the Foothills Choir, with Jones as director and Denoon as manager. The choir's first meeting drew 60 participants, eventually growing to 200 members from surrounding communities, such as Longview and Claresholm.[51] Both organizations remain active today.

Spiritual Life

As soon as the first ranchers settled in the region, church services were held in homes and ranches. St. Cecilia Roman Catholic Church was constructed by Frank Du Rocher, who owned a lumber mill and coal mine west of Nanton. The first Catholic services in the area took place either in 1900 at the train station or in 1904 at the Coughlin Ranch. Later, services were held at the Nanton Hotel in the sample room, where traveling sales agents displayed their merchandise. St. Cecilia was completed on June 3, 1907, and consecrated by Bishop Legal of St. Albert.[52]

Presbyterian church services in Nanton began in 1899, led by summer student ministers. Early gatherings were held in the Auditorium Hotel, private homes, and a school. The congregation raised funds



Figure 14. *Masonic Hall - Prairie Towns website*

to build St. Andrew's Hall across the street from the Methodist Church.[53]

After years of discussion, the national congregations of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches united as the United Church of Canada. In Nanton, services were held in the former Methodist church, while the Presbyterian Church building became the Masonic Hall. In 1930, C.H. Marshall bequeathed $1,000 for a new United Church building, and the congregation raised an additional $7,000. In 1950, Grace Hall was moved, and the Nanton United Church was built on the site, opening the following year.[54]

The first Anglican Christ Church was dedicated on August 20, 1905. Within a few decades, the congregation outgrew the building, and a larger church was dedicated by the Bishop of Calgary in 1929. The original church became the attached Parish Hall.[55]

Methodist Church services began in the home of William White and at the train station in 1902. Grace Methodist Church was completed two years later at the corner of Alberta (21st) Street and 1st (21st) Avenue, where the United Church now stands.

The Nanton First Baptist Church held its initial meetings in the local schoolhouse and then in the Methodist Church. Planning for their own building began, and the new church opened in March 1907. In

[49] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol.2*, 73.
[50] Bridget Jones, interview, October 4, 2025.
[51] Jones, interview.
[52] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 70, 212.
[53] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 213.
[54] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 212-216.
[55] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 210-211.

1914, a parsonage was built to the west of the church.[56]

Business and Industry

Hugh Shaw arrived in High River in 1891 at age 15 and, after working on several ranches, established his own homestead east of the future Nanton townsite. Recognizing an opportunity to serve local ranchers, he built a small store at the corner of what became Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. [57] The store was later reoriented to face Railway Avenue. Shaw sold his business to Bob McLaren and Alan Hammill in 1904, who then sold it to Charles Marshall in 1906. Marshall acquired several hardware stores in the area.[58]

In 1903, Shaw partnered with John T. Cooper to sell real estate for the C&E Railway and Hudson's Bay Company, also representing insurance and loan companies. In 1909, Shaw and James Cooper commissioned a prominent two-storey brick building at the entrance to downtown Nanton, situated at the intersection of Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. The building was designed by distinguished Calgary architect William Dodd, whose works are recognized in the Canadian Register of Historic Places, including notable buildings in Vancouver, Regina, Qu'Appelle, and Calgary's City Hall constructed between 1907and 1911.[59] Dodd also designed the Nanton Consolidated School, which opened in 1909. The contractor for both the Shaw and Cooper building and the school was Andrew Davis, with Allen Brown serving as the bricklayer.[60]



Figure 15. *Shaw St. Nanton, Alta. - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

The Shaw and Cooper building housed various enterprises, including Ford automobile sales, and over the years accommodated several banks, including the Bank of Hamilton, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). The upper floor served as residential apartments from 1909 until approximately 1960.

Between 1909 and 1922, the Nanton Trading Company operated from the building, offering dry goods, groceries, and men's clothing. After a fire in 1924 destroyed his store, Thomas Attwood moved his jewellery business into the Shaw and Cooper building. The basement later housed a barber shop and pool hall, and in 1937, W. J. Stewart opened a clothing and wares store there.

Several medical professionals also maintained offices in the building, and for a time, Dr. George Wannup operated a hospital facility there. As Nanton's downtown developed, new businesses appeared, including a livery stable, machinery shop, butcher shop, bakery, laundry, grocery store, and millinery.

The first issue of the *Nanton News* was published on June 25, 1903, listing needed businesses such as a chartered bank, drug store, dressmaker, barber, and shoemaker.[61] Founded by John Bender, who arrived from the United States with his wife Elzabeth and daughter Lena,[62] The newspaper changed ownership several times and moved to three different locations on Shaw Street before relocating to a new two-storey

[56] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup vol. 2*, 56.
[57] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 138.
[58] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 138, 421.
[59] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Canadian Register of Historic Places*, accessed October 5, 2025, https://www.historicplaces.ca.
[60] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 381.
[61] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News*, June 25, 1903.
[62] Library of Archives Canada, *1906 Northwest Prairie Provinces Census*, 1906, accessed August 19, 2025, https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=census&id=464104&lang=eng&.



Figure 16. *Nanton New employee Bert Klebe in front of newspaper office - Glenbow Archives NA-1397-3, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

brick building at the corner of Norrish (19th) Street and 1st (21st) Avenue. The printing press was located on the main floor, with accommodations above. In 1905, the paper was sold to two individuals from Washington State, D.C. Jones and A.Z. Jessup.

Subsequently, A.Z. Jessup became the sole proprietor and took on his sons, Ralph and Clyde.[63] Dick Hawk joined in 1945 and in 1957 he and George Meyer purchased the paper from Clyde Jessup, after which Meyer left in 1959 to be part owner of the Camrose Canadian. In 1977, Hawk sold the paper to Ed and Lynne Maynard. In 1986 George Meyer repurchased the paper and moved Nanton News from the building on 19th Street into the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street[64]. Meyer sold the paper to Frank and Emily McTighe in 1989.

Hotels such as the Auditorium Hotel, Nanton Hotel, and White House Hotel were built in the early 1900s, serving travelers and residents.

The Auditorium Hotel was constructed in 1902 by W.J. Brown at the corner of Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. Originally a two-storey brick-clad building, it featured twelve sleeping rooms, a dining room, kitchen, office, sitting room, and bar. In 1903, Brown moved the original structure back and added a two-storey front extension.[65] A three-storey rear addition followed, along with the installation of steam



Figure 17. *Auditorium Hotel, 1902-03 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-13, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

heating and an ice house to store ice for keeping meat and produce cool.[66]

Area rancher *Jack Bruen* built the *Nanton Hotel* in 1906 at the corner of Railway (20th) Avenue and Alberta (21st) Street. The hotel served the community for over five decades before being destroyed by fire in 1960.[67] The *White House Hotel and Boarding House*, built by Thomas Fetherston around 1906 at Railway (20th) Avenue and Grieg (22nd) Street, was tragically destroyed by fire the same year. Although fires destroyed some of these buildings, owners often rebuilt.



Figure 18. *Fetherston Store interior- Nanton & District Historical Society*

Other businesses included grocery stores, butcher shops, hardware stores, and jewellery shops, many of which changed ownership or expanded over the years. After working in various Nanton businesses, *James Orville (Orie) Fetherston* launched his own grocery

[63] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140-141.
[64] Emily McTighe, interview, October 2, 2025.
[65] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140.
[66] University of Lethbridge, *Nanton News*, May 2, 1912.
[67] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol. 2*, 9.

store in a building constructed by Dr. Robertson on Shaw (20th) Street. In 1917, Fetherston purchased the building and added an extension.[68]

Between 1910 and 1932, the *T. Eaton Company Limited* sold mail-order kit homes through its catalogue. Lumber was shipped by rail from British Columbia to the nearest station. The packages included lumber, windows, doors, and frames, though the lumber was not pre-cut. This often left surplus material, which could be used to build a shed or garage.



Figure 19. *Eastbourne, model 666 - Les Henry, Catalogue Houses*

One such home in Nanton was built by *Dr. James Creighton* and his wife *Minnie (Wardrobe)*. Their house was the Eaton's Eastbourne, model 666. It was priced at $1,116 in the 1916 catalogue and $1,519 in the 1919 edition.[69] Eaton's described the model as "...a modern type of square houses...where you obtain the maximum space at the minimum cost of both material and labor."[70]

Across the street, *Dr. McKeage*, Nanton's first full-time dentist, purchased a house built in 1904 by Mr. Hammill. Initially working from an office above a store, McKeage later added a dental office to his residence, where he practiced until his retirement in 1948.[71]



Figure 20. *McKeage House (centre-left) - Prairie Towns website*

In the 1950s, Nanton earned the nickname *"Tap Town"* after Howard Armstrong, owner of Armstrong's Department and Variety Store, boldly declared that the spring water piped from the Porcupine Hills was *"Canada's Finest Drinking Water."* A public tap was installed along the highway, encouraging motorists to stop and fill their containers.[72] Armstrong's promotional efforts, along with those of other local businessmen, helped popularize the town's reputation.

In 1979, *Paul Abildgaard* recognized the commercial potential of this reputation and founded the *Nanton Water and Soda Company* (later Nanton Water Ltd.). By 1984, the company was producing 12 million bottles annually, with distribution across Canada and the U.S. The Abildgaard family's entrepreneurial approach—relying on personal financing and grassroots marketing—helped establish one of Canada's first bottled water brands.[73]

In 1886, brothers *James and John Ingram* left Quebec and established a ranch along the Little Bow River. By 1903, they had constructed a two-storey commercial building on Railway (20th) Avenue, just south of the Auditorium Hotel. The upper floor served as a hall. In 1904, they sold the building to rancher *Jack Bruen*, builder of the Nanton Hotel. The Ingrams then built a one-storey butcher shop and grain warehouse on the adjacent lot. Their business expanded to include

[68] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 391.
[69] Les Henry, *Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others* (Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000), 51.
[70] Henry, *Catalogue Houses,* 50.
[71] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 155.
[72] Bomber Command Museum of Canada Archives, *The Tap Town Years – History of the Nanton Tap*, accessed August 8, 2025, www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/nanton/nantontap.html.
[73] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol.2,* 50.



Figure 21. *Ingram's Meat Market, 1906-07 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-19, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

butcher shops in *Cayley* and *Stavely*, and a hotel in Cayley. In 1907, they sold the Nanton butcher shop to *Alex and W.J. Grieg.*[74]

In 1917, *Bill Denoon*, a butcher from Ontario with experience in Didsbury, Crossfield, and Calgary, purchased Billy Greig's butcher shop on Railway Avenue. In the early 1920s, he built a new shop on Shaw (20th) Street and later added a meat locker.

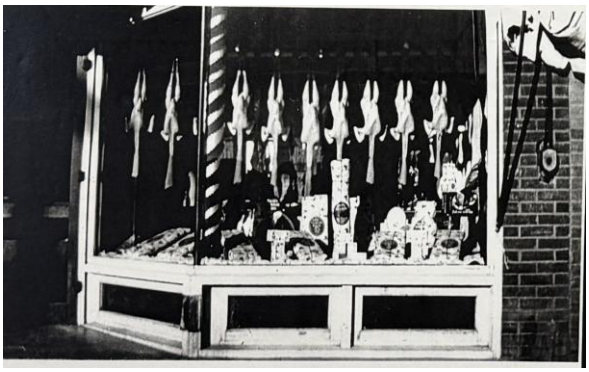


Figure 22. *Denoon Butcher Shop at Christmas - Nanton & District Historical Society*

His son *Gordon Denoon* joined the business in 1945, and it was renamed *Denoon and Son.*[75]

In 1965, *George Wolstenholme* constructed a cinder block building for his jewellery business in Nanton. He later served as the *Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)* for the Macleod riding from 1975 to 1982, representing the Progressive Conservative Party.[76]

A hardware store was essential to Nanton's early growth. *Ed and Dan Malloy*, originally from Colorado, opened *Malloy's Hardware* in 1905 at the corner of Railway Avenue and Norrish Street. Dan returned to the U.S. in 1908. In 1917, the business moved to Shaw (20th) Street. The building was destroyed in a major fire on February 9, 1924, which consumed eight businesses in Nanton's commercial core. A new brick building replaced it, and the store operated until 1929, when it was sold to the *Marshall Brothers*. Ed and Mary Malloy subsequently returned to Colorado.[77]

The *Nanton Trading Company* was the first local business to sell *John Deere* farm equipment. In 1904, it was purchased by *Charles Marshall*, who expanded its agricultural offerings. Over the years, ownership passed through several hands, including *Frank and Walter Carpenter*, *Reg Brydon*, *Jason Brown*, *W.C. Ebbert*, *L.C. Bonner*, and *Cliff Gould.*[78]

On February 9, 1924, a devastating fire broke out in Nanton's downtown commercial district, destroying eight buildings and severely damaging a ninth on the south side of Shaw Street (now 20th Street).

The blaze began at approximately 1:00 a.m. in a small structure behind H.A. Garrett's grocery store. Although wind conditions were calm, the town's limited water supply hindered firefighting efforts. By 2:00 a.m., a request for assistance was sent to the Calgary Fire Department. A fire engine and hose were loaded onto a train and arrived in Nanton by 4:00 a.m. As the flames advanced, they reached the brick-clad Paris Café, which slowed the fire's progress and allowed firefighters to contain the blaze and

[74] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 60,138-139.
[75] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 382-383.
[76] "George Wolstenholme," *Wikipedia*, accessed October 30, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wolstenholme
[77] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 159-160.
[78] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 163.



Figure 23. *1924 fire on Shaw Street - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

merchants time to salvage some of their inventory.[79] Shaw and Cooper, who lost seven buildings, announced plans to rebuild those that had been occupied. Other business owners began relocating and reassessing their futures.[80]

The Paris Café, a key structure in halting the fire, had originally been known as the Excelsior Café. In 1918, Lem Sam and Low On purchased an existing building, moved it back on the lot, and constructed a two-storey brick façade. By 1924, George Mah had taken ownership and renamed it the Paris Café.[81]

Among those who rebuilt was Bill Roney, a Scottish immigrant who arrived in Canada in 1910 and settled in Nanton in 1918 with his wife Elizabeth (née White). He purchased William Thom's bakery and operated it until his retirement in 1949.[82]

W.A. Chisholm, a graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, arrived in Nanton in 1904 and established the Nanton Drug Store, which included living quarters above. He sold the business in 1905 to Drs. Creighton and Robinson, who constructed a new two-storey brick building. Dr. Creighton operated the store until selling it in 1923 but later reacquired it and ran the business until his son James took over in 1955.[83]

In 1907, the Prairie Farmers Telephone Company was founded to transmit telephone conversations using barbed wire fencing. This unconventional system was



Figure 24. *Nanton Drug Company - Nanton & District Historical Society*

introduced by rancher Dan Richmond, who had seen similar setups in Oregon. The network extended from a point 30 kilometers east of Nanton to Charles Marshal's hardware store, and then to Old Brant, where it connected to High River's line.

The system was phased out when Alberta Government Telephones began installing rural lines.[84]

By 1919, Alberta Government Telephones operated out of a newly built brick structure with residential quarters at the rear. Financial strain in 1934 led the provincial agency to consider ending rural service, prompting municipalities to form local telephone

[79] University of Lethbridge, *Nanton News*, February 14, 1924, 1.
[80] Charles A. Clark, *The Vulcan Advocate*, February 13, 1924, Internet Archive, 3.
[81] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 165.
[82] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 190.
[83] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 155, 370.
[84] Tony Cashman, *Singing Wires: The Telephone in Alberta (Edmonton: Alberta Government Telephones Commission, 1972)*, 158.



Figure 25. *Chief Telephone Operator Margaret Robertson - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-38, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

companies. By March 1935, five such companies were serving the region.[85]

Until 1964, all outgoing calls—residential and commercial—were routed through operators in the Nanton building. With the advent of direct dialing, operators were no longer required. The building was subsequently sold to Clarence Rhyasen, who relocated his insurance business there.[86]



Figure 26. *Marshall Hardware Store/Keeley Block, 1912 - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

In 1909, Charles H. Marshall constructed a prominent two-storey brick building at the corner of Railway Avenue (now 20th Avenue) and Norrish Street (19th Street). Designed to house his hardware, furniture, and machinery business, the structure was outfitted with high-quality shop fixtures and quickly became a commercial landmark.

Marshall sold the building in 1935 to William S. Keeley, a seasoned entrepreneur with a diverse background in banking and retail. Keeley began his career with the Union Bank of Canada and worked as a bookkeeper before operating grocery stores in Claresholm and Banff. Upon acquiring William Thom's grocery business in Nanton, Keeley expanded the enterprise to include men's and ladies' wear. He also renovated the upper floor of the building into six residential apartments, a move that reflected both commercial ambition and community foresight.[87]

During the Second World War, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) established training schools in nearby Claresholm, Vulcan, and High River. These facilities brought a steady influx of military personnel to the region. Several senior officers and instructors from the BCATP schools resided in the Keeley Block apartments, which offered convenient access to local amenities and a stable housing option during wartime.[88]

Keeley retired in 1941, passing the business to his son James Keeley, who continued operating the general store and managing the residential units.[89] The building remained a vital part of Nanton's commercial and residential landscape for decades, and its preservation reflects the town's commitment to heritage and adaptive reuse.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Nanton began in 1887 when the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) took over the lease for the stopping house at Mosquito Crossing, maintaining a detachment there until relocating to Nanton in 1902. The town's first police officer was Constable Charles Aspden, known locally as Grousing Charlie.[90]

[85] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 166.
[86] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 390.
[87] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 410.
[88] Dave Birrell, interview, October 2, 2025.
[89] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 14.
[90] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 145.

One of the most notable incidents in Nanton's history was the Great Train Robbery of 1907. During a harsh winter, coal deliveries to the town were delayed, causing significant hardship. On February 5th, as a train hauling coal was leaving the station, several men boarded and disconnected the rail cars. Despite RNWMP Constable S. Currie firing a warning shot, the men persisted, repeatedly applying the brakes as the train crew tried to release them. Eventually, a meeting was held where the men agreed to unload 1,000 pounds of coal each, provided they signed to pay the railway six dollars per ton. Sixty men received coal, and Constable Currie reported that he could not confront about one hundred men alone. No charges were laid.[91]

Military



Figure 27. *Nanton Cenotaph Dedication, 1927 - Nanton & District Historical Society*

When World War I began in 1914, more than 250 men from the Nanton area enlisted to serve, with many never returning to their families, homes, and ranches. Horses from the region were purchased by the British Army and shipped overseas, playing a vital role in military logistics and operations. Local Red Cross groups assembled care packages for Canadian soldiers, providing essential supplies and comfort during the conflict.[92]

On August 13, 1927, the Earl of Haddington unveiled a cenotaph in Nanton to honour the local military personnel who lost their lives in World War I. Originally located beside Railway (20th) Avenue, across from the east end of Shaw (20th) Street on land provided by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the memorial features a statue of a soldier at rest with reversed arms—a traditional pose for military funerals. The dedication ceremony was led by Mayor John Cooper, with Calgary West MP R.B. Bennett delivering the principal address; Bennett would later become Prime Minister in 1930. In 2001, the cenotaph was relocated to a site next to the Bomber Command Museum of Canada, where it continues to serve as the focal point for annual memorial services.[93]

Education

Education has always been a cornerstone of the Nanton community. The first school was founded in May 1903, just before Nanton officially became a village. In its inaugural year, the school welcomed thirty-three students, but rapid population growth saw enrollment rise to ninety-seven within two years. To accommodate this increase, a four-room brick schoolhouse was constructed at the intersection of 20th Street and 23rd Avenue, costing $4,000.

As the community expanded, so did its educational infrastructure. In 1918, the creation of the Nanton Consolidated School District brought together the town and surrounding rural areas, prompting further additions to the original school building—including

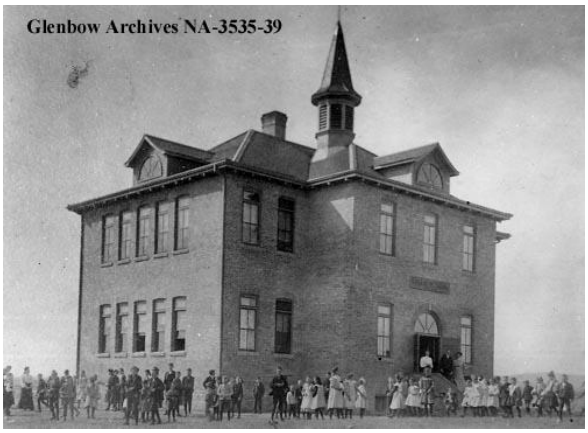


Figure 28. *Nanton Public School, 1907 - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-39, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

[91] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, *181-182*.
[92] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 176.
[93] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 228.

four new classrooms and an assembly hall on the third floor.[94] Over the following decades, several new schools were built to meet the needs of a growing student population and to replace aging facilities. Notably, in 1951, a four-room "steel school" was erected on Alberta (21st) Street next to the brick school. The J.T. Foster School, named after long-serving teacher Jack T. Foster, opened in February 1963 with an initial enrollment of 325 students.

Sports

Nanton has a rich sporting history, with baseball and hockey both beginning in the community as early as 1903. Rivalries between towns were fierce, and some teams even recruited outside players to strengthen their lineups. For example, Buzz Geddes was retained on the Nanton team by employing him as the town constable.[95]



Figure 29. *Nanton Hockey Team, 1912-13 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-42, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

By 1907, women were also actively participating in sports, with the formation of a women's baseball team known as the "Aura Lee." The Nanton Skating Rink Association played a key role in developing local recreation, raising funds to build an outdoor rink on a pond created by the C & E dam. The rink was surrounded by high boards and included two changing rooms, but maintaining the ice was difficult due to frequent Chinook winds that caused melting. The first recorded game at the rink was a playful match between married men and bachelors, using a football as the puck and brooms as hockey sticks, though the result was never documented.[96]

Winter sports expanded with the establishment of the Penguin Ski Club in 1946. Initially located on a farm southeast of town, the club relocated several times due to unreliable snow conditions before constructing a 250-metre ski run at Williams Coulee. A rope tow powered by a 100-horsepower motor helped skiers reach the top, and a clubhouse offered refreshments. Unfortunately, after several winters with little snow, the club eventually closed.[97]

Golf also has deep roots in Nanton. The original nine-hole course opened in 1921, but limited resources meant play was mostly restricted to spring when the grass was short. In 1930, a new course was laid out, and sheep were used to keep the grass trimmed.[98] The course was expanded with the addition of a back nine in 1984.[99]

Over the years, Nanton residents have enjoyed a variety of other sports, including tennis, badminton, wrestling, and boxing.

Intellectual Life

The foundation of Nanton's intellectual life can be traced back to the establishment of its first school in May 1903, even before the village was officially incorporated. The rapid increase in student enrolment necessitated the construction of additional facilities, including a four-room brick building at the intersection of 20th Street and 23rd Avenue. The creation of the Nanton Consolidated School District in 1918 further expanded educational opportunities, with the addition of more classrooms and an assembly hall. The J.T. Foster School, named after a long-serving teacher, opened in 1963 and continues to serve the community.

[94] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 202.
[95] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 230.
[96] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 234.
[97] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 236.
[98] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 237.
[99] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol. 2*, 86.

Libraries and literary societies have also played a crucial role in Nanton's intellectual life. The Nanton Public Library, established in the early 20th century, provided residents with access to a wide range of books and resources. Literary societies and book clubs were popular among the townspeople, fostering a love for reading and intellectual discussions.

Cultural organizations and events have significantly contributed to the intellectual vibrancy of Nanton. The Nanton Masonic Lodge, established in the early 1900s, was one of the first organizations to promote intellectual and social development. The Boy Scout troop, founded in 1912, provided young boys with opportunities to learn new skills and engage in community service. The Nanton Rifle and Revolver Club, formed in 1941, offered members a chance to participate in local and national competitions.

Museums and historical societies have preserved and promoted Nanton's rich history and heritage. The Nanton and District Historical Society, established in the mid-20th century, has been instrumental in documenting and preserving the town's history. The Bomber Command Museum of Canada located in Nanton is dedicated to preserving the history of the Bomber Command and educating the public about its significance.

The intellectual contributions of Nanton's residents have also played a significant role in shaping the town's intellectual life. Many residents have made notable contributions to various fields, including education, literature, and the arts. Their achievements have brought recognition to the town and inspired future generations.

Nanton's intellectual life has been shaped by its commitment to education, the presence of cultural organizations, and the contributions of its residents. The town's rich history and vibrant community continue to foster intellectual growth and development.

The Face of Alberta

After Nanton was incorporated as a village in 1903, the first Canadian census to include the community was the 1906 Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Nanton was grouped with nearby areas such as Cayley and High River in subdistrict 27. The census provided details about residents' birthplaces and immigration dates. Of the roughly 700 people living in the subdistrict, more than half—about 53 percent—had immigrated from the United States. Other settlers arrived from Canadian provinces of Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick, and various regions within Alberta.

The census also recorded a wide range of European origins among Nanton's residents, including England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Norway, Poland, and Switzerland. There were also individuals from Australia and China.

By the time of the 1911 Census, more specific information was available for Nanton itself. While Americans still made up the largest immigrant group, their proportion had dropped to 29 percent. The next largest group included people who had moved from other parts of Alberta or were born in Nanton, accounting for 21 percent of the population. Residents from Great Britain made up 22 percent, showing strong representation. Other Canadian provinces such as Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec were also well represented. International origins expanded to include Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Galicia, Sweden, Austria, Russia, Iceland, and China.

The census distinguished between ethnicity and nationality. For example, someone might have immigrated from the United States, identified as Scottish by ethnicity, and reported Canadian nationality. Others might have arrived from Ontario, listed Irish ethnicity, and held Canadian nationality. This diversity reflected the complex and multicultural makeup of Nanton's early population.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

- Alberta Government. *"Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."* November 1, 2013.
- Alberta Heritage Survey. HS 26146. 1981.
- Birrell, Dave. Interview. October 2, 2025.
- Jones, Bridget. Interview. October 4, 2025.
- Kimmerly, M. Email. October 9, 2025.
- McTighe, Emily. Interview. October 2, 2025.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Volume No. 1. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Nanton News. *Southern Alberta Newspaper Collection*. University of Lethbridge Library. https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/sanews/search/searchterm/nanton+news/field/title/mode/all/conn/and/order/date/ad/asc/cosuppress/1
- Nanton Scout-Guide Hall Program for official opening. April 24, 1957.
- *Survey of Nanton*. Edmonton: Alberta Department of Industry and Development, 1960.
- 1906 Northwest Prairie Provinces Census. 1906. Accessed August 19, 2025. https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=census&id=464104&lang=eng&
- The Vulcan Advocate. *Vulcan advocate (1924-02-13)*. Internet Archive: Charles A. Clark, Sr, February 13, 1924.

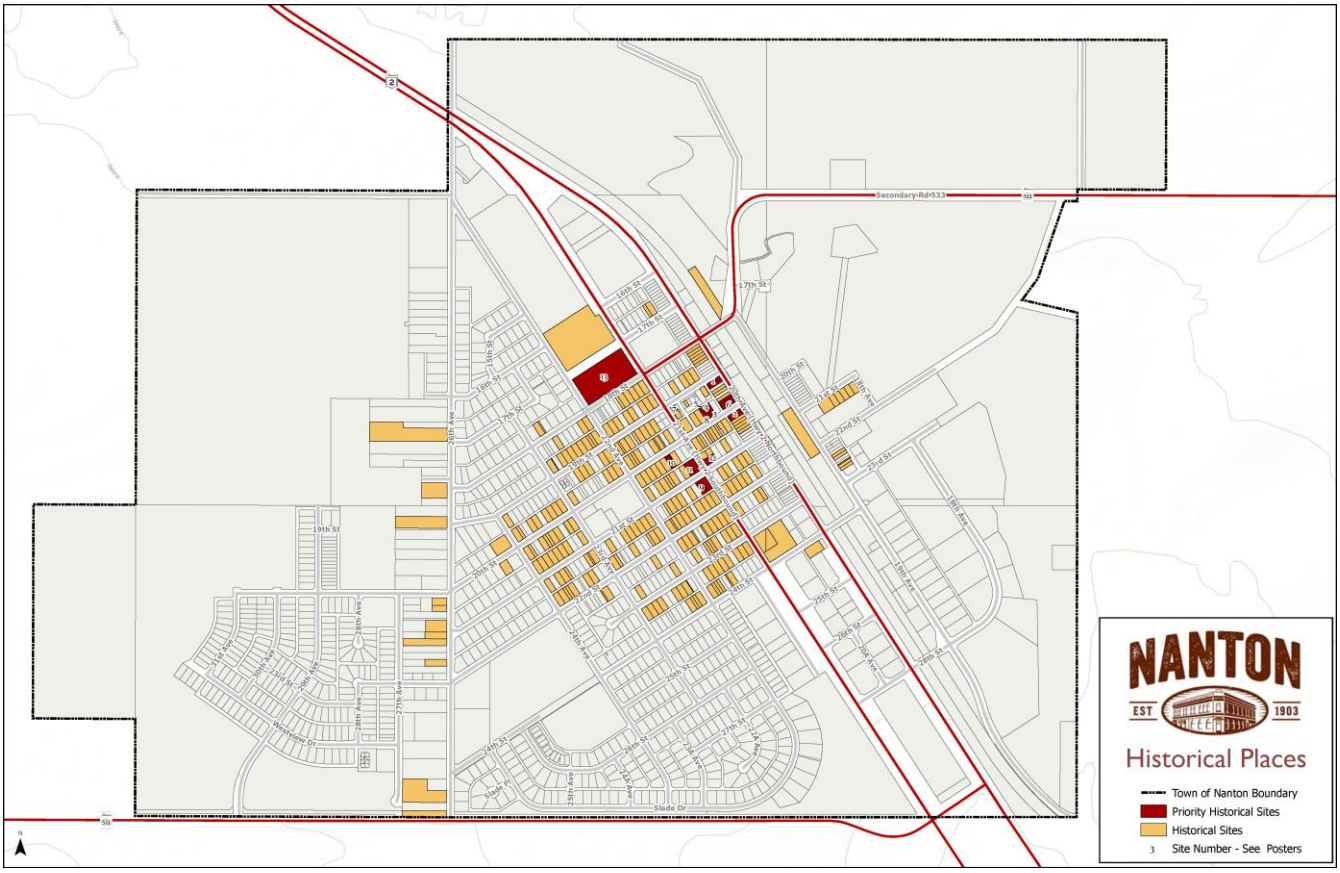
Secondary Sources

- Alberta Geological Survey. "Geology of Southern Alberta." *Alberta Energy Regulator*. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://static.ags.aer.ca/files/document/MAP/Map_601.pdf
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. "Macleod Trail Cultural Landscape." Accessed October 27, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=1&ObjectID=4664-0450
- Alberta.ca. "Archaeological Sites Alberta." Accessed August 15, 2025. https://www.alberta.ca/archaeological-sites-alberta
- Bomber Command Museum of Canada Archives. "The Tap Town Years – History of the Nanton Tap." *Bomber Command Museum Archives*. Accessed August 8, 2025. http://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/nanton/nantontap.html
- Brink, Jack. *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site, EcPl-16, southwestern Alberta*. Edmonton: Archaeological Survey of Alberta, April 13, 2008.
- Britannica. "Meltwater deposits." Accessed October 28, 2025. https://www.britannica.com/science/glacial-landform/Meltwater-deposits
- Canadian Register of Historic Places. Accessed October 5, 2025. http://www.historicplaces.ca
- Cashman, Tony. *A Picture of Alberta*. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1979.
- Cashman, Tony. *Singing Wires: The Telephone in Alberta*. Edmonton: The Alberta Government Telephones Commission, 1972.
- Fidler, Peter. Journal of a Journey over Land from Buckingham House to the Rocky Mountains in 1792-93. *Except from Fidler's Journal,* Accessed October 30, 2025. http://www.ulethbridge.ca/lib/digitized_collections/ourheritage/index_page_stuff/following_trails/fidler/Fidler1.html
- Belyea, Barbara. David J. Wishart, Editor. "FIDLER, PETER (1769–1822)." *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/
- Allen, Robert S. "FIDLER, PETER." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Volume, no. 6, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-. Accessed October 30, 2025. https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?Biold=36989
- George Wolstenholme – Wikipedia. Accessed October 30, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wolstenholme
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre. "About The Jump!" *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jum World Heritage Site*. Accessed October 28, 2025. https://headsmashedin.ca/about-jump
- Henry, Les. *Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others*. Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000.
- Lost Lemon Mine – Wikipedia & Mysteries of Canada. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Lemon_Mine
- Strand. Stephen. "Historic trade route still has a presence in the Foothills." *OkotoksOnline*. October 7, 2024. Accessed October 30, 2025.

https://okotoksonline.com/articles/historic-trade-route-still-has-a-prescence-in-the-foothills

- Osler, Hammond & Nanton. *New Homes, Free Farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Western Canada*. Winnipeg: Osler, Hammond & Nanton, ca. 1901.
- Peter Fidler – Wikipedia. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Fidler
- Berthelette, Scott. "Fur Trade Route Networks." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. February 2, 2023. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/fur-trade-routes
- Kilmury, Aaron. "Western Interior Seaway." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. February 28, 2025. Accessed October 28, 2025. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/western-interior-seaway

6. Map of Historic Places



The Oldman River Regional Services Commissions (ORRSC) prepared the Town Map and Downtown Map for the open houses and for this report.

6.1. Town Map

The Town Map above denotes all ninety-five heritage sites found from the HeRMIS database within the Town of Nanton that have a level of integrity worthy of closer inspection and consideration for placement on a Places of Interest List. The sites shown in **RED** represent the thirteen sites that now have Statements of Significance and are recommended for Municipal Resource Designation.

The sites shown in **YELLOW** are the remaining eighty-two of the 95 sites that could potentially form another phase of heritage building evaluations for future designation. Most of these sites are residential and institutional in nature, including one landmark

6.2. Downtown Map

The Downtown Map on the following page shows, in **RED**, the location and name of the thirteen heritage properties that were surveyed, assessed and evaluated, for the drafting of Statements of Significance, which are found in *Section 7* of this document.


N
3rd Ave
2nd Ave
Nanton Stem Hall - 1957
18th St
17th St
19th St
20th St
21st Ave (Hwy 2 southbound)
Kent Hospital/Ansiton Hospital - 1927
Nanton News - 1908
Dr. McKeage's Dental Office - 1904
Carleton Residence - 1907
Masonic Hall - 1906
Nanton Telephone Exchange - 1919
Peterson's Grocery - 1919
Dennon's Meat Market - 1924
Nanton Drug Company - 1908
W.S. Kelly Building - 1923
Shawand Grover Block - 1909
Auditorium Hotel - 1923
21st St
20th Ave (Hwy 2 Northbound)
22nd St
19th Ave
NANTON
EST
1903
Historical Places
Downtown Focus
Town of Nanton Boundary
Priority Historical Sites

7. Statements of Significance



7.1 The Structure and Purpose of a Statement of Significance

Within Alberta's heritage management framework, the Statement of Significance (SOS) is the central document that communicates why a historic place is important and what aspects of it must be conserved. It translates the findings of the eligibility, significance, and integrity assessments into a concise, practical summary that can be used consistently by municipal staff, Council, property owners, and the public. For Nanton, the SOS provides the formal basis for understanding each resource's contribution to the community's historical development and for guiding long-term stewardship.

The SOS is organized into three interconnected components—Description, Heritage Value, and Character-Defining Elements—each serving a distinct role in documenting the resource.

The Description offers a factual account of the historic place as it exists today. It outlines the building's form, materials, setting, and key physical features without interpretation. This establishes a shared understanding of the resource and ensures that future readers can clearly identify the place being evaluated.

The Heritage Value section explains why the resource is significant within the local context. It identifies the specific criteria under which the place holds importance—whether for its association with a historic theme, person, institution, architectural style, engineering method, information potential, or landmark qualities. This narrative situates the resource within Nanton's broader historical patterns, demonstrating how it reflects the community's development, identity, and cultural landscape.

The Character-Defining Elements (CDEs) translate the heritage value into the tangible features that must be retained to preserve the resource's significance. These may include architectural forms, materials, spatial relationships, landscape features, or other attributes that express the period during which the resource acquired its importance. CDEs form the basis for evaluating proposed alterations and ensuring that conservation decisions remain consistent with the resource's heritage value.

Together, these components ensure that the SoS is both interpretive and operational. It captures the essence of the historic place while providing clear direction for conservation, planning, and decision-making. For Nanton, the SoS supports transparent designation processes, aligns local practice with provincial standards, and strengthens the community's ability to protect the places that define its character and history.

1. Statement of Significance

W.S. Keeley Building

1901 20th Avenue
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The W. S. Keely Building was constructed in 1908 with completion in 1909. The building presents a strong two-storey brick façade that anchors a prominent corner in downtown Nanton. Its exterior is characterized by a series of ground-floor shopfronts with large display windows, centrally located recessed entrances, and a projecting mid-cornice above, reflecting its original commercial function. The upper storey is defined by evenly spaced rectangular windows set within the brickwork and crowned with a substantial upper cornice on the primary east-facing facade.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the W. S. Keeley Building lies in its association with the commercial, social, and institutional development of Nanton, its representation of early 20th century brick commercial architecture, and its enduring significance as a landmark anchoring the historic downtown core.

Constructed in 1908, the building reflects a period of optimism and growth spurred by the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which transformed Nanton into a service centre for surrounding ranching and farming communities. Historically, the building was erected by C.H. Marshall, one of Nanton's early merchants, and became home to Marshall's hardware, machinery, and furniture business. In 1914, it was the site of Nanton's first Chevrolet dealership, and its upper floor hosted community lodges such as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. The property's purchase by William S. Keeley in 1935 marked a new chapter, as Keeley's grocery, clothing, and hardware businesses contributed significantly to Nanton's mid-20th century economy. The adaptation of the second floor into modern apartments in 1941, which housed British Commonwealth Air Training Plan staff during WWII, illustrates the building's flexibility and its role in responding to changing community needs.

Architecturally, the W.S. Keeley Building is a distinguished example of early brick commercial design in southern Alberta. Its two-storey façade features pressed red brick laid in a running bond pattern, accented by corbelled brickwork along the parapet. The symmetrical arrangement of large display windows on the ground floor, framed by brick pilasters, reflects the building's original commercial function. The upper storey is characterized by evenly spaced sash windows with stone lintels and sills. The building's flat roof, prominent cornice, and subtle decorative brickwork contribute to its visual prominence and sense of permanence.

The W. S. Keeley building is important to the community for its continuous use as a hub for commerce, social gatherings, and residential life, reflecting the evolving needs and enterprising spirit of small-town Alberta. Its aesthetic value is evident in the durable materials, period detailing, and prominent two-storey brick façade, while its social and cultural significance is reinforced by its ongoing mixed-use function and its role as a focal point for community identity. The building's context is both local and regional, comparable to similar early commercial blocks in Claresholm, High River, and Fort Macleod, yet distinguished by its continuous use, sensitive restoration, and landmark presence along Highway 2.

The Keeley Building reflects the history and identity of Nanton through its original location, distinctive design, and enduring presence. It embodies broader patterns of Alberta's development, including the rise of brick commercial blocks as symbols of permanence and prosperity, the adaptation of buildings to changing social and economic needs, and the resilience of small-town communities. Its integrity, craftsmanship, and association with notable local merchants underscore its value as a representative example of southern Alberta's early commercial architecture. Its integrity, craftsmanship, and association with notable local merchants such as C.H. Marshall and William S. Keeley further underscore its value as a representative example of southern Alberta's early commercial architecture.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location is situated on a prominent corner facing Highway 2 north within Nanton's historic downtown core
- Two-storey form and massing with long rectangular street-facing facade and flat roof
- Stretcher bond brickwork construction with corbelled parapets
- Raised plain brick parapet with decorative brick edging
- Metal upper entablature with original W. S. Keeley letters within the frieze of the entablature
- Metal mid-cornice with brackets and the inscription of "Furniture" and "Hardware" within the frieze
- Central raked entry containing a tripartite of multi-panelled street-facing entrances
- Storefront with large fixed-glass display windows flanking central entrances with bulkhead and glass multi-lite transoms
- Original, shaped multi-panel wood entrance doors with glass upper panel and original door hardware
- Evenly spaced original upper storey wood single-hung windows with upper hinged wood storm windows and sandstone lintels and lug sills
- Continued mixed-use function (commercial ground floor, residential/office upper floor)
- Projecting metal sign hardware over central main entrance
- Landmark presence along Highway 2 within Nanton's historic commercial core.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Birrell, Dave. *Interview*. October 2, 2025.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Archival Collection: Local Business and Community History*. Glenbow Archives.
- Prairie Towns. *Historical Photographs of Nanton: Context of Town Development and Commercial Streetscape*. Archival collection.
- OhMy.ca. "Beautiful Historic Building in Nanton Alberta (Keeley Block History, Restoration Details, Upgrades)." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://ohmy.ca.
- Calgary Businesses for Sale. *MLS Listing A2174975: Keeley Block Description, Ownership History, Renovations*. Multiple Listing Service. Accessed December 4, 2025.
- Historical Society of Alberta. "Resources for Researchers." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://albertahistory.org/resources-for-researchers/.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. *(HS 28697)*. Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+48623.

2. Statement of Significance

Auditorium Hotel

2001 20th Avenue
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Auditorium Hotel is a two and three-storey, wood-frame brick-faced commercial building located on the southwest corner of Nanton's historic Shaw Street and Railway Avenue. Originally constructed in 1902, and expanded in 1912, the building features a flat roof, horizontal wood siding, and a symmetrical façade with large storefront windows and a central entrance. It has served continuously as a hotel, tavern, and social gathering place for over a century.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Auditorium Hotel lies in its association with the early 20th century transportation and hospitality industry, its representation of Edwardian Commercial design, and its significance as a landmark with symbolic value.

The heritage value of the Auditorium Hotel lies in its association with the early 20th century transportation and hospitality industry, serving as a key stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge and supporting regional travel, commerce, and social gathering. Its continuous operation as a hotel, tavern, and social hub for over a century reflects its enduring role in Nanton's community life and its connection to noteworthy events and people, including its original builder W.J. Brown and the Wynnyk family who led its restoration.

The Auditorium Hotel is an excellent representation of Edwardian Commercial design, characterized by its brick cladding, symmetrical fenestration, and restrained ornamentation. Despite the loss of its third floor in a 1983 fire, the building's restored façade, massing, and architectural details from its 1912 expansion remain legible, demonstrating the craftsmanship and material authenticity of the period. The 1993 restoration, supported by the Alberta Main Street Program, reinstated key design elements, contributing to the continuity of Nanton's historic streetscape.

As a landmark and symbol, the Auditorium Hotel is locally known as "The Aud" and stands as a visual anchor in Nanton's historic commercial core. Its role in music culture, community gatherings, and local folklore—including stories of past residents—adds layers of intangible heritage and symbolic value. The hotel's ongoing function as a hospitality venue and gathering place reinforces its significance as a marker of Nanton's identity and resilience.

The Auditorium Hotel is important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, social, and cultural reasons. It embodies the history and identity of Nanton, reflecting the town's development as a regional service centre during the railway and highway expansion era. Its layered history, architectural character, and enduring role in community life position it as a meaningful and representative example of early 20th century prairie hotel development in Alberta.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location at a prominent downtown intersection abutting public sidewalk
- Two-storey L-shaped form and massing with a flat roof reflecting the 1912 expansion
- Surviving two-storey massing reflecting the 1912 expansion

- Exterior detailing consistent with its Edwardian Commercial style
- Entablature above east portion of structure decorated with decorated finials, dropped pendants, and dentils
- Brick corbelling under entablature frieze
- Wood-frame windows with a mix of wood, brick, and concrete lug sills, and a mix of brick voussoirs and plain lintels
- Corner and east façade entrances with transom light
- Historic signage hardware and name association ("Auditorium Hotel" / "The Aud"
- Rear fire escape and counter weights
- Continued use as a hospitality venue and cultural gathering space
- Folklore and community memory associated with past guests and events
- Rectangular form and massing of brick "ice house," including vertical wood doors and original hardware, and rooftop "davit crane" to lift blocks of ice.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- University of Calgary Digital Collections – Glenbow Archives. "Auditorium Hotel – Nanton – Alberta." Accessed December 6, 2025. https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/archive/Auditorium-Hotel--Nanton--Alberta--2R3BF1OIKIKI.html.
- University of Lethbridge Library. Nanton News. Southern Alberta Newspaper Collection. May 2, 1912. https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/sanews/searchterm/nanton+news/.
- Waymarking.com. "Antique Hotels: Auditorium Hotel." Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM1W3A.
- Flickr – Eddy Match Company Archive. "Auditorium Hotel, Nanton." Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.flickr.com/photos/93390528@N04/47982648797/.
- Wolf Paranormal Investigations. "The Auditorium Hotel." Accessed June 16, 2015. https://wpinvestigations.wordpress.com/2015/06/16/the-auditorium-hotel/.
- Haunted Places. "Nanton Auditorium Hotel | Haunted Places | Nanton, AB, Canada." Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.hauntedplaces.org/item/nanton-auditorium-hotel/.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+29228

3. Statement of Significance

Fetherson's Grocery

2112 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

Fetherston's Grocery is a 1915 modest, one-storey brick commercial building that features simple massing, a street-facing orientation, and a utilitarian storefront typical of small-town prairie commerce. The upper façade contains a "Fetherston's Grocery" ghost sign partially covered by a fixed raked metal awning spanning the building's length over a recessed central entry. The building is centrally located within Nanton's historic commercial district on the north side of 20th Street.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the W. S. Keeley Building lies in its association with the commercial, social, and institutional development of Nanton, its representation of early 20th century brick commercial architecture, and its enduring significance as a landmark anchoring the historic downtown core.

Constructed in 1908, the building reflects a period of optimism and growth spurred by the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which transformed Nanton into a service centre for surrounding ranching and farming communities. Historically, the building was erected by C.H. Marshall, one of Nanton's early merchants, and became home to Marshall's hardware, machinery, and furniture business. In 1914, it was the site of Nanton's first Chevrolet dealership, and its upper floor hosted community lodges such as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. The property's purchase by William S. Keeley in 1935 marked a new chapter, as Keeley's grocery, clothing, and hardware businesses contributed significantly to Nanton's mid-20th century economy. The adaptation of the second floor into modern apartments in 1941, which housed British Commonwealth Air Training Plan staff during WWII, illustrates the building's flexibility and its role in responding to changing community needs.

Architecturally, the W.S. Keeley Building is a distinguished example of early brick commercial design in southern Alberta. Its two-storey façade features pressed red brick laid in a running bond pattern, accented by corbelled brickwork along the parapet. The symmetrical arrangement of large display windows on the ground floor, framed by brick pilasters, reflects the building's original commercial function. The upper storey is characterized by evenly spaced sash windows with stone lintels and sills. The building's flat roof, prominent cornice, and subtle decorative brickwork contribute to its visual prominence and sense of permanence.

The W. S. Keeley building is important to the community for its continuous use as a hub for commerce, social gatherings, and residential life, reflecting the evolving needs and enterprising spirit of small-town Alberta. Its aesthetic value is evident in the durable materials, period detailing, and prominent two-storey brick façade, while its social and cultural significance is reinforced by its ongoing mixed-use function and its role as a focal point for community identity. The building's context is both local and regional, comparable to similar early commercial blocks in Claresholm, High River, and Fort Macleod, yet distinguished by its continuous use, sensitive restoration, and landmark presence along Highway 2.

The Keeley Building reflects the history and identity of Nanton through its original location, distinctive design, and enduring presence. It embodies broader patterns of Alberta's development, including the rise of brick commercial blocks as symbols of permanence and prosperity, the adaptation of buildings to changing social and economic needs, and the resilience of small-town communities. Its integrity, craftsmanship, and association with notable local merchants underscore its value as a representative example of southern Alberta's early commercial architecture. Its integrity, craftsmanship, and association with notable local merchants such as C.H. Marshall and William S. Keeley further underscore its value as a representative example of southern Alberta's early commercial architecture.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location on the main street abutting public sidewalk within the historic commercial district
- Street facing orientation, one-storey form, rectangular massing, and flat roof
- Storefront configuration, including display windows and recessed entry
- Stretcher bond brick exterior superstructure cover with brick corbelling along upper parapet
- Brick lug window sills
- Ghost signage showing "Fetherston's Grocery"
- Association with the Fetherston family and their role in Nanton's civic history.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Birrell, Dave. *Interview*. October 2, 2025.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Archival Collection: Local Business and Community History*. Glenbow Archives.
- Prairie Towns. *Historical Photographs of Nanton: Context of Town Development and Commercial Streetscape*. Archival collection.
- OhMy.ca. "Beautiful Historic Building in Nanton Alberta (Keeley Block History, Restoration Details, Upgrades)." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://ohmy.ca.
- Calgary Businesses for Sale. *MLS Listing A2174975: Keeley Block Description, Ownership History, Renovations*. Multiple Listing Service. Accessed December 4, 2025.
- Historical Society of Alberta. "Resources for Researchers." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://albertahistory.org/resources-for-researchers/.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. *(HS 28697)*. Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+48623.

4. Statement of Significance

Nanton Drug Company
2114 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton Drug Company building, which later became known as Creighton Pharmacy, is a modest early 20th century commercial building constructed in 1908 and located in the historic downtown core of Nanton. The structure is characterized by its street-facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk, two-storey rectangular massing and brick exterior, a utilitarian storefront design with a recessed central entry flanked by large, fixed windows, and a second storey with four single-hung windows. The building is crowned by a stepped entablature with decorative urn finials, with the inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co."

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Drug Company lies in its association with the development of health care and commerce in Nanton and its connection to Dr. John Creighton as one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders, its representation of early 20th century commercial architecture, and its significance as a landmark.

The heritage value of the Nanton Drug Company is deeply rooted in its pivotal role in the evolution of health care and commerce in Nanton. Constructed in 1908, the building became the town's first dual-medical-pharmaceutical pharmacy where it served not only as a dispensary but also as a community hub for medical advice and supplies, especially during a time when Nanton lacked a formal hospital. This marked a significant advancement in local health services and commercial infrastructure. Its association with Dr. John Creighton is especially noteworthy. Dr. Creighton arrived in Nanton in 1903 after serving as a medical officer in the South African War, where he was awarded the Queen's Medal. As Nanton's first doctor, Dr. Creighton was instrumental in establishing medical services, often traveling by horseback to reach patients in rural areas. At the time, many of the first drug stores in Alberta were opened by a local physician. In partnership with Dr. G.M. Robertson, he purchased the drug business of W.A. Chisholm and built the brick Nanton Drug Company building, which quickly became a cornerstone of health care in the region.

The pharmacy's dual function as both a dispensary and a medical office exemplifies the customary practice in small Alberta towns, where physicians frequently dispensed medications directly to patients. This model was crucial for rural communities, providing accessible health care and pharmaceutical services at a time when such resources were scarce. Its role in supporting the Keen Hospital (1927 – 1940) further underscores its importance in the town's early healthcare infrastructure.

Beyond its medical significance, the Nanton Drug Company contributed to the commercial growth of Nanton. Its prominent location on Main Street and its durable, fire-resistant brick construction reflected the aspirations of the town's early business community. The building represents early 20th century commercial architecture, characterized by its two-storey brick construction, utilitarian storefront design, ornate entablature with decorative urn finials, and the prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co.", and conveyed stability and trustworthiness—qualities essential for a pharmacy and community business. Its significance as a landmark is reinforced by its enduring presence in the

historic downtown core, its role as a visual anchor in the streetscape, and its survival through key events such as the fire of 1924.

This resource is important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social value. It served as the local pharmacy and medical office, reflecting the dual roles often held by rural physicians in early Alberta towns, and supported the town's transition from a small railway community to a district metropolis. The building's well-preserved architectural features and its association with the modernization of rural services make it a valued part of Nanton's heritage landscape.

The Nanton Drug Company embodies the history and identity of Nanton by illustrating the pattern of service-oriented businesses clustering in prairie towns during the railway era, and by highlighting the aspirations and craftsmanship of its era through its classical detailing and durable construction. Its continued use and preservation reflect its enduring role in the community's commercial and social life, ensuring that the story of early commerce and healthcare in Nanton is effectively conveyed to present and future generations.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core abutting public sidewalk
- Two-storey form and massing with brick superstructure cover and stone foundation
- Long rectangular plan with short façade, stepped sidewall parapet, and flat roof
- Central recessed raked entrance with multi-panelled wood door with original hardware flanked by multi-panelled wood transoms and fixed storefront windows above
- Sandstone lug sills
- Upper entablature with decorated parapet, classical detailing and decorative brackets and urn finials
- Ornate metal mid-cornice with decorated brackets
- Brick voussoirs over second-floor windows
- Prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" within the entablature
- Association with Dr. Creighton and its dual development of healthcare and commerce.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Penley, Ken. The History of Pharmacy in Alberta: The First One Hundred Years. Edmonton: The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, 1993. https://archive.org/details/historyofpharmac0000unse/page/n13/mode/2up.
- Bomber Command Museum Archives. Nanton's Fetherston's Grocery Store. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/s,fetherstongrocerystore.pdf
- Nanton and District Historical Society Collection – Glenbow Archives https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/nanton-and-district-historical-society-collection.
- Creighton Pharmacy Postcard – Internet Archive https://archive.org/details/PC004486.
- "History of the Keen Building – Mainstreet Apartments." Mainstreet Nanton. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.mainstreetnanton.com/historyofthekeenbuilding.
- "1908 - Nanton Drug Co, Nanton, Alberta - Dated Buildings and Cornerstones." Waymarking.com. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wmZD3N_1908_Nanton_Drug_Co_Nanton_Alberta.Bomber Command Museum Archives. Nanton's Fetherston's Grocery Store. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/s,fetherstongrocerystore.pdf.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 18950). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 7, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+18950.

5. Statement of Significance

Denoon Butcher Shop

2116 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Denoon Meat Market is a 1924 modest one-storey, rectangular brick commercial building with a flat roof located mid-block on the north side of Nanton's main street (20th Street). A contemporary fixed awning spans the length of the façade over a raked recessed central entry.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Denoon Meat Market lies in its association with enterprising spirit of early settlers and the Denoon family, its representation of early 20th century prairie commercial architecture, and its significance as a community landmark.

The heritage value of the Denoon Meat Market lies in its association with the enterprising spirit of early settlers and the Denoon family, who were among the early settlers and entrepreneurs in the region and contributed significantly to the economic and social development of Nanton. Built in 1924 by William Denoon who was a member of town council, and became fire chief in 1925, the building operated as a butcher shop and meat market, providing essential services and acting as a social hub for local residents during the railway expansion era. His son Gordon became a partner in 1945, at which time the name changed to Denoon and Son, who eventually took over the business. The Denoon family's stewardship of the business contributed to the growth of small-town commerce and helped shape the community's identity.

The building is a representative example of early prairie commercial architecture, characterized by Its modest, one-storey, rectangular wood-frame construction with a distinctive false-front brick façade – a style commonly used in western Canadian towns to give businesses in small buildings a more prominent appearance on main street. The building's design, including its brick cladding, corbelled parapet, and original storefront details, demonstrates construction techniques and aesthetic choices typical of its era.

As a landmark, the Denoon Meat Market is a recognizable and enduring feature of Nanton's historic main street (20th Street), contributing to the community's identity and the continuity of its historic downtown district. Its location within a contiguous row of early commercial buildings and its preserved architectural features make it a symbolic anchor in the town's historic landscape.

The Denoon Meat Market is also important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It embodies the history and identity of Nanton by illustrating patterns of commercial development, community life, and architectural trends that shaped Alberta's small towns from the late 19th century through to the present. The building's integrity in location, design, materials, and association ensures it continues to evoke the atmosphere and function of a historic meat market, making it a valued part of Nanton's heritage.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location on the main street within a contiguous row of early commercial buildings in the historic commercial district.
- Street facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk.

- One-storey scale, short façade, and long rectangular massing
- Stretcher bond brick façade with a simple one-storey form and rectangular massing with raised parapet and flat roof
- Storefront configuration, including bulkhead, flat transom with multiple lites, and central recessed entry flanked by display windows with continuous wood sill
- Corbelled brick spanning upper brick parapet.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Jones, Bridget. Interview. October 4, 2025.
- Prairie Towns. “Historical Overview of Nanton.” Accessed December 7, 2025. https://prairie-towns.com/nanton-images.html.
- University of Calgary Archives. Nanton and District Historical Society Collection. Accessed December 7, 2025. https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/nanton-and-district-historical-society-collection.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+15965.

6. Statement of Significance

Shaw and Cooper Block

1919 20th Avenue
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Shaw and Cooper Block is a two-storey, square-plan commercial building located on a prominent corner of Highway 2 North and 20th Street within Nanton's historic downtown. The structure is constructed of brick with sandstone detailing, resting on a sandstone foundation. Its flat roof is edged by a parapet, with the most distinctive feature being the angled corner façade inscribed with "Shaw & Cooper" and the date "1909." The ground floor is articulated by elliptical Romanesque Revival windows, each framed with sandstone keystones and radiating voussoirs, while the second storey is defined by rectangular single-hung windows with sandstone lintels and sills. A classical triangular pediment with ornate brackets marks the corner and south entrance, and an earlier east entrance, emphasizing the building's dual orientation to the street. Heavy sandstone quoins, a continuous water table course, and a mid upper cornice with a plain frieze further enrich the exterior. The original heavy bracketed entablature once removed, has been reinstated.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Shaw and Cooper Block lies in its association with the entrepreneurial leadership of H.M. Shaw and J.T. Cooper, its association with the development of commerce and banking, its representation of early 20th century commercial design, and its significance as a landmark.

The heritage value of the Shaw and Cooper Block lies in its association with the entrepreneurial leadership of H.M. Shaw, founder of Nanton and federal Member of Parliament, and J.T. Cooper, the town's first mayor. H.M Shaw was the founder of Nanton and played a pivotal role in shaping the town's early development and instrumental in establishing the Shaw and Cooper Block as a centre for commerce and banking, reflecting the ambitions and optimism of Nanton's formative years. J.T. Cooper helped foster the development of banking and retail services that supported local ranchers and farmers, reinforcing the building's significance as a commercial anchor in Nanton.

The building is closely tied to the development of commerce and banking in Nanton, serving as the original home of the Bank of Hamilton and later the Canadian Bank of Commerce/CIBC, as well as hosting a variety of retail and office tenants that supported local ranchers and farmers.

Architecturally, its heritage value is further represented by is distinguished example of early 20th century commercial design, blending Romanesque Revival and classical architectural features, its two-storey, square-plan form is constructed of brick and sandstone detailing and foundation, reflecting the transition from wood to fire-resistant masonry typical of Alberta towns in the early 1900s. The building's most distinctive feature is its angled corner façade, inscribed with "Shaw & Cooper, 1909," which serves as a visual anchor in Nanton's historic downtown. The ground floor is articulated by elliptical Romanesque Revival windows, each framed with sandstone keystones and radiating voussoirs, while the second storey features rectangular single-hung windows with sandstone lintels and sills. Classical triangular pediments with ornate brackets mark the corner and south entrances, and in an earlier east entrance, emphasizing the building's dual orientation to the street. Heavy sandstone quoins, a continuous water table

course, and a mid-upper cornice with a plain frieze enrich the exterior. The original heavy bracketed entablature, once removed, has been reinstated, preserving the craftsmanship and stylistic vocabulary of its era.

As a landmark, the Shaw and Cooper Block anchors a prominent intersection in Nanton's historic downtown, symbolizing the town's heritage and serving as a focal point for community life. Its enduring presence and integrity – retaining original materials, design and workmanship – allow it to community its heritage value and the identity of Nanton as a town shaped by railway expansion, agricultural settlement, and civic leadership.

The site is important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It embodies the prosperity and optimism of Nanton's early years, and its ongoing use as a bank and commercial hub demonstrates continuity of practice and connection between past and present.

The Shaw and Cooper block reflects the broader pattern of Alberta's history, marking the transition from fronter settlement to established municipality, and continues to symbolize the trust, prosperity, and continuity that define Nanton's civic and commercial development.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location is situated on a prominent corner facing Highway 2 north within Nanton's historic downtown core
- Two-storey form and massing with long rectangular street-facing facade and flat roof
- Stretcher bond brickwork construction with corbelled parapets
- Raised plain brick parapet with decorative brick edging
- Metal upper entablature with original W. S. Keeley letters within the frieze of the entablature
- Metal mid-cornice with brackets and the inscription of "Furniture" and "Hardware" within the frieze
- Central raked entry containing a tripartite of multi-panelled street-facing entrances
- Storefront with large fixed-glass display windows flanking central entrances with bulkhead and glass multi-lite transoms
- Original, shaped multi-panel wood entrance doors with glass upper panel and original door hardware
- Evenly spaced original upper storey wood single-hung windows with upper hinged wood storm windows and sandstone lintels and lug sills
- Continued mixed-use function (commercial ground floor, residential/office upper floor)
- Projecting metal sign hardware over central main entrance
- Landmark presence along Highway 2 within Nanton's historic commercial core.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. "Shaw & Cooper Block (HS 23546)." Government of Alberta. Accessed December 4, 2025. https://historicplacesalberta.ca.
- Waymarking.com. "Shaw and Cooper Block, Nanton, AB." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm12NPN_Shaw_and_Cooper_Block_Nanton_AB.
- Wikidata. "Shaw and Cooper Block Heritage Designation (Q44665583)." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q44665583.

7. Statement of Significance

Nanton News

1902 21st Avenue
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton News building, constructed in 1908, is a two-storey, rectangular, brick-clad commercial structure located on 19th Street in downtown Nanton. Built of nailed-frame construction on a stone foundation, the building features a central double-door entrance flanked by fixed multi-pane windows, and two windows above, brick corbelling, brick voussoirs over the windows and doors, and a prominent façade typical of early prairie boomtown architecture. The ground floor historically housed the printing office and shop, while the second floor provided residential quarters. A side entrance and additional windows face Highway 2 South.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton News building lies in its association with journalism, civic engagement, communication and technological adaptation, and its representation of a purpose-built commercial structure projecting permanence and prosperity.

The heritage value of the Nanton News building lies in its association with the development of local journalism and civic engagement in Nanton, as the headquarters of the Nanton News newspaper from 1908 to 1986. The building is historically significant as a vital institution that documented settlement, promoted commerce, and fostered civic identity in southern Alberta. Founded by John M. Bender in 1907, the newspaper played a vital role in the community's growth, providing coverage of agricultural issues, local politics, and community events, and serving as a link between residents and the wider province.

The Nanton News relocation to a purpose-built office in 1908 marked Nanton's maturation as a civic hub, reflecting the town's emergence as a service centre for ranching and farming communities along the Calgary–Fort Macleod railway line. Its continuity of use as a newspaper office, with printing technology evolving from hand press to linotype, underscores its heritage value as a site of communication and technological adaptation. The preservation of back issues dating to 1907 further enhances its documentary importance, providing a record of community life and regional development.

Architecturally, the Nanton News building stands as a testament to the aspirations and resourcefulness of early prairie towns. Its two-storey commercial structure, with a rectangular plan and prominent façade, was designed to project permanence and prosperity. The nailed-frame construction on a sturdy stone foundation speaks to the utilitarian yet durable building practices of the early 20th century. The exterior is characterized by stretcher-bond brickwork, with corbelling along the upper north and west parapets, and a flat roof. The building's central entrance, flanked by original wood-frame windows, lugs sills, and multi-panelled wood and glass doors is further enhanced by brick voussoirs over the windows and doors – details that reflect both craftmanship and stylistic ambition. Its original corner-lot setting abutting the public sidewalk, anchors the building in the town's historic streetscape and reinforces its civic prominence.

The building's surviving materials and workmanship from its 1908 construction remains intact with only minor alterations, and the dual-use layout - with a printing office below and residential quarters above – remains legible,

reinforcing the building's functional authenticity and its role as a hub of communications and technological adaptation.

Although Nanton News experienced several owners over its time and relocated to the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street in 1986, the building is a rare surviving example of early newspaper architecture in Alberta. The Nanton News building is valued by the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It embodies the history and identity of Nanton, reflecting broader patterns of settlement and development in southern Alberta. Its enduring association with local journalism, civic pride, and communication networks ensures that its heritage values remain legible to present and future generations.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original corner-lot setting abutting public sidewalk within Nanton's historic commercial district
- Two-storey, nailed-frame form and massing with stretcher-bond brick superstructure cover, stone foundation, and flat roof
- Brick corbelling along upper north and west parapets
- Central entrance flanked by original wood-frame windows, wood lug sills, and multi-panelled wood and glass entrance doors
- Brick voussoirs over windows and main entrance doors
- Central main level entrance on west elevation with multi-panelled wood and glass door, and similar offset entrance opening and door on second level above
- Surviving materials and workmanship from its 1908 construction, including wood framing and masonry details
- Association with the evolution of printing technology from hand press to linotype.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+28697.
- McTighe, Emily. Interview. October 2, 2025.

8. Statement of Significance

Nanton Telephone Exchange

2118 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton Telephone Exchange building is a modest, single-storey utility structure located within the town's historic commercial core. Constructed in 1918 to house telecommunications infrastructure, the building features a functional design typical of the Alberta Government Telephone's mid-century rural exchanges, with stucco cladding applied to the brick-faced exterior, minimal ornamentation, and a rectangular footprint. It served as a local switching station and operations hub for telephone service in Nanton and surrounding areas

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Telephone Exchange building lies in its association with the development and modernization of provincial telecommunications infrastructure in Alberta, its representation of mid-century utility design, and its significance as a landmark with symbolic value.

The heritage value of the Nanton Telephone Exchange lies in its association with the development and modernization of provincial telecommunications infrastructure in Alberta, serving as the local switching station and operations hub for telephone service in Nanton and surrounding areas. Its role was pivotal in connecting Nanton's residents to the broader provincial and national telephone grid, marking a transformative period in the community's history when access to modern communication became a public good initiated by the Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) system, which was established in 1906 and expanded rural service throughout the province following its acquisition of Bell Telephone's Alberta operations in 1908.

Architecturally, the building is a representation of a mid-century utility design featuring a modest, single-storey structure, typical of Alberta Government Telephone's mid-century rural exchanges. Its design likely followed standardized provincial plans emphasizing durability, fire resistance, and functional layout, typical of AGT's rural exchanges from the mid-1910s to the 1950s. It features a rectangular footprint, stucco cladding applied over a brick-faced exterior, and minimal ornamentation. Key character-defining elements include its original location abutting the public sidewalk within Nanton's historic downtown core, a one-storey short-façade form and massing with a flat roof and stone foundation, and a symmetrical fenestration pattern. The centre entrance is distinguished by sidelights and a flat transom with multiple lights, while the plain parapet is accented by protruding pilasters extending down to a concrete plinth. The building also retains its original moulded name plate above the central entrance, concrete lug sills with applied stucco, and evidence of standardized provincial design and construction methods. These architectural features contribute to its legibility as a government utility structure and reflect the civic values of the era.

As a symbol of early telecommunications, the Nanton Telephone Exchange is valued by the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It embodies the collective memory of Nanton's residents, recalling the era when manual switchboards—often operated by local women—played a vital role in daily life and community connectivity. The building's association with the expansion of government telephone services and its enduring recognition within the community highlight its importance in Nanton's identity and heritage.

The building also reflects Nanton's evolution from a rural service centre to a connected community, illustrating broader patterns in Alberta's history of public infrastructure and equitable access to modern services. Its retention of original location, design, materials, and association with its ongoing role in community activities, ensures that the Nanton Telephone Exchange remains a valued and authentic part of Nanton's heritage.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location abutting public sidewalk within Nanton's historic downtown core
- One-storey short-façade form and massing with flat roof and stone foundation
- Original exterior brick superstructure cover beneath later applied stucco
- Centre entrance with sidelights and flat transom with multiple lights
- Symmetrical fenestration pattern
- Plain parapet with protruding pilasters extending down to a protruding concrete plinth
- Concrete lug sills with applied stucco
- Original moulded name plate above central entrance
- Association with manual switchboard operations and early telecommunications equipment
- Evidence of standardized provincial design and construction methods.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Alberta Government Telephones – Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta_Government_Telephones
- Nanton and District Historical Society Collection – Glenbow Archives https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/nanton-and-district-historical-society-collection
- Provincial Archives of Alberta – AGT Records https://searchprovincialarchives.alberta.ca/telephone
- "Alberta's Telephone Heritage - Home." Accessed December 8, 2025. https://wayback.archive-it.org/2217/20101208160425/http://www.abheritage.ca/telephone/index.html.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+26243.
- Alberta Government Telephones. En-Academic. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/979275.

9. Statement of Significance

Creighton Residence

2203 21st Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Creighton Residence is situated on a large well-treed lot, bordered by a low hedge, and located on a prominent southwest corner of 21st Street and Highway 2 South. It is a two-storey, 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 square-layout home, clad with shiplap and shingle siding. The structure has an open front porch, a medium-hip gable roof with a prominent cross gable, and single-hung windows on all elevations. The residence reflects the practical space-efficient design typical of Eaton kit houses from the early 20th century massing, and symmetrical fenestration pattern, conveying its original function as a healthcare facility.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Creighton Residence lies in its association with the pioneering Creighton family, notably Dr. John A. Creighton and his son, James Forbes Creighton, and the development of healthcare and business in Nanton, as well as its representation of early 20th century residential architecture exemplified by its design as a 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit house.

The heritage value of the Creighton Residence lies in its association with the pioneering Creighton family, notably Dr. John A. Creighton and his son, James Forbes Creighton. John A. Crieghton was the first doctor in the Nanton area, establishing his medical office in the Ingram Building and playing a foundational role in the development of local healthcare. He and his colleague, George Robertson, expanded the local pharmacy, building a new two-storey brick-clad business that became a central institution in the community. James Forbes Creighton, delivered by his father in the residence and living there until 2015, served in the Air Force during World War II, had a career in pharmacy, and contributed extensively to local sports and community development.

The structure's representation of early 20th century residential architecture is exemplified by its design as a 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit house, featuring a practical, space-efficient square two-storey layout, shiplap and shingle siding, open front porch, medium-hip gable roof with a prominent cross gable, and original millwork from Winnipeg. The residence's significance as a local landmark is reinforced by its prominent location at the corner of 21st Street and Highway 2 South, its generational continuity within the Creighton family, and its role as a symbol of community leadership and innovation.

The Creighton Residence is important to the community because it embodies historic, aesthetic and social values: as a home and workplace of Nanton's first doctor, the birthplace and lifelong residence of a prominent figure, James Forbes Creighton, and a rare surviving example of mail-order kit homes that reflect the economic practicality and ingenuity of rural Alberta families. The place reflects the history and identity of Nanton through its enduring association with the Creighton family, its architectural integrity, and its role in broader patterns of settlement, healthcare, and business development in the region. The residence also holds social value as a familiar feature within the neighbourhood, reinforcing community memory and continuity across generations.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton on a prominent corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street
- Square, two-storey scale and massing layout typical of Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit houses
- Nailed wood-frame superstructure
- Open front verandah and vertical support wood columns and closed railing
- Off-centre main entrance
- Medium-hip roof with a prominent cross gable
- Roof pediment on upper cross-gable dormer
- Shiplap with corner board and shingle-clad exterior
- Single-hung wood-frame windows and wood storm windows with slip sills standard with kit house package
- Original window and door placement as detailed in the Eaton's Eastbourne model 666 square-layout home
- Window and door millwork
- Centre brick chimney
- All structural components, including lumber, windows, doors and frames shipped by rail from British Columbia
- Association with the Creighton family, who played a foundational role in Nanton's medical services and business development.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Henry, Les. Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others. Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000.
- Tribute Archive. "James Forbes Creighton (Nanton) Obituary 1920-2015 High River, AB. Tribute Archive. 2015. https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/585797/James-Forbes-Crieghton-Nanton/.
- Our Canada. "I Grew Up in a Mail-Order House From the Eaton's Catalogue." Reader's Digest Canada. Accessed December 4, 2025. https://www.readersdigest.ca/travel/canada/mail-order-house/.
- Lumsden History Examined. "They Were Not All Eaton's Catalogue Homes." Blogspot. February 2010. https://lumsdenhistoryexamined.blogspot.com/2010/02/they-were-not-all-eatons-catalogue.html.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+18324.

10. Statement of Significance

Keen Hospital

2207 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Keen Hospital is a two-and-one-half-storey, rectangular stucco-clad brick building with a concrete foundation and gable roof, constructed in 1927 as Nanton's first purpose-built hospital. Located on the west edge of Nanton's historic downtown core, the building originally contained a twelve-bed hospital, dispensary, medical office, bathrooms, kitchen, and a sunroom. Although later converted into apartments, the exterior retains its institutional massing, and symmetrical fenestration pattern, conveying its original function as a healthcare facility.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Keen Hospital lies in its association with the pioneering efforts of Dr. William H. Keen and Edith Keen, its association with the provision of accessible local medical services, its representation of early 20th century institutional design and construction, and its significance as a symbolic landmark of small-town hospitals.

For two decades, practitioners served patients from their offices, with those requiring hospitalization referred to facilities in High River or Calgary. The pioneering efforts of Dr. William H. Keen and Edith Keen in establishing modern healthcare in Nanton fostered a spirit of community self-sufficiency. Dr. Keen arrived in Nanton in 1905 and became one of the town's first physicians. His leadership in establishing the town's first purpose-built hospital in 1927 reflected both professional initiative and civic pride. The hospital had accommodation for twelve patients, contained its own dispensary, and was described by the Nanton News as "modern throughout" and having "the most up to date electrical equipment in the province for the treatment of disease…There are two bath rooms, a kitchen and a sun room, and a water system with electric pump." On January 18, 1929, Nanton council passed a motion that the Keen Hospital be accepted as an approved hospital by the provincial department of health.

Dr. Keen was assisted by his wife, Edith, a registered nurse who served as superintendent, and Dr. John Creighton who also provided patient care at this site. Together, they embodied the broader theme of local self-sufficiency in medical care, a hallmark of Alberta's rural communities in this era highlighting family and community dimensions of healthcare delivery in small towns. The hospital also became a focal point for social cohesion, providing essential local medical services at a time when travel to distant facilities was costly and difficult. The hospital's creation marked a turning point in the community's development, reflecting the collective ambition of Nanton's residents during the interwar period to provide accessible medical services locally, marking a turning point in community development and self-sufficiency.

The hospital's closure in the 1940s followed Dr. Keen's death in 1938. It was operated by Dr. Hector Mackenzie, with Edit Keen briefly presiding over the local branch of the Red Cross from its premises, until Dr. Mackenzie's enlistment and the retirement of Dr. Crieghton. The closure reflects the vulnerability of small-town institutions, dependant on individual practitioners. Patients were redirected to High River, underscoring the shift toward centralized healthcare delivery.

Architecturally, the Keen Hospital is a distinctive example of early 20th century institutional design in rural Alberta. The building features a two-and-a-half-storey, wood-frame rectangular form with an original brick exterior now clad with stucco, set on a concrete foundation. Its gable roof, symmetrical fenestration, and substantial massing convey a sense of permanence and modernity, distinguishing it from more modest maternity homes or converted residences typical of the era, such as the Sexsmith Maternity Home that began in a small shack and moved to several converted residences as the practice grew from 1921 to 1958. The main entrance, marked by a central doorway and balanced window arrangement, reinforces its institutional character. Despite later conversions to apartments, the exterior retains its original massing and fenestration pattern, preserving its architectural integrity and visual impact within the streetscape and ensuring its physical presence continues to anchor Nanton's historic core.

As a landmark, Keen Hospital occupies a prominent location on Nanton's Main Street, anchoring the historic downtown core and serving as a tangible link to the town's early healthcare history. Its continued presence reinforces its symbolic value as a civic landmark and a rare surviving example of small-town hospitals from the 1920s in Alberta. The site is also important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and especially social significance. Keen Hospital stands as a testament to the challenges and aspirations of rural towns in providing modern amenities, and to the individuals whose initiative shaped local history. It reflects the broader pattern of Alberta's rural development, the evolution of healthcare delivery, and the enduring legacy of community pride, resilience, and mutual support.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core
- Rectangular plan and low gable roof form with two shed dormers on either side of gable roof
- Rear offset brick chimney
- Institutional two-and-a-half-storey scale and massing
- Original exterior brick tile beneath the existing stucco with concrete foundation
- Projecting wood eaves with exposed rafters
- Wood brackets in projecting verges
- Shaped structural fenestration openings
- Symmetrical fenestration pattern and plain lug sills
- 8 over 1 pane arrangement on front porch level window and 4-over-4 pane arrangements on west side windows
- Open porch with closed railing and wood posts and open wood rail at second storey
- Continued association with Dr. W.H. Keen and early healthcare history.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- South Peace Regional Archives. "Extended Care: The Johanna Haakstad Maternity Home Records." South Peace Regional Archives Blog, March 29, 2016. Accessed December 10, 2025. https://www.southpeacearchives.org/blog/extended-care-the-johanna-haakstad-maternity-home-records/.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 31482). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 10, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+26243.
- Lethbridge Herald (Lethbridge, Alberta). "Dr. Keen, Pioneer Physician of Nanton, Dies at Calgary." August 1, 1938, p. 3. https://newspaperarchive.com/obituary-clipping-aug-01-1938-1575689/.
- "Nanton." The Lethbridge Herald (Lethbridge, Alberta), January 18, 1929, p. 7. Newspapers.com. https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/64000211/.
- Keen (Nanton) Hospital – Nanton, AB. "Western Canadian Heritage on Waymarking.com. Accessed December 10, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm12NPH_Keen_Nanton_Hospital_Nanton_AB

11. Statement of Significance

Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office

2204 21st Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office constructed in c1904-05 is a modest early 20th century wood-frame dwelling located on a prominent northwest corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street in Nanton. It is situated across from the Creighton's residence, and opposite the Masonic Hall (previously St. Andrew's Hall) and the Nanton United Church and is bound by a low hedge and surrounded by a mix of mature trees. The two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular wood-frame house has a stone foundation, an open corner porch with an open rail and vertical posts, and a high-hip gable roof with a high-hip gable dormer on the east centre portion of the rood. The structure is clad with shiplap and contains decorative painted cedar shingles in the gable ends. The residence has operated as both a private residence and professional dental office for several decades.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office lies in its association with Dr. George Ernest McKeage and the delivery of healthcare, and its representation of modest, utilitarian design and craftsmanship of local builders.

The heritage value of the Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office lies in its association with Dr. George Ernest McKeage, Nanton's first full time dentist, whose home-based dental practice exemplified the integration of professional services into the daily life of Nanton. This site stands as a testament to the way rural healthcare was delivered in Alberta, where practitioners operated from their residences, fostering close social ties and accessibility for all members of the community.

The dual function of this residence illustrates a broader cultural practice in prairie towns, where professionals lived among those they served, reinforcing trust, stability, and a sense of belonging. This pattern of home-based service provision was not only practical but also deeply social, shaping the way residents interacted, cared for one another, and built lasting relationships. Dr. McKeage was active in civic, community and social affairs, and was a long-serving councillor, and mayor in 1921-24. He was also a life member of the Masonic Lodge. Dr. McKeage retired in 1948 and died in 1961 in High River.

Architecturally, the building is a distinguished example of early 20th century prairie domestic design. Its two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular wood-frame form is anchored by a stone foundation and crowned with a high-hip gable roof, including a high-hip gable dormer on the east centre portion. The exterior features shiplap siding with corner boards and decorative painted cedar shingles in the gable ends, reflecting the craftsmanship of local builder Elzie Robertson. The open corner porch, with its rail and vertical posts capped by Doric capitals, the centred single brick chimney, and the original fenestration with wood-framed windows and lug sills, all contribute to the building's historic character. The west side office addition, with its triangular moulded pediment and large fixed window, further illustrates the adaptation of domestic architecture for professional use.

The community values this site for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It evokes the lived experience of early Nanton residents, reflecting the town's rapid growth, the adaptation of domestic spaces for professional use, and the enduring importance of accessible, community-centered healthcare. The building's preserved location, design, materials, and workmanship allow it to communicate its heritage value to present-day observers, while its association with the McKeage family and the tradition of home-based services continues to inspire a sense of pride and continuity within the community.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton on a prominent corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street
- Overall form and massing with its two-and-a-half -storey, rectangular plan
- High-hip gable roof form with a high-hip centre gable
- Curved gable end that meets with continuous eave
- Stone foundation visible at grade
- Traditional shiplap with corner boards, and decorative wood shingle cladding with a painted design in the gable ends
- Plain fascia and soffit with decorative wood brackets
- West side office addition with triangular moulded pediment with dentils, plain facia, a large, fixed window with a plain structural opening, and a low-sloped shed roof
- Original fenestration openings, wood-framed windows, wood storm windows, and lug sills
- Location and one-storey scale of corner open porch and surviving porch details such as the open rail and wood vertical posts with doric capitals
- Centred single brick chimney
- Visible workmanship in joinery and trim that reflect local building practices and the documented skill of the builder
- Association with Dr. G.E. McKeage and evidence of dual use (i.e., ground-floor room with separate access).

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Nanton News. "Professional Card for Dr. G. E. McKeage." August 14, 1924. University of Calgary Digital Collections. https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/asset-management/2R3BF1EWSITU.
- Nanton News. "Professional Card for Dr. G. E. McKeage." July 16, 1925. University of Calgary Digital Collections. https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/archive/649-2R3BF1EWAZBP.html.
- Ancestry.ca. "Dr. George Ernest McKeage Profile." Accessed December 9, 2025. https://www.ancestry.ca/genealogy/records/dr-george-ernest-mckeage-24-6h8tfn.

12. Statement of Significance

Nanton Masonic Hall

2120 21st Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton Masonic Hall is located on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street. It is a modest, early 20th century wood-frame hall originally constructed in 1906 as a Presbyterian church hall. The building features a rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained classical proportions. It has been adapted over time, most notably in 1951 when the Freemasons purchased and reoriented the structure 180 degrees to serve as Lodge No. 17's permanent home. The rear enclosed porch was originally the main entrance that contained a central two-leaf entrance with a transom window. A symbolic stained glass oculus featuring the Star of David, often referred to as a "Magen David" window was located within the gable above this original entrance representing divine protection, communal identity, and continuity of faith.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Masonic Hall lies in its association with the religious, civic, and fraternal life of Nanton, notably as a gathering place for the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations, and later as the home of Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons. Its value is further enhanced by its representation of a modest early 20th century wood-frame hall design and its adaptive reuse.

Originally constructed in 1906 as a Presbyterian church hall, known as St. Andrew's Hall, and later known as Grace Hall, the building served as a central gathering place for worship, Sunday school, youth programs, and community meetings. Its transition to the home of Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons in 1951 marked a new chapter, as the hall continued to host charitable activities and fraternal ceremonies, reflecting the adaptability of small-town institutions.

Architecturally, the hall represents the modest wood-frame design typical of early 20th century prairie community halls, with its rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained classical proportions. The building's integrity is evident in its original form, scale, and massing as a one-storey nailed-frame structure with stucco cladding and minimal ornamentation. Distinctive features include the projecting eaves and verges, enclosed front and rear porches (the latter originally serving as the main entrance), and the pattern of original fenestration openings with plain wood trim and decorative upper trim, and lug sills.

The building's adaptive reuse is visible in the reorientation of the entrance in 1964, when the Freemasons rotated the structure 180 degrees in 1964 to suit lodge use, installed a basement, water, sewer and washrooms, a modification that respected the building's essential character while accommodating new social purposes. A symbolic stained glass oculus, known as a "Magen David" window, was originally located within the gable above the main entrance, representing divine protection and communal identity. The building also retains the original rear chimney stack within the reoriented front gable end, extending from the shed roof of the enclosed porch to the underside of the extended verge.

As a landmark, the Nanton Masonic Hall occupies a prominent corner in Nanton's historic downtown, symbolizing the continuity of community institutions and the layered history of the town's development. It is important to the

community for its historic, social, and cultural significance: the hall has continuously served as a venue for religious services, community events, cultural programming, and fraternal ceremonies for over a century, including holding the first district court in 1908, all reflecting the adaptability and enduring social value of small-town institutions.

The Hall also embodies the history and identity of Nanton by illustrating broader patterns in Alberta's settlement history – the establishment of denominational institutions to anchor community identity, the multi-purpose use of halls as civic and cultural centres, the rise of fraternal organizations as civic leaders, and the adaptive reuse of buildings to ensure continuity of use and preservation of heritage fabric. Its modest scale, enduring use, and strong associations with both religious and fraternal traditions reinforce its role as a living heritage site and a symbol of collective memory in the community.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's historic downtown streetscape and situated on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street
- Form, scale, and massing of modest one-storey nailed-frame and stucco-covered structure with restrained ornamentation
- High-pitched gable roof with projecting eaves and verges
- Evidence of adaptive reuse, including the reorientation of the entrance in 1951
- Enclosed front porch
- Enclosed rear porch which was initially the original front façade entrance prior to the structure being rotated 180 degrees
- Pattern of original fenestration openings with plain wood trim and lug sills
- Chimney stack located within front gable end extending from shed roof of enclosed porch to underside of extended verge
- Continued association with Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Ryan McTighe. "Nanton Masonic Hall Research." Unpublished research paper provided to author, October 1, 2025.
- Nancy McGregor and Patricia Wardrop. "Chautauqua." The Canadian Encyclopedia. Published February 7, 2006. Last edited December 16, 2013. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/chautauqua-emc.
- Grand Lodge of Alberta. "History of Grand Lodge of Alberta." Grand Lodge of Alberta. https://freemasons.ab.ca/history-of-grand-lodge-of-alberta/.

13. Statement of Significance

Nanton Scout-Guide Hall

2222 18th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall is a modest, horizontal-log building constructed in 1957 to serve as a permanent home for local Scouting and Guiding organizations. Located within Nanton's civic core, the hall is a simple rectangular structure with a low-pitched roof, and a central projecting gabled entrance. It is located within a large natural treed space.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Scout-Guide Hall lies in its association with the development of Scouting and Guiding in Nanton, its association with the province-wide trend of collaboration to create shared halls, its representation of mid-century volunteer-built log construction, and its significance as a modest but enduring community landmark.

This site is important to the community because it was conceived, funded, and constructed through the collective volunteer efforts of Nanton residents to serve as a permanent home for youth organizations, a space for leadership, citizenship, and community engagement. Scouting and Guiding in Alberta has a long history from the 1900s to present day and has served thousands of youth in programs designed for their environment. Cooperative development between Scout and Guide organizations was a recognized pattern in Alberta during the mid-20th century, particularly as both groups sought modern, multi-purpose facilities to support expanding youth programs. By the 1950s, several Alberta communities saw their local Scout and Guide associations collaborate to fund, construct, or jointly operate shared halls, reflecting a broader provincial trend toward resource pooling and community-driven infrastructure. This pattern is formally documented in the Alberta Register of Historic Places, which notes that by the 1950s the Calgary Scout and Guide organizations "forged a partnership to build a new integrated facility," demonstrating that such collaborations were neither isolated nor incidental but part of a wider movement in youth-organization development. The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall, completed in 1957, aligns with this province-wide trend and illustrates how local volunteer groups contributed materially to community-building during the postwar period.

In 1955, the Scout Association was renamed Nanton Scout and Guide Association after considering the values of bringing both groups under one organization. Previously, a separate committee governed the Guides and Brownies.

At the time, local families recognized the need for a dedicated facility for youth organizations. Parents and community members came together to procure logs from the Priddis area, raise funds, and build the hall themselves, under the guidance of a hired carpenter, Mr. Starritt. The official opening was held with three hundred in attendance. This spirit of volunteerism and collaboration is a defining feature of Nanton's identity, and the hall stands as a testament to the town's commitment to supporting its youth.

Generations of Nanton residents have participated in Scouting, Guiding, and community events within its walls, making it a hub for youth programming and civic gatherings. The hall's construction through volunteer labour not only provided essential infrastructure but also fostered a sense of pride, ownership, and belonging among community

members. Its continued use and preservation demonstrate the enduring value of grassroots initiative and civic engagement in Nanton.

While the hall is not architecturally distinguished in terms of elaborate design or ornamentation, its modest vernacular style is significant as a "type example" of small-town halls built in Alberta during the 1950s. The building's horizontal log construction, simple rectangular form, and utilitarian finishes embody the practical ethos of volunteer-driven community infrastructure. Its lack of ornamentation is itself a defining stylistic feature, and the workmanship reflects the collective effort and resourcefulness of Nanton's residents.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's civic core on a large grassed and treed lot
- Rectangular form and massing
- Medium-gable roof with projecting eaves and verges
- Horizontal log construction with corner boards
- Enclosed porch entrance with central door flanked by fixed wood-framed windows
- Wood-framed fenestration openings with a plain wood slip sill
- Associative value as a gathering place for Scouts, Guides and the wider community.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- The Calgary Albertan. October 27, 1955. 20. https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/729365319/.
- The Calgary Albertan. "Scout-Guide Hall Opened." April 26, 1957. 20. https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/729310047/.
- "Scouting and Guiding in Alberta." Wikipedia. Accessed December 9, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_and_Guiding_in_Alberta.
- "Program for the Official Opening of the Nanton Scout-Guide Hall." PE004697. Discover Archives, University of Alberta. Accessed December 10, 2025. https://discoverarchives.library.ualberta.ca/program-for-official-opening-of-nanton-scout-guide-hall.
- Janet Allcock, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Yukon (ANY) Archive Lead. Email January 19, 2026.

Appendix A – Heritage Resource Assessments and Evaluations



Nanton's heritage assessments and evaluations follow a clear, methodical structure designed to document the community's historic places, determine their significance, and guide long-term conservation decisions. Each assessment typically begins with a factual description of the property – its location, architectural features, materials, and condition – establishing a baseline record of what physically exists. This is followed by a historical overview that situates the building within broader local, regional, and thematic contexts, drawing on archival sources, oral histories, and comparative examples.

The evaluation phase applies Alberta's heritage value criteria – design, historical, cultural, and landmark significance – to determine why the place matters and how it contributes to Nanton's identity. Character-defining elements are then identified to clarify which features must be preserved to maintain that significance. Together, these components support transparent, evidence-based recommendations for municipal design, conservation planning, and future interventions. The overall purpose is to ensure that decisions about Nanton's heritage buildings are grounded in rigorous research, consistent methodology, and a clear understanding of community value.

RESOURCE EVALUATION

W. S. Keeley Building

1901 20th Avenue
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**W. S. Keeley Building**
Other Names	**Marshall's Hardware, Keeley Hardware, Keeley Block**
Legal Description	**Lot: 10 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The W. S. Keely Building was constructed in 1908 with completion in 1909. The building presents a strong two-storey brick façade that anchors a prominent corner in downtown Nanton. Its exterior is characterized by a series of ground-floor shopfronts with large display windows, centrally located recessed entrances, and a projecting mid-cornice above, reflecting its original commercial function. The upper storey is defined by evenly spaced rectangular windows set within the brickwork and crowned with a substantial upper cornice on the primary east-facing facade.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a commercial structure located in downtown Nanton. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1909, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building served as a commercial and institutional hub, contributing to Nanton's 20th century development.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1908 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The W. S. Keeley Building, constructed in 1908 with completion in 1909. The building is situated at a prominent corner in downtown Nanton along Highway 2, the main north-south route through southern Alberta. Its location reflects the town's early growth as a service centre for surrounding ranching and farming communities, a development spurred by the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The building was originally erected by C.H. Marshall, one of Nanton's early merchants, during a period of optimism when brick commercial blocks were rising across Alberta's small towns, symbolizing permanence and prosperity. Marshall moved his hardware, machinery, and furniture business into the building and, in 1914, it became Marshall & Son, who were the first agents to sell Chevrolet cars in Nanton. A plumbing department and tin shop were soon added, and the upstairs was rented to various lodges, including the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) and the Rebekahs, a branch of the IOOF. The business name changed to Marshall Bros. in 1923 when Charles Marshall retired. In 1935, the property was purchased by William S. Keeley, a local merchant whose business contributed significantly to Nanton's mid-20th century economy. Keeley

	operated a grocery business and a men's and ladies wear, and then a hardware and general store the following year, and in 1941 adapted the second floor into three-room suite/apartments equipped with fireplace, gas range, oak floors, venetian blinds, and an electric washer in the laundry - a change that illustrates the evolving needs of small-town Alberta and the flexibility of mixed-use commercial blocks. During WWII, when British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) training schools near Claresholm, Vulcan and High River, several permanent school staff, including senior officers and instructors, lived in apartments of the Keeley Block. William Keeley died in 1949, and his son Jim continued the business. Over the subsequent decades, the building housed a variety of enterprises, including antique shops. The Keeley Block's context is both local and regional. Locally, it anchors Nanton's historic downtown streetscape and remains a focal point for community identity. Regionally, it compares to similar early brick commercial blocks in Claresholm, High River, and Fort Macleod, yet distinguishes itself through continuous use, sensitive restoration, and its landmark presence along a provincial highway.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building illustrates the growth of Nanton's downtown as a service hub for surrounding ranching and farming communities. The building is linked to William S. Keeley, a prominent merchant whose business contributed to Nanton's mid-20th century economy, and whose family's ownership and adaptation of the building demonstrate entrepreneurial responses to evolving needs in small-town Alberta. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building is significant for its high-quality early 20th century commercial construction, with durable materials and period detailing. Its two-storey brick massing with multiple store fronts and a central raked tripartite entrance. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Located at the intersection of Railway (20th) Avenue and 19th Street, the building's enduring presence is a significant landmark that anchors the historic downtown core.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location is situated on a prominent corner facing Highway 2 north within Nanton's historic downtown core • Two-storey form and massing with long rectangular street-facing facade and flat roof • Stretcher bond brickwork construction with corbelled parapets • Raised plain brick parapet with decorative brick edging • Metal upper entablature with original W. S. Keeley letters within the frieze of the entablature • Metal mid-cornice with brackets and the inscription of "Furniture" and "Hardware" within the frieze • Central raked entry containing a tripartite of multi-panelled street-facing entrances • Storefront with large fixed-glass display windows flanking central entrances with bulkhead and glass multi-lite transoms • Original, shaped multi-panel wood entrance doors with glass upper panel and original door hardware • Evenly spaced original upper storey wood single-hung windows with upper hinged wood storm windows and sandstone lintels and lug sills • Continued mixed-use function (commercial ground floor, residential/office upper floor).

	• Projecting metal sign hardware over central main entrance • Landmark presence along Highway 2 within Nanton's historic commercial core.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location on a prominent corner within Nanton's downtown core, reinforcing historical continuity. ■ **2. Design** The exterior form, brick facades, shopfronts, fenestration patterns, and upper entablature and mid-cornice, wood single-hung windows with upper-hinged storm windows, and sandstone sills remain intact. ■ **3. Environment** The building maintains its role as a prominent two-storey brick commercial building on an equally prominent corner location facing Highway 2 north. ■ **4. Materials** Authentic materials are maintained, including brick, the upper metal entablature and mid-cornice, wood-frame windows, and sandstone sills. ■ **5. Workmanship** Evidence of early 20th century craftsmanship remains visible in masonry, entablature and cornice, storefront and entrance detailing. ■ **6. Feeling** The building strongly conveys its historic commercial function and continued role as a community landmark. ■ **7. Association** Ongoing use and preservation reinforce its connection to Nanton's identity and historic downtown.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Keeley building continues to communicate its heritage value in terms of them and activity. Its ongoing commercial and residential use, combined with landmark presence, preserves the cultural practices of small-town commerce and adaptation. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The W. S. Keeley Building communicates its heritage value strongly through its design and construction. It remains a representative example of early commercial architecture in southern Alberta, comparable to blocks in Claresholm, High River, and Fort Macleod. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Located at the intersection of Railway (20th) Avenue and 19th Street, the building's enduring presence continues to be a significant landmark that anchors the historic downtown core.
Statement of Integrity	The **W. S. Keeley Building** retains a high degree of integrity. Constructed in 1909 and continuously used as a commercial block, the building remains on its original downtown corner site along Highway 2, reinforcing its landmark presence in Nanton's historic core. Its design integrity is evident in the two-storey brick façade, flat roof with corbelled parapet, entablature detailing, and evenly spaced upper-storey windows with sandstone lintels and sills. The ground-floor shopfronts, recessed entrances, and display windows continue to express their early commercial function. Original exterior materials have been preserved and communicate the building's heritage character. The workmanship of early 20th century masonry and finishes remains visible, conveying the skill and permanence associated with Alberta's small-town commercial architecture. The building's setting within Nanton's downtown

	streetscape, and its ongoing use for retail and residential purposes, reinforce its historic role as a hub of commerce and community life. Together, these qualities ensure that the W. S. Keeley Building continues to communicate its heritage value. Its integrity demonstrates both the resilience of early commercial architecture and the adaptability of small-town buildings to changing social and economic needs, making it a strong candidate for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Auditorium Hotel

2001 20th Avenue
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Auditorium Hotel**
Other Names	**The Aud**
Legal Description	**Lot: 5,6,9,10 Block: 3 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Auditorium Hotel is a two and three-storey, wood-frame brick-faced commercial building located on the southwest corner of Nanton's historic Shaw Street and Railway Avenue. Originally constructed in 1902, and expanded in 1912, the building features a flat roof, horizontal wood siding, and a symmetrical façade with large storefront windows and a central entrance. It has served continuously as a hotel, tavern, and social gathering place for over a century.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The hotel was built in 1902, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building retains key architectural features from its 1912 expansion and has strong associations with Nanton's early commercial development, transportation history (Greyhound stop), and social life.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1902 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Auditorium Hotel is situated in the historic commercial core of Nanton, at the intersection of Highway 2 North and 20th Street. Constructed in 1902 and expanded in 1912, the hotel reflects the town's development as a regional service centre during the early 20th century when railway and highway infrastructure facilitated increased travel, commerce, and settlement across southern Alberta. Nanton emerged as a key node along the Calgary-Lethbridge corridor, serving ranching communities and travelers navigating the expanding prairie frontier. W.J. Brown built the Auditorium Hotel to accommodate this demand, offering lodging, dining, and social amenities. Initially it had 12 rooms, a dining room, kitchen and a bar. An expansion in 1903 saw the original portion moved back and a new structure added to front the avenue. The Calgary Brewing Company purchased the hotel in 1912, the same year another expansion occurred when a three-storey building with 35 rooms was added on the back-alley side. A large brick icehouse at the rear was also constructed to store ice and remains in situ to this day. In the years following, many changes of ownership occurred.

	Expansions of the hotel coincided with a period of economic optimism and population growth, reinforcing its role as a prominent hospitality venue. Over the years, the hotel contained a barbershop, a ladies' wear store, a drugstore, and even held Presbyterian church services prior to the construction of St. Andrews Hall. Architecturally, the hotel exemplifies the Edwardian Commercial style, characterized by its brick cladding, symmetrical fenestration, and restrained ornamentation. Although a fire in 1983 destroyed the third floor and damaged upper levels, the building's essential form and street-facing façade remain legible. A 1993 restoration, supported by the Alberta Main Street Program, reinstated key design elements from the 1912 period, contributing to the continuity of Nanton's historic streetscape. The hotel also holds cultural significance as a longstanding social hub. Often referred to as "The Aud," it has hosted music events, including performances by renowned musicians like Ian Tyson, served as a Greyhound bus stop, and fostered community gatherings across generations. Folklore surrounding former residents – such as Rex Irwin, a ranch hand, and Lizzie Boutelle, who had been a waitress there from 1904, adds intangible heritage value and deepens its associative significance. The Auditorium Hotel remains a functioning hospitality venue and a visual anchor within Nanton's downtown. Its layered history, architectural character, and enduring role in community life positions it as a meaningful and representative example of early 20th century prairie hotel development in Alberta.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The hotel reflects the theme of early 20th century transportation and hospitality, serving as a key stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge. It supported the activity of regional travel, commerce, and social gathering, including use as a Greyhound stop and music venue. It also demonstrates the growth of Nanton as a service centre during the railway and highway expansion era and reflects the boom period of 1912 when the hotel expanded to accommodate increased traffic and prosperity. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Originally built in 1902, shifted west in 1903 with a new structure added to front Railway Avenue, and then expanded in 1912, the façade is restored to reflect its period as an Edwardian Commercial building with brick cladding, symmetrical fenestration, and modest ornamentation. Although a fire in 1983 destroyed the third floor and damaged upper levels, the building's essential form and street-facing façade remain legible. A 1993 restoration, supported by the Alberta Main Street Program, reinstated key design elements from the 1912 period, contributing to the continuity of Nanton's historic streetscape. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Locally known as "The Aud," the hotel is a symbol of Nanton's resilience and hospitality. Its role in music culture and ghost folklore also adds symbolic and interpretive value.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location at a prominent downtown intersection abutting public sidewalk • Two-storey L-shaped form and massing with a flat roof reflecting the 1912 expansion • Surviving two-storey massing reflecting the 1912 expansion • Exterior detailing consistent with its Edwardian Commercial style

	• Entablature above east portion of structure decorated with decorated finials, dropped pendants, and dentils • Brick corbelling under entablature frieze • Wood-frame windows with a mix of wood, brick, and concrete lug sills, and a mix of brick voussoirs and plain lintels • Corner and east façade entrances with transom light • Historic signage hardware and name association ("Auditorium Hotel" / "The Aud" • Rear fire escape and counter weights • Continued use as a hospitality venue and cultural gathering space • Folklore and community memory associated with past guests and events • Rectangular form and massing of brick "ice house," including vertical wood doors and original hardware, and rooftop "davit crane" to lift blocks of ice.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The Auditorium Hotel retains a high degree of integrity, demonstrating the physical and associative characteristics necessary to convey its heritage value. Despite alterations over time-including fire damage and partial interior loss-the resource continues to express its original function, architectural style, and cultural significance within the community. ■ **2. Design** The building's design integrity is intact. While the third floor was lost to fire in 1983, the massing, fenestration patterns, and street-facing elevations reflect the 1912 expansion period. The 1993 restoration, supported by the Alberta Main Street Program, reinstated key design elements, including brick cladding, parapet detailing, and symmetrical window placement, allowing the building to convey its Edwardian Commercial style. ■ **3. Environment** The Auditorium Hotel retains name recognition and nostalgic value and contributes to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials** Original materials such as brick masonry and wood trim have been preserved or sensitively replaced. Restoration efforts prioritized material authenticity, using historically appropriate finishes and construction techniques. The retention of these materials supports the building's architectural and historical legibility. ■ **5. Workmanship** Evidence of early 20th century craftsmanship is visible in the brickwork and window detailing. Restoration work respected traditional methods, ensuring that workmanship remains legible and contributes to the building's heritage character. ■ **6. Feeling** The Auditorium Hotel continues to evoke the atmosphere of a historic prairie hotel. Its scale, form, and signage contribute to a sense of continuity with Nanton's early 20th century streetscape. The building's use as a music venue and gathering place further reinforces its social and cultural resonance. ■ **7. Association** The resource maintains strong associate integrity through its enduring role in Nanton's hospitality and cultural life. It is linked to W.J. Brown, its original builder, and to the Wynnyk family, who led its restoration. Local folklore-including tales of Rex Irwin and Lizzie Boutelle-adds layers of intangible heritage that deepen its community connection.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The hotel remains in its original location, preserves its historic function as a stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge, reinforcing its role in regional

	transportation and commerce. It continues to operate as a hospitality venue and gathering place, maintaining continuity with its original use. The hotel's scale, signage, and interior layout continue to evoke prairie-era lodging accommodation, supporting its identity as a site of social interaction and storytelling. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The hotel continues to evoke prairie-style accommodation and continues to reflect its Edwardian Commercial style in a very recognizable manner that continues to strengthen its identity as a site of social gathering and interaction. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The 1993 restoration reinstated the 1912 façade, preserving the building's massing, symmetrical fenestration, and parapet detailing. These elements reflect the architectural vocabulary of early 20th century commercial hotels. Original brick cladding and wood trim remain visible and were sensitively repaired or replicated during restoration, ensuring material continuity. Surviving masonry and restored finishes demonstrate the craftsmanship of the period and contribute to the building's architectural legibility. ■ **D. Information Potential** The building helps contextualize its role in local and regional history and demonstrates authenticity of its architecture and materiality. It also highlights ongoing cultural and social relevance, which speaks to its heritage value. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The hotel is prominently located at a key downtown intersection and remains a visual anchor in Nanton's historic commercial core. Known locally as "the Aud," the building is embedded in community memory as a site of hospitality, music, and folklore. Its distinctive presence and stories contribute to its symbolic value as a marker of Nanton's identity. Its ongoing function as a venue for social gathering also reinforces its symbolic role and supports its landmark status.
Statement of Integrity	The **Auditorium Hotel** retains sufficient physical and associative integrity to express its significance under criteria. Despite the loss of its third floor in a 1983 fire, the building's restored façade reflects its 1912 expansion and Edwardian Commercial style. Key elements – including original brickwork, fenestration patterns and massing – remain legible. The hotel continues to evoke its historic function as a regional stopover and gathering place, maintaining strong associative value through its enduring presence in Nanton's commercial core, and its role in local cultural memory embedded in narratives that allow it to continue conveying its heritage values to both residents and visitors.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Fetherston's Grocery

2112 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Fetherston's Grocery**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: 23 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	Fetherston's Grocery is a 1915 modest, one-storey brick commercial building that features simple massing, a street-facing orientation, and a utilitarian storefront typical of small-town prairie commerce. The upper façade contains a "Fetherston's Grocery" ghost sign partially covered by a fixed raked metal awning spanning the building's length over a recessed central entry. The building is centrally located on the north side on 20th Street.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The grocery store operated by James Orville Fetherston dates to the early-mid 20th century, exceeding the 50-year threshold. • **Integrity:** The building retains its original location and appears to maintain key exterior features consistent with its historic use.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1915 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	Nanton was established in the late 1890s along the Calgary-Fort Macleod Railway and incorporated as a village in 1903, gaining town status in 1907. The town quickly developed a vibrant commercial core, with brick and wood-frame buildings lining its main street. These included general stores, hotels, and service businesses like grocery stores, which were essential to prairie life. Fetherston's Grocery is a representative example of small-town commercial architecture from the mid-20th century. The building's modest, utilitarian design reflects the economic and social realities of prairie communities during this period, where local businesses served as essential hubs for goods and social interaction. The grocery store played a significant role in the daily life of Nanton residents, providing access to food and household supplies while fostering a sense of community. Its presence on the main street (Shaw Street) contributed to the continuity and vitality of the town's commercial core, supporting local economic development and reinforcing the traditional streetscape.

	Fetherston's Grocery is not only valued for its association with Orie Fetherston, a prominent local businessman and former mayor, but also for its association with the evolution of retail practices in rural Alberta, illustrating the transition from independent, family-run stores to more centralized commercial enterprises. The building's enduring physical form and location within Nanton's historic downtown district make it an important marker of the town's heritage, embodying the patterns of settlement, commerce, and community life that have shaped Alberta's small towns.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The store played a central role in Nanton's mid-20th century commercial life, serving as a hub for groceries and community interaction, and reflects broader patterns of prairie town development and family-run businesses in Alberta's post-settlement era. Located within Nanton's historic main street, the building contributes to the visual and cultural continuity of the downtown core. ■ **B. Institution/Person** Association with Orie Fetherston, a prominent local businessman and former mayor, contributes to the building's historic value. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building exhibits modest early 20th century commercial architecture typical of small-town Alberta: simple massing, storefront orientation, and utilitarian design. While not architecturally unique, its design contributes to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Fetherston's Grocery continues to serve as a landmark and symbol for Nanton due to its preserved location, architectural features, community recognition, and historical associations. These aspects ensure that the building still conveys its landmark and symbolic value effectively.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location on the main street abutting public sidewalk within the historic commercial district • Street facing orientation, one-storey form, rectangular massing, and flat roof • Storefront configuration, including display windows and recessed entry • Stretcher bond brick exterior superstructure cover with brick corbelling along upper parapet • Brick lug window sills • Ghost signage showing "Fetherston's Grocery" • Association with the Fetherston family and their role in Nanton's civic history.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location on the main street and therefore retains excellent integrity of location. ■ **2. Design** The original commercial design appears intact, though some alterations may exist (e.g., signage, fenestration), therefore retains good integrity of design. ■ **3. Environment** Known locally as "Fetherston's Grocery," the building retains name recognition and nostalgic value. While not architecturally rare, it contributes to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials**

	The original brick cladding remains intact, and the material integrity is strong. Store windows, transoms, and the entry door have modern replacements. Overall, the building has moderate to good integrity of materials. ■ **5. Workmanship** As a utilitarian structure, workmanship is modest but consistent with its era, therefore it retains fair integrity of workmanship. ■ **6. Feeling** The building retains its small-town commercial character and evokes mid-century community life; therefore, it retains strong integrity of feeling. ■ **7. Association** Directly associated with the Fetherston family and Nanton's civic history, therefore excellent integrity of association.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Recognizable as a hub for groceries and community interaction, reflecting prairie town development. ■ **B. Institution/Person** Maintains association with Orie Fetherston, a significant local figure. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Retains features typical of early 20th century small-town Alberta commercial architecture. ■ **D. Information Potential** Fetherston's Grocery building retains potential to yield information about local history, architectural trends, and the social role of family-run businesses in prairie towns. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Fetherston's Grocery continues to serve as a landmark and symbol for Nanton due to its preserved location, architectural features, community recognition, and historical associations. These aspects ensure that the building still conveys its landmark and symbolic value effectively.
Statement of Integrity	The **Fetherson's Grocery** has strong overall integrity and continues to embody the essential characteristics that communicate its heritage value. The building remains in its original location on main street (Shaw Street or 20th Street) in Nanton, preserving its historic context and contributing to the continuity of the town's commercial core. Its modest early 20th century commercial design, original brick cladding, and utilitarian storefront are intact, with only minor alterations that do not significantly diminish its ability to reflect its historic function and context. The resource maintains a high degree of integrity in location, design, environment, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The resource also has the potential to yield information about local history, architectural trends, and family-run businesses at the time. These aspects are sufficient to embody the selected Significance Criteria, including its role as a hub for groceries and community interaction, its association with Orie Fetherston, and its representation of early 20th century small-town Alberta commercial architecture. Fetherston's Grocery is clearly recognizable to contemporaries of its period of significance and continues to communicate its heritage value to the present day.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Drug Company

2114 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton Drug Company**
Other Names	**Creighton Drug, Creighton Pharmacy**
Legal Description	**Lot: 23 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Drug Company building is a modest early 20th century commercial building constructed in 1908 and located in the historic downtown core of Nanton. The structure is characterized by its street-facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk, two-storey rectangular massing and brick exterior, a utilitarian storefront design with a recessed central entry flanked by large, fixed windows, and a second storey with four single-hung windows. The building is crowned by a stepped entablature with decorative urn finials, with the inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co."
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1908, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with the development of health care and commerce and its role in the modernization of rural services.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event .** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1908 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Nanton Drug Company building, which later became known as Creighton Pharmacy, was constructed in 1908 and stands out as a prominent two-storey brick structure in downtown Nanton. The building is notable for its ornate architectural details, including an entablature, urn finials, and decorative mid-cornice, and brick voussoirs crowing the second storey windows. The pharmacy played a central role in the community's development, serving as the local drugstore from its early days. The building's inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" marks its historic roots. Dr. John Creighton served as a medical officer in the South African War (Boer War) for which he was awarded the Queen's Medal. He arrived in Nanton in 1903 and filed on a homestead east of Nanton and became Nanton's first doctor, and made his rounds by horseback to visit his patients. Dr. Creighton was instrumental in establishing medical services in the town as many of the first drug stores were

	opened by a local physician. He partnered with G.M. Robertson to purchase the drug business of W.A. Chisholm in 1908, built the brick Nanton Drug Company building and opened a pharmacy, which became a cornerstone of healthcare in the area. He sold the drug store in 1923 but a short time later he returned and resumed the business until 1955 when his son, James Creighton, assumed the operations of the drug store. Dr. Creighton also contributed to the local hospital, which was built in 1927 by Dr. William Keen. Both doctors treated patients from their offices and later at the hospital, which included its own dispensary. The pharmacy and its associated medical practitioners were vital to Nanton's growth, providing essential services to residents and supporting the town's transition from a small railway community to a district metropolis. This dual medical-pharmaceutical model was common in small Alberta towns where physicians often dispensed medications directly. The pharmacy's location and enduring presence reflect its importance in the commercial and social life of Nanton. The Nanton Drug Store Co/Creighton Pharmacy architectural style is typical of early 20th century mercantile buildings in Alberta, designed to stand out in the commercial core of Nanton's main street. The building's brick superstructure was chosen for durability and fire resistance, which was important for commercial buildings of the era. The decorative elements that include the entablature urns and voussoirs over the second-floor window surrounds were intended to convey stability and trustworthiness – qualities desirable for a pharmacy and community business. Overall, the building is a well-preserved example of early 20th century commercial architecture in Alberta. Its brick construction, classical detailing, and prominent location reflect both the aspirations of Nanton's early business community and the architectural trends of the time. The building remains a key part of Nanton's heritage landscape, valued for its character-defining elements and its role in the town's history.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building is significant in the theme of Health Care and Commerce and represents the intersection of early medical practice and commercial enterprise in southern Alberta. As both a pharmacy and a medical office, it reflects the dual roles often held by rural physicians in the early 20th century. It is also significant for its association with railway-era town development. Creighton Pharmacy emerged during Nanton's rapid growth following the extension of the Calgary-Edmonton Railway and the establishment of the Dominion Land Office in 1904. It exemplifies the pattern of service-oriented businesses clustering in prairie towns during this period. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building is strongly associated with Dr. John Creighton, one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders. Dr. Creighton arrived in Nanton in 1903 and was instrumental in establishing medical services in the town, and he was also instrumental in shaping the town's infrastructure and public services. His collaboration with G.M. Robertson to open the pharmacy illustrates the entrepreneurial and civic-minded spirit of early settlers. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The Nanton Drug Co. building is a modest commercial structure typical of early prairie towns, with utilitarian design and storefront orientation. While not typically rare, it represents the vernacular of its era and complements the historic streetscape. The building's brick superstructure was also chosen for durability and fire resistance, which was important for commercial buildings of the era. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building served as a cultural and medical landmark during a formative period in Nanton's development and survived the fire of 1924. The façade is

	adorned with ornate cornice work on the first floor shelf and top entablature, giving the building a sense of grandeur and permanence. The inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" is prominently displayed at the top of the building marking its historic origins and serving as a visual anchor in the streetscape.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core abutting public sidewalk • Two-storey form and massing with brick superstructure cover and stone foundation • Long rectangular plan with short façade, stepped sidewall parapet, and flat roof • Central recessed raked entrance with multi-panelled wood door with original hardware flanked by multi-panelled wood transoms and fixed storefront windows above • Sandstone lug sills • Upper entablature with decorated parapet, classical detailing and decorative brackets and urn finials • Ornate metal mid-cornice with decorated brackets • Brick voussoirs over second-floor windows • Prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" within the entablature • Association with Dr. Creighton and its dual development of healthcare and commerce.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** Surrounded by other historic structures, Creighton Pharmacy contributes to the overall character of Nanton's downtown and supports the town's heritage landscape. ■ **2. Design** The two-story brick construction, rectangular plan, flat roof, and classical detailing—including ornate cornice work, entablature, urns, and voussoirs—are intact and clearly visible. ■ **3. Environment** The Nanton Drug Co/Creighton Pharmacy continues to contribute to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials** The brick exterior, wood-frame windows, brick voussoirs over second-storey windows, lug sills, mid-cornice and upper entablature with urn finials are all intact and their original inter-relationship retained. ■ **5. Workmanship** The craftsmanship evident in the facade's decorative elements and masonry reflects early 20th century building practices and remains well-preserved. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to evoke its historic role as a pharmacy and commercial hub, maintaining its visual prominence and connection to the community's heritage. ■ **7. Association** The structure continues to evoke its original function and the "Nanton Drug Co" inscription in the entablature contributes to the building's contribution to health care and commerce in the early 20th century in southern Alberta.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Although the specific business operations have evolved, the building's function as a commercial space in the heart of Nanton's business district

	remains. Its continued use and preservation reflect its enduring role in the community's commercial landscape. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building's preservation as a heritage site ensures that its historical significance in health care and commerce is maintained, making it familiar to anyone with knowledge of its past. Additionally, the inscription of "1908 Nanton Drug Co" solidifies its ongoing association with health care and its earliest physicians in Nanton. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The two-storey brick construction, rectangular plan, flat roof, and classical detailing – including ornate cornice work, entablature, urns and voussoirs – are intact and clearly visible. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The pharmacy's classical façade, prominent location, and preservation of the exterior make it a landmark in Nanton.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Drug Company/Creighton Pharmacy** building stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of early 20th century commerce and health care in Nanton. Situated at its original location on 20th Street, the building continues to anchor the historic downtown, maintain its longstanding relationship with the surrounding streetscape and community. From the moment of construction in 1908, the pharmacy's two-storey brick façade, rectangular plan, and flat roof have defined its architectural presence. The classical detailing – ornate cornice work, entablature, urns and voussoirs – remain intact, reflecting the aspirations and craftsmanship of its era. These features, along with the original brickwork, stone foundation, and window surrounds, have been carefully preserved, with any repairs undertaken using materials that respect the building's historic character. The workmanship evident in the masonry and decorative elements continues to convey the quality and standards of the period, while the building's setting among other heritage structures reinforces its role as a visual and cultural landmark in Nanton's downtown. The pharmacy's enduring presence evokes its historic function as a centre for health care and commerce, sustaining its associative value and its significance within the community. Through the preservation of its original location, design, materials, and workmanship, the Nanton Drug Company/Creighton Pharmacy building remains an authentic and recognizable representation of Nanton's heritage. Its integrity ensures that the story of early commerce and health care in the town is effectively conveyed to present and future generations.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Denoon Butcher Shop

2116 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Denoon Meat Market**
Other Names	Denoon Butcher Shop, Denoon and Son
Legal Description	Lot: 22 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Denoon Meat Market is a 1924 modest one-storey, rectangular brick commercial building with a flat roof located mid-block on the north side of Nanton's main street (20th Street). A contemporary fixed awning spans the length of the façade over a raked recessed central entry.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a commercial building located in Nanton's historic commercial core. It is physical structure with a clear footprint and identifiable boundaries. • **Age:** The building dates to 1924, thus meeting the general age threshold for historic resource evaluation. • **Integrity:** The building retains its original location, appears to maintain key exterior features consistent with its historic use, and remains part of a cohesive streetscape of heritage buildings.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1924 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	Nanton was established in the late 1890s along the Calgary-Fort Macleod Railway and incorporated as a village in 1903, gaining town status in 1907. The town quickly developed a vibrant commercial core, with brick and wood-frame buildings lining its main street. These included general stores, hotels, and service businesses like butcher shops and meat markets, which were essential to prairie life. The Denoon Meat Market is a historic building known for its distinctive false front brick facade, a common architectural style in early western Canadian towns intended to give small businesses a more prominent and impressive appearance on the main street, while masking the modest size of the actual structure behind a more imposing flat front wall. The shop serves as a representative example of commercial architecture from its era, reflecting both the practical needs and the aspirations of early settlers in the region. Meat markets and butcher shops like Denoon were essential services in prairie towns, providing fresh meat and serving as social hubs for local residents. The

	Denoon Meat Market not only reflects the enterprising spirit of early settlers but also illustrates the practical and aesthetic choices made to adapt to the economic realities of the time. Its preservation offers insight into the commercial development patterns, community life, and architectural trends that shaped Alberta's small towns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Denoon Meat Market reflects the growth of small-town commerce in Alberta during the railway expansion era. Meat markets and butcher shops were vital to rural communities, providing fresh meat and often serving as informal gathering places in prairie towns. This building represents the spirit of early settlers and entrepreneurs in the region. The building also contributes to the understanding of Nanton's development as a service hub for surrounding agricultural communities. Its location and function align with the historic pattern of clustered commercial activity along 20th Street. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The Denoon name is locally recognized, and the shop is associated with early settlers who contributed to Nanton's economic and social fabric. While not of provincial prominence, the association holds community-level significance. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Architecturally, the building is a modest, false-fronted wood-frame structure typical of early prairie commercial architecture used to give such buildings a more imposing street presence. It is a simple, boxy shape with the façade clad in brick with brick corbelling which is used to enhance its visual impact and give the building a more imposing presence. While not architecturally unique, its design contributes to the visual identity of Nanton's heritage district. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value .** Serves as a recognizable and enduring feature of Nanton's historic Main Street, contributing to the community's identity.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location on the main street within a contiguous row of early commercial buildings in the historic commercial district • Street facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk • One-storey scale, short façade, and long rectangular massing • Stretcher bond brick façade with a simple one-storey form and rectangular massing with raised parapet and flat roof • Storefront configuration, including bulkhead, flat transom with multiple lites, and central recessed entry flanked by display windows with continuous wood sill • Corbelled brick spanning upper brick parapet.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location within Nanton's historic downtown, contributing to its contextual authenticity, and therefore retains excellent integrity of location. ■ **2. Design** The overall design, including massing, roofline, fenestrations, and architectural detailing appear intact, and therefore retains very good integrity of design. ■ **3. Environment**

	The surrounding environment retains its historic character, including adjacent buildings and streetscape features. Modern intrusions are minimal and do not detract from the resource's historic ambiance; therefore, integrity of environment is excellent. ■ **4. Materials** The original brick cladding remains intact, and the material integrity is retained and visible. Store windows, frames, bulkheads and transoms, and the entry door all remain intact. Overall, the building has very good integrity of materials. ■ **5. Workmanship** Evidence of original craftsmanship is present in features such as decorative trim, masonry and joinery, and the resource demonstrates construction techniques typical of its period and type. It therefore retains very good integrity of workmanship. ■ **6. Feeling** The building evokes a strong sense of its historic function and era through its preserved from and context; therefore, it retains strong integrity of feeling. ■ **7. Association** The building continues to evoke the character of early prairie commerce and is recognizable as historic commercial shop. It also maintains a clear and documented connection to its original use and occupants through archival records; therefore, it retains very good integrity of association.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment .	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building's continued presence and preserved features reflect its historic role as a meat market, representing small-town commerce and community life in Alberta's railway era. Integrity of use and context is strong, allowing the resource to clearly convey its historic activities and cultural practices. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building is closely associated with the Denoon family who contributed significantly to Nanton's economic and social development. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The one-storey wood-frame construction with a brick false-front façade, and original storefront details remain intact. These character-defining elements exemplify early 20th century prairie commercial architecture, demonstrating integrity in design, style, and construction. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Located in Nanton's historic commercial core, the Denoon Meat Market is a recognizable and enduring feature of the streetscape. Its distinctive architecture and longstanding presence contribute to its symbolic value as a community landmark.
Statement of Integrity	The **Denoon Meat Market** retains a high degree of integrity in its location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The building remains in its original setting on Nanton's main street (Shaw Street or 20th Street), preserving its historic context and relationship to the community. Key architectural features—including the brick cladding, false-front façade, and original storefront details—are intact, exemplifying early 20th century prairie commercial architecture. The shop's association with the Denoon family, and its role in the economic and social development of Nanton, are well documented and clearly reflected in the resource. The building continues to evoke the atmosphere and function of a historic meat market and butcher shop, contributing to the heritage character and continuity of Nanton's commercial core. Overall, the Denoon Meat Market possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historical, architectural, and cultural significance.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Shaw and Cooper Block

1919 20th Avenue
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Shaw and Cooper Block**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: 1 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Shaw and Cooper Block is a two-storey, square-plan commercial building located on a prominent corner of Highway 2 North and 20th Street within Nanton's historic downtown. The structure is constructed of brick with sandstone detailing, resting on a sandstone foundation. Its flat roof is edged by a parapet, with the most distinctive feature being the angled corner façade inscribed with "Shaw & Cooper" and the date "1909." The ground floor is articulated by elliptical Romanesque Revival windows, each framed with sandstone keystones and radiating voussoirs, while the second storey is defined by rectangular single-hung windows with sandstone lintels and sills. A classical triangular pediment with ornate brackets marks the corner and south entrance, and an earlier east entrance, emphasizing the building's dual orientation to the street. Heavy sandstone quoins, a continuous water table course, and a mid upper cornice with a plain frieze further enrich the exterior. The original heavy bracketed entablature once removed, has been reinstated.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is an intact commercial structure located on its original site on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1909, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building retains a high degree of integrity. Its enduring presence on Nanton's main street testifies to the aspirations of Nanton's founders and the town's early prosperity.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **D. Information Potential** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1909 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Shaw and Cooper Block was constructed in 1909 during a period of rapid growth in southern Alberta, when railway expansion and agricultural settlement were transforming small prairie towns into permanent communities. Nanton, established as a siding on the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s, had by the early 20th century developed into a service centre for surrounding ranches and farms. The construction of substantial brick and sandstone buildings along the

	main street reflected both the prosperity of the region and the ambitions of its civic leaders to project stability and permanence. Commissioned by H.M. Shaw, founder of Nanton, agent to Calgary – Edmonton Railway, was a federal Member of Parliament for the Macleod riding, and J.T. Cooper, the town's first mayor, the block embodied the ambitious spirit of its builders. Shaw and Cooper were typical of small-town leaders in Alberta at the time—men who invested heavily in local development and sought to anchor their communities with durable, architect-designed structures. Their decision to hire Calgary architect William Dodd was seen as similarly sophisticated and ambitious as Dodd's success at winning the commission to design the Calgary City Hall. However, Dodd's contract with Calgary ended in in his contract being severed. However, a December 9, 1909, Nanton News publication shows W.M. Dodd applying for a permit, which is assumed to be related to the Shaw and Cooper Block. The use of brick and sandstone construction signaled confidence in Nanton's future and aligned with broader provincial trends toward fire-resistant, masonry commercial blocks. Contractor Andrew Davis and bricklayer Allen Brown built the building. The building's first tenants—the Bank of Hamilton and Sibbett & Hallett's variety store operating the Nanton Trading Company selling dry goods, groceries, and men's clothing—illustrate the dual economic role of such blocks in Alberta towns. Additional tenants included a barber shop and pool hall in the basement in 1927, a clothing and small wares store, and for a brief time an office operated by Dr. George Wannop. Shaw and Cooper also sold Ford cars from their building's real estate office. Banks provided financial credibility and access to capital, while retail stores supplied everyday goods to settlers and ranchers. Together, they made the Shaw and Cooper Block the commercial heart of Nanton. When the Bank of Hamilton merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1924, the building continued its banking function, reinforcing its role as a stable financial institution in the community. In 1961, the Canadian Bank of Commerce merged with the Imperial Bank of Canada and became the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The branch still remains in the Shaw and Cooper building. Within the wider provincial context, the Shaw and Cooper Block represents the transition from frontier settlement to established town, a theme common across Alberta in the early 20th century. Its enduring presence on main street demonstrates how architecture was used to express civic pride, economic optimism, and permanence in communities shaped by railway access and agricultural expansion.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Shaw and Cooper Block is associated with the theme of commerce and banking, entrepreneurship, and urban development. The block was the centre of financial activity in Nanton, housing the bank and retail stores that supported local ranchers and farmers. It also reflects the enterprising spirit of Shaw and Cooper, who invested in civic infrastructure and commercial growth, and represents a broader theme of small-town commercial architecture in Alberta, where multi-purpose blocks consolidated banking, retail, and offices under one roof. The building's angled corner entrance and prominent signage made it a focal point of Nanton's main street, reinforcing the cultural practice of locating banks and key businesses at central intersections. Its ongoing use as a bank and commercial space demonstrates continuity of practice – the building remains a place where residents conduct daily businesses, linking past and present. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building's first major tenant was the Bank of Hamilton (1909 – 1924), symbolizing financial credibility and stability in the young town. The Canadian Bank of Commerce / CIBC (1924 onward) continued the building's role as

Nanton's financial anchor, reinforcing its long-term institutional importance. In addition, retail and office tenants, such as the Sibbett & Hallett's variety store and other businesses, reflects the building's role as a multi-purpose commercial hub, typical of small-town Alberta blocks.

The building is also associated with H.M. Shaw, the founder of Nanton, Member of Parliament for the Macleod riding, and one of the building's commissioners. His involvement ties the block to both local and national leadership. The building is also associated with J.T. Cooper, Nanton's first mayor and co-builder of the block. His role underscores the building's connection to municipal governance and civic ambition. Together, Shaw and Cooper exemplify the entrepreneurial and civic leadership that shaped Nanton's identity in the early 20th century.

■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**

The Shaw and Cooper Block is significant for its Romanesque Revival influence evident in the elliptical ground-floor windows with sandstone keystones and radiating voussoirs. Its classical details are seen in pedimented entrances on the east and south facades, heavy sandstone quoins, and a continue water table course. The angled corner façade with a recessed entrance and parapet inscription ("Shaw & cooper, 1909") created a strong civic presence at the intersection of what originally was Railway Avenue and Shaw Street. The architectural intent in the stylistic blend of Romanesque and classical elements was typical of early bank and office building, projecting permanence, prosperity, and civic pride.

Designed by William Dodd of Calgary also links the building to professional architectural practice rather than vernacular construction. Durable brick superstructure with a sandstone foundation and trim, reflects the shift from wood to fire-resistant masonry in Alberta towns, and careful detailing in stonework, fenestration, and entablature (later removed, but since reinstated under the Alberta Main Street Program), and mid cornice and frieze demonstrates investment in quality and permanence.

■ **D. Informational Potential**

The building demonstrates early 20th century masonry practices with sandstone trim and foundation, and reflects the transition from wood to fire-resistant masonry construction.

Its Romanesque Revival windows and classical detailing provide insight into design preferences for banks and commercial blocks, and the angled corner entrance illustrates how buildings were designed to maximize visibility and accessibility at key intersections, a practice common in Alberta's developing towns.

The block's placement and orientation also reveals how civic leaders shaped commercial streetscapes to project permanence and prosperity. It continued use as a bank offers evidence of the longstanding role of financial institutions in sustaining small-town economies.

The resource also embodies the ambitions of H.M. Shaw and J.T. Cooper, and studying its history provides information about the role of local leadership in town building.

■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**

Located at the intersection of Railway (20th) Avenue and Shaw (20th) Street, the building's angled corner façade and recessed entrance make it a visual anchor in Nanton's downtown streetscape. The parapet inscription "Shaw & Cooper, 1909" serves as a public marker of civic pride and permanence, reinforcing its identity as a cornerstone of the community. Its long-standing role as a bank and commercial hub has also ensured that generations of residents recognize it as a central place of business and gathering.

	Commissioned by Nanton's founder (H.M. Shaw) and first mayor (J.T. Cooper), the block symbolizes the leadership and enterprising spirit that shaped the town's early development. As home to the Bank of Hamilton and later the Canadian Bank of Commerce/CIBC, it became a symbol of financial trust and prosperity in the community, and its enduring presence on main street makes it a symbol of Nanton's heritage, embodying the town's transition from frontier settlement to an established municipality.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ Yes ☐ No **List:** • Location on a prominent corner at 20th Avenue and 20th Street in Nanton's commercial core • Form and massing of the two-storey, square-plan commercial block • Flat roof with parapets on all sides • Angled corner façade with recessed entrance • Symmetrical fenestration pattern across facades • Stretcher bond brick superstructure exterior • Rusticated sandstone foundation, lintels, lug sills, keystones, quoins, and continuous sandstone water table course along the foundation • Elliptical Romanesque Revival windows on the ground floor • Rectangular single-hung windows on the second floor • Classical pedimented entrances on corner, and east and south facades • Heavy sandstone quoins articulating corners • Reinstated decorated entablature with cornice and plain frieze with decorated soffit brackets • Parapet inscription "Shaw & Cooper, 1909" • Longstanding use as a bank and commercial hub.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains on its original site at the corner of 20th Avenue and 20th Street. ■ **2. Design** The overall two-storey form, square plan, angled corner façade, fenestration pattern, and recessed corner entrance are intact. While the original heavy bracketed cornice/entablature was removed, it has been reinstated with the essential design features. ■ **3. Environment** The block continues to anchor Nanton's commercial streetscape, surrounded by other early 20th century commercial buildings. Its relationship with the downtown environment is unchanged, maintaining integrity of setting. ■ **4. Materials** Original brick superstructure, sandstone foundation, lintels, sills, keystones, and quoins remain in place, and triangular pediment elements survive over the corner entrance and on the east and south sides. Despite minor alterations, the building retains integrity of materials. ■ **5. Workmanship** The masonry detailing, Romanesque Revival windows, and classical pedimented entrances demonstrate the craftsmanship of early 20th century construction. These features remain visible and intact, supporting integrity of workmanship. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to convey the sense of permanence, prosperity, and civic ambition intended by its founders. Its massing, detailing, and prominent

	corner presence evoke the early 1900s commercial character of Nanton, retaining integrity of feeling. ■ **7. Association** Strongly associated with H.M. Shaw and J.T. Cooper, as well as with the Bank of Hamilton and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Its ongoing use as a bank and commercial hub reinforces continuity of association.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment .	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** A contemporary can still recognize the block as a product of early civic leadership. Its prominent corner siting, inscription ("Shaw & Cooper, 1909"), and substantial masonry construction clearly express the founders' intent to project permanence and prosperity. The building's ongoing use as a bank and commercial space allows a contemporary to experience the continuity of its original function. The recessed corner entrance and large ground-floor windows still signal its role as a place of business and financial exchange. To a contemporary, the block remains a landmark in Nanton's downtown streetscape. Its angled corner façade and architectural detailing embody the cultural practice of locating banks and key businesses at central intersections, reinforcing its symbolic role in community life. ■ **B. Institution/Person** A contemporary of the Bank of Hamilton or the Canadian Bank of Commerce would still recognize the building's enduring role as a financial institution. Its corner siting, recessed entrance, and formal architectural detailing clearly convey its original function as a place of trust, stability and commerce. The building's ongoing use as a bank and retail space demonstrates continuity of institutional activity, allowing its heritage value to remain legible to those familiar with its financial history. The parapet inscription "Shaw & Cooper, 1909" continues to communicate the founders' civic ambition. A contemporary of Shaw would recognize the building as a tangible expression of his investment in Nanton's permanence and prosperity. The block also remains a symbol of civic leadership. A contemporary of Cooper would see the building as evidence of his role in shaping the town's identity and anchoring its commercial core. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** A contemporary familiar with early 20th century commercial architecture would still recognize the Romanesque Revival ground-floor windows with sandstone keystones and voussoirs, and the classical pedimented entrances as hallmarks of the period. The angled corner façade with its recessed entrance and parapet inscription ("Shaw & Cooper, 1909") remains legible as a stylistic device used to emphasize civic pride and visibility at key intersections. The original cornice/entablature was removed earlier, but has been reinstated to express the stylistic vocabulary of its time in conjunction with the building's massing, fenestrations, and detailing. The use of the brick superstructure with a sandstone foundation and trim clearly reflects a shift from wood to fire-resistant masonry construction. A contemporary of the era would recognize the workmanship in masonry, stone detailing, and durable materials as evidence of investment in permanence and prosperity. With the building in its original form, modern observers would understand the construction practices and the architectural ambitions of 1909. ■ **D. Information Potential** A contemporary familiar with construction methods of early 20th century building practices would recognize the shift from wood to fire-resistant masonry. The architectural style of the Romanesque Revival details and

	features would also remain legible to someone educated in architectural history. The building's prominent location and orientation is a clear example to a contemporary of small-town planning and how civic leaders shaped the commercial street to emphasize permanence and prosperity. It also provides direct cues with the parapet inscription as to the individuals and institutions that defined Nanton's early growth. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building is still recognizable as a deliberate design choice to anchor the angled corner façade and recessed entrance on a prominent intersection on Nanton's main street to ensure it remains a focal point in the downtown streetscape. The parapet inscription continues to communicate its identity and founding date, reinforcing its landmark status. To a contemporary the block would still symbolize the ambition and investment H.M Shaw and J.T. Cooper had in Nanton's permanence. Its long association with banking institutions continues to embody trust, prosperity, and financial continuity.
Statement of Integrity	The **Shaw and Cooper Block** retains a high degree of integrity, allowing it to continue to communicate its heritage value as a cornerstone of Nanton's civic and commercial development. Situated at its original location on the prominent corner of 20th Avenue and 20th Street, the building still anchors the town's main street and maintains its intended role as a landmark in the community. Its overall design remains legible, with the two-storey square plan, angled corner façade, recessed entrance, and symmetrical fenestration continuing to convey the architectural intent of permanence and prosperity. The surrounding environment of early 20th century commercial buildings reinforces its contextual integrity, while the retention of original materials—including brick superstructure, sandstone foundation and trim, and triangular pediment elements—ensures that its construction methods remain visible. The workmanship of the masonry detailing, Romanesque Revival windows, and classical pedimented entrances is still evident, preserving the craftsmanship of its era. Together, these elements sustain the building's ability to evoke the feeling of civic pride and economic confidence that defined Nanton's early years. Finally, the block continues to embody its associations with H.M. Shaw and J.T. Cooper, as well as with the Bank of Hamilton and Canadian Bank of Commerce, institutions that anchored the town's financial life. Despite minor alterations, the Shaw and Cooper Block retains integrity in location, design, environment, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and remains a powerful communicator of its heritage value.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton News

1902 21st Avenue
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton News**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: 17 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton News building, constructed in 1908, is a two-storey, rectangular, brick-clad commercial structure located on 19th Street in downtown Nanton. Built of nailed-frame construction on a stone foundation, the building features a central double-door entrance flanked by fixed multi-pane windows, and two windows above. brick corbelling, brick voussoirs over the windows and doors, and a prominent façade typical of early prairie boomtown architecture. The ground floor historically housed the printing office and shop, while the second floor provided residential quarters. A side entrance and additional windows face Highway 2 South.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in pre-1910, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building served as the headquarters of the Nanton News, a vital source of local journalism and civic engagement.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1908 to 1986.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Nanton News building, constructed in 1908, reflects the growth of Nanton as a service centre for ranching and farming communities in southern Alberta. The town emerged along the Calgary – Fort Macleod railway line, which stimulated settlement and commerce in the Mosquito Creek district. By the early 20th century, Nanton's downtown core was expanding with commercial buildings that projected permanence and prosperity, design modest construction methods. The Nanton News was founded by John M. Bender in 1903, who was also the first overseer for the Village of Nanton, N.W.T. in 1903, and also elected as president of the Nanton Board of Trade the same year. The newspaper was in several temporary locations before Bender built this building. Its relocation to this purpose-built office in 1908 marked the town's maturation as a civic hub. In 1986, under the ownership of George Meyer, the Nanton News moved into the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street. The paper was later sold to Westmount Press in 1995. Over years of various owners, the Nanton News won many awards in the annual competition for excellence.

	Local newspapers were also essential institutions in early Alberta, documenting settlement, promoting commerce, and fostering civic identity. The Nanton News provided coverage of agricultural issues, local politics, and community events, serving as a vital link between residents and the wider province. Its presence in the downtown core reinforced the role of print media in shaping democratic participation and community cohesion. The building's two-storey, brick-clad, commercial structure gave a more imposing appearance, symbolizing stability and prosperity. Its rectangular plan, stone foundation, nailed-frame construction, and brick corbelling are characteristic of early 20th century vernacular architecture. Its corner-lot location contributes to the historic streetscape of Nanton's downtown, reinforcing its architectural contextual value. With the building housing the Nanton News for decades, with printing technology evolving from hand press (until 1918) to linotype (from 1921), this continuity of use underscores its heritage value as a site of communication and technological adaptation. The preservation of back issues dating to 1907 further enhances its documentary importance, providing a record of community life and regional development. The Nanton News building is also part of a broader heritage landscape in Nanton that includes commercial, civic, and residential structures from the early 20th century. Together, these resources illustrate the town's role in southern Alberta's settlement and development. The building contributes to the collective memory of the community and remains a rare surviving example of early newspaper architecture in the province.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Built in 1908, the building housed the Nanton News, a vital local newspaper that documented community life and regional development and represents the role of print media in shaping civic identity, especially in small prairie towns, thus contributing to its significance in communication and community development. Its location on 19th Street in downtown Nanton also contributes to the historic commercial streetscape, and its brick clad two-storey scale is designed to project prosperity, thus reflecting urban and commercial growth. The Nanton News operated at this location for decades, with early printing technology (hand press until 1918, linotype from 1921), and its back issues dating to 1907 remain preserved on microfilm and available in Nanton's library, thus reinforcing its documentary value. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building's two-storey, brick-clad, commercial structure gave a more imposing appearance, symbolizing stability and prosperity. Its rectangular plan, stone foundation, nailed-frame construction, and brick corbelling are characteristic of early 20th century vernacular architecture. Its corner-lot location contributes to the historic streetscape of Nanton's downtown, reinforcing its architectural contextual value.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original corner-lot setting abutting public sidewalk within Nanton's historic commercial district • Two-storey, nailed-frame form and massing with stretcher-bond brick superstructure cover, stone foundation, and flat roof • Brick corbelling along upper north and west parapets • Central entrance flanked by original wood-frame windows, wood lug sills, and multi-panelled wood and glass entrance doors

	• Brick voussoirs over windows and main entrance doors • Central main level entrance on west elevation with multi-panelled wood and glass door, and similar offset entrance opening and door on second level above • Surviving materials and workmanship from its 1908 construction, including wood framing and masonry details • Association with the evolution of printing technology from hand press to linotype.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location within Nanton's downtown core and contributes to the historic streetscape. ■ **2. Design** The exterior form, fenestration patterns, masonry exterior and brick corbelling, and roofline are intact and appear consistent with archival photos. Overall, the building is intact with only minor alterations to signage and fenestrations, thus demonstrating architectural integrity. ■ **3. Environment** The building is located within its original setting and maintains is relationship to Nanton's historic commercial district. ■ **4. Materials** The brick clad exterior, brick corbelling, wood windows and doors remain intact with minimal changes to ensure retention of the building authenticity. ■ **5. Workmanship** The building retains materials, workmanship, and design features consistent with its 1908 construction. It reflects mid-century construction standards as a durable utilitarian building. ■ **6. Feeling** Retains the character of a small-town press office. ■ **7. Association** Strong link to Nanton News and local journalism legacy.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building's façades and commercial frontage remain intact. Its unaltered downtown setting demonstrates how newspapers anchored small-town identity and growth, and still conveys its role as a hub of local news and civic discourse, reinforcing its role in economic life. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building's preserved mass, scale, and design embodies the stylistic choices of prairie boomtowns, visually expressing prosperity and permanence.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton News** retains a high degree of integrity that allows it to continue expressing its heritage significance as a hub of communication, civic identity, and small-town commerce in southern Alberta. The building remains on its original corner lot in downtown Nanton, anchoring the historic commercial streetscape and reinforcing its role as a civic institution within the town's early business district. Its location continues to convey the prominence of newspapers in small prairie communities, where such institutions were deliberately situated in visible, central settings to symbolize their importance to civic life. The design of the building is intact, with its two-storey rectangular form, prominent brick façade, and brick corbelling exemplifying the boomtown commercial style that characterized early prairie towns. This design, modest in construction yet ambitious in appearance, reflects the aspirations of Nanton's citizens to project prosperity and permanence during the settlement era. The

	dual-use layout, with a printing office below and residential quarters above, remains legible and reinforces the building's functional authenticity. Situated among other early 20th century commercial and civic structures, the Nanton News building contributes to the collective memory of Nanton's historic downtown. Its continued presence within this streetscape allows it to be understood in its original context, strengthening its ability to convey heritage values. The survival of original materials – including nailed-frame construction, stone foundation, and masonry details – ensures that the building retains physical authenticity. These materials, combined with the workmanship evident in the corbelled brickwork and vernacular construction techniques, embody the skill and resourcefulness of early prairie builders. Together, they allow the building to physically express its age, function, and architectural character. Beyond its physical attributes, the building continues to evoke the feeling of a small-town newspaper office. Its modest scale, brick clad two-storey façade, and downtown setting create an atmosphere that recalls the civic pride and communication networks central to early 20th century Alberta towns. This sense of place is reinforced by its enduring association with the Nanton News, which operated here for decades and documented the life of the community from its earliest years. The continuity of use, combined with the preservation of back issues dating to 1907, strengthens the building's associative integrity. Overall, these aspects of integrity ensure that the Nanton News building continues to embody its heritage significance. Its intact location, design, materials, and associations allow it to fully convey its role in the development of communication, civic identity, and commercial growth in southern Alberta. The building remains a rare and authentic example of early newspaper architecture in the province, and its integrity ensures that its heritage values remain legible to present and future generations.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Telephone Exchange

2118 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton Telephone Exchange**
Other Names	**Alberta Government Telephones Exchange**
Legal Description	**Lot: 22 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Telephone Exchange building is a modest, single-storey utility structure located within the town's historic commercial core. Constructed in 1918 to house telecommunications infrastructure, the building features a functional design typical of the Alberta Government Telephone's mid-century rural exchanges, with stucco cladding applied to the brick-faced exterior, minimal ornamentation, and a rectangular footprint. It served as a local switching station and operations hub for telephone service in Nanton and surrounding areas.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1918, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with the development of provincial telecommunications infrastructure and its role in the modernization of rural services.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1918 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) system was established in 1906 by the Liberal government under Premier Alexander Cameron Rutherford. Its creation marked Alberta's commitment to public ownership of telephone infrastructure, especially in rural areas underserved by private companies. In 1908, AGT acquired Bell Telephone's Alberta operations, consolidating its reach across the province. AGT operated as a public utility under the Department of Public Works until 1958, when it became a Crown corporation. It remained the dominant provider outside Edmonton until its privatization in 1991, eventually becoming part of TELUS. Nanton's Telephone Exchange building was part of a province-wide network of telephone exchange buildings constructed to house switching equipment and support local service delivery. While exact construction dates vary, many AGT buildings in small towns were built between the mid-1910s and 1950s, often in a utilitarian style with modest brick or stucco facades. This 24' x 34' building was constructed by contractor S. Turner of Medicine Hat, Alberta, with a 15' x 12' addition later added to the rear of the structure.

	In Nanton, the building served as a local telephone exchange and operations hub. It was a vital link in connecting residents to the broader provincial and national telephone grid. These building typically housed manual switchboards in the early years, operated by local telephone operators – often women – who played a central role in community communication. The Nanton Telephone Exchange closed in 1964 when direct dialing service started, and operators were no longer required to make calls, after which the office moved to High River. The building continues to be used for companies offering general insurance coverage. Though modest in scale, the building reflects the architectural and civic values of mid-century Alberta. Its design likely followed standardized provincial plans emphasizing durability, fire resistance, and functional layout. These buildings were often located in new town centres, reinforcing their role as essential public infrastructure. The Nanton structure is emblematic of AGT's rural service mandate and the province's investment in equitable access to telecommunications. It stands as a physical reminder of the era when telephone service was a public good, managed locally but integrated provincially.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building represents the expansion of provincial telecommunications and public ownership of telephone infrastructure in rural Alberta. It also reflects the role of the provincial government in modernizing rural services, aligning themes of governance, technology, and community development. AGT was established in 1906 and expanded rural service throughout the province, including Nanton, following its acquisition of Bell Telephone's Alberta operations in 1908. As a telephone exchange, the building facilitated manual switching and local connectivity, often staffed by community operators. It played a central role in linking Nanton residents to broader provincial and national networks. The building also reflects Alberta's investment in equitable access to modern services during the mid-20th century, contributing to civic modernization. The building is also recognized by residents as a symbol of early telecommunications. Its location within Nanton's historic downtown contributes to the area's institutional character and reinforces the narrative of Nanton as a service centre for southern Alberta. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The Nanton Telephone Exchange building likely follows standardized provincial plans used across Alberta from this period to the 1950s, often modest Modernist or Art Deco-influenced brick structures with utilitarian detailing. These designs emphasized fire resistance, durability, and functional layout. While not ornate, the building's form and materials reflect mid-century public architecture, contributing to its legibility as a government utility structure. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building is recognized by residents as a symbol of early telecommunications and played a role in linking Nanton residents to broader provincial and national networks.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location abutting public sidewalk within Nanton's historic downtown core • One-storey short-façade form and massing with flat roof and stone foundation

	• Original exterior brick superstructure cover beneath later applied stucco • Centre entrance with sidelights and flat transom with multiple lights • Symmetrical fenestration pattern • Plain parapet with protruding pilasters extending down to a protruding concrete plinth • Concrete lug sills with applied stucco • Original moulded name plate above central entrance • Association with manual switchboard operations and early telecommunications equipment • Evidence of standardized provincial design and construction methods.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location within Nanton's downtown core, reinforcing historical continuity. ■ **2. Design** The exterior form, fenestration patterns, and roofline are intact and appear consistent with original AGT design standards, demonstrating architectural integrity. ■ **3. Environment** The Nanton Telephone Exchange retains name recognition and nostalgic value and contributes to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials** The brick cladding beneath the application of stucco, typical of AGT buildings, remains intact. ■ **5. Workmanship** Evidence of mid-century construction techniques is visible, though further investigation may be required to assess interior integrity. Minor alterations have occurred over time (e.g., signage, central glass door, and lower sliding window inserts above main level fixed windows), but these do not significantly compromise the building's ability to communicate its historic role. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to evoke its original function and era. ■ **7. Association** The community continues to recognize the building as a former AGT facility/hub.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building's use as a government telephone office reflects the development of communications infrastructure in Alberta, is a key theme in the province's history, and continues to be recognized cultural practice of telecommunications. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building retains a substantial portion of its original materials and craftsmanship. Alterations have occurred over time, such as the application of stucco over the original brick cladding, and minor alterations have also occurred (e.g., signage, central glass door, and lower sliding window inserts above main level fixed windows), but these do not significantly compromise the building's ability to communicate its historic role. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building's location within Nanton's historic downtown contributes to the area's institutional character
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Telephone Exchange** retains sufficient physical and associative integrity to express its significance under the two criteria. The building continues to reflect its original role as a hub for telecommunications in the community, representing a significant period in Alberta's development of public infrastructure.

	Its association with the expansion of government telephone services is evident in its location, historical use, and ongoing recognition within the community. The building's presence supports local heritage values and contributes to the collective memory of Nanton's residents, maintaining its relevance in community activities and cultural practices. The building also preserves its original architectural style, construction methods, and materials to substantial degree. Key elements such as the exterior façade, structural layout, and distinctive design features remain intact, demonstrating the workmanship and aesthetic values of its era. Any modifications have been sympathetic to the original character, ensuring that the building's historic appearance and physical authenticity are maintained. The setting and context of the building further reinforce its integrity, as it continues to contribute to the historic streetscape and sense of place. It also holds symbolic value for the community. It is recognized by residents as a symbol of early telecommunications and its location within Nanton's historic downtown contributes to the area's institutional character. The building facilitated manual switching and local connectivity, often staffed by community operators, and played a vital role in linking Nanton residents to broader provincial and national networks. Overall, the Nanton Telephone Exchange building exhibits integrity through its retention of original location, design, materials, and association with significant community events and practices. It stands as a testament to the evolution of telecommunications in Alberta and remains a valued part of Nanton's heritage.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Creighton Residence

2203 21st Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Creighton Residence**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: 1 Block: 7 Plan: 959J**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Creighton Residence is situated on a large well-treed lot, bordered by a low hedge, and located on a prominent southwest corner of 21st Street and Highway 2 South. It is a two-storey, 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 square-layout home, clad with shiplap and shingle siding. The structure has an open front porch, a medium-hip gable roof with a prominent cross gable, and single-hung windows on all elevations. The residence reflects the practical space-efficient design typical of Eaton kit houses from the early 20th century.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing residential structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1917, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with the Creighton family and their contributions to healthcare, commerce, and civic life.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1917 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Creighton Residence in Nanton stands as a testament to the pioneering spirit and community leadership of the Creighton family. Built in 1917 as an Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit house, the residence reflects a unique period in Canadian history when families could order homes through catalogues and have all the necessary materials shipped by rail from British Columbia. Between 1910 and 1932, the T. Eaton Company Limited sold kit homes through their catalogue. The package included all the necessary lumber, window, doors, and frames. The lumber was not pre-cut, necessitating the services of a carpenter to construct the house and often a small building, such as a garage or shed, with leftover materials. The house was constructed for Dr. John A. Creighton, the first doctor in the Nanton area, who homesteaded just east of town and established his medical office in the Ingram Building on Railway (20th) Avenue. Dr. Creighton's commitment to healthcare and business development was foundational to the growth of Nanton. He and his colleague, George Robertson, acquired and expanded the local pharmacy, building a new two-storey brick-clad building that became a central business in the community.

	The Creighton Residence was not only a family home but also the birthplace and lifelong residence of James Forbes Creighton, who was delivered by his father in the house and lived there until his passing in 2015. James Creighton's life included service in the Air Force during World War II, a career in pharmacy, and extensive involvement in local sports and community development, notably the Nanton Tennis Club. Architecturally, the residence is significant as an Eaton kit house, representing the economic practicality and innovative spirit of early 20th century rural Alberta. Its square, two-storey design maximizes space and minimizes costs, making it an affordable and moder choice for prairie families. The house's construction and continued use by the Creighton family highlight its importance as a local landmark and a symbol of generational continuity. The architectural features included standard windows and doors with the option for buyers to order extras for an additional fee. Doors, windows, and cabinetry were manufactured in Winnipeg and shipped as part of the kit, ensuring quality and consistency in the home's interior finishes. Unlike some other kit homes, Eaton's lumber was not pre-cut. Boards and beams arrived in standard lengths and required on-site measuring and cutting by a carpenter. This process often left enough material for a small outbuilding such as a garage or shed. All structural components, including lumber, windows, doors and frames, were shipped by rail from British Columbia to the nearest station, then transported to the building site. Buyers of Eaton kit homes could select option upgrades, such as indoor plumbing (about $150 extra) and heating ($90 extra in the 1910s), allowing the home to be adapted to modern needs. The house was assembled by local carpenters following plans provided in the catalogue, sawdust insulation in the walls, and battery tables in the basement for early electrical systems contributed to the home's longevity. While there are no records of major public events directly tied to the Creighton Residence, its historical significance lies in its role as the home of a prominent local family, its connection to the development of healthcare and businesses in Nanton, and its status as a rare and enduring example of an Eaton kit house.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The residence is closely tied to the development of healthcare and business in Nanton, serving as the home and workplace of the town's first doctor, Dr. John A. Creighton, and later his son, James Forbes Creighton. It was the site of important community activities, including the birth and lifelong residence of James Creighton, who contributed to local sports and civic development. The house's construction as an Eaton kit home reflects a broader cultural practice of mail-order homes in early 20th century Alberta, representing economic practicality and innovation in rural communities. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The Creighton Residence is directly associated with the Creighton family, who played a foundational role in Nanton's medical services and business development. Dr. John A. Creighton was the first doctor in the area, and the family pharmacy became a central institution in the community. The generational continuity of the residence, with James Forbes Creighton living there until 2015, underscores its importance as a symbol of local leadership and legacy. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction.** Architecturally, the Creighton Residence is a rare and well-preserved example of an Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666, notable for its square, two-storey layout, shiplap and shingle-clad exterior, and robust construction. The house's design maximizes space and minimizes construction complexity, reflecting the innovative spirit of early 20th century kit homes. Features such

	as sawdust insultation, millwork from Winnipeg, and the ability to customize with extra windows and doors further highlight its architectural value.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ Yes ☐ No **List:** • Original location within Nanton on a prominent corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street • Square, two-storey scale and massing layout typical of Eaton's Eastbourne kit houses • Nailed wood-frame superstructure • Open front verandah and vertical support wood columns and closed railing • Off-centre main entrance • Medium-hip roof with a prominent cross gable • Roof pediment on upper cross-gable dormer • Shiplap with corner board and shingle-clad exterior • Single-hung wood-frame windows and wood storm windows with slip sills standard with kit house package • Original window and door placement as detailed in the Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 square-layout home • Window and door millwork • Centre brick chimney • All structural components, including lumber, windows, doors and frames shipped by rail from British Columbia • Association with the Creighton family, who played a foundational role in Nanton's medical services and business development.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The residence remains in its original location in Nanton, maintaining its historical context within the community. ■ **2. Design** The house retains its square, two-storey Eaton's Eastbourne kit design with original exterior appearance, window and door layout, and architectural features still clearly evident. ■ **3. Environment** The surrounding environment, including its position within the local streetscape and proximity to other historic sites, has been preserved, contributing to its heritage value. ■ **4. Materials.** Original materials, such as shiplap and shingle siding, lumber, millwork from Winnipeg, wood single-hung windows with wood storms, and vertical wood porch posts are still present, reflecting the construction methods of the period. ■ **5. Workmanship** The craftsmanship involved in assembling the kit home, including on-site measuring and cutting, and sturdy construction, remains evident in the residence's structure. ■ **6. Feeling.** The residence continues to evoke the sense of early 20th century prairie life, with its enduring presence and generational continuity within the Creighton family. ■ **7. Association**

	The house is strongly associated with the Creighton family, particularly Dr. John A. Creighton and James Forbes Creighton, and their contributions to healthcare, business, and community development in Nanton.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Creighton Residence continues to reflect the cultural practice of mail-order kit homes, a defining feature of early 20th century Alberta. Its ongoing presence as a family home and its association with community activities – such as the birth and lifelong residence of James Forbes Creighton – would be immediately familiar to someone from its era. The house's role in local healthcare and business development is still apparent in its historical context and physical location. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The direct association with the Creighton family remains clear. The residence was home to Nanton's first doctor, Dr. john A. Creighton, and later his son, both of whom played pivotal roles in t the town's medical and business history. The generational continuity – spanning from its construction to the passing of James Forbes Creighton in 2015 – preserves its identity as a symbol of local leadership and legacy. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Architecturally, the Creighton Residence retains its distinctive Eaton's Eastbourne kt house features: a square, two-storey layout, clad with shiplap on the main floor exterior and shingles on the upper level exterior, and robust construction. These elements are visually and structurally consistent with their original design, making it easily recognizable to a contemporary familiar with early 20th century kit homes.
Statement of Integrity	The **Creighton Residence** retains a high degree of integrity. Its original location in Nanton remains unchanged, anchoring the home within its historic community context. The design – a square, two-storey Eaton's Eastbourne kit house – has been preserved with the layout and architectural features still evident and recognizable. The environment surrounding the residence, including its placement within the local streetscape and proximity to other historic sites, continues to reflect the character of early 20th century Nanton. The house maintains its original materials, such as shiplap and shingle siding, lumber, and millwork from Winnipeg, which are visible on the exterior finishes. The workmanship is evident in the sturdy construction and the careful assembly of kit components by local carpenters. These features showcase the building practices of the era and contribute to the home's enduring quality. The residence evokes a strong feeling of its historical period with its enduring presence and generational continuity within the Creighton family. The sense of place is reinforced by the home's association with Dr. John A. Creighton and James Forbes Creighton, whose contributions to healthcare, business, and community life in Nanton are integral to the property's story. Overall, the Creighton Residence demonstrates strong integrity, making it a significant and authentic heritage resource within the community.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Keen Hospital

2207 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Keen Hospital**
Other Names	**Nanton Hospital / Main Street Apartments / Main Street Suites**
Legal Description	**Lot: N/A Block: N/A Plan: 0312590**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Keen Hospital is a two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular stucco-clad brick building with a concrete foundation and gable roof, constructed in 1927 as Nanton's first purpose-built hospital. Located on the west edge of Nanton's historic downtown core, the building originally contained a twelve-bed hospital, dispensary, medical office, bathrooms, kitchen, and a sunroom. Although later converted into apartments, the exterior retains its institutional massing, and symmetrical fenestration pattern, conveying its original function as a healthcare facility.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1927, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The Keen Hospital maintains its landmark presence within the streetscape. Its location remains unchanged, reinforcing the hospital's historic association with the community it served.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1927 to 1940.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Keen Hospital must be understood within the wider context of community development and healthcare provision in rural Alberta during the interwar period. In the early 20th century, small towns across the province were expanding as railway hubs and service centres, yet medical facilities lagged behind population growth. For Nanton, patients requiring hospitalization were sent to High River or Calgary, a journey that was both costly and time consuming. The construction of the Keen Hospital in 1927 marked a significant turning point, symbolizing the town's ambition to provide modern services locally and reinforcing its role as a regional centre in the foothills. The hospital was closely tied to the career of Dr. William H. Keen, who arrived in Nanton in 1905 and became the town's first physician. His leadership in establishing a purpose-built hospital reflected both professional initiative and civic pride. The involvement of his wife, Edith Keen, a registered nurse who served as superintendent, highlights the family and community dimensions of healthcare

	delivery in small towns. Together, they embodied the broader theme of local self-sufficiency in medical care, a hallmark of Alberta's rural communities in this era. Dr. John Creighton also provided patient care at the site. Architecturally, the Keen Hospital represents a rare example of a small-town hospital purpose-built in the 1920s. Its two-and-a-half-storey brick construction (prior to the application of stucco), concrete foundation, and gable roof conveyed permanence and modernity, contrasting with the more modest maternity homes or converted residences that often served rural hospitals. This institutional scale reinforced Nanton's identity as a service hub, while also aligning with provincial trends toward professionalized and standardized healthcare facilities. The hospital's closure in the early 1940s, following Dr. Keen's death and the enlistment of Dr. Hector MacKenzie, reflects the vulnerability of small-town institutions dependent on individual practitioners. Patients were redirected to High River, underscoring the shift toward centralized healthcare delivery. Yet the building's survival, later adapted into apartments, ensures that its physical presence continues to anchor Nanton's historic core. Overall, the Keen Hospital stands as a reminder of the challenges and aspirations of rural towns in providing modern amenities, and of the individuals whose initiative shaped local history.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Keen Hospital is the first purpose-built hospital in Nanton, filling a critical gap in local healthcare. Associated with Dr. W.H. Keen, a prominent physician, rancher, town councilor, and civic leader, the building reflects the expansion of rural healthcare in Alberta during the interwar period. The hospital is also a symbol of community pride and self-sufficiency. Mrs. Edith Keen, wife of Dr. Keen and a registered nurse, served as superintendent, reinforcing family and community involvement. The hospital provided accessible healthcare when travel to Calgary or High River was difficult. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building is associated with Dr. W.H. Keen and Edith Keen, who played central roles in local healthcare. Dr. Keen arrived in Nanton in 1905 and became Nanton's first physician. He was also a rancher, town councilor, and political candidate. The hospital was privately owned and operated by Dr. Keen, with the assistance of his wife, Edith Keen, a registered nurse who also served as the superintendent. Dr. Keen operated the hospital until his death in 1937. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building is a two-and-a-half-storey brick tile construction with an exterior stucco application, a concrete foundation, and gable roof. Its purpose-built institutional design is rare in small Alberta towns of the 1920s. It retains massing, exterior form and materials, despite later conversion, stucco application and metal roof. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The structure is in a prominent location in Nanton's townscape, reinforcing its role as a civic landmark. It is one of two hospitals established in Nanton in the late 1920s, reflecting local ambition, and a rare surviving example of small-town hospitals from this era in Alberta.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core • Rectangular plan and low gable roof form with 2 shed dormers on either side of gable roof

	• Rear offset brick chimney • Institutional two-and-a-half-storey scale and massing • Original exterior brick tile beneath the existing stucco with concrete foundation • Projecting wood eaves with exposed rafters • Wood brackets in projecting verges • Shaped structural fenestration openings • Symmetrical fenestration pattern and plain lug sills • 8-over-1 pane arrangement on front porch level window and 4-over-4 pane arrangements on west side windows • Open porch with closed railing and wood posts and open wood rail at second storey • Continued association with Dr. W.H. Keen and early healthcare history.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location on the edge of Nanton's downtown core, reinforcing historical continuity. ■ **2. Design** The exterior rectangular footprint, form and massing, fenestration patterns, and roofline are intact. ■ **3. Environment** The building is still part of Nanton's historic downtown core, maintaining its landmark presence. ■ **4. Materials** The brick tile and concrete foundation are hidden beneath the application of stucco and are not visible. Wood-frame windows remain intact. ■ **5. Workmanship** Masonry exterior is not visible thus workmanship is not conveyed. Wood-frame windows maintain their original workmanship. ■ **6. Feeling** The institutional character is still somewhat evident in the pattern of fenestrations that once marked the locating of the 12-room interior, thus character still evident despite adaptive reuse. ■ **7. Association** Strongly tied to Dr. Keen and early healthcare history.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** A contemporary from the hospital's early years would recognize the Keen Hospital by its exterior, location, and overall institutional presence. The building's essential attributes – form, materials, and landmark setting – have been preserved (albeit the brick has been covered with stucco but still remains intact), allowing it to convey its heritage value and remain a tangible link to Nanton's early healthcare history. ■ **B. Institution/Person** A contemporary of Dr. Keen or the hospital's early years would recognize the building's exterior and its prominent place on Main Street (20th Street). However, the interior and its current use as apartments would be unfamiliar, as the medical facilities and hospital-specific features have been replaced by residential accommodations. The building stands as a historic landmark, but its purpose and internal structure have evolved since its days as Keen Hospital. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building retains a substantial portion of its original materials and craftsmanship. Minor alterations have occurred over time (e.g., signage, central glass door, and lower sliding window inserts above main level fixed

	windows), but these do not significantly compromise the building's ability to communicate its historic role. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The Keen Hospital's landmark and symbolic value are actively conveyed through its preserved character-defining elements, its prominent place on the west edge of Nanton's historic downtown core, and its enduring role in community storytelling. While the building's function has changed, the building continues to serve as a tangible link to Nanton's history and the legacy of Dr. Keen.
Statement of Integrity	The **Keen Hospital** retains moderate to high level of integrity, sufficient to convey its heritage value as Nanton's first purpose-built hospital. Constructed in 1927, the building continues to occupy its original site in the town's historic core, maintaining its landmark presence within the streetscape. Its location remains unchanged, reinforcing the hospital's historic association with the community it served. The design of the building is still legible, with its two-and-a-half-storey rectangular plan, institutional massing, and gable roof form intact. While interior alterations have occurred during its conversion to apartments, the exterior continues to express its original institutional character. The environment of the hospital also contributes to its integrity with it situated among smaller residential and commercial buildings, and its scale and location distinguish it as a civic landmark. The materials of the hospital, particularly the brick masonry and concrete foundation are no longer visible due to the application of stucco and parging, but continue to remain authentic to the construction beneath. These elements, combined with straightforward workmanship of the structure, convey the durability and permanence intended by its builder, Dr. W.H. Keen. The workmanship of the masonry is not visible, however construction techniques with wood-framed windows and other wood elements continue to reflect the standard of interwar institutional architecture in small-town Alberta. Despite adaptive reuse, the hospital retains a strong feeling of its institutional origins. Its massing, fenestration rhythm, and durable materials evoke its former role as a healthcare facility. The association with Dr. Keen and the history of medical care in Nanton remain clear, reinforced by the building's survival and continued recognition as a heritage landmark. In summary, although interior modifications have altered aspects of the hospital's original function, the Keen Hospital preserves the essential attributes and ensures that the building continues to express its heritage significance and stands as a rare surviving example of a small-town hospital from the 1920s in Alberta.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office

2204 21st Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Dr. G. E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office**
Other Names	**McKeage's, Dr. McKeage's Dental Office, Hammill Residence**
Legal Description	**Lot: 20 Block: 6 Plan: 959J**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office constructed in c1904-05 is a modest early 20th century wood-frame dwelling located on a prominent northwest corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street in Nanton. It is situated across from the Creighton's residence, and opposite the Masonic Hall (previously St. Andrew's Hall) and the Nanton United Church and is bound by a low hedge and surrounded by a mix of mature trees. The two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular wood-frame house has a stone foundation, an open corner porch with an open rail and vertical posts, and a high-hip gable roof with a high-hip gable dormer on the east centre portion of the rood. The structure is clad with shiplap and contains decorative painted cedar shingles in the gable ends. The residence has operated as both a private residence and professional dental office for several decades.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing residential structure located on a prominent northwest corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in c1904-05, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with Dr. George Ernest McKeage who represents the professionalization of rural health services in Alberta, where practitioners often operated from their homes. Association with McKeage also reflects broader patterns of community development, where civic leaders like McKeage contributed to both public health and social cohesion.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1909 to 1950s.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The McKeage Residence and Dental Office sits within Nanton's early 20th century boom. It served as a combined family home and professional practice for Dr. G.E. McKeage and reflects the town's development and era around the railway and local professionalization. Nanton grew rapidly after the arrival of the Calgary – Fort Macleod railway in the late 1890s and was incorporated as a village in 1903 and a town in 1907, creating a demand for residences and local services such as medical and dental care; the

	McKeage property was constructed during this formative period of civic expansion. The house was constructed in c1904-05 by builder Elzie Robertson and is a two-storey, rectangular wood-frame dwelling with a stone foundation, shiplap siding, and painted cedar shingle gable ends. Local newspapers and directories from the 1920s show professionals advertising "office at residence" arrangements, and Dr. G.E. McKeage is documented among Nanton's professional cards, indicating the building functioned as both a family home and dental office, a common pattern in small prairie towns where professionals combined domestic and business spaces to serve a growing rural clientele. As a combined residence and practice, the McKeage site illustrates how healthcare provision was embedded in everyday community life – dentists and doctors often lived where they worked, contributing to local stability and civic identity. This pattern supported Nanton's role as a service centre for surrounding agricultural districts during the early 20th century.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The property embodies the theme of local health provision because it served as a dentist's office integrated with a residence, This ties directly to Nanton's role as a service centre for surrounding rural areas during the town's early development. The building's historic use as both a family home and a dental practice demonstrates the common small-town activity of professionals operating from their residences. That dual use is an important municipal story about how everyday services were delivered in the community. The site also illustrates a cultural practice in prairie towns where medical and dental practitioners lived where they worked, reinforcing social ties and accessibility. This practice contributes to the town's social history and sense of place. While not tied to a single major public event, the resource is associated with the broader event of Nanton's early 20th century growth in terms of the railway era and civic expansion. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The McKeage Residence and Dental Office has municipal significance primarily through its association with local practitioner, D. G.E. McKeage, and the McKeage family's long presence in Nanton. Dr. G.E. McKeage advertised his dental practice as "office at residence" in local newspapers, demonstrating a direct link between the building and the provision of health services to the town. The McKeage family also remained part of the Nanton community across generations, reinforcing the site's associative value at the municipal level. Although not an institution itself, the site embodies the local institution of community healthcare in a broader sense – illustrating how small towns relied on home-based professional services rather than separate institutional facilities. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building's simple, two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan and high-hip gable roof reflects the restrained, utilitarian domestic styles common in small Alberta towns during the railway-era expansion. It is not an ornate high-style example, but its straightforward massing and original roof form embody the vernacular aesthetic of the period and contribute to the historic streetscape of Nanton. The structure's stone foundation, nailed frame superstructure, and shiplap and cedar shingle siding are materials and methods typical of early 1900s

	prairie construction and demonstrate local building technology and material choices of the era. The building is also linked to a known local craftsperson, Elzie Robertson, in the town's early development phase. While modest, the residence is a representative example of its building type and period rather than a unique architectural landmark. Collectively, such examples illustrate patterns of settlement, local craftsmanship, and material culture, and exemplifies early-town domestic building practices.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton on a prominent corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street • Overall form and massing with its two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan • High-hip gable roof form with a high-hip centre gable • Curved gable end that meets with continuous eave • Stone foundation visible at grade • Traditional shiplap with corner boards, and decorative wood shingle cladding with a painted design in the gable ends • Plain fascia and soffit with decorative wood brackets • West side office addition with triangular moulded pediment with dentils, plain facia, one large fixed window with plain structural opening, and a low-sloped shed roof • Original fenestration openings, wood-framed windows, wood storm windows, and lug sills • Location and one-storey scale of corner open porch and surviving porch details such as the open rail and wood vertical posts with doric capitals. • Centred single brick chimney • Visible workmanship in joinery and trim that reflect local building practices and the documented skill of the builder • Association with Dr. G.E. McKeage and evidence of dual use (i.e., ground-floor room with separate access).
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains on its original site, preserving its spatial relationship to the historic town core. ■ **2. Design** The two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan and high-hip gable roof remain intact, and the overall form, massing, and roofline convey the original design intent. ■ **3. Environment** The residence sits within Nanton's historic residential/commercial streetscape, maintaining its contextual relationship to other early 20th century buildings. ■ **4. Materials** Key materials such as the stone foundation, wood-frame construction, wood shiplap and shingle cladding remain visible and intact. ■ **5. Workmanship** The craftsmanship of the stone foundation and wood framing reflects local building practices of c1904-05. ■ **6. Feeling**

	The house conveys the sense of an early 20th central professional residence, modest in design but clearly historic. The building's scale, form, and materials evoke its period of construction and use. ■ **7. Association** Strongly associated with Dr. G.E. McKeage, a local dentist, and the broader practice of home-based professional services in small prairie towns.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building's association with healthcare and professional services, with Dr. G.E. McKeage, and its dual use as both residence and dental office is still legible. Its physical form reinforces the theme of local service provision as part of everyday life and allows this practice to be communicated to present-day observers. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building was both the residence and dental office of Dr. McKeage, a named professional documented in Nanton newspapers and directories. Because the house remains on its original site, retains its domestic form, and is supported by documentary evidence of McKeage's practice, the personal connection is still legible. Association with McKeage also illustrates how individual professionals shaped small-town life by embedding their services directly into the community fabric. Similar to the Creighton Residence, it represents the broader institution of community healthcare provision in early prairie towns where professional services were often delivered from private residences. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan and high-hip gable roof remain intact, preserving the building's original massing and silhouette. The overall form and proportion are still legible, allowing the resource to convey its early 20th century domestic design intent. Although some alterations, such as incomplete painting have occurred, the essential design character is preserved. The house also represents a vernacular prairie domestic style that is modest, functional, and typical of early railway-era towns. Its lack of ornate detailing is itself stylistically significant, reflecting the utilitarian approach of small-town builders in c1904-05. Materials, such as the stone foundation, wood-frame superstructure and wood cladding are characteristic of the period and remain visible enough to demonstrate local construction practices, and the builder, Elzie Robertson, is recorded, tying the resource to local workmanship.
Statement of Integrity	The **McKeage Residence and Dental Office** retains sufficient integrity to communicate its heritage value as an early 20th century professional residence in Nanton. Constructed in c1904-05 by local builder Elzie Robertson, the resource remains on its original site at 2204 – 21st Street, preserving its spatial relationship to the historic town core and reinforcing its integrity of location. The building's two-and-a-half-storey rectangular plan and high-hip gable roof continue to define its overall massing, ensuring that the original design intent is legible despite the passage of time. The surrounding streetscape, characterized by other early residential and commercial buildings, provides a contextual setting that supports the resources environmental integrity. The house's stone foundation, wood-frame construction, wood shiplap and shingle cladding remain visible and convey materials and construction practices typical of Nanton's formative period. These elements also reflect the skill of its builder, demonstrating the workmanship of local tradespeople in the early 1900s. Together, these physical attributes allow the building to evoke the feeling of an early prairie town residence adapted for professional use. The modest scale and

	domestic character, combined with documentary evidence of its use as Dr. G.E. McKeage's dental office, reinforce the resource's associative integrity. This association illustrates the cultural practice of home-based professional services in small Alberta towns, where healthcare and other essential services were embedded in everyday community life. Overall, the McKeage Residence and Dental Office remains a representative example of Nanton's early development and the lived experience of professionals who shaped the town's civic and social fabric.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Masonic Hall

2120 21st Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton Masonic Hall**
Other Names	**St. Andrews Hall / Grace Hall**
Legal Description	**Lot: 18 Block: 3 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Masonic Hall is located on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 south and 21st Street. It is a modest, early 20th century wood-frame hall originally constructed in 1906 as a Presbyterian church hall. The building features a rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained classical proportions. It has been adapted over time, most notably in 1951 when the Freemasons purchased and reoriented the structure 180 degrees to serve as Lodge No. 17's permanent home in 1964. The rear enclosed porch was originally the main entrance that contained a central two-leaf entrance with a transom window. A symbolic stained glass oculus featuring the Star of David, often referred to as a "Magen David" window was located within the gable above this original entrance representing divine protection, communal identity, and continuity of faith.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource is a **Type 2 Exclusions**, but is eligible for an exception from the particular exclusion as it falls under "**Resources that have been moved**" meets eligibility requirements as the resource: • was reoriented on its same footprint early in its history • developed significant historical associations on its new location prior to the last 50 years • is the sole surviving resource most importantly associated with a historic cultural practice and institution in Nanton • remains in the immediate vicinity of its original location and its association with its historic environment is maintained. The resource is therefore eligible for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a cultural gathering hall located on the edge of Nanton's commercial core. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1906, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has a strong association with religious, social, and fraternal associations, and in its representation of adaptive reuse in small-town Alberta.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1906 to present.**

Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The building now known as the Nanton Masonic Hall reflects the layered development of religious, civic, and fraternal institutions in small-town Alberta during the early to mid-20th century. Constructed in 1906 as St. Andrew's Hall, the building served as a Presbyterian church hall. It was later renamed Grace Hall, continuing its role as a congregational and community gathering place for both the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations from approximately 1911 to 1918, during their period of union. Following the formation of the United Church in 1925, resulting from the merger of these two denominations, the building continued to be used for church services until the completion of Grace United Church. Church halls of this era were essentially auxiliary spaces, hosting Sunday school, youth programs, meetings, and cultural events. They embodied the strong influence of Protestant denominations in shaping civic and moral life in prairie towns. Beyond its religious function, the hall was used for broader community activities, including cultural programming such as the Chautauqua circuit in the 1920s, which brought lectures, music, and theatre to rural Alberta. This illustrates the building's role as a hub of intellectual and social engagement during a period when towns like Nanton sought to connect to wider cultural currents. The inaugural meeting of the Nanton Masonic Lodge was convened in 1904 at Shaw's Opera House, located on Shaw (20th) Street and owned by H. M. Shaw, who was among the founding members of the Lodge. In October 1909, the Lodge relocated to its newly acquired hall space in the upstairs rooms of the Marshall Block (now the W. S. Keeley Building). The depression resulted in fewer members which led to the Lodge vacating the Marshall Block and renting the Grace Hall (also known as St. Andrew's Hall). In February 1946, the Lodge initiated proceedings to purchase Grace Hall from the United Church, along with two adjacent lots. In February 1951, the building was officially purchased by Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons, part of the province-wide expansion of Freemasonry after the Grand Lodge of Alberta was established in 1905. The lodge reoriented the building in 1964, rotating the structure end-for-end and placed atop a concrete basement floor, and adapted for fraternal ceremonies and charitable activities. This transition reflects a common pattern in Alberta towns, where existing civic or religious buildings were repurposed by fraternal organizations rather than replaced. In the broader context, the building's evolution mirrors larger trends in Alberta's settlement history, such as the early establishment of denominational institutions to anchor community identity; the multi-purpose use of halls as cultural and civic centres in small towns; the rise of fraternal organizations as influential civic actors in the mid-20th century; and, the adaptive reuse of buildings, ensuring continuity of use and preservation of heritage fabric.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Constructed as St. Andrew's Hall, the building served as a Presbyterian church hall, hosting Sunday school, congregational meetings, and community events. Later renamed Grace Hall, it continued to function as a centre of religious and civic life, reflecting the importance of auxiliary church halls in prairie towns. In 1951, the building was purchased by Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons. The lodge reoriented the building, turning the back into the front entrance, and adapted it for fraternal ceremonies and charitable activities. This transition illustrates the enduring role of Freemasonry in Alberta's civic leadership and the reuse of existing structures for new social purposes. The building's layered history – from church hall to community hall to Masonic lodge – embodies the adaptability of small-town institutions. Each phase reflects a different dimension of Nanton's civic identity; spiritual, social, and fraternal. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**

	The building represents a modest early 20th century wood-frame hall design, featuring a rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained classical proportions, as well as its adaptive reuse over time, including the significant reorientation and modifications made by the Freemasons in 1951. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The Nanton Masonic Hall occupies a prominent corner in Nanton's historic downtown, symbolizing the continuity of community institutions and the layered history of the town's development. The hall has continuously served as a venue for religious services, community events, cultural programming, and fraternal ceremonies for over a century, reflecting the adaptability and enduring social value of small-town institutions.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton's historic downtown streetscape and situated on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street • Form, scale, and massing of modest one-storey nailed-frame and stucco-covered structure with restrained ornamentation • High-pitched gable roof with projecting eaves and verges • Evidence of adaptive reuse, including the reorientation of the entrance in 1951 • Enclosed front porch • Enclosed rear porch which was initially the original front façade entrance prior to the structure being rotated 180 degrees • Pattern of original fenestration openings with plain wood trim and lug sills • Chimney stack located within front gable end extending from shed roof of enclosed porch to underside of extended verge • Continued association with Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains on its original downtown site, maintaining its historic relationship to the town's civic core. Its placement continues to reflect the early 20th century pattern of locating religious and fraternal institutions within walking distance of commercial and residential areas. ■ **2. Design** The rectangular plan, high-pitched gable roof, and modest hall form are intact, consistent with its original construction as a Presbyterian church hall. The 1951 reorientation of the entrance by the Freemasons altered circulation but did not compromise the overall design integrity; instead, it reflects adaptive reuse while retaining the building's essential character. ■ **3. Environment** The hall remains embedded in Nanton's historic downtown streetscape, surrounded by other early 20th century institutional, commercial, and residential buildings. Its scale and form continue to contribute to the small-town civic environment that defines Nanton's heritage character. ■ **4. Materials.** Original wood-frame construction is largely preserved though repairs and replacements have occurred over time. The exterior has been clad with stucco and the original fenestrations are filled in, yet the original wood window trim/frame within the structural openings are intact. ■ **5. Workmanship**

	The building demonstrates the craftmanship typical of modest prairie hall construction, with straightforward functional detailing. Later modifications by the Freemasons were sympathetic to the original workmanship, ensuring continuity of construction quality. ■ **6. Feeling** The hall continues to convey its historic role as a community gathering place, first for religious and civic functions, later for fraternal activities. Its modest scale and enduring use evoke the social fabric of small-town Alberta, reinforcing its authenticity of feeling. ■ **7. Association** The building retains strong associations with both the Presbyterian congregation (Grace/St. Andrew's Hall) and the Freemasons (Nanton Lodge No. 17). Its continued use as a gathering space for over a century underscores its enduring social and cultural significance.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** As St. Andrew's Hall and later Grace Hall, the building was central to the Presbyterian congregation's social and spiritual life, hosting Sunday school, youth programs, and congregational meetings. It also functioned as a community hall, accommodating cultural events such as the Chautauqua circuit, which brought lectures, music, and theatre to Nanton. These associations remain legible in the building's modest hall form and its location within the town's civic core. Since 1951, the building has been home to Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons, a fraternal organization with deep civic and charitable roots in Alberta. Its continued use for lodge meetings and ceremonies ensures that the building remains a living heritage site, actively tied to traditions of fellowship, philanthropy, and civic leadership. The building's uninterrupted role as a gathering place for over a century communicates its enduring social value. Whether for religious, cultural, or fraternal purposes, it has consistently served as a venue where community members come together, reinforcing its cultural significance. The hall's, modest scale, and downtown location continue to embody the small-town civic identity of Nanton, symbolizing the adaptability of community institutions and their role in shaping collective memory. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The modest, rectangular, high-pitched gable roof, with restrained classical proportions reflects the practical ethos of early 20th century community halls. Its restrained classical features and lack of ornamentation itself is a defining stylistic feature. Although the hall's adaptive reuse required a significant reorientation with a 180 degree rotation, the structure still retains the original exterior characteristics, massing, and fenestration pattern reflective of straightforward construction methods typical of modest prairie halls. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building still retains its original location on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street, maintaining its historic relationship to the town's civic and commercial streetscape. Its key architectural features are intact, and the hall's form, scale, and location continue to remain a visible and integral part of Nanton's historic fabric.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Masonic Hall** retains a high degree of integrity and continues to communicate its heritage value through its location, design, environment, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building remains on its original site in Nanton's historic downtown core, preserving its relationship to the surrounding civic and commercial streetscape. Its modest scale and siting reflect the early 20th century pattern of placing church

	and community halls within walking distance of other institutions, and this continuity of location reinforces its authenticity. The overall design of the hall, with its rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained proportions, is consistent with its origins as a Presbyterian auxiliary hall. Although the Freemasons reoriented the entrance in 1951 to suit lodge use, this adaptation did not compromise the building's essential character. Instead, it illustrates the layered history of the resource and the adaptability of small-town buildings to new social purposes. The hall continues to contribute to the heritage environment of Nanton's downtown. Its form and scale complement nearby early 20th century churches, schools, commercial blocks, and residences, ensuring that it remains a visible part of the town's historic fabric. Although wood-frame construction is intact, sympathetic repairs and replacements have occurred over time to adapt for lodge use. The workmanship of the hall reflects straightforward construction methods typical of modest prairie halls, and later modifications respected craftsmanship, ensuring continuity of quality and reinforcing the building's authenticity. The resource continues to evoke the feeling of a community gathering place. Its modest scale, enduring use, and layered history convey the social fabric of small-town Albera, where buildings often served multiple generations and organizations. Overall, the hall retains strong associations with both its religious origins as Grace Hall and St. Andrew's Hall, and its fraternal role as Nanton Lodge No. 17. Its continuous use as a gathering space for over a century underscores social and cultural significance.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Scout-Guide Hall

2222 18th Street
Nanton, AB



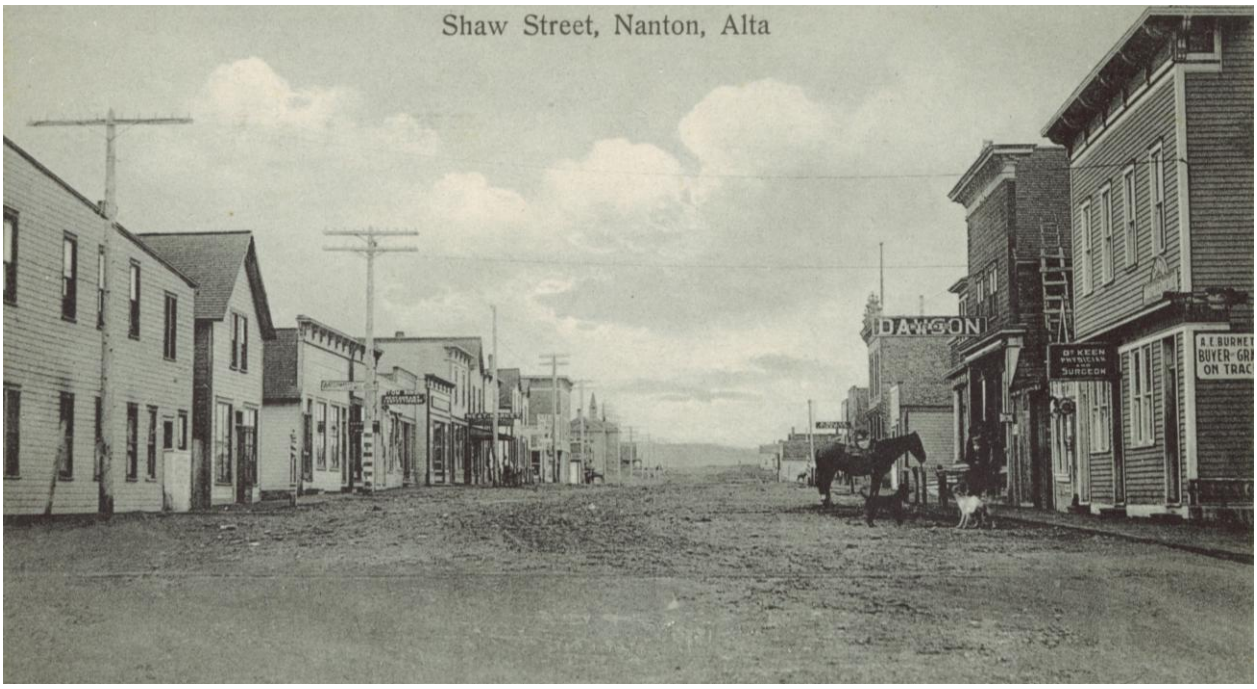
Site Name	**Nanton Scout-Guide Hall**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: N/A Block: 38 Plan: 6864FU**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall is a modest, horizontal-log building constructed in 1957 to serve as a permanent home for local Scouting and Guiding organizations. Located within Nanton's civic core, the hall is a simple rectangular structure with a low-pitched roof, and a central projecting gabled entrance. It is located within a large natural treed space.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing organization structure located within Nanton's civic core. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1957, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building retains integrity of location, design, and its original association with youth organizations and community life, which is sufficient to convey heritage values.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1957 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	A Boy Scout troop was founded in Nanton in February 1912, and comprised of twelve members under the guidance of Walter Frantzen, the inaugural Scout Master. Initial meetings were held at various locations until a group of fathers determined that a dedicated facility was required. Logs were procured from the Priddis area, and construction of the building was completed with assistance from a hired carpenter, Mr. Starritt, who supervised the parents building the hall. The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall officially opened on April 25, 1957. Since its establishment, the facility has undergone several minor renovations and continues to serve as a centre for youth development, outdoor education, and community engagement. The construction of the Scout-Guide Hall in 1957 reflects the postwar civic expansion that characterized small towns across Alberta. During the 1950s, communities invested in schools, halls, and recreational facilities to meet the needs of growing populations to provide structured opportunities for youth. In Nanton, the hall was part of this wave of civic improvement, symbolizing the town's commitment to fostering leadership and citizenship among its younger generations.

	The hall's establishment also coincided with the peak of Scouting and Guiding activity in Canada when these organizations were central to youth development. They emphasized outdoor skills, teamwork, service and civic responsibility – values that resonated strongly in rural Alberta communities. By providing a dedicated facility, Nanton ensured that local Scouts and Guides had a permanent home for meetings, training, and events, reinforcing the importance of these organizations in shaping community identity. Cooperative development between Scout and Guide organizations was a recognized pattern in Alberta during the mid-20th century, particularly as both groups sought modern, multi-purpose facilities to support expanding youth programs. By the 1950s, several Alberta communities saw their local Scout and Guide associations collaborate to fund, construct, or jointly operate shared halls, reflecting a broader provincial trend toward resource pooling and community-driven infrastructure. This pattern is formally documented in the Alberta Register of Historic Places, which notes that by the 1950s the Calgary Scout and Guide organizations "forged a partnership to build a new integrated facility," demonstrating that such collaborations were neither isolated nor incidental but part of a wider movement in youth-organization development. The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall, completed in 1957, aligns with this province-wide trend and illustrates how local volunteer groups contributed materially to community-building during the postwar period. The hall was built through local fundraising and volunteer labour, a hallmark of prairie community-building in the mid-20th century. Its construction demonstrates the collective effort of Nanton residents to provide infrastructure for their youth. This volunteer-driven ethos is itself a heritage value, reflecting traditions of civic pride and grassroots initiative. In 1955, the Scout Association was renamed Nanton Scout and Guide Association after considering the values of bringing both groups under one organization. Previously, the Guides and Brownies were governed by a separate committee. Architecturally, the Scout-Guide hall is representative of vernacular mid-century community buildings in Alberta. Its modes rectangular horizontal log construction, and utilitarian finishes reflect the practical approach of volunteer-built facilities. While not architecturally distinguished, its design is significant as a "type example" of small town civic halls of the 1950s built for function rather than ornamentation.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building represents the postwar expansion of Scouting and Guiding in Alberta, reflecting national trends in youth citizenship and volunteerism. It also embodies local fundraising and volunteer labour traditions, showing how small towns mobilized to create civic infrastructure. The building also served as a hub for youth programming, community events, and civic gatherings for decades, thus holding strong value for generations of Nanton residents who participated in Scouting, Guiding, and community functions. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Log scout buildings in Alberta are part of a broader tradition of log construction that dates back to the province's earliest days of European settlement. These structures – often built by scouts, pioneers, and community volunteers – reflect both practical needs and cultural heritage. Log buildings became a favoured style for scout camps and lodges in the early 20th century as they were seen as rugged, self-sufficient, and emblematic of outdoor life. The building is of modest vernacular design typical of 1950s community halls with simple rectangular form, utilitarian finishes, and a functional layout.

	While not architecturally distinguished, its design reflects the practical ethos of volunteer-built civic buildings of the era. Although maintenance, as well as repairs in 1998-99 to secure log wall corners and to replace roof with a metal slipcover, have reduced some material authenticity, including metal slipcovers over the upper gable ends and soffit, and the application of stucco on the rear elevation of the building, the essential design and construction character remain. Additions to the building include a washroom and kitchen, the installation of electricity and water. Originally, the building was only heated by a fireplace.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton's civic core on a large grassed and treed lot • Rectangular form and massing • Medium-gable roof with projecting eaves and verges • Horizontal log construction with corner boards • Enclosed porch entrance with central door flanked by fixed wood-framed windows • Wood-framed fenestration openings with a plain wood slip sill • Associative value as a gathering place for Scouts, Guides and the wider community.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The hall remains on its original site, preserving its spatial relationship to Nanton's civic core. ■ **2. Design** Retains its basic 1957 form and layout, though it is unclear whether interior modifications may have occurred to meet evolving program needs. ■ **3. Environment** The building maintains its relationship to the surrounding open space and vegetation, and its projecting entrance continues to face the street. ■ **4. Materials** Original exterior finishes remain intact. ■ **5. Workmanship** The building reflects the volunteer construction methods of the period, though not highly crafted. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to evoke its role as a youth and community gathering place, even if active Scouting use has diminished. ■ **7. Association.** Continues to evoke its role as a youth and community gathering place, even if active Scouting use has diminished.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The hall was purpose-built for Scouting and Guiding, and it retains that associative value even if active use has declined. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The rectangular massing, low-pitched roof, and utilitarian layout remain intact, preserving the building's mid-century vernacular character. While modest, the hall reflects the practical ethos of 1950s community halls. Its lack of ornamentation itself is a defining stylistic feature. The horizontal log

	construction and volunteer workmanship are also still legible; thus, the essential design and construction character remain.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Scout-Guide Hall** retains enough integrity to continue embodying its heritage significance. Situated on its original site within the town's civic core, the building maintains its spatial relations to other community landmarks and preserves the context in which it was constructed. Its simple rectangular massing, low-pitched roof, and utilitarian layout remain legible, reflecting the vernacular design of mid-20th century community halls. Although some materials may have been replaced or upgraded over time, the essential construction character – volunteer-built, modest, and functional – still conveys the ethos of is 1957 construction. Equally important, the hall continues to express its associative values. It remain strongly linked to the institutions of Scouting and Guiding, and to the community volunteers who raised funds and built it. The building evokes memories of youth programming, civic gatherings, and the collective effort that brought the building into being. As a result, its integrity is not only physical but also thematic: the hall still represents the cultural practices, events, and traditions of volunteerism and youth development that defined its purpose. Finally, the hall retains symbolic value as a modest but enduring landmark in Nanton's heritage landscape. While its architectural distinction is limited, its role as a community symbol is clear, and its informational potential – through archival records, oral histories, and comparative study – remains strong. Taken together, these attributes demonstrate that the Scout-Guide Hall possesses sufficient integrity in location, design, association, and symbolic meaning to embody its heritage significance.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

Appendix B – Heritage Site Surveys



Nanton's Heritage Survey updates provide an organized, downtown-focussed snapshot of the town's historic building stock, ensuring that information about the heritage resources remains current, accurate, and useful for planning decisions. Each survey entry follows a consistent structure: a basic property profile (address, photographs, construction date), a concise physical description, and a brief historical summary that captures the building's role in Nanton's development. This is paired with a high-level assess of heritage value, noting architectural features, cultural associations, and contextual importance.

The purpose of the updated survey is not to designate buildings, but to identify and document places with potential heritage interest. It supports long-range planning by highlighting patterns in Nanton's history, flagging properties that may warrant future evaluation, and providing a baseline record for monitoring change over time. Ultimately, the survey strengthens the Town's ability to make informed, proactive decisions about conservation, growth, and community identity.

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 48623

[2]Site Name: W.S. Keeley Building

[3]Other Name(s)

Keeley Block	other name
Keeley Hardware	other name
Marshall's Hardware	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0412 - Mercantile/Commercial: General Retail Store

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	10	

[15]Address: 1901-20 Avenue **[16]Number:** 01

[17]Street: 19

[18]Avenue: 20

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

UTM

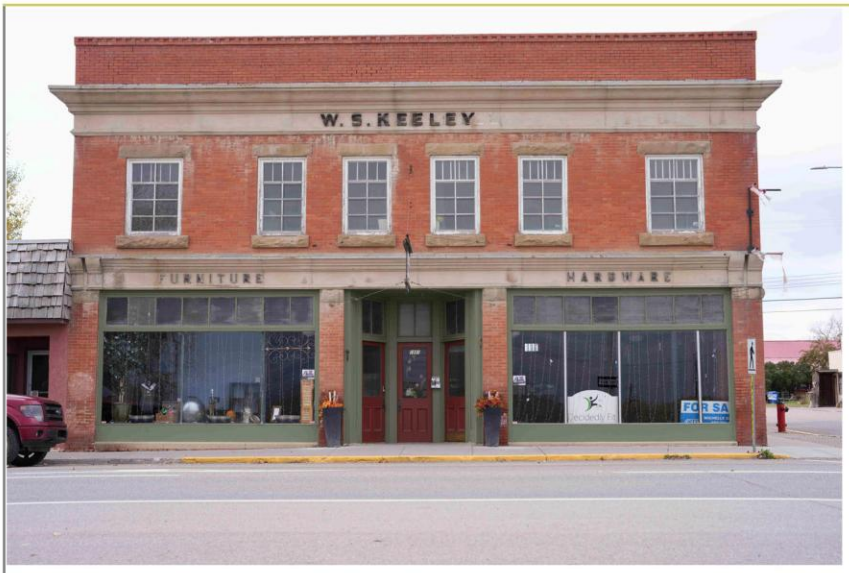
[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.349379	-113.772117	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-038 **[38]View:** North East **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/17 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-037
[38]View:	East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-036
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-035
[38]View:	South West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1202 - Rectangular Long Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1807 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Concrete

[45]Superstructure

Type
3013 - Undetermined Wood Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
1613 - Number of Bays - Facade: First or Ground Floor, 3 Bays
1626 - Number of Bays - Facade: Second Floor, 6 Bays
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3122 - Wall Design and Detail: Plain Parapet
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3514 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Brackets
3515 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Corbelled Cornice
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3609 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Metal
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5007 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5404 - Window - Sill Material: Stone
5503 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5708 - Window - Number of Sashes: Other
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6607 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Multiple Lights
6702 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6403 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7002 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Shaped Panel
7303 - Main Porch - Type: Recess

7510 - Main Porch - Material: Other
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
3125 - Wall Design and Detail: Stepped Parapet
3131 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorative Brick
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5708 - Window - Number of Sashes: Other
5809 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Other
5923 - Window - Special Types: Blind
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
3131 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorative Brick
6303 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Moulded Flat
6403 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6702 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6803 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 3 or More
6903 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 3
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: Main Floor - Windows are single pane with transoms and bulkheads. Upper Floor - Windows are inner five-over-one double-hung, and and top-hinged storms with 8 lights. Rear facade upper floor has one five-over-four window and one undetermined pane arrangement. Voussoirs. Blind window. On rear of building is a wood frame, sloped roof stairway with a door at the bottom. Blade sign above front entrance. Ghost sign on north wall recently applied for movie set.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Building located on SW corner of 20th Avenue and 19th Street, facing the avenue. The building abuts the public sidewalk on the street and avenue.

[53]Condition: In good condition (Oct. 2025). Front upper and mid metal cornices require new coats of paint, including applied wood lettering. Transom windows require recaulking. All wood windows require sanding, new coats of paint, and recaulking. Efflorescence is evident on brick just below upper cornice. North elevation requires repointing, and rising damp along the base of the brick façade is clearly evident.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1909.	1909/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Hardware store	1909/01/01	K
Grocery, dry goods, hardware	1929/01/01	E
Apartments on the upper floor	1941/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Charles Marshall	1908/01/01
William Keeley	1935/01/01
T. Dixon Holdings Inc	2025/10/01

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: The W. S. Keeley Building, commonly known as the Keeley Block, is a two-storey brick commercial structure prominently located at the corner of Highway 2 and 19th Street in downtown Nanton. Constructed in 1908 and completed in 1909 by C.H. Marshall, the building originally housed a hardware machinery, and furniture store before being purchased in 1935 by William S. Keeley, a local merchant whose business contributed significantly to the town's economy. In 1941, Keely adapted the second floor into apartments, reflecting the evolving needs of the community and the flexibility of small-town commercial blocks. Architecturally, the Keeley Block is representative of the early 20th century Commercial style, with its flat roof, corbelled parapet, entablature detailing, and evenly spaced upper-storey windows with sandstone lintels and sills. The ground floor retains its large shopfronts and recessed entrances, and many of the original materials are intact. Over time, the building has accommodated a variety of uses, including antique shops, and today continues to serve as a missed-use commercial and residential property.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Birrell, Dave. Interview. October 2, 2025.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: [74]Borden Number: [75]Register:

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 29226

[2]Site Name: Auditorium Hotel

[3]Other Name(s)

Aud	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial
0405 - Mercantile/Commercial: Hotel or Inn

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	3	5,6,9,10	

[15]Address: 2001- 20 Avenue **[16]Number:** 01

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 20

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

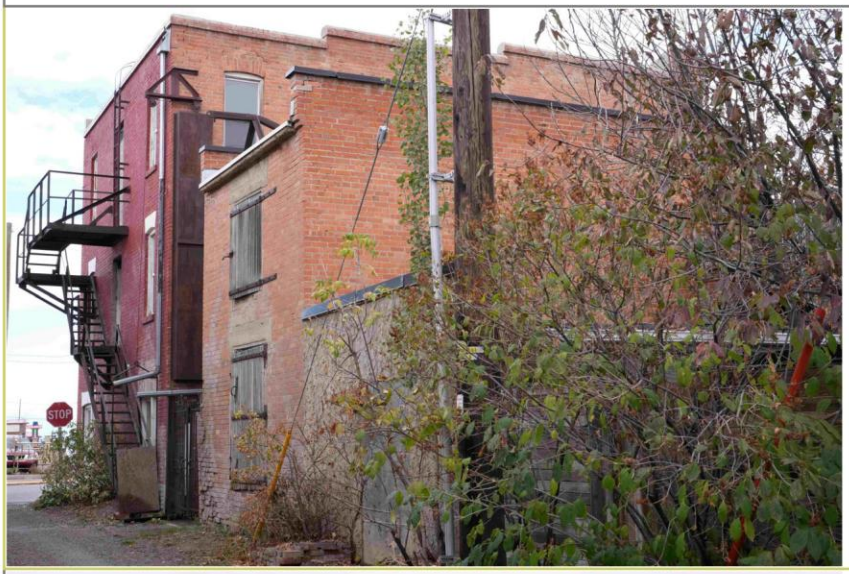
[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348676	-113.771401	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-015 **[38]View:** North East **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/17 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-016
[38]View:	East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-017
[38]View:	South West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-018
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-019
[38]View:	Ice House
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1204 - L

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone
1807 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Concrete

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3118 - Wall Design and Detail: Corbelling
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3131 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorative Brick
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5007 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5405 - Window - Sill Material: Brick
5408 - Window - Sill Material: Concrete
5503 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded

5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6104 - Main Entrance - Location: Corner
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6307 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5008 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Moulded Lintel
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6606 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6903 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 3
7002 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Shaped Panel
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
7203 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight Side
5923 - Window - Special Types: Blind
4708 - Roof Trim - Special Features: Drop or Pendant
6605 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Blind
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
3126 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorated Parapet
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: All double-hung windows replaced with vinyl inserts. The west three storey addition has a center entrance door. A brick icehouse is located on the southwest corner of the L facing the alley.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: The building is located on the southwest corner of 20th Street and the northbound lane of highway 2 with the shorth facade facing the highway. The entablature above the east addition is decorated with finials, dropped pendants and dentils. The building abuts the public sidewalk on both the street and avenue.

[53]Condition: Very Good (October 2025)

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
First section constructed in 1902	1902/01/01	K
Second section constructed in 1903	1903/01/01	K
Third section constructed in 1912	1912/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Hotel	1902/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
M.J. Brown	1902/01/01
Malcolm Kane & Walter Rounds	1907/01/01
Calgary Brewing Company	1912/01/01
Donald Hardy	1939/01/01
Vespucci Holdings Inc.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Located at the heart of Nanton's historic downtown, the Auditorium Hotel stands as a testament to the town's early 20th-century growth and enduring community spirit. Built in 1902 and expanded in 1912, this Edwardian Commercial-style landmark has served as a hotel, tavern, and social hub for over a century. Its brick-clad façade, symmetrical windows, and prominent signage reflect its architectural heritage, while its role as a stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge, music venue, and gathering place highlight its cultural significance. Known locally as "The Aud," the hotel remains a symbol of Nanton's resilience, hospitality, and rich folklore, anchoring the town's identity and streetscape from 1902 to the present.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. University of Lethbridge Library. Nanton News. Southern Alberta Newspaper Collection. May 2, 1912.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date

Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 16659

[2]Site Name: Fetherston's Grocery

[3]Other Name(s)

Shaw's	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	23	

[15]Address: 2112 - 20 Street **[16]Number:** 12

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

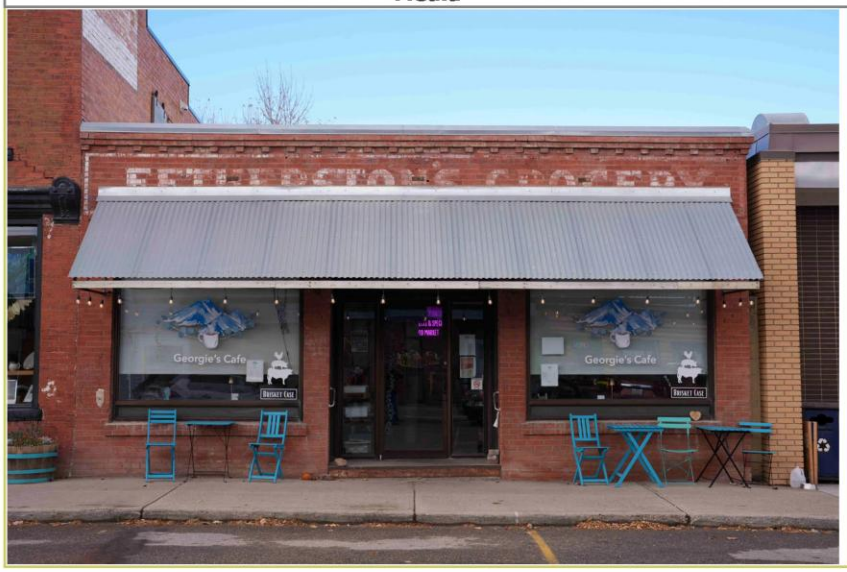
UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348464	-113.772318	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-011 **[38]View:** South **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/18 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-012
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1107 - Massing of Units: Row, Non-Related, Intermediate
3118 - Wall Design and Detail: Corbelling
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5405 - Window - Sill Material: Brick
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7303 - Main Porch - Type: Recess

[50]Exterior: All windows and doors replaced with modern metal inserts. Ghost sign on upper facade " Featherston Grocery". Sills topped with concrete parging. Brick dentils in corbel parapet. One string header bond in the upper facade.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located mid-block on south side of 20th Street, between 20th and 21st Avenues. The building abuts the public sidewalk.

[53]Condition: Very Good.(October 2025) Slight mortar cracking in upper facade. Some mortar failure in lower facade.

[54]Alterations: Fixed awning attached in the 1990's.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1916	1916/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Grocery Store	1916/01/01	K
Bakery	1920/01/01	E

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Dr. George Robertson	1916/01/01
James Fetherston	1917/01/01
Georgie's Ltd.	2025/10/01

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: A modest, one-storey brick commercial building constructed in 1915, Fetherston's Grocery is a representative example of early 20th-century small-town Alberta architecture. Featuring simple massing, a utilitarian storefront, and a distinctive "Fetherston's Grocery" ghost sign, the building has served as a hub for groceries and community interaction on Nanton's historic Mainstreet (Shaw Street). Closely associated with Orie Fetherston, a prominent local businessman and former mayor, the store reflects the evolution of prairie commerce and family-run businesses in Alberta's post-settlement era. Retaining its original location, brick cladding, and key exterior features, Fetherston's Grocery continues to contribute to the visual and cultural continuity of the downtown core, embodying the patterns of settlement, commerce, and community life that have shaped Nanton's heritage.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 18950

[2]Site Name: Nanton Drug Company

[3]Other Name(s)

Creighton Drug	other name
Creighton Pharmacy	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	23	

[15]Address: 2114 - 20 Street [16]Number: 14

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

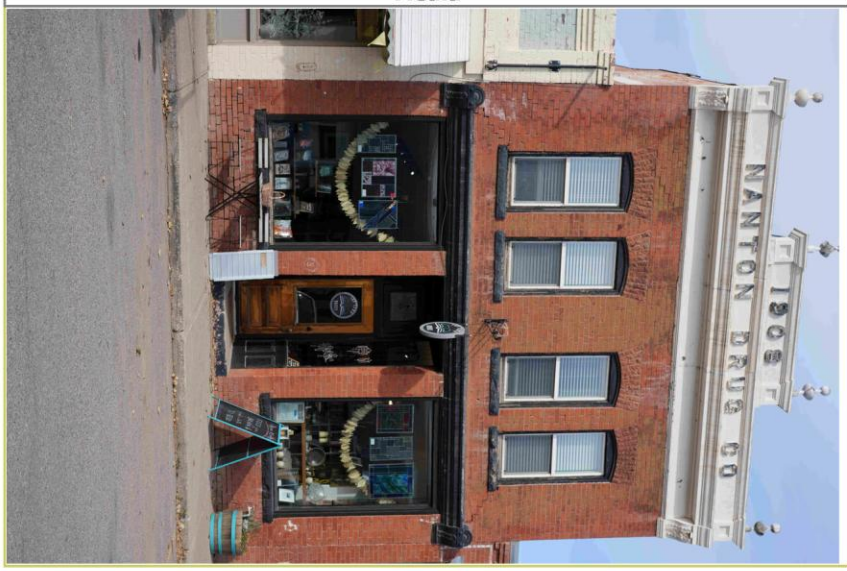
UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34842	-113.77237	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-022 [38]View: South [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-023
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1107 - Massing of Units: Row, Non-Related, Intermediate
1613 - Number of Bays - Facade: First or Ground Floor, 3 Bays
1624 - Number of Bays - Facade: Second Floor, 4 Bays
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3514 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Brackets
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5203 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: Wood

5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5404 - Window - Sill Material: Stone
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5506 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6606 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
6903 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 3
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7303 - Main Porch - Type: Recess
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
7009 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Stained Glass
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
3512 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Moulded Frieze
3609 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Metal
4704 - Roof Trim - Special Features: Finial
3126 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorated Parapet
3515 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Corbelled Cornice
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: There is a mid-level metal cornice with brackets. Side walls have a stepped parapet.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on northside, mid-block of 20th Street, between 20th and 21st Avenues. The building abuts the public sidewalk.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct. 2025). Some mortar failure. Paint spaling on mid and upper level cornices.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1908.	1908/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Pharmacy	1908/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Dr. J. Creighton & Dr. G. Robertson	1908/01/01
Primal Soul Inc.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1908, the Nanton Drug Company (Creighton Pharmacy) stands as a distinguished landmark in the heart of Nanton's historic downtown. Originally established as the Nanton Drug Company, this two-storey brick building has served generations as a centre for health care and commerce. Its classical façade adorned with ornate cornice work, urns, a stepped entablature, and the proud inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" reflects the optimism and craftsmanship of its era. Associated with pioneering figures such as Dr. John Creighton and Dr. G.M. Robertson, the pharmacy played a vital role in the community's development, offering essential medical services and anchoring the commercial streetscape. As one of the earliest and most enduring businesses in Nanton, Creighton's Pharmacy contributed to the town's transformation from a railway outpost to a thriving district metropolis. The building's presence supported the establishment of local hospitals and medical infrastructure, making it a cornerstone of public health in southern Alberta.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Penley, Ken. The History of Pharmacy in Alberta: The First One Hundred Years. Edmonton: The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, 1993.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: [74]Borden Number: [75]Register:

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 15965

[2]Site Name: Denoon Butcher Shop

[3]Other Name(s)

Denoon's Meat Market	other name
Denoon's	other name
Denoon and Son	other name

[4]Site Type

Type

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	22	

[15]Address: 2116 - 20 Street [16]Number: 16

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34849	-113.77259	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-013 [38]View: South [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-014
[38]View:	North
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1107 - Massing of Units: Row, Non-Related, Intermediate
3118 - Wall Design and Detail: Corbelling
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5308 - Window - Sill Type: Continuous Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5503 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
5507 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Multiple Lights
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)

6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6702 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6901 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 1
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight

[50]Exterior: Fixed raked awning.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on the north side of 20th Street between 10th and 21st Avenues. The building abuts the public sidewalk.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct. 2025). Some paint spaling. Some rot in window corner joints.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1924	1924/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Meat Market/Butcher Shop	1920/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
William Denoon	1920/01/01
Barbara L.M. Deno	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1924, the Denoon Butcher Shop is a modest, one-storey brick commercial building featuring a distinctive brick false-front façade and original storefront details. Centrally located in Nanton's historic commercial core. The building reflects the entrepreneurial spirit of early prairie settlers and the growth of small-town commerce during Alberta's railway expansion era. Closely associated with the Denoon family, it played a significant role in the economic and social development of the community. Retaining its original location, brick cladding, and utilitarian storefront, the Denoon Meat Market maintains strong integrity in location, design, materials, and association, and continues to contribute to the heritage character and continuity of Nanton's commercial main street.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005. Jones, Bridget. Interview. October 4, 2025.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 23456

[2]Site Name: Shaw and Cooper Block

[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	1	

[15]Address: 1919 - 20 Avenue **[16]Number:** 19

[17]Street: 19

[18]Avenue: 20

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348742	-113.771664	NAD83	

Media

Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-027 **[38]View:** South East **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/18 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-028
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-029
[38]View:	East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1201 - Square

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher
2208 - Stone - Finish: Rusticated

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
1612 - Number of Bays - Facade: First or Ground Floor, 2 Bays
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3510 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Decorated Soffit
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
4709 - Roof Trim - Special Features: Monumental Pediment
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4906 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Semi-Circular
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5007 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5404 - Window - Sill Material: Stone
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
5509 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Shaped Transom, Single Light
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6104 - Main Entrance - Location: Corner
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6307 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6606 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6802 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 2
6902 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 2
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: Finished sandstone base. Mid-projecting cornice with plain frieze. Sandstone lintels above all upper floor windows. Main floor voussoirs bookended with sandstone central key. Door codes relate to door at west end.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on the north west corner of 20th Street and 20th Avenue. Building abuts the street and avenue public sidewalks.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct 2025).

[54]Alterations: Two major bays altered with new slip covers. Retracting awnings.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1909.	1909/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Bank, Offices, Store, Apartments	1909/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
H. Shaw and J. Cooper	1909/01/01
Cecilia Burns	1977/08/17
645927 Alberta Ltd.	2025/10/01

[63]Architect: William Dodd.

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1909 at the prominent corner of 20th Avenue and 20th Street in Nanton, the Shaw and Cooper Block is a two storey brick and sandstone commercial building designed by Calgary architect William Dodd. Commissioned by H.M. Shaw, founder of Nanton and Member of Parliament for the Macleod riding, together with J.T. Cooper, the town's first mayor, the block reflects the civic ambition and entrepreneurial spirit of its builders. Originally housing the Bank of Hamilton and Sibbett and Hallett's variety store, the building has remained a centre of commerce and finance for more than a century, later serving the Canadian Bank of Commerce and CIBC. With its Romanesque Revival windows, classical pedimented entrances, and angled corner façade bearing the inscription "Shaw and Cooper, 1909," the block continues to anchor Nanton's main street as a landmark of permanence and prosperity. Recognized as an Alberta Registered Historic Resource in 1979, it stands today as a symbol of the town's early development and enduring identity.

[67]Sources: Alberta Register of Historic Places. "Shaw and Cooper Block (HS 23546)." Government of Alberta. Accessed December 4, 2025. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: [74]Borden Number: [75]Register:

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 28697

[2]Site Name: Nanton News

[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
1204 - Communications: Newspaper Building

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	17	

[15]Address: 1902 - 21 Avenue **[16]Number:** 02

[17]Street: 19

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34867	-113.77392	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-024 **[38]View:** North West **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/17 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-025
[38]View:	North
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-026
[38]View:	South West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3122 - Wall Design and Detail: Plain Parapet
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5503 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5802 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Unknown
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6802 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 2
6903 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 3
7002 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Shaped Panel
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight

[50]Exterior: Brick corbelling on top of north and west elevations. West elevation contains central entrance with wood, multi-panel door with glass. A similar door opening directly above.

[51]Interior: Originally printing shop on main level with living quarters above.

[52]Environment: Located on the south east of 19th Street and 21st Avenue.

[53]Condition: Good (Oct. 2025). Some mortar failing. Some dislodged voussoirs and corbels. Some staining on bricks. Wood sills on upper floor have rot and peeled paint. Some paint failure on ground level window sills.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1908.	1908/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Newspaper office & residence	1908/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
A. Jessup, sons Ralph & Clyde	1908/01/01
Dick Hawk & George Meyer	1957/01/01
Dick Hawk	1959/01/01
Ed & Lynne Maynard	1977/01/01
George Meyer	1986/01/01
Edward Maynard	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1908, the Nanton News Building is a two-storey, brick-clad commercial structure located on 19th Street in downtown Nanton, Alberta. Built of nailed-frame construction on a stone foundation, the building features brick corbelling, a rectangular plan, and a prominent false-front façade typical of early prairie boomtown architecture. Historically, the

ground floor housed the printing office and shop for the Nanton News, one of Alberta's earliest newspapers, while the second floor provided residential quarters. The building is significant for its association with the development of communication, civic identity, and commercial growth in southern Alberta. It retains a high degree of integrity in location, design, materials, and workmanship, with minimal alterations since its construction. The Nanton News Building stands as a rare surviving example of early newspaper architecture in the province, contributing to the historic streetscape and collective memory of the community.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005. McTighe, Emily. Interview. October 2, 2025.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 26243

[2]Site Name: Nanton Telephone Exchange

[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
1201 - Communications: Telephone Building

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	22	

[15]Address: 2118-20 Street [16]Number: 18

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34832	-113.77256	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-020 [38]View: South [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/17 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-021
[38]View:	North
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1
1708 - Basement: Full Below Ground Level

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2308 - Brick - Bond: Other
2405 - Composition: Plaster or Stucco

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1107 - Massing of Units: Row, Non-Related, Intermediate
3107 - Wall Design and Detail: Pier or Pilaster
3120 - Wall Design and Detail: Plinth
3122 - Wall Design and Detail: Plain Parapet
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5408 - Window - Sill Material: Concrete
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed

6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6607 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Multiple Lights
6710 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Side Lights
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6901 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 1
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
5406 - Window - Sill Material: Plaster or Stucco
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5802 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Unknown
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass

[50]Exterior:

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located in mid-north side 20th Street between 20th and 21st Avenues. Building abuts the public sidewalk.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct 2025). Some stucco cracking in lower plinths. Some rotting in wood window frames and flanking entry.

[54]Alterations: The facade was originally exposed brick but was covered in stucco likely mid-century.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1918.	1918/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Telephone switchboard & office	1918/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Alberta Government Telephones	1918/01/01
1145175 Alberta Ltd.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Built in 1918, the Nanton Telephone Exchange is a modest utility building in Nanton, Alberta. It served as a vital hub for rural telecommunications, connecting the community to provincial and national networks. The building's original design and location remain largely intact, making it a significant symbol of early public infrastructure and local heritage. Despite minor alterations overtime, the building retains its original location, exterior form, and key architectural features, including its brick cladding under the applied stucco, symmetrical fenestration, and moulded name plate. These elements, along with its continued recognition within the community, embody the integrity and heritage value of the resource.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Cashman, Tony. Singing Wires: The Telephone in Alberta. Edmonton: The Alberta Government Telephones Commission, 1972.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 18324

[2]Site Name: Creighton Residence

[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
0101 - Residential: Single Dwelling

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
959j	7	1	

[15]Address: 2203 - 21 Street [16]Number: 03

[17]Street: 21

[18]Avenue: 22

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.346920	-113.772559	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-039 [38]View: North East [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-040
[38]View:	East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-041
[38]View:	South West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-042
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1201 - Square

[43]Storeys

Type
1505 - Storeys: 2 1/2

[44]Foundation

Type
1807 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Concrete

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2011 - Wood: Shiplap
2016 - Wood: Shingle or Shake

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3208 - Medium Hip
3304 - Cross Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3405 - Asphalt Shingle

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3115 - Wall Design and Detail: Corner Board
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3508 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Soffit
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia
3708 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Soffit
3717 - Roof Trim - Verges: Pediment
3803 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Wood
4403 - Chimney Location - Front to Rear: Centre
4603 - Chimney Stack Massing: Single
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5002 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
5102 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5302 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Slip Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1

7104 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Closed Railing
7306 - Main Porch - Type: Open Verandah
7402 - Main Porch - Special Features: Posts
7412 - Main Porch - Special Features: Closed Railing
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
3711 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Frieze
4504 - Chimney Stack Material: Brick

[50]Exterior: All windows have original wood storms, 1 over 1. There is a ground level entrance on the north side.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Building is located on the southwest corner of 21st Street and south bound Highway 2. The large treed lot is bordered by a low hedge.

[53]Condition: Very good (October 2025.)

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1917.	1917/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Residence	1917/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Dr. John & Minnie Creighton	1917/01/01
Doris Creighton	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Built in 1917, the Creighton Residence is a two-storey Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No.666 kit house, ordered by Dr. John A. Creighton, Nanton's first physician. The home has remained in the Creighton family for generations, serving as the birthplace and lifelong residence of James Forbes Creighton. The residence is notable for its shiplap and shingle-clad exterior, square layout, and robust construction, reflecting early 20th century mail-order home practices. Closely associated with the development of healthcare and businesses in Nanton, the Creighton Residence stands as a rare and enduring example of an Eaton kit house and a local landmark of generational continuity.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005. Henry, Les. Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others. Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant

Sites
Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 31482

[2]Site Name: Keen Hospital

[3]Other Name(s)

Nanton Hospital	other name
Old Hospital	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
1503 - Medical: Hospital or Infirmary

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
0312590			

[15]Address: 2207 - 20 Street [16]Number: 07

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 22

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34749	-113.77411	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-006 [38]View: North [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



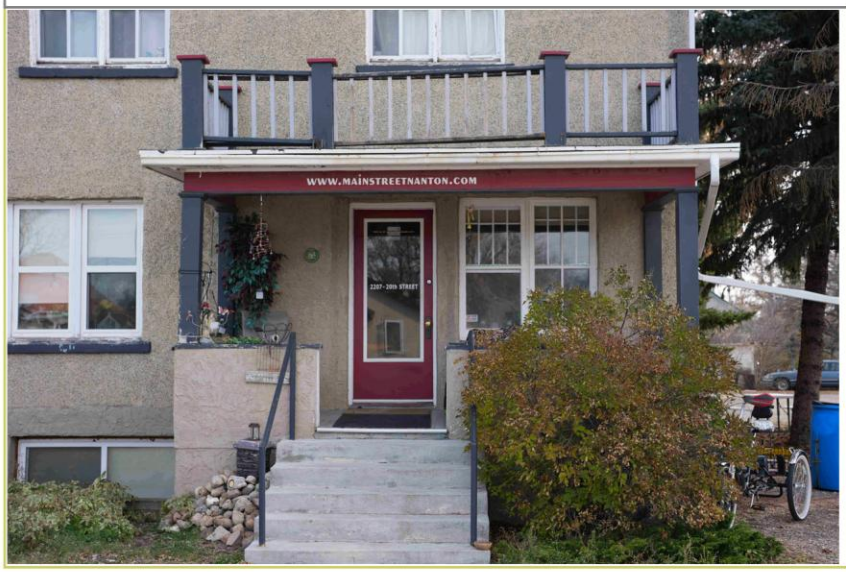
[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-007
[38]View:	South East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-008
[38]View:	North east
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-009
[38]View:	Window Detail
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-010
[38]View:	Entrance Detail
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1505 - Storeys: 2 1/2

[44]Foundation

Type
1807 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Concrete

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2405 - Composition: Plaster or Stucco
2308 - Brick - Bond: Other

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3201 - Low Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3409 - Metal

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3504 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Rafters Exposed
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3714 - Roof Trim - Verges: Brackets
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia
3803 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Wood
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5102 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain

5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5408 - Window - Sill Material: Concrete
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5707 - Window - Number of Sashes: Four or More, Double Hung
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
5809 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Other
5708 - Window - Number of Sashes: Other
6008 - Window - Pane Arrangements: 8 over 1
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6303 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Moulded Flat
6326 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Other
6413 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Other
6506 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Plaster or Stucco
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
7304 - Main Porch - Type: Open Porch
7402 - Main Porch - Special Features: Posts
7412 - Main Porch - Special Features: Closed Railing
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7506 - Main Porch - Material: Plaster or Stucco
7602 - Main Porch - Height: Second Storey
1304 - Wings: Either Side
4211 - Dormer Type: Shed
4405 - Chimney Location - Front to Rear: Offset Rear
7411 - Main Porch - Special Features: Open Railing
4603 - Chimney Stack Massing: Single
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
4504 - Chimney Stack Material: Brick

[50]Exterior: Roof has four shed dormers - two each side. Open front porch has closed rail on main and open rail at second storey. Brick bond unknown due to application of stucco.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located in middle of 20th Street, between 21st and 22nd Avenues, on the southside.

[53]Condition: In good condition (Oct. 2025). All painted wood surfaces are seeing paint failures and require painting to avoid wood rot. Some blistering of paint on west concrete window sills. No stucco failures evident. Water damage along roof edge of open porch due to failing eavestrough.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1927	1927/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Hospital	1927/01/01	K
Apartments	1940/01/01	E

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Dr. William Keen	1927/01/01
Eyeota Inc.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1927 by Dr. William H. Keen, Keen Hospital stands as a testament to early rural healthcare innovation in southern Alberta. This 2 ½-storey brick (now with stucco cladding) building on Shaw Street (now 20th Street) provided modern medical care to the community, featuring up-to-date facilities and serving as a vital centre for treatment, surgery, and recovery. Operated by Dr. Keen and later Dr. Hector Mackenzie, the hospital addressed local needs until its closure in

1940. The structure remains a prominent landmark, now repurposed as Main Street Apartments, and continues to symbolize Nanton's commitment to community well-being and the legacy of its pioneering medical professionals.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 16180

[2]Site Name: McKeage's Residence and Dental Office

[3]Other Name(s)

McKeage Residence	other name
Hammill Residence	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0101 - Residential: Single Dwelling

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
959j	6	20	

[15]Address: 2204 - 21 Street **[16]Number:** 04

[17]Street: 21

[18]Avenue: 22

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.347160	-113.772942	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-043 **[38]View:** South West **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/18 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-044
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-045
[38]View:	South East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1201 - Square

[43]Storeys

Type
1505 - Storeys: 2 1/2
1702 - Basement: Unknown

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2011 - Wood: Shiplap

2016 - Wood: Shingle or Shake

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3203 - High Gable
3302 - Centre Gable
3204 - Hipped Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3405 - Asphalt Shingle

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
1304 - Wings: Either Side
3115 - Wall Design and Detail: Corner Board
3128 - Wall Design and Detail: Painted Design
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3508 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Soffit
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia
3707 - Roof Trim - Verges: Decorated Fascia
3708 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Soffit
3716 - Roof Trim - Verges: Returned Eaves
3803 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Wood
4403 - Chimney Location - Front to Rear: Centre
4504 - Chimney Stack Material: Brick
4603 - Chimney Stack Massing: Single
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5002 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
5101 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: None
5203 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: Wood
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
5918 - Window - Special Types: Bay, Bow or Oriel
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6702 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6914 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: Not Applicable
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
7203 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight Side
7306 - Main Porch - Type: Open Verandah
7403 - Main Porch - Special Features: Columns
7405 - Main Porch - Special Features: Doric Capital
7411 - Main Porch - Special Features: Open Railing
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
3514 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Brackets

[50]Exterior: The pane arrangement is one-over-one. The wing addition on the south side has shiplap, corner boards and a low-sloped shed roof. Also moulded pediment, dentils, plain fascia and one large fixed window, with plain structural opening. Gable end curves outward to meet a continued eave across bottom of gable.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: The building is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street and 21st Avenue with a low hedge along the front of the building.

[53]Condition: Good (October 2025). There is paint peeling on the shingles, window sills and other areas. A repaint of the building has not been completed. The bottom rail on the front stair railing is sagging.

[54]Alterations: The survey does not include the one-storey structure to the south, and attached to the wing.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1905.	1905/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Residence	1905/01/01	K
Residence/Dentist Office	1910/01/01	E

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Hammill	1905/01/01
Dr. G.E. McKeage	1910/01/01
Bessie McKeage	1948/01/01
Alexander D. Beattie	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in c1904-05 by local builder Elzie Robertson, the McKeage Residence and Dental Office is a two-storey, rectangular wood-frame dwelling with a high-hip gable roof, stone foundation, and ship and shingle wood cladding. The building originally served as a private residence and later housed the dental practice of Dr. G.E. McKeage, who advertised his office "at residence" in local newspapers during the 1920s. The property illustrates the early development of Nanton as a railway-era service centre and reflects the cultural practice of professionals combining domestic and work spaces in small prairie towns. Its modest vernacular design, durable construction materials, and continued presence on its original site contribute to its heritage value as a representative example of early 20th century community architecture in southern Alberta.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 21746

[2]Site Name: Nanton Masonic Hall

[3]Other Name(s)

Presbyterian Church	other name
St. Andrews Hall	other name
Grace Hall	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0202 - Social and Recreational: Club or Lodge
1603 - Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	3	18	

[15]Address: 2120 - 21 Street [16]Number: 20

[17]Street: 21

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

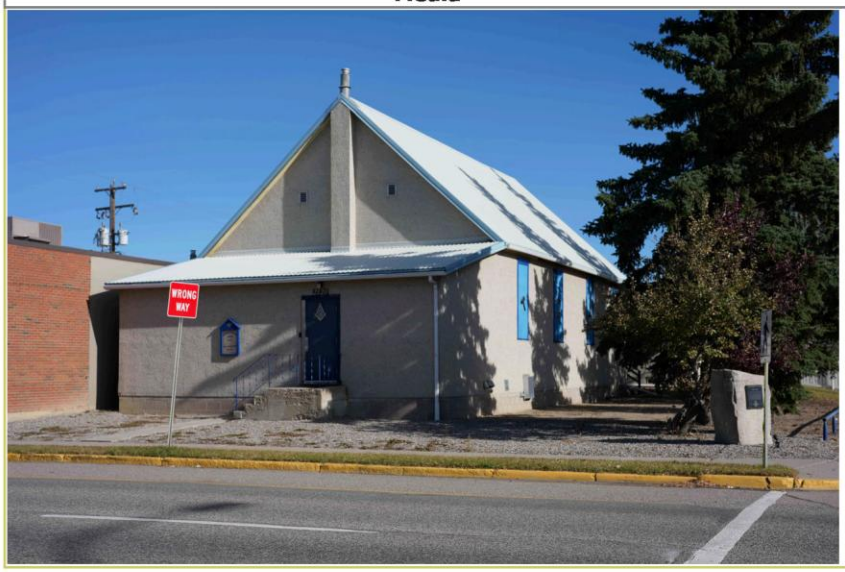
UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.347384	-113.772718	NAD83	GPS

Media

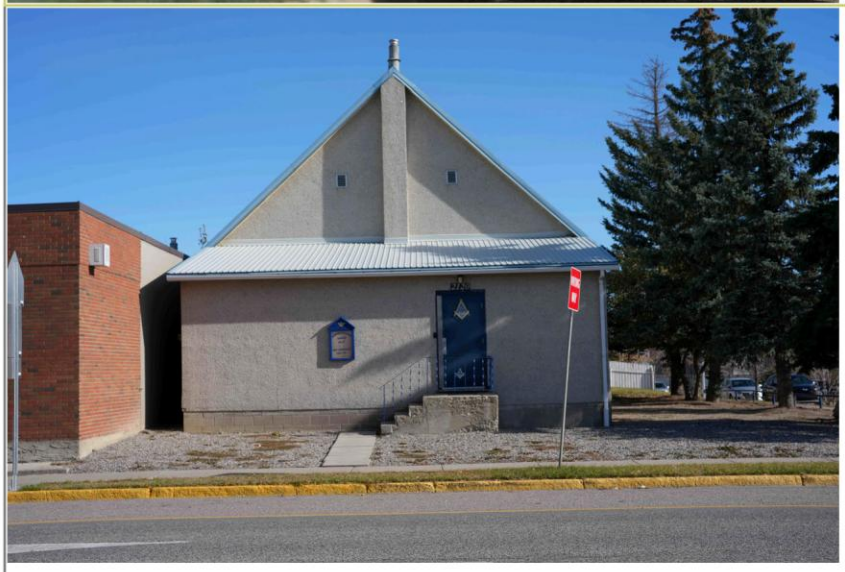
Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-030 [38]View: South West [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type: Image
[37]Number: 25-D0024-031
[38]View: South East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18
[40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type: Image
[37]Number: 25-D0024-032
[38]View: Masonic Symbol
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18
[40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type: Image
[37]Number: 25-D0024-033
[38]View: West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18
[40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-034
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1
1702 - Basement: Unknown

[44]Foundation

Type
1824 - Concrete: Cement Block

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2405 - Composition: Plaster or Stucco

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3203 - High Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3409 - Metal

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia
3708 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Soffit
3803 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Wood
4406 - Chimney Location - Front to Rear: Front
4608 - Chimney Stack Massing: Other
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5004 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Decorated Flat
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill

5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6509 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Metal
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6901 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 1
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
7203 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight Side
7305 - Main Porch - Type: Closed Porch
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7506 - Main Porch - Material: Plaster or Stucco
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
4508 - Chimney Stack Material: Metal

[50]Exterior: Stucco applied to verge and soffit. Original window openings covered. Original building was rotated 180-degrees in 1964. Building placed on a new concrete block foundation. The original enclosed front porch is on east facade before rotated 180-degrees.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Building is located on north east corner of 21st Street and 21st Avenue.

[53]Condition: Very good (Oct. 2025) Exterior covered with no failures.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1906.	1906/06/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Church	1906/06/01	K
Church Hall	1925/01/01	E
Masonic Hall	1951/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Presbyterian Church	1906/01/01
Nanton United Church	1925/01/01
Nanton Masonic Lodge	1951/01/01
Nanton Lodge A.F. & A.M.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1906 as St. andrews Hall, this modest wood-frame building originally served the Presbyterian congregation in Nanton as a church hall, and later renamed Grace Hall. It functioned as a centre for worship-related activities, Sunday school, and community gatherings, reflecting the importance of auxiliary halls in prairie towns. Beyond its religious role, the hall hosted cultural programs and civic events, including itinerant Chautauqua performances, underscoring its place in the town's social life. In 1951, the building was purchased and adapted by Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons, part of the province-wide expansion of fraternal organizations following the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 1905. The lodge reoriented the structure, turning the back into the front entrance, and has used it continuously for meetings, ceremonies, and charitable activities. The resource communicates its layered heritage value as a religious, civic, and fraternal landmark. Its uninterrupted role as a gathering place for over a century illustrates the adaptability of small-town institutions and their enduring contribution to Nanton's cultural identity.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. McTighe, Ryan. "Nanton Masonic Hall Research." Unpublished research paper provided to author, October 1, 2025.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code:

[74]Borden Number:

[75]Register:

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data mmary

[1]Key: HS 108969

[2]Site Name: Scout - Guide Hall

[3]Other Name(s)

Nanton Scout Hall	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0202 - Social and Recreational: Club or Lodge

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
6864FU	38		

[15]Address: 2222 -18 Street [16]Number: 22

[17]Street: 18

[18]Avenue: 22

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348765	-113.776703	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-001 [38]View: South East [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-002
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-003
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-005
[38]View:	South
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1202 - Rectangular Long Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1
1701 - Basement: None

[44]Foundation

Type
1801 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: None

[45]Superstructure

Type
3005 - Horizontal Log

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3202 - Medium Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3409 - Metal

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3115 - Wall Design and Detail: Corner Board
3508 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Soffit
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3609 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Metal
3809 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Metal
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5102 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5203 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: Wood
5302 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Slip Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6901 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 1
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
7305 - Main Porch - Type: Closed Porch
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia

5708 - Window - Number of Sashes: Other

[50]Exterior: Window pane arrangements are 1-over-1. Windows flanking central fixed window. Access ramp on westside entrance.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on large grassed and treed lot on southside of 19th Street west of 21st Avenue.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct 2025). Some rust staining on fascia.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1957	1957/04/24	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Boy Scout Activities	1957/04/24	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Town of Nanton	2025/10/01

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder: Hall was constructed by fathers of Boy Scouts under supervision of a carpenter.

[65]Craftsman: Construction supervised by carpenter.

[66]History: Constructed in 1957, the Nanton Scout-Guide Hall is a modest, horizontal log constructed community building located within the town's civic core. Purpose-built through local fundraising and volunteer labour, the hall provided a permanent home for Scouting and Guiding organizations in Nanton during the postwar period. Its simple rectangular form, low-pitched roof, and utilitarian layout are representative of mid-20th century vernacular community halls across Alberta. The hall is significant for its social and historical associations with youth programming, volunteerism, and civic pride. It served as a hub for meetings, training, and community events, shaping generations of local residents and reinforcing traditions of grassroots initiative. While architecturally modest, the building retains integrity of location, design, and association, and continues to symbolize Nanton's investment in youth development and community life.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. The Calgary Albertan. October 27, 1955. 20. Calgary Albertan. "Scout-Guide Hall Opened." April 26, 1955. 20. Calgary Herald. April 11, 1957. 23.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Appendix C – Media Coverage



Key Themes Across Coverage

Recent media coverage paints a clear picture of how Nanton's Heritage Building Project has been unfolding in the public eye. Across local news, municipal updates, and regional radio, the project has been consistently framed as a major community initiative focussed on documenting, evaluating, and celebrating the town's historic places.

Strong municipal leadership and grant support

The Town's official project page highlights the successful grant from the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program and outlines how this funding enabled a comprehensive review of heritage buildings, the creation of a context paper, and detailed evaluations for 13 high-priority sites.

Community engagement as a central pillar

Multiple updates emphasize the September and January Open Houses, where residents were invited to learn about the project, review draft Statements of Significance, and provide feedback. The OkotoksOnline article underscores the Town's messaging that this is a shared community conversation about how Nanton protects and celebrates its heritage.

Clear Communication about process and outcomes

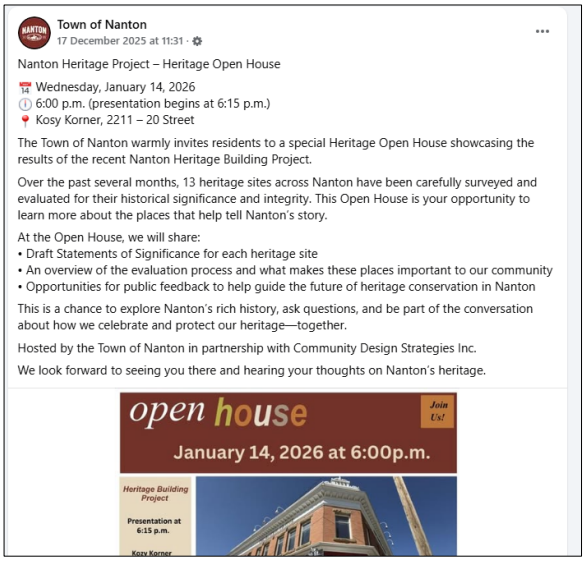
Media pieces consistently explain the project's structure" heritage surveys, evaluation of significance and integrity, and preparation of Statements of Significance. The Town's page also notes that all evaluations, SoSs, and the context paper will be presented publicly, reinforcing transparency and accessibility.

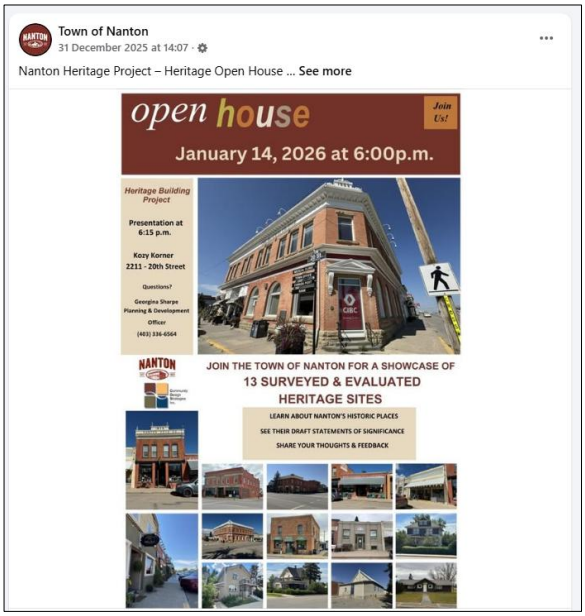
Regional interest in Nanton's heritage story

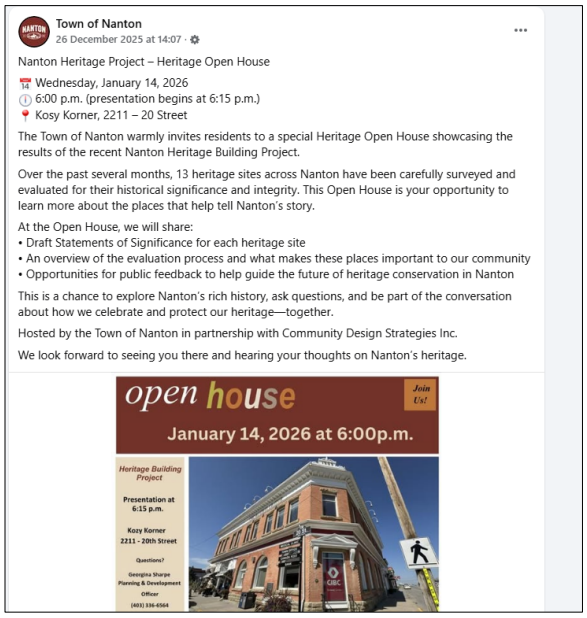
CBC's *Calgary Eyeopener* featured an 8-minute segment discussing Nanton's efforts to document its architectural history, signalling that the project resonates beyond the town itself. The segment positions Nanton as a community taking proactive steps to understand and preserve its built heritage.

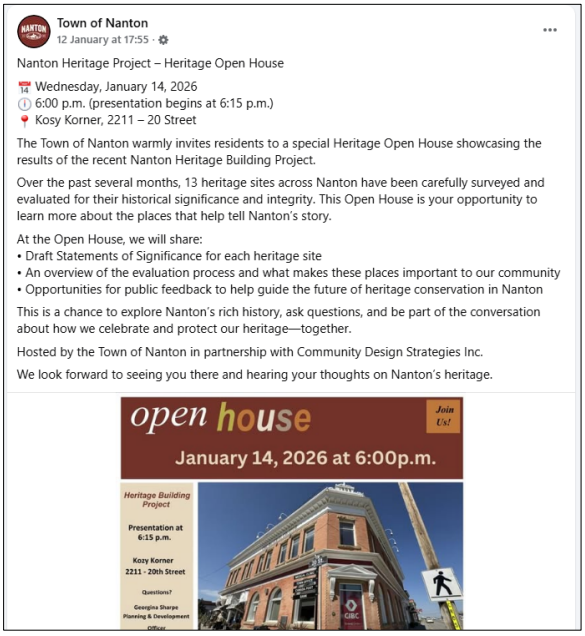
Overall...

Taken together, the coverage present the Heritage Building Evaluation Project as a well-organized, well-funded, and community-oriented initiative. The reporting highlights both the technical rigor – surveys, evaluations, Statement of Significance – and the broader cultural value of the work. The consistent message across platforms is that Nanton is investing in its identity, strengthening its heritage knowledge base, and inviting residents to participate in shaping the future of its historic places.


Town of Nanton
17 December 2025 at 11:31
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)
Kosy Korner, 2211 – 20 Street
The Town of Nanton warmly invites residents to a special Heritage Open House showcasing the results of the recent Nanton Heritage Building Project.
Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been carefully surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity. This Open House is your opportunity to learn more about the places that help tell Nanton's story.
At the Open House, we will share:
• Draft Statements of Significance for each heritage site
• An overview of the evaluation process and what makes these places important to our community
• Opportunities for public feedback to help guide the future of heritage conservation in Nanton
This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage—together.
Hosted by the Town of Nanton in partnership with Community Design Strategies Inc.
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts on Nanton's heritage.
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner


Town of Nanton
31 December 2025 at 14:07
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House ... See more
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner
2211 - 20th Street
Questions?
Georgina Sharpe
Planning & Development Officer
(403) 336-6564
NANTON
JOIN THE TOWN OF NANTON FOR A SHOWCASE OF
13 SURVEYED & EVALUATED
HERITAGE SITES
LEARN ABOUT NANTON'S HISTORIC PLACES
SEE THEIR DRAFT STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS & FEEDBACK


Town of Nanton
26 December 2025 at 14:07
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)
Kosy Korner, 2211 – 20 Street
The Town of Nanton warmly invites residents to a special Heritage Open House showcasing the results of the recent Nanton Heritage Building Project.
Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been carefully surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity. This Open House is your opportunity to learn more about the places that help tell Nanton's story.
At the Open House, we will share:
• Draft Statements of Significance for each heritage site
• An overview of the evaluation process and what makes these places important to our community
• Opportunities for public feedback to help guide the future of heritage conservation in Nanton
This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage—together.
Hosted by the Town of Nanton in partnership with Community Design Strategies Inc.
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts on Nanton's heritage.
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner
2211 - 20th Street
Questions?
Georgina Sharpe
Planning & Development Officer
(403) 336-6564


Town of Nanton
12 January at 17:55
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)
Kosy Korner, 2211 – 20 Street
The Town of Nanton warmly invites residents to a special Heritage Open House showcasing the results of the recent Nanton Heritage Building Project.
Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been carefully surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity. This Open House is your opportunity to learn more about the places that help tell Nanton's story.
At the Open House, we will share:
• Draft Statements of Significance for each heritage site
• An overview of the evaluation process and what makes these places important to our community
• Opportunities for public feedback to help guide the future of heritage conservation in Nanton
This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage—together.
Hosted by the Town of Nanton in partnership with Community Design Strategies Inc.
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts on Nanton's heritage.
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner
2211 - 20th Street
Questions?
Georgina Sharpe
Planning & Development

New heritage project brings Nanton's past into the future

By David Gale

A new heritage initiative is underway in Nanton that promises to preserve the town's history while shaping its future. At the helm is Merinda Conley, owner and principal of Community Design Strategies Inc., a company she founded in 2006 after nearly two decades leading Alberta's Main Street Program.

Conley, whose career has taken her across Alberta and Saskatchewan helping communities rediscover and protect their historic main streets, is now back in familiar territory.

"I used to work with the Alberta Main Street Program when Nanton and Claresholm were part of it," she explained. "So for me, this feels like coming full circle."

The current project began when the Town of Nanton applied for and received provincial funding through the Preservation Partnership Program, which provides annual grants of up to $25,000 for heritage research and planning. Nanton then selected Conley's firm to guide the community through identifying, researching, and evaluating its historic buildings.

The process started with a comprehensive review of nearly 200 potential heritage sites. From that list, 24 "places of interest" were brought to the public at a recent open house. Residents were invited to weigh in on which sites they felt best told Nanton's story.

The community response was clear: six buildings rose to the top, with another six close behind. These 12 properties will now undergo detailed evaluation to determine their eligibility for official designation under provincial heritage criteria.

Why does this matter? Conley says it's about more than nostalgia.

"Heritage is value-based," she explained. "These buildings help tell the story of how Nanton developed. They may be linked to important people, architectural styles, or landmark events. Preserving them not only protects history – it strengthens community identity, boosts tourism, and can even attract new businesses."

Designated property owners may also qualify for grants of up to $50,000 annually to maintain or restore their buildings, a benefit Conley believes will encourage investment in Nanton's downtown.

"It's about creating pride, economic opportunity, and a stronger sense of place," she said.

Another public open house of community engagement will be scheduled for early to mid January as the project is on a tight timeline: research and evaluations must be completed by the end of January, with a presentation to town council scheduled for early February. The final package will then be submitted to the province by Feb. 28.

But Conley hopes the momentum won't stop there. She envisions the project sparking renewed interest in local history, potentially leading to the rebirth of a historical society or even the creation of a dedicated Nanton museum.

As technology continues to advance, Conley believes the tactile experience of heritage will remain irreplaceable.

"You can't get the same feeling from a screen as you do from walking down a historic main street, touching brick and wood, and sensing the atmosphere of another time," she said.

Still, she welcomes blending technology with tradition. The research gathered could one day support interactive walking tours or virtual reality experiences – tools that would allow both visitors and residents to explore Nanton's heritage in new ways.

"This project is about stepping back into history so we can move forward," Conley reflected. "By understanding and valuing our past, we build a stronger future for Nanton."

If you are able to contribute to the research and stories connected to these heritage buildings, you can contact Merinda Conley at cds.inc@telus.net.



HISTORIC NANTON - A new project is aiming to preserve the heritage of buildings in Nanton.

Photo submitted



HISTORIC NANTON - A new project is aiming to preserve the heritage of buildings in Nanton.

Photo submitted

ELECT BRAD TOONE
Livingstone Range School Board Trustee

VOTE
KEVIN TODD
Livingstone Range School Division Trustee
I will be at both forums:
October 7 • 6:30pm
Granum School
October 8 • 6:00pm
Claresholm Community Centre
kevin@coolgear.ca

TOWN NEWS

NANTON EST 1903

403-646-2029 info@nanton.ca www.nanton.ca 1907 - 21 Ave, Box 609, Nanton T0L 1R0

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS
OCTOBER 6
at 7 p.m.
Council Chambers are located at the Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre Meeting Room, 2122 18th Street on the second floor.
Access to the meeting room is through the Southwest door and up the stairs.
Meetings available for viewing on YouTube.
PUBLIC VIEWING IS WELCOME IN THE GALLERY.

Nanton Thelma Fanning Library
EVENTS & PROGRAMS
Kids Playdate
Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm
Story Hour
Thursday 10:30-11:30 am
NNLC
Thursday, Oct. 16 – 6:30-8:30 pm
Presentation by Linda Johnstone – Indigenous Costume Artist
[Nanton Native Learning Circle]
Technology Made Easy
Thursday, Oct. 25
12:00-1:00 pm
Support for Technology questions/problems

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Due to the Postal strike, we want to ensure you continue to receive your utility bills on time.
Sign up for eSend and receive your utility bill electronically
Avoid any delays and get your bill directly to your inbox!
How to sign up:
- Fill out the form to register for eSend and email it to billing@nanton.ca
- Drop in to the Town Office
Complete your registration by October 22, 2025 to ensure your next bill, due at the end of October, is delivered on time.
Don't miss out – sign up today!
For more information or assistance, please contact us at **billing@nanton.ca**

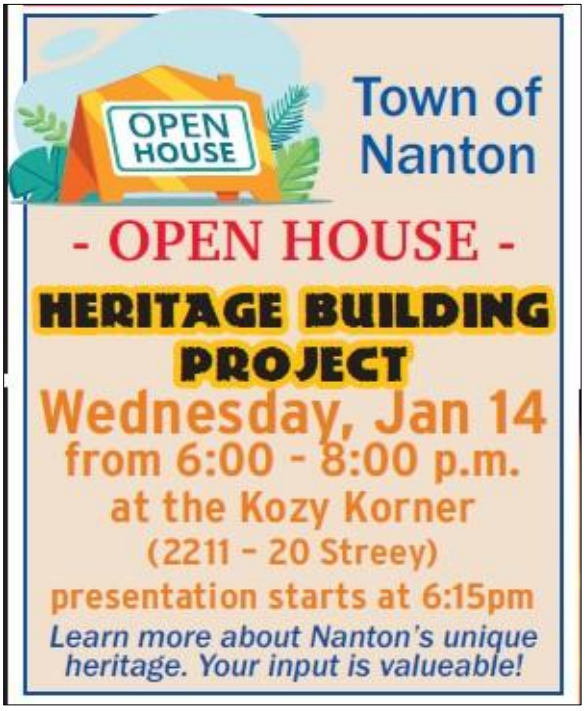
2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION
ELECTION DAY
• Monday, October 20, 2025
• 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
• Nanton Community Centre
ADVANCE POLL
• Friday, October 17, 2025
• 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
• Kosy Korner
For more info on candidates and voting requirements visit our website!
Your Vote, Your Choice

Nanton Lights the Way
KICKS OFF
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29
WITH THE DISTINCTLY NANTON CHRISTMAS MARKET
AT THE NANTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
Watch for more promotions to shop local this holiday season.
• Shopping Deals • Contests
• Holiday Cheer!
Shop Local
For more information, or to participate contact us@nantonchamber.com

Volunteer with the Nanton Fire Department
Scan the QR Code to learn more and apply!
Questions? Email fire@nanton.ca or call 403-646-2526

NANTON CHAMBER PRESENTS
2025 Municipal Election
MEET THE CANDIDATES
Tues., Oct 7 at 7 p.m.
Nanton Community Centre
Door open 6:30 p.m.
Scan this QR Code for more info on Nanton!

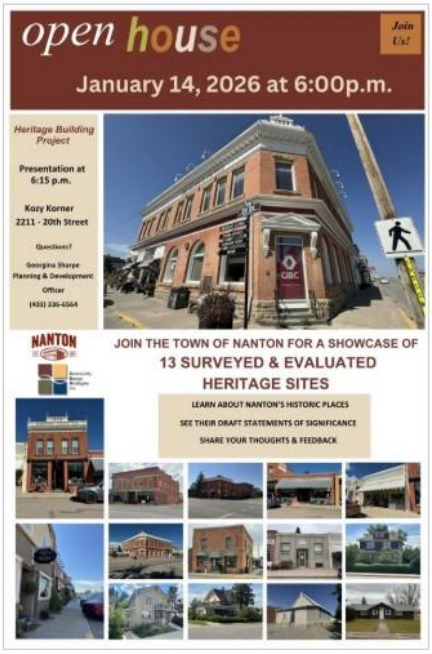




Nanton Offers A Look Into It's Heritage Buildings and History with Heritage Open House

By Sarah Scott

Jan 8, 2026 | 12:19 PM



If you've ever wondered about the stories behind some of Nanton's most familiar buildings, this is your chance to learn more.

The Town of Nanton is inviting residents to a Heritage Open House to share the results of the Nanton Heritage Project, a months-long effort to better understand and document the community's historic buildings and places.

Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across town were carefully surveyed and evaluated for both their historical significance and how well they've been preserved. Now, the town is opening the doors for residents to see what was discovered and to be part of the conversation about what comes next.

CJWE had a chance to speak with Georgina Sharpe, Merinda Conley and Robert Earley more about the Heritage Open House:

https://cjwe.ca/2026/01/08/nanton-offers-a-look-into-its-heritage-buildings-and-history-with-heritage-open-house/



The Heritage Open House takes place January 14 at Kozy Korner, located at 2211 20 Street in Nanton. Doors open at 6 p.m. and all residents are welcome and invited.

LOCAL NEWS

Grant funding to support the preservation of Nanton's heritage

Emily Rogers, HighRiverOnline.com | Friday, Aug 08 2025, 12:43 PM

Share:



The Town of Nanton has received funding through the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program to identify buildings for heritage designation. High River Online/Kevin Wallace

The Town of Nanton has received grant funding to help preserve the town's history.

Funding through the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program will be used to support Community Design Strategies to identify heritage buildings that could potentially receive official heritage designation.

As a first step, Community Design Strategies will conduct a "windshield survey" of heritage buildings currently listed in Nanton's Heritage Resource Information Management System (HeRMiS).

The survey will help the town update the heritage site inventory and identify high-priority sites for future community consideration.

Over the coming weeks, residents could see team members around town or asking questions about specific buildings.

Anyone with information that could help with the project is encouraged to contact the town at 403-646-2029.

LOCAL NEWS

Nanton to unveil historic sites as part of Heritage Project

Emily Rogers, HighRiverOnline.com | Monday, Jan 05 2026, 12:00 PM

Share:



Nanton residents are invited to a Heritage Open House, to learn about the history of Nanton.

The Town of Nanton is inviting residents to a Heritage Open House, showcasing the findings of the Nanton Heritage Project.

For several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity.

The open house is an opportunity for residents to learn about the buildings and sites that tell the history of Nanton.

At the open house, attendees can expect a draft statement of significance for each heritage site, an overview of the evaluation process, what makes each site important to the community, and an opportunity to share feedback.

"This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage, together," the Town of Nanton said in a Facebook post.

Grant funding for the project was awarded to the Town of Nanton in the summer.

The funding was allotted to support Community Design Strategies in identifying heritage buildings that could potentially receive official heritage designation.

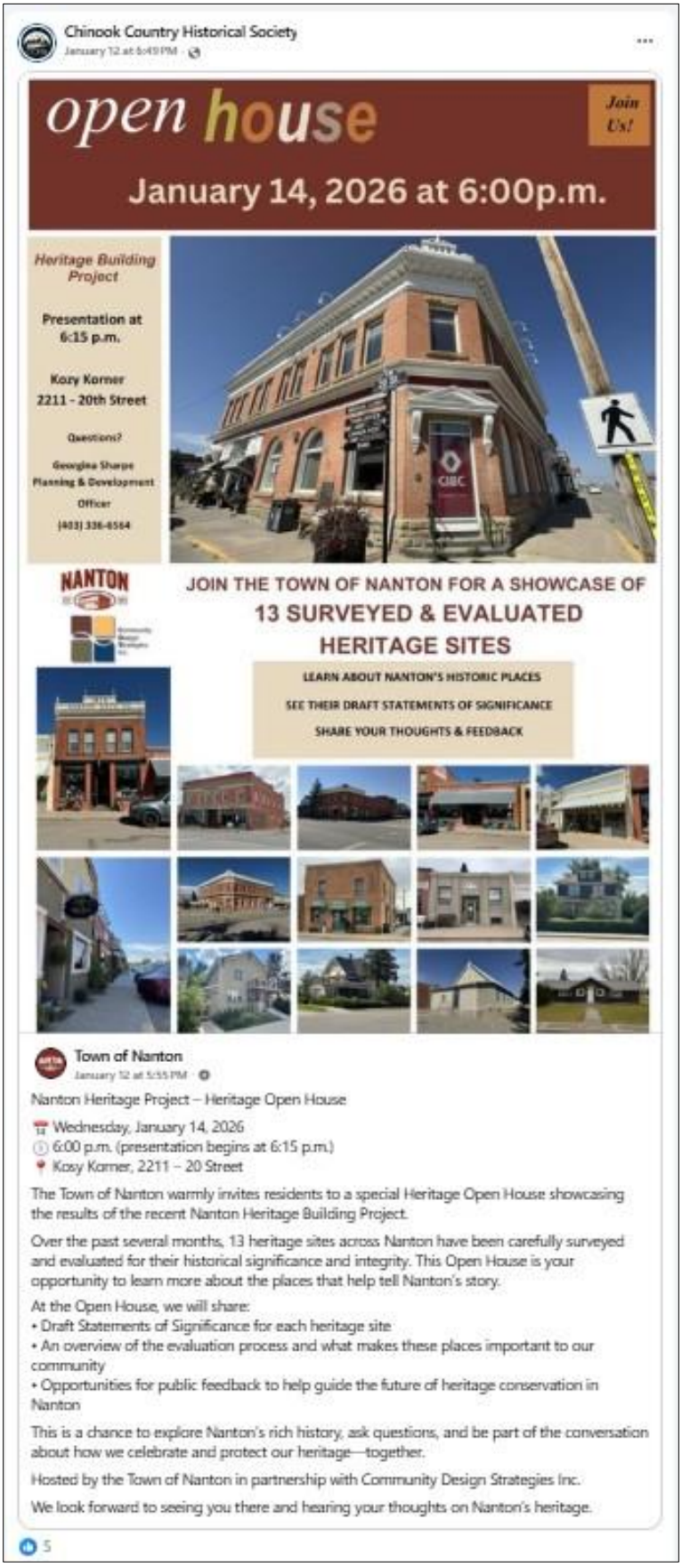
The survey aimed to help the town update the heritage site inventory and identify high-priority sites for future community consideration.

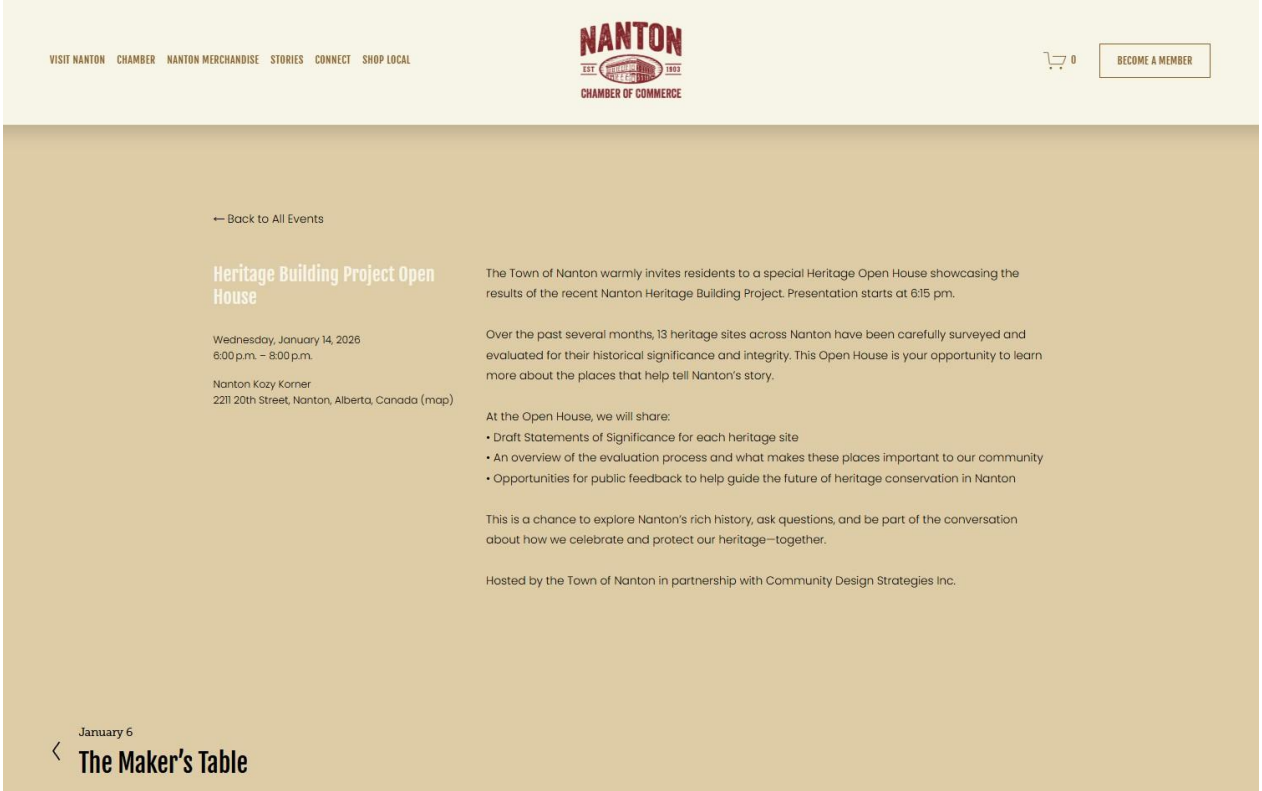
The open house is set for Jan. 14, at Kozy Korner (2211 20 Street, Nanton) at 6 p.m.

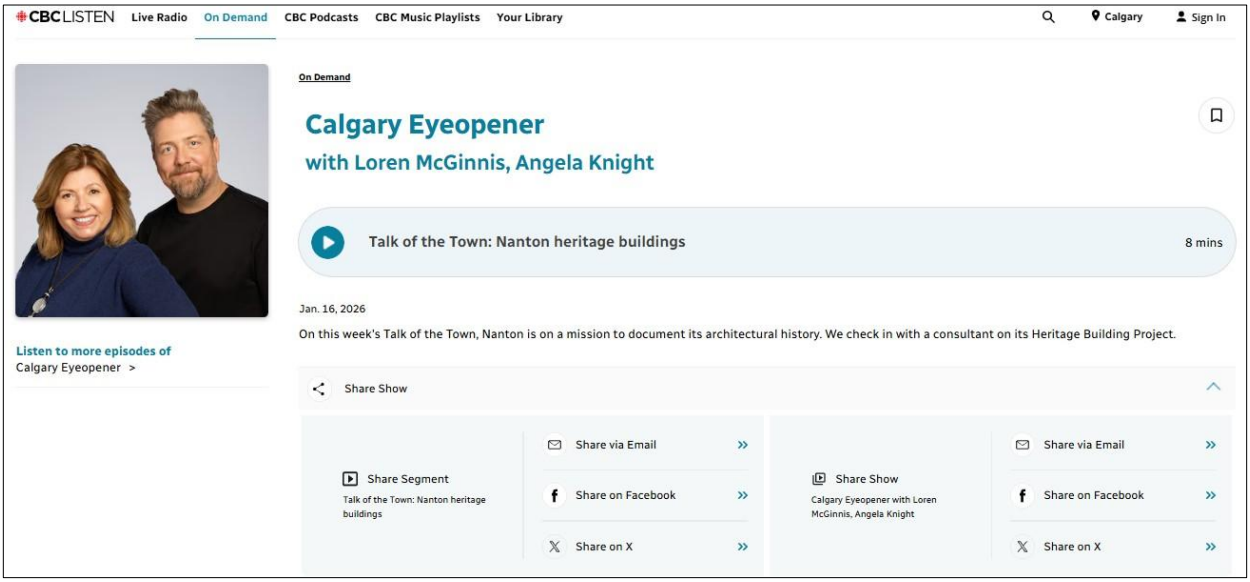
RELATED STORIES



Grant funding to support the preservation of Nanton's heritage


Chinook Country Historical Society
January 12 at 5:49 PM
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner
2211 - 20th Street
Questions?
Gewgina Sharpe
Planning & Development Officer
(403) 336-6564
CIBC
NANTON
JOIN THE TOWN OF NANTON FOR A SHOWCASE OF
13 SURVEYED & EVALUATED HERITAGE SITES
LEARN ABOUT NANTON'S HISTORIC PLACES
SEE THEIR DRAFT STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS & FEEDBACK
Town of Nanton
January 12 at 5:55 PM
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)
Kozy Korner, 2211 – 20 Street
The Town of Nanton warmly invites residents to a special Heritage Open House showcasing the results of the recent Nanton Heritage Building Project.
Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been carefully surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity. This Open House is your opportunity to learn more about the places that help tell Nanton's story.
At the Open House, we will share:
• Draft Statements of Significance for each heritage site
• An overview of the evaluation process and what makes these places important to our community
• Opportunities for public feedback to help guide the future of heritage conservation in Nanton
This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage—together.
Hosted by the Town of Nanton in partnership with Community Design Strategies Inc.
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts on Nanton's heritage.
5





Talk of the Town: Nanton heritage buildings | Calgary Eyeopener | On Demand | CBC Listen

3. Project Outcome



3.1 Successes and Challenges

The Nanton Heritage Building Evaluation Project has unfolded as a deeply collaborative, research-driven initiative that strengthened the community's understanding of its historic places. Its progress reflects both notable achievements and the practical challenges inherent in documenting a century of built history.

Successes

1. **A Comprehensive, Town-Wide Understanding of Heritage Resources**

The project successfully brought together survey data, archival research, and on-the-ground fieldwork to create the most complete picture to date of Nanton's heritage buildings. For the first time, the Town now has consistent, designation-ready evaluations and Statements of Significance for priority sites, supported by a clear historical context.

2. **Strong Community Engagement and Visibility**

Public interest exceeded expectations. Open Houses, social media updates, and local media coverage helped residents see the project as a shared effort rather than a technical exercise. Some community members contributed insights that enriched the historical narratives.

3. **Clear, Professional Documentation for Future Planning**

The project produced polished Statements of Significance, updated survey forms, and a contextual framework that will guide municipal decision-making for years. This documentation gives Council and administration a reliable foundation for designation, development review, and long-term conservation planning.

4. **Strengthened Municipal Capacity**

Staff and council gained a deeper understanding of heritage evaluation processes, criteria, and conservation principles. This capacity building ensures that heritage considerations can be integrated more confidently into planning and policy discussions.

Challenges

1. **Gaps and Inconsistencies in Historical Records**

Some buildings lacked clear histories, or archival photographs. Reconciling conflicting sources required careful interpretation, and in some cases, the project had to acknowledge uncertainty rather than force a definitive conclusion.

2. Balancing Technical Rigor with Public Accessibility

Heritage evaluation is methodical and criteria-driven, but public audiences often prefer narrative storytelling. Translating technical assessments into engaging, plain-language materials for Open Houses and media outreach required additional time and thoughtful communication.

3. Managing Expectations Around Designation

Many residents were enthusiastic about the project, but some were unsure whether evaluation and the Statement of Significance meant automatic designation. Clarifying the distinction between survey, evaluation, and formal protection was important to ensure clarity.

4. Time and Resource Constraints

Evaluating thirteen priority buildings in depth – while updating the broader survey – required significant coordination. Fieldwork, archival research, and drafting had to be balanced with municipal timelines, grant requirements, and the realities of a small-community context.

Overall, the Nanton Heritage Building Project stands as a major step forward in understanding and celebrating the town's historic places. Its success lie in the quality of research, the strength of community participation, and the creation of tools that will guide heritage stewardship for years to come. At the same time, the project navigated the real-world challenges of limited records, communication complexity, and the need to balance ambition with available resources.

Together, these experiences reflect a community that values its past and is actively shaped how that past informs the future.

3.2 Recommendations

The Heritage Building Evaluation Project has provided the Town of Nanton with a comprehensive understanding of its historic resources. Updated survey information, detailed Statements of Significance, and a community-informed historical context now form a solid foundation for long-term heritage stewardship. The following integrated recommendations outline strategic actions for Council's consideration..

1. Adopt the Evaluation Findings as a Municipal Planning Resource

The Statements of Significance, survey updates, and context paper should be formally adopted as reference documents within the Town's planning framework. Adoption ensures that heritage value is consistently considered during development review and municipal decision-making.

2. Prepare a Designation Bylaw

To support future municipal designations, the Town should prepare a standard Designation Bylaw template. This provides a clear legal framework for protecting heritage properties and ensures that the designation process is efficient, transparent, and aligned with provincial requirements.

3. Identify Priority Buildings for Potential Municipal Designation

The project identified several buildings with strong heritage value, integrity, and community visibility. Council may wish to select a small number of these properties for further exploration of municipal designation, undertaken collaboratively with property owners.

4. Form a Heritage Advisory Committee

Establishing a Heritage Advisory Committee would provide Council with community-based expertise and support. The committee could review heritage applications, advise on policy development, and assist with public engagement and education initiatives.

5. Strengthen Ongoing Engagement With Property Owners

Continued outreach is essential to building trust and supporting informed decision-making. The Town should ensure that owners are aware of the free advisory services available from the Provincial Conservation Advisor, who can provide guidance on designation benefits, responsibilities, and conservation techniques.

6. **Develop a Heritage Conservation Policy or Framework**

A concise policy or framework would clarify how heritage value is addressed in planning processes, outline criteria for selecting future designation candidates, and establish expectations for alteration to heritage buildings.

7. **Develop Design Guidelines for Heritage Buildings**

Design guidelines tailored to Nanton's historic building stock would provide clear expectations for alterations, additions, and new construction. Guidelines help ensure that changes respect historic character while offering practical direction for owners and applicants.

8. **Continue Expanding and Updating the Heritage Survey**

Several areas and building types remain under-documented. The Town should apply for a grant to complete a Residential Heritage Survey, which will help identify additional properties of interest and support future evaluation work.

9. **Develop a Heritage Resource Management Plan**

A Heritage Resource Management Plan would establish long-term goals, priorities, and processes for managing heritage resources. The plan can outline designation strategies, conservation tools, incentive options, and integration with broader municipal planning initiatives.

10. **Investigate the Creation of a Downtown Historic District**

The downtown core exhibits strong historic character and community value. Council may consider investigating the feasibility of establishing a Downtown Historic District to support revitalization, tourism, and consistent design standards.

11. **Initiate a Building Plaque Program**

A building plaque program would celebrate Nanton's history and make it visible to residents and visitors. Plaques can highlight significant buildings, themes, and stories, contributing to community pride and enhancing the visitor experience.

12. **Integrate Heritage Into Broader Municipal Initiatives**

The project's findings can inform a range of municipal priorities, including downtown revitalization, tourism development, wayfinding, and community branding. Integrating heritage into these initiatives positions Nanton's historic places as strategic assets that contribute to economic development and community identity.

13. **Maintain Public Engagement and Visibility**

The strong public response to the project highlights the community's interest in local history. Ongoing engagement—through public updates, recognition programs, interpretive materials, and partnerships with local cultural organizations—will help sustain momentum and reinforce the value of Nanton's heritage resources.

These integrated recommendations build on the solid foundation established through the Heritage Building Evaluation Project. By preparing the key tools, expanding documentation, supporting property owners, and embedding heritage into broader municipal priorities, Council can steward Nanton's historic places with clarity, confidence, and long-term vision.

4. The Benefits of Heritage Conservation



Preserving and protecting heritage buildings in Nanton is a cornerstone of the community's revitalization strategy. plays a crucial role in revitalizing urban areas. These historic structures not only embody the town's unique character and history, but they also serve as powerful drivers of local economic growth. By maintaining and repurposing heritage buildings, Nanton attracts new businesses, professional services, and educational opportunities, transforming these sites into vibrant hubs for commerce and civic engagement.

Revitalizing the historic downtown district – encompassing both buildings and landscapes – directly enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors. Community-led initiatives, such as the Antique and Art Walk of Alberta and Doors Open events, foster active participation among seniors and youth, strengthening social bonds and encouraging ongoing involvement in local life. Heritage buildings are increasingly sought-after venues that bridge generations, offering vibrant spaces for businesses, professional services, education and civic engagement, while celebrating shared history.

Most importantly, heritage conservation delivers substantial economic benefits. Restored heritage buildings support local businesses, increase property values, and stimulate tourism, all of which contribute to sustainable development and long-term prosperity for Nanton. By investing in its historic assets, the town insures that its rich past continues to generate tangible value for current and future generations.

4.1. Why Preserve Heritage Buildings

Preserving heritage buildings is essential for maintaining community identity, fostering pride, and connecting present generations with the past. The Town of Nanton can enhance its unique character by identifying and protecting their historic assets for future generations.

The following list outlines some of the reasons why heritage buildings should be preserved:

1. **Community Pride** – Owners of historic properties take pride in their properties and choose to maintain them diligently. By doing so, they contribute to the preservation of historic properties that form an integral part of Nanton's rich architectural legacy.
2. **Adaptability/Sustainability** – Repurposing historic buildings is a form of recycling that prevents demolition and reduces landfill waste. Adapting these buildings for new purposes revitalizes the streetscape and promotes environmental sustainability.

3. **Economic Growth** – By leveraging Nanton's history and historic character, new investment and respectful development can be attracted. The conservation and protection of Nanton's historic buildings can serve as a marketing tool to drive economic growth and cultural sustainability in the downtown area.
4. **Tourism** – Heritage conservation attracts tourists and is one of the fastest growing sectors of the tourism industry. Preserving and adapting Nanton's historic buildings allows the retention of its history while creating opportunities for historical, architectural, and cultural attractions.
5. **Urban Design** – Historic buildings contribute to the unique sense of time and place in downtown Nanton. They create a pedestrian-friendly environment with warm, natural textures and reflect the rich traditions of the community, linking to the events, people, activities, and architectural styles that have shaped Nanton's identity. Heritage preservation is environmentally-friendly, pedestrian-friendly, and age-friendly.
6. **Job Creation** – The rehabilitation of historic buildings can utilize local and regional skills, labour, services, and materials. It often requires the craftsmanship of specialized trades, leading to training and development in these specializations within the local job market.
7. **Tax Base Stability** – Municipalities can strengthen their local tax base by retaining, enhancing, rehabilitating, conserving, and adapting existing historic buildings for new functions.
8. **Property Value Stability** – Historic buildings are desirable places to live and work when well-maintained. Their property values remain stable and are often less affected by market fluctuations due to the value of the historic character these buildings contribute.
9. **Funding Access** – At the request of the building owner, the municipality can protect the property by designating the historic building as a Municipal Historic Resource. The owner then has ongoing access, through an application, to provincial heritage building conservation funding through Alberta's Heritage Preservation Partnership Program.
10. **Expert Guidance** – If an owner of a heritage property is interested in conserving their heritage building, the Municipality can provide advice to help maintain, preserve, or sympathetically develop the property in a manner that ensures the building is protected in the best interest of its character-defining elements.

4.2. The Benefits of Heritage Designation

Heritage designation helps protect the unique character and value of historic buildings. Owners benefit from increased property stability and may access grants for repairs. Sensitive renovations are allowed, provided they respect the building's heritage features. By conserving these places, communities support local economies, foster tourism, and preserve their shared identity and history for future generations.

The following list outlines some of the benefits of heritage designation:

1. **Getting a historic designation usually increases property value.** Studies show that properties with historic designation, as well as historic districts or historic main streets, tend to increase in value and are more stable during economic downturns.
2. **Conservation of historic places is for all kinds of buildings.** Significant historic buildings are not just large architectural gems. Any heritage building, regardless of size or simplicity, is valued for its cultural and social significance.
3. **Heritage designation is good for the economy.** Heritage conservation is the foundation of many vibrant and economically sound tourist destinations in North America and around the world. Protecting and rehabilitating historic buildings has revitalized many historic main streets and residential districts in the province and North America.
4. **Conserving the building uses fewer new materials.** Using fewer new materials benefits the local economy by encouraging the use of local trades, supplies and equipment. This keeps the cost of these items with the local economy.

5. **Historic buildings need to be safe.** Many historic buildings were built more soundly than some contemporary buildings. However, some may need retrofits to increase structural stability or safety, but the building codes provide provisions for "grandfathering" to meet existing codes.
6. **Designation as a "Municipal Historic Resource" protects the building forever.** The designation does not support demolition and requires the building to be maintained in at least fair condition. The only exception is if the Municipality withdraws the designation bylaw or if the building is completely destroyed.
7. **The building owner can still make sensitive changes to the historic building.** Owners cannot destroy the building, but they can make sensitive alterations or additions as long as they respect the building's heritage value and do not impact the character-defining elements listed in the Statement of Significance. Owners also have access to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, which provide guidance on repairs, as well as appropriate preservation, rehabilitation, and/or restoration activities.
8. **Historic buildings must follow development regulations too.** All development must comply with zoning and development regulations and standards to protect public interest, the building owner's interest, and the building's interest by preventing inappropriate development.
9. **Purchasing a heritage building is a great investment because there may be government grants to help with repair or rehabilitation costs.** Owners of heritage buildings may access government grants to reduce repair and maintenance costs. After designation, applications can be submitted to Alberta's Preservation Partnership Program for potential funding.
10. **Conserving our heritage grounds us.** It is not about saving everything old. It is about saving what defines us, what makes us a better community, what sustains us, and what contributes to our unique quality and vibrancy.

4.3. The Process of Heritage Designation

To designate a historic site in Alberta, its heritage value is assessed and described. The property owner and municipality work together, and Town Council issues a Notice of Intention to designate, sometimes sharing it publicly by advertising the intention in the local press. After a 60-day waiting period for feedback, council may pass a bylaw to officially protect the site and register the designation bylaw on the property title. The site can then be nominated for listing on the Alberta Register of Historic Places, and building owner may benefit from grants and recognition.

The following list outlines the process of heritage designation:

1. **To determine if a place is worthy of protection it is essential to understand its heritage value and write a Statement of Significance.** This statement provides a description of the resource, explains it s heritage value, and lists the character-defining elements that need to be protected to maintain is integrity.
2. **Municipal council considers designation.** This requires a partnership between the owner and the municipality based on understanding the heritage values of the place. It is important that the designation process proceeds with the approval of the property owner.
3. **Council issues the property owner with a Notice of Intention (NOI) to design the place as a Municipal Historic Resource.** With the owner's agreement, council passes a motion for the written notice, which must occur 60 days before the council considers a designation bylaw.
4. **Council advertises the Notice of Intention.** Although not required, many municipalities choose to advertise the notice to ensure that the designation has informed public support.
5. **A 60-day waiting period follows.** This enables the owner to review all documentation and provides time for any public response following the advertisement of the Notice of Intention.
6. **Council considers a bylaw to designate as a Municipal Historic Resource.** Designation occurs when council passes a bylaw declaring the site a Municipal Historic Resource under the *Historical*

Resources Act. Council cannot consider the bylaw until the 60-day notice period has elapsed. Once this period has expired, council can proceed with the designation bylaw, which is managed in the same manner as a regular bylaw.

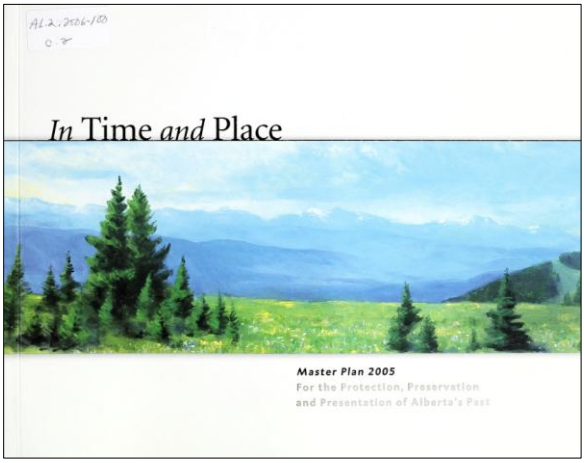
7. **Bylaw is registered on the title of the designated property and provided to the property owner.** This ensures that anyone with an interest in the property understands its status as a Municipal Historic Resource and that present and future owners are aware of the municipality's expectations for conservation.
8. **The site is nominated for listing on the Alberta Register of Historic Places.** Although not required, municipalities are encouraged to nominate Municipal Historic Resources for this listing.
9. **Designation opens doors for the property owner in the form of potential government grants and the prestige of owning a designated heritage property.** With the successful design, the property owner may have access to ongoing government funding to help with repairing, maintaining, and rehabilitating the resource.

5. Nanton Historical Context Paper



5.1. Thematic Framework

The thematic framework for the Town of Nanton is based on Alberta's "In Time and Place, Master Plan 2005," which guides the preservation, protection, and presentation of the province's history. This approach emphasizes local development themes to ensure relevance to community values and conditions. It enables the identification of unique heritage values and clarifies the significance of each historic resource within the broader context of Nanton's evolution and Alberta's history.



The framework assists in organizing the community's history by contextualizing historic sites, notable individuals, and key events. It promotes a broad and inclusive definition of heritage resources, encourages understanding of their interrelationships, and supports the preservation of intellectual, material, and experiential components. While the provincial framework considers Canada's national historical themes, the Nanton Heritage Building Evaluation Project prioritizes local and provincial context, aligning with Alberta's thematic approach for effective heritage conservation.

5.2. Historical Context Paper

Introduction

This context paper explores the rich and layered history of the Town of Nanton, Alberta, through the lens of the province's "In Time and Place" thematic approach. By tracing the evolution of Nanton from its prehistoric foundations to its emergence as a vibrant rural community, the paper situates local developments within broader patterns of Alberta's past. The narrative begins with the ancient landscapes shaped by glacial forces and Indigenous stewardship, moves through the fur trade era and early settlement, and follows the town's growth in agriculture, transportation, and industry. Each chapter highlights how natural resources, cultural exchanges, and community initiatives have shaped Nanton's identity over time. In doing so, this paper not only documents the milestones and challenges faced by Nanton, but also reflects on the enduring connections between people, place, and history in southern Alberta.

Prehistoric Foundations

Long before the town of Nanton was established in 1903, its landscape was part of a dynamic prehistoric world shaped by ancient seas, glacial forces, and Indigenous presence. Situated in southern Alberta near Mosquito Creek, Nanton lies atop sedimentary bedrock formed during the Cretaceous period,[1] when much of the province was submerged beneath the Western Interior Seaway—a vast inland sea that left behind marine fossils and rich deposits of sandstone and shale.[2]

As the Ice Age ended roughly 12,000 years ago, glacial meltwaters carved the foothills and plains, depositing fertile soils that would later support agriculture and settlement.[3] These post-glacial landscapes became seasonal hunting grounds for Indigenous peoples, who followed bison herds and left behind archaeological traces such as stone tools and campsites throughout the Foothills region.[4] While no major prehistoric sites have been documented directly within Nanton's town limits, its proximity to known sites near the Porcupine Hills and Highwood River suggests it was part of a broader cultural corridor used for thousands of years.[5]

The prehistoric legacy of the land continued to shape Nanton's development. The town's early success as a ranching and farming hub was made possible by the ancient processes that formed its soils and terrain.[6] Even today, the subtle contours of the land—its coulees, creek beds, and glacial till—echo the deep time that preceded settlement.

In this way, Nanton's story within *Prehistoric Alberta* is not defined by dramatic fossil finds or monumental ruins, but by its embeddedness in a landscape shaped over eons. From ancient seas to Indigenous stewardship, the land beneath Nanton holds a quiet but profound record of Alberta's deep past.

Fur Trade

Peter Fidler was the first European-born traveler to explore the Nanton region, seeking to expand the fur trade for the Hudson's Bay Company. Fedler's extensive career with the Hudson's Bay Company included surveying and mapping the western plains. His journals detail his travels through the Porcupine Hills, which was known as "the gap", where the Oldman River originates from the mountains.[7] and interactions with Indigenous peoples in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. His work contributed

[1] Alberta Geological Survey, *Geology of Southern Alberta*, Alberta Energy Regulator, accessed October 27, 2025, https://static.ags.aer.ca/files/document/MAP/Map_601.pdf.
[2] Aaron Kilmury, "Western Interior Seaway," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, February 28, 2025, accessed October 28, 2025, https://www.the canadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/western-interior-seaway.
[3] Britannica, "Meltwater deposits," accessed October 28, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/science/glacial-landform/Meltwater-deposits.
[4] Alberta Government, "*Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*," November 1, 2013, 1.
[5] Alberta Government, "*Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta*".
[6] Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland* (Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975), 10.
[7] Peter Fidler, *Journal of a Journey over Land from Buckingham House to the Rocky Mountains in 1792-93*, except from Fidler's Journal, accessed October 30, 2025, http://www.ulethbridge.ca/lib/digitized_collections/ourheritage/index_page_stuff/following_trails/fidler/Fidler1.html.

significantly to the mapping and understanding of the region's geography and fur trade networks.[8] [9] [10] Subsequent fur traders traveling between Fort Macleod and Calgary followed established Indigenous trails, which ran approximately two kilometers west of what would become Nanton and crossed Mosquito Creek three kilometers to the north. These routes, such as the Old Macleod Trail, were vital for transporting goods and were used long before the arrival of the railway, reflecting the deep historical connections between Indigenous travel networks and the fur trade.[11] [12] [13]

Aboriginal Life

The earliest known inhabitants of the Nanton region in southern Alberta were Indigenous groups who settled in the area after the last glacial period, over 13,000 years ago.[14] The Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre, located south of Nanton, provides a comprehensive overview of the 6,000-year history of Plains Buffalo Culture.[15] Additionally, the Old Women's Buffalo Jump, situated to the north of Nanton and west of Cayley, was utilized for approximately 2,000 years beginning in 500 CE.[16] Radiocarbon dating has also provided evidence of an earlier Indigenous presence in the area.[17]

Closer to Nanton, rock art was found at William's Coulee in the Porcupine Hills, ten kilometres west of the town. The site, dated to 1500 CE,[18] is described as "...one of the most vivid, compelling, and most complete views of Biographical rock art outside of Writing-on-Stone".[19]

Nanton is situated within the territory defined by the 1877 Treaty 7, an agreement between the Crown and the member First Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy. The Blackfoot Confederacy inhabited the southern plains, where they hunted bison for sustenance and clothing.

Resource Development

The Findlay brothers established a lumber camp in the hills west of Nanton, and according to a 1903 article published in the Nanton News, they produced one million feet of lumber, which was used in constructing many of Nanton's early buildings.[20]

In 1931, rumors of gold in the mountains west of Nanton sparked a brief gold rush and renewed interest in the legendary Lost Lemon Mine. The Lost Lemon Mine story, which dates back to the late 19th century, involves tales of murder, mystery, and a lost gold vein that prospectors have searched for over generations. Reports from that year mention a gold deposit discovered at the headwaters of Livingstone River, although geological surveys indicate that gold found in Alberta rivers is typically fine "flour gold" and not easily recovered in large quantities.[21]

[8] "Barbara Belyea, David J. Wishart, ed., "FIDLER, PETER (1769-1822)," *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/.
[9] "Peter Fidler," *Wikipedia*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Fidler.
[10] Robert S. Allen, "FIDLER, PETER," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 6, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-. Accessed October 30, 2025, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?Biold=36989.
[11] Stephen Strand, "Historic Trade Route Still Has a Presence in the Foothills," *OkotoksOnline,* October 7, 2024, accessed October 30, 2025, https://okotoksonline.com/articles/historic-trade-route-still-has-a-prescence-in-the-foothills.
[12] Scott Berthelette, "Fur Trade Route Networks," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, February 2, 2023, accessed October 27, 2025, https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/fur-trade-routes.
[13] Alberta Register of Historic Places, *Macleod Trail Cultural Landscape*, Government of Alberta, accessed October 27, 2025, https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=1&ObjectID=4664-0450.
[14] Alberta.ca, *Archaeological Sites Alberta*, accessed August 15, 2025, https://www.alberta.ca/archaeological-sites-alberta.
[15] "Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre, "About The Jump!," *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jum World Heritage Site*, accessed October 28, 2025, https://headsmashedin.ca/about-jump.
[16] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Old Women Buffalo Jump*, accessed October 5, 2025, https://parks.canada.ca/culture/designation/lieu-site/old-women-buffalo-jump.
[17] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Old Women Buffalo Jump*.
[18] Jack Brink, *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site, EcPl-16, Southwestern Alberta* (Edmonton: Archaeological Survey of Alberta, April 13, 2008), 48.
[19] Brink, *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site*, 49.
[20] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 138.
[21] "Lost Lemon Mine, *Wikipedia & Mysteries of Canada*, accessed October 27, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Lemon_Mine.

During this gold rush period, Marshall Brothers Hardware in Nanton reportedly received a letter from a Vancouver company offering gold panning equipment, reflecting the surge in local interest in prospecting and mining supplies.[22]

Transportation

Early traders traveling between Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary relied on established Indigenous pathways.[23] Before the Calgary and Edmonton (C&E) Railway was built, most supplies and goods arrived by pack trains of horses and mules from Fort Benton, Montana, with many items originating in New Orleans and transported via the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Fort Benton.

The completion of the railway between Calgary and Fort Macleod in 1892, with Thomas Field as the section man in Nanton, marked a turning point. The first building in what would become Nanton was the section house for the C&E Railway, which also served as accommodation for travelers before a hotel was available.[24]

The railway connected the region to the outside world and dramatically reduced travel times. An 18-hour train journey between Calgary and Edmonton was much faster than the previous five-day stagecoach trip.[25]



Figure 1. *Nanton Train Station – Nanton & District Historical Society*



Figure 2. *Hewer Garage - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-36, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Roads gradually improved over time, with the construction of a steel bridge over Mosquito Creek and some roads being gravelled. However, road maintenance was a persistent challenge, as winter snow and spring rains often made roads impassable. Local farmers frequently repaired roads themselves.[26]

In 1929, the Auto Trails Association established a new 'auto trail' through Nanton, designed so vehicles would pass by every local garage.[27] One notable garage was a concrete building constructed by Julius Osterbauer around 1917 for Gordon Hewer, the Buick agent. Hewer operated the garage until 1920, after which it was sold to Galloway and Bentley. Galloway continued to run the garage until 1935.[28]

[22] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 90-92.
[23] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 11.
[24] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 137.
[25] Tony Cashman, *A Picture of Alberta* (Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1979), 39.
[26] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 188.
[27] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News* (Southern Alberta Collection, September 12, 1929), accessed December 4, 2025, https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/sanews/search/searchterm/nanton+news/field/title/mode/all/conn/and/order/date/ad/asc/cosuppress/1.
[28] Osler, Hammond & Nanton, *New Homes, Free Farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Western Canada* (Winnipeg: Osler, Hammond & Nanton, ca. 1901).

Agricultural Development

By the 1880s, the federal government had surveyed the southern Alberta region and offered ranchers leases of up to 10,000 acres for one cent per year.[29] This policy is documented in local histories such as *Mosquito Creek Roundup* and Alberta government land records. Both cattle companies and individual ranchers established operations in the area, driving herds north from Montana.



Figure 3. *Round up crew on CC Ranch near Nanton - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

Many of these ranches, including the Oxley Ranch and the Walrond Ranch (now Waldron), have operated for more than 140 years. The Northwest Cattle Company's legacy continues as the Bar U National Historic Site, recognized by Parks Canada for its role in Alberta's ranching history.



Figure 4. *Homestead Shack - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

In 1893, the Winnipeg-based company Osler, Hammond & Nanton managed the sale of "New Homes...Free Farms" along the Calgary & Edmonton (C&E) rail right-of-way. Sir Augustus Nanton, the company's president, gave his name to the town. The company promoted even numbered sections of Dominion Government land as free homesteads for settlers, while odd-numbered sections were available for

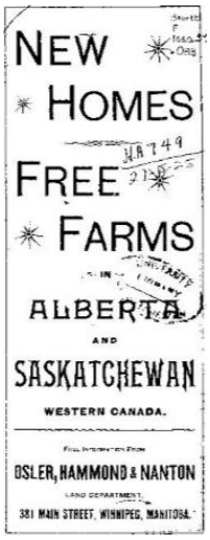


Figure 5. *Osler, Hammond, Nanton Pamphlet - Archive.org*

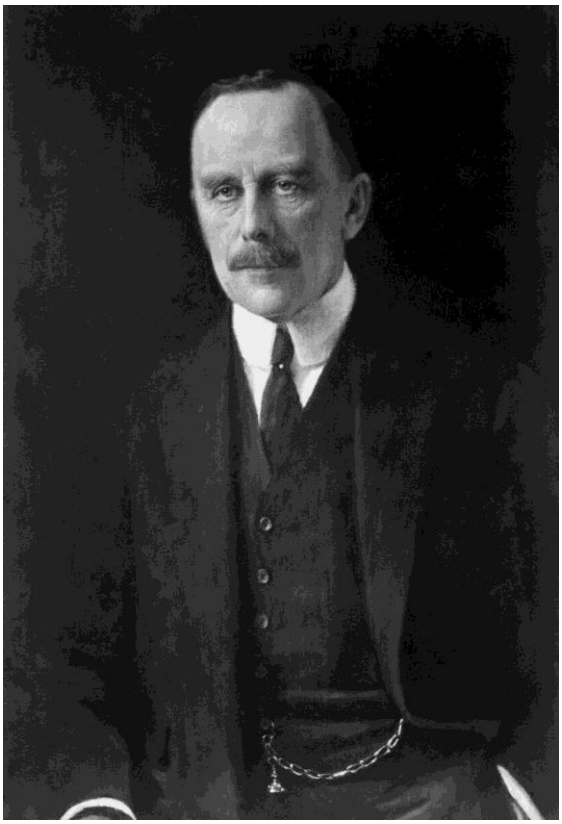


Figure 6. *Sir Augustus Nanton, early 1900s - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

[29] Alberta Department of Industry and Development, *Survey of Nanton* (Edmonton: Government of Alberta, 1960), 2.



Figure 7. *Nanton Grain Elevators - Archive.org*

purchase at $2.50 per acre. These details are supported by historical land sale advertisements and local government archives.[30]

The first shipment of grain from Nanton by rail occurred in 1905, from the farm of A.E. Burnett, with the grain sent directly to Winnipeg.[31]

The construction of the first grain elevator in 1906 by the Nanton Lumber and Grain Company marked the beginning of large-scale grain handling in the region. By the 1920s, seven elevators operated along the C&E rail line, handling up to one million bushels of grain annually.[32] Elevator companies also engaged in the coal business, with coal mined locally and transported by train from southern Alberta, then stored in sheds near the elevators. These developments are documented in local newspapers and historical society publications.



Figure 8. *Half-way house near Nanton, Alberta - Archive.org*

It was common for residents to combine town life with agricultural pursuits. *Bernard Kinney's* family lived in a one-storey wood-frame house on Shaw (20th) Street. His parents, *William and Anna (Dunn) Kinney*, originally from Illinois, settled northeast of Nanton in the early 1900s to farm. After William's death in 1929, Anna and later Bernard continued the farm operations.

Urban Development

In 1880-81, Joe Trollinger, a former American army soldier, and his wife Lucy constructed a sod building at Mosquito Creek Crossing, serving as a stopping place along the Fort Macleod-Calgary trail. Trollinger, once a whisky trader, became known for his gardening skills, while Lucy's cooking earned their establishment a reputation as a "popular eating spot." Notable guests included Governor General Marquis of Lorne and Bishop Pinkham, who praised Lucy's culinary talents in his diary.[33]



Figure 9. *Ingram's Meat Market, 1906-07 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-19, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

The townsite that would become Nanton was selected by Osler, Hammond, and Nanton.[34] The first commercial buildings appeared in 1902, including Hugh M. Shaw's general store and machinery business, the Auditorium Hotel, blacksmith shops operated by Ianson and William White, Ingram's Meat Market, and White's boarding house.

[30] Osler, Hammond and Nanton, *New Homes, Free Farms*.
[31] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 177.
[32] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 188.
[33] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Round Up*, 1975, 13.
[34] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 170.



Figure 10. *Worker's House - Prairie Towns website*

Walter Donnelly moved to Nanton in 1914, working as a buyer for the N. Bawlf Grain Company and later as elevator manager until 1940.[35] His family lived in a modest home on Shaw (20th) Street, constructed by the railway around 1900.[36] This property, known as the Donnelly House, was reportedly owned by the grain company.[37]

In 1941, Clyde Stroud became elevator manager, residing in the elevator house on main street with his family until their relocation to Oregon in 1948.

Efforts to secure a reliable water source began in 1904, with a proposed pipeline from a spring ten kilometers west of the village, though the plan was deemed too costly.[38] In 1909, the town hired Galt and Smith to investigate a gravity water system from local springs, which eventually became Nanton's water source in 1955.[39]



Figure 11. *Railway Avenue, 1913-19 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-11, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

That same year, land was purchased east of the railway for an electrical power plant. Initially powered by coal, the plant switched to natural gas in 1917 and only generated power at night. After a fire destroyed the plant, an agreement with Calgary Power ensured continued electricity supply, with local distribution lines connected to the main transmission line. Calgary Power had a local office for a period before operations were moved to High River.[40]

A volunteer fire brigade formed in 1911 played a crucial role in stopping two fires the following year, notably preventing the destruction of the Nanton Hotel.[41]

Politics and Government

During a period of rapid development, Nanton was officially incorporated as a village on June 22, 1903. Jim Bender was elected as the first overseer, serving as the sole elected official at the time. Just over four years later, in 1907, the province approved Nanton's incorporation as a town. The current overseer, Hugh Shaw, was instructed to organize an election for a council consisting of a mayor and six councillors. John Cooper was subsequently elected as the first mayor.[42]

Health

The first physician in the Nanton area was Dr. John A. Creighton, who established his homestead just east of town and operated his medical office in the Ingram Building on Railway (20th) Avenue. In 1908, Dr. Creighton and Dr. G.M. Robertson acquired the Nanton Drug Company.

Efforts to build a hospital in Nanton began in 1905 when a group of local women organized a fundraiser and secured a parcel of land on Shaw (20th) Street from the town. Despite these efforts, the hospital project did not receive enough support to proceed.[43]

[35] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News* ("W.S. Donnelly Passes in Nanton", 1949-09-01), 1.
[36] M. Kimmerly, email message to author, October 29, 2025.
[37] Alberta Heritage Survey, *HS 26146*, 1981.
[38] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 49.
[39] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 178.
[40] Nanton and District Historical Society, Mosquito Creek Roundup, 1975, 125,153, 178.
[41] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 176.
[42] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland,* vol. 2 (Mosquito Creek Historical Society, 2005), 137.
[43] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 182.

A boarding house on Alberta (21st) Street was converted into a hospital, operating from approximately 1927 to 1929. After its closure, the building returned to use as a boarding house and was eventually demolished around 1945.

Dr. William H. Keen arrived in 1905 and practiced medicine above the office of Ferris and Ransom. His house calls extended from Cayley to Stavely, Lomond, and into the mountains. In 1927, Dr. Keen built the Nanton General Hospital (also known as the Keen Hospital), which served the region until about 1940. The hospital accommodated twelve patients and featured its own dispensary, modern amenities such as advanced electrical equipment for disease treatment, two bathrooms, a kitchen, a sunroom, and a water system with an electric pump, as reported by the Nanton News. After the hospital closed, the building was converted into apartments.



Figure 12. *Children swimming in Mosquito Creek - Nanton & District Historical Society*

Work and Leisure

Mosquito Creek was a central feature for recreation in Nanton, offering swimming holes formed by beaver dams. A swimming pool was built next to the power plant, where steam from the generators was used to heat the water—a notable luxury for the time. In 1928, L. Carmack constructed a new pool, but it was destroyed by fire in 1930, leading residents to return to creek swimming until a new municipal pool was completed in 1969.[44]

The creek also served as a popular spot for picnics, fishing, hiking, and skating.

Community organizations played a significant role in local leisure activities. The first meeting of the Nanton Masonic Lodge was held in Shaw's Opera House, owned by H.M. Shaw, one of the lodge's founding members. The lodge later purchased St. Andrew's Hall, previously owned by the Presbyterian Church.[45]

The Boy Scout troop was established in February 1912 with twelve members, led by Walter Frantzen as the first Scout Master. Meetings were initially held at various locations until a group of fathers decided a dedicated facility was needed. Logs were sourced from the Priddis area, and with the help of a carpenter, the fathers built the Scout-Guide Hall, officially opened on April 24, 1957.[46]

Pistol and rifle target shooting became a hobby for a group of men in 1937, with shooting taking place in the curling rink or Maple Leaf Hall. The Nanton Rifle and Revolver Club was formed in 1941, and members competed in local and national competitions. When an Air Cadet unit was formed in 1942, club members provided shooting lessons to the cadets. Over time, both indoor and outdoor ranges were constructed.[47]

Entertainment venues also contributed to community life. The Rex Theatre opened in 1908, showing silent films and charging 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. Originally a retail store selling sewing machines, pianos, and organs, the building was converted to a garage in 1932. The Elks Lodge built the Elkland Theatre in 1925 for organizational and public entertainment purposes, including film screenings and dances. William McKay managed film presentations as part of a circuit serving small communities, and the theatre operated until 1956.[48]

In the early 1980s, Bridget Jones, a former choral music instructor, and Nanton resident Janice Ackroyd,

[44] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 168,192, 233.
[45] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 222.
[46] Nanton Scout-Guide Hall, *Program for Official Opening*, April 24, 1957.
[47] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 233-234.
[48] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 167.



Figure 13. *Nanton Rhythm Aces early 1930s - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-57, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

was inspired by a theatre production in High River and founded the Chinook Players and Singers in Nanton. Their first performance was "HMS Pinafore."[4950] Building on this success, Jones and Gordon Denoon established the Foothills Choir, with Jones as director and Denoon as manager. The choir's first meeting drew 60 participants, eventually growing to 200 members from surrounding communities, such as Longview and Claresholm.[51] Both organizations remain active today.

Spiritual Life

As soon as the first ranchers settled in the region, church services were held in homes and ranches. St. Cecilia Roman Catholic Church was constructed by Frank Du Rocher, who owned a lumber mill and coal mine west of Nanton. The first Catholic services in the area took place either in 1900 at the train station or in 1904 at the Coughlin Ranch. Later, services were held at the Nanton Hotel in the sample room, where traveling sales agents displayed their merchandise. St. Cecilia was completed on June 3, 1907, and consecrated by Bishop Legal of St. Albert.[52]

Presbyterian church services in Nanton began in 1899, led by summer student ministers. Early gatherings were held in the Auditorium Hotel, private homes, and a school. The congregation raised funds



Figure 14. *Masonic Hall - Prairie Towns website*

to build St. Andrew's Hall across the street from the Methodist Church.[53]

After years of discussion, the national congregations of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches united as the United Church of Canada. In Nanton, services were held in the former Methodist church, while the Presbyterian Church building became the Masonic Hall. In 1930, C.H. Marshall bequeathed $1,000 for a new United Church building, and the congregation raised an additional $7,000. In 1950, Grace Hall was moved, and the Nanton United Church was built on the site, opening the following year.[54]

The first Anglican Christ Church was dedicated on August 20, 1905. Within a few decades, the congregation outgrew the building, and a larger church was dedicated by the Bishop of Calgary in 1929. The original church became the attached Parish Hall.[55]

Methodist Church services began in the home of William White and at the train station in 1902. Grace Methodist Church was completed two years later at the corner of Alberta (21st) Street and 1st (21st) Avenue, where the United Church now stands.

The Nanton First Baptist Church held its initial meetings in the local schoolhouse and then in the Methodist Church. Planning for their own building began, and the new church opened in March 1907. In

[49] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol.2*, 73.
[50] Bridget Jones, interview, October 4, 2025.
[51] Jones, interview.
[52] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 70, 212.
[53] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 213.
[54] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 212-216.
[55] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 210-211.

1914, a parsonage was built to the west of the church.[56]

Business and Industry

Hugh Shaw arrived in High River in 1891 at age 15 and, after working on several ranches, established his own homestead east of the future Nanton townsite. Recognizing an opportunity to serve local ranchers, he built a small store at the corner of what became Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. [57] The store was later reoriented to face Railway Avenue. Shaw sold his business to Bob McLaren and Alan Hammill in 1904, who then sold it to Charles Marshall in 1906. Marshall acquired several hardware stores in the area.[58]

In 1903, Shaw partnered with John T. Cooper to sell real estate for the C&E Railway and Hudson's Bay Company, also representing insurance and loan companies. In 1909, Shaw and James Cooper commissioned a prominent two-storey brick building at the entrance to downtown Nanton, situated at the intersection of Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. The building was designed by distinguished Calgary architect William Dodd, whose works are recognized in the Canadian Register of Historic Places, including notable buildings in Vancouver, Regina, Qu'Appelle, and Calgary's City Hall constructed between 1907and 1911.[59] Dodd also designed the Nanton Consolidated School, which opened in 1909. The contractor for both the Shaw and Cooper building and the school was Andrew Davis, with Allen Brown serving as the bricklayer.[60]



Figure 15. *Shaw St. Nanton, Alta. - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

The Shaw and Cooper building housed various enterprises, including Ford automobile sales, and over the years accommodated several banks, including the Bank of Hamilton, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). The upper floor served as residential apartments from 1909 until approximately 1960.

Between 1909 and 1922, the Nanton Trading Company operated from the building, offering dry goods, groceries, and men's clothing. After a fire in 1924 destroyed his store, Thomas Attwood moved his jewellery business into the Shaw and Cooper building. The basement later housed a barber shop and pool hall, and in 1937, W. J. Stewart opened a clothing and wares store there.

Several medical professionals also maintained offices in the building, and for a time, Dr. George Wannup operated a hospital facility there. As Nanton's downtown developed, new businesses appeared, including a livery stable, machinery shop, butcher shop, bakery, laundry, grocery store, and millinery.

The first issue of the *Nanton News* was published on June 25, 1903, listing needed businesses such as a chartered bank, drug store, dressmaker, barber, and shoemaker.[61] Founded by John Bender, who arrived from the United States with his wife Elzabeth and daughter Lena,[62] The newspaper changed ownership several times and moved to three different locations on Shaw Street before relocating to a new two-storey

[56] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup vol. 2*, 56.
[57] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 138.
[58] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 138, 421.
[59] Canadian Register of Historic Places, *Canadian Register of Historic Places*, accessed October 5, 2025, https://www.historicplaces.ca.
[60] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 381.
[61] University of Lethbridge Library, *Nanton News*, June 25, 1903.
[62] Library of Archives Canada, *1906 Northwest Prairie Provinces Census*, 1906, accessed August 19, 2025, https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=census&id=464104&lang=eng&.



Figure 16. *Nanton New employee Bert Klebe in front of newspaper office - Glenbow Archives NA-1397-3, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

brick building at the corner of Norrish (19th) Street and 1st (21st) Avenue. The printing press was located on the main floor, with accommodations above. In 1905, the paper was sold to two individuals from Washington State, D.C. Jones and A.Z. Jessup.

Subsequently, A.Z. Jessup became the sole proprietor and took on his sons, Ralph and Clyde.[63] Dick Hawk joined in 1945 and in 1957 he and George Meyer purchased the paper from Clyde Jessup, after which Meyer left in 1959 to be part owner of the Camrose Canadian. In 1977, Hawk sold the paper to Ed and Lynne Maynard. In 1986 George Meyer repurchased the paper and moved Nanton News from the building on 19th Street into the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street[64]. Meyer sold the paper to Frank and Emily McTighe in 1989.

Hotels such as the Auditorium Hotel, Nanton Hotel, and White House Hotel were built in the early 1900s, serving travelers and residents.

The Auditorium Hotel was constructed in 1902 by W.J. Brown at the corner of Shaw (20th) Street and Railway (20th) Avenue. Originally a two-storey brick-clad building, it featured twelve sleeping rooms, a dining room, kitchen, office, sitting room, and bar. In 1903, Brown moved the original structure back and added a two-storey front extension.[65] A three-storey rear addition followed, along with the installation of steam



Figure 17. *Auditorium Hotel, 1902-03 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-13, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

heating and an ice house to store ice for keeping meat and produce cool.[66]

Area rancher *Jack Bruen* built the *Nanton Hotel* in 1906 at the corner of Railway (20th) Avenue and Alberta (21st) Street. The hotel served the community for over five decades before being destroyed by fire in 1960.[67] The *White House Hotel and Boarding House*, built by Thomas Fetherston around 1906 at Railway (20th) Avenue and Grieg (22nd) Street, was tragically destroyed by fire the same year. Although fires destroyed some of these buildings, owners often rebuilt.



Figure 18. *Fetherston Store interior- Nanton & District Historical Society*

Other businesses included grocery stores, butcher shops, hardware stores, and jewellery shops, many of which changed ownership or expanded over the years. After working in various Nanton businesses, *James Orville (Orie) Fetherston* launched his own grocery

[63] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140-141.
[64] Emily McTighe, interview, October 2, 2025.
[65] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 140.
[66] University of Lethbridge, *Nanton News*, May 2, 1912.
[67] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol. 2*, 9.

store in a building constructed by Dr. Robertson on Shaw (20th) Street. In 1917, Fetherston purchased the building and added an extension.[68]

Between 1910 and 1932, the *T. Eaton Company Limited* sold mail-order kit homes through its catalogue. Lumber was shipped by rail from British Columbia to the nearest station. The packages included lumber, windows, doors, and frames, though the lumber was not pre-cut. This often left surplus material, which could be used to build a shed or garage.



Figure 19. *Eastbourne, model 666 - Les Henry, Catalogue Houses*

One such home in Nanton was built by *Dr. James Creighton* and his wife *Minnie (Wardrobe)*. Their house was the Eaton's Eastbourne, model 666. It was priced at $1,116 in the 1916 catalogue and $1,519 in the 1919 edition.[69] Eaton's described the model as "...a modern type of square houses...where you obtain the maximum space at the minimum cost of both material and labor."[70]

Across the street, *Dr. McKeage*, Nanton's first full-time dentist, purchased a house built in 1904 by Mr. Hammill. Initially working from an office above a store, McKeage later added a dental office to his residence, where he practiced until his retirement in 1948.[71]



Figure 20. *McKeage House (centre-left) - Prairie Towns website*

In the 1950s, Nanton earned the nickname *"Tap Town"* after Howard Armstrong, owner of Armstrong's Department and Variety Store, boldly declared that the spring water piped from the Porcupine Hills was *"Canada's Finest Drinking Water."* A public tap was installed along the highway, encouraging motorists to stop and fill their containers.[72] Armstrong's promotional efforts, along with those of other local businessmen, helped popularize the town's reputation.

In 1979, *Paul Abildgaard* recognized the commercial potential of this reputation and founded the *Nanton Water and Soda Company* (later Nanton Water Ltd.). By 1984, the company was producing 12 million bottles annually, with distribution across Canada and the U.S. The Abildgaard family's entrepreneurial approach—relying on personal financing and grassroots marketing—helped establish one of Canada's first bottled water brands.[73]

In 1886, brothers *James and John Ingram* left Quebec and established a ranch along the Little Bow River. By 1903, they had constructed a two-storey commercial building on Railway (20th) Avenue, just south of the Auditorium Hotel. The upper floor served as a hall. In 1904, they sold the building to rancher *Jack Bruen*, builder of the Nanton Hotel. The Ingrams then built a one-storey butcher shop and grain warehouse on the adjacent lot. Their business expanded to include

[68] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 391.
[69] Les Henry, *Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others* (Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000), 51.
[70] Henry, *Catalogue Houses,* 50.
[71] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 155.
[72] Bomber Command Museum of Canada Archives, *The Tap Town Years – History of the Nanton Tap*, accessed August 8, 2025, www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/nanton/nantontap.html.
[73] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol.2,* 50.



Figure 21. *Ingram's Meat Market, 1906-07 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-19, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

butcher shops in *Cayley* and *Stavely*, and a hotel in Cayley. In 1907, they sold the Nanton butcher shop to *Alex and W.J. Grieg*.[74]

In 1917, *Bill Denoon*, a butcher from Ontario with experience in Didsbury, Crossfield, and Calgary, purchased Billy Greig's butcher shop on Railway Avenue. In the early 1920s, he built a new shop on Shaw (20th) Street and later added a meat locker.

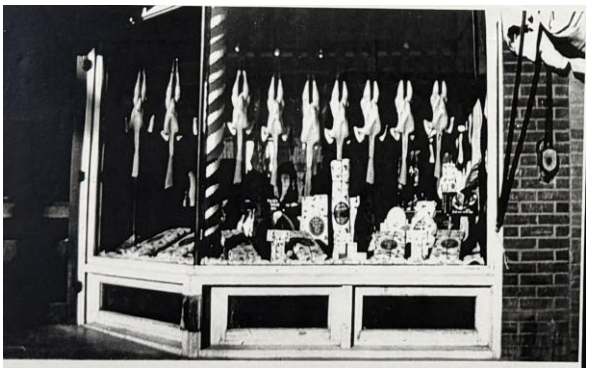


Figure 22. *Denoon Butcher Shop at Christmas - Nanton & District Historical Society*

His son *Gordon Denoon* joined the business in 1945, and it was renamed *Denoon and Son*.[75]

In 1965, *George Wolstenholme* constructed a cinder block building for his jewellery business in Nanton. He later served as the *Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)* for the Macleod riding from 1975 to 1982, representing the Progressive Conservative Party.[76]

A hardware store was essential to Nanton's early growth. *Ed and Dan Malloy*, originally from Colorado, opened *Malloy's Hardware* in 1905 at the corner of Railway Avenue and Norrish Street. Dan returned to the U.S. in 1908. In 1917, the business moved to Shaw (20th) Street. The building was destroyed in a major fire on February 9, 1924, which consumed eight businesses in Nanton's commercial core. A new brick building replaced it, and the store operated until 1929, when it was sold to the *Marshall Brothers*. Ed and Mary Malloy subsequently returned to Colorado.[77]

The *Nanton Trading Company* was the first local business to sell *John Deere* farm equipment. In 1904, it was purchased by *Charles Marshall*, who expanded its agricultural offerings. Over the years, ownership passed through several hands, including *Frank and Walter Carpenter*, *Reg Brydon*, *Jason Brown*, *W.C. Ebbert*, *L.C. Bonner*, and *Cliff Gould*.[78]

On February 9, 1924, a devastating fire broke out in Nanton's downtown commercial district, destroying eight buildings and severely damaging a ninth on the south side of Shaw Street (now 20th Street).

The blaze began at approximately 1:00 a.m. in a small structure behind H.A. Garrett's grocery store. Although wind conditions were calm, the town's limited water supply hindered firefighting efforts. By 2:00 a.m., a request for assistance was sent to the Calgary Fire Department. A fire engine and hose were loaded onto a train and arrived in Nanton by 4:00 a.m. As the flames advanced, they reached the brick-clad Paris Café, which slowed the fire's progress and allowed firefighters to contain the blaze and

[74] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 60,138-139.
[75] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 382-383.
[76] "George Wolstenholme," *Wikipedia*, accessed October 30, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wolstenholme
[77] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 159-160.
[78] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 163.



Figure 23. *1924 fire on Shaw Street - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

merchants time to salvage some of their inventory.[79] Shaw and Cooper, who lost seven buildings, announced plans to rebuild those that had been occupied. Other business owners began relocating and reassessing their futures.[80]

The Paris Café, a key structure in halting the fire, had originally been known as the Excelsior Café. In 1918, Lem Sam and Low On purchased an existing building, moved it back on the lot, and constructed a two-storey brick façade. By 1924, George Mah had taken ownership and renamed it the Paris Café.[81]

Among those who rebuilt was Bill Roney, a Scottish immigrant who arrived in Canada in 1910 and settled in Nanton in 1918 with his wife Elizabeth (née White). He purchased William Thom's bakery and operated it until his retirement in 1949.[82]

W.A. Chisholm, a graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, arrived in Nanton in 1904 and established the Nanton Drug Store, which included living quarters above. He sold the business in 1905 to Drs. Creighton and Robinson, who constructed a new two-storey brick building. Dr. Creighton operated the store until selling it in 1923 but later reacquired it and ran the business until his son James took over in 1955.[83]

In 1907, the Prairie Farmers Telephone Company was founded to transmit telephone conversations using barbed wire fencing. This unconventional system was



Figure 24. *Nanton Drug Company - Nanton & District Historical Society*

introduced by rancher Dan Richmond, who had seen similar setups in Oregon. The network extended from a point 30 kilometers east of Nanton to Charles Marshal's hardware store, and then to Old Brant, where it connected to High River's line.

The system was phased out when Alberta Government Telephones began installing rural lines.[84]

By 1919, Alberta Government Telephones operated out of a newly built brick structure with residential quarters at the rear. Financial strain in 1934 led the provincial agency to consider ending rural service, prompting municipalities to form local telephone

[79] University of Lethbridge, *Nanton News*, February 14, 1924, 1.
[80] Charles A. Clark, *The Vulcan Advocate*, February 13, 1924, Internet Archive, 3.
[81] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 165.
[82] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 190.
[83] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 155, 370.
[84] Tony Cashman, *Singing Wires: The Telephone in Alberta (Edmonton: Alberta Government Telephones Commission, 1972)*, 158.



Figure 25. *Chief Telephone Operator Margaret Robertson - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-38, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

companies. By March 1935, five such companies were serving the region.[85]

Until 1964, all outgoing calls—residential and commercial—were routed through operators in the Nanton building. With the advent of direct dialing, operators were no longer required. The building was subsequently sold to Clarence Rhyasen, who relocated his insurance business there.[86]



Figure 26. *Marshall Hardware Store/Keeley Block, 1912 - Glenbow Museum - public domain*

In 1909, Charles H. Marshall constructed a prominent two-storey brick building at the corner of Railway Avenue (now 20th Avenue) and Norrish Street (19th Street). Designed to house his hardware, furniture, and machinery business, the structure was outfitted with high-quality shop fixtures and quickly became a commercial landmark.

Marshall sold the building in 1935 to William S. Keeley, a seasoned entrepreneur with a diverse background in banking and retail. Keeley began his career with the Union Bank of Canada and worked as a bookkeeper before operating grocery stores in Claresholm and Banff. Upon acquiring William Thom's grocery business in Nanton, Keeley expanded the enterprise to include men's and ladies' wear. He also renovated the upper floor of the building into six residential apartments, a move that reflected both commercial ambition and community foresight.[87]

During the Second World War, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) established training schools in nearby Claresholm, Vulcan, and High River. These facilities brought a steady influx of military personnel to the region. Several senior officers and instructors from the BCATP schools resided in the Keeley Block apartments, which offered convenient access to local amenities and a stable housing option during wartime.[88]

Keeley retired in 1941, passing the business to his son James Keeley, who continued operating the general store and managing the residential units.[89] The building remained a vital part of Nanton's commercial and residential landscape for decades, and its preservation reflects the town's commitment to heritage and adaptive reuse.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Nanton began in 1887 when the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) took over the lease for the stopping house at Mosquito Crossing, maintaining a detachment there until relocating to Nanton in 1902. The town's first police officer was Constable Charles Aspden, known locally as Grousing Charlie.[90]

[85] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 166.
[86] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 390.
[87] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 410.
[88] Dave Birrell, interview, October 2, 2025.
[89] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 14.
[90] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 145.

One of the most notable incidents in Nanton's history was the Great Train Robbery of 1907. During a harsh winter, coal deliveries to the town were delayed, causing significant hardship. On February 5th, as a train hauling coal was leaving the station, several men boarded and disconnected the rail cars. Despite RNWMP Constable S. Currie firing a warning shot, the men persisted, repeatedly applying the brakes as the train crew tried to release them. Eventually, a meeting was held where the men agreed to unload 1,000 pounds of coal each, provided they signed to pay the railway six dollars per ton. Sixty men received coal, and Constable Currie reported that he could not confront about one hundred men alone. No charges were laid.[91]

Military



Figure 27. *Nanton Cenotaph Dedication, 1927 - Nanton & District Historical Society*

When World War I began in 1914, more than 250 men from the Nanton area enlisted to serve, with many never returning to their families, homes, and ranches. Horses from the region were purchased by the British Army and shipped overseas, playing a vital role in military logistics and operations. Local Red Cross groups assembled care packages for Canadian soldiers, providing essential supplies and comfort during the conflict.[92]

On August 13, 1927, the Earl of Haddington unveiled a cenotaph in Nanton to honour the local military personnel who lost their lives in World War I. Originally located beside Railway (20th) Avenue, across from the east end of Shaw (20th) Street on land provided by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the memorial features a statue of a soldier at rest with reversed arms—a traditional pose for military funerals. The dedication ceremony was led by Mayor John Cooper, with Calgary West MP R.B. Bennett delivering the principal address; Bennett would later become Prime Minister in 1930. In 2001, the cenotaph was relocated to a site next to the Bomber Command Museum of Canada, where it continues to serve as the focal point for annual memorial services.[93]

Education

Education has always been a cornerstone of the Nanton community. The first school was founded in May 1903, just before Nanton officially became a village. In its inaugural year, the school welcomed thirty-three students, but rapid population growth saw enrollment rise to ninety-seven within two years. To accommodate this increase, a four-room brick schoolhouse was constructed at the intersection of 20th Street and 23rd Avenue, costing $4,000.

As the community expanded, so did its educational infrastructure. In 1918, the creation of the Nanton Consolidated School District brought together the town and surrounding rural areas, prompting further additions to the original school building—including

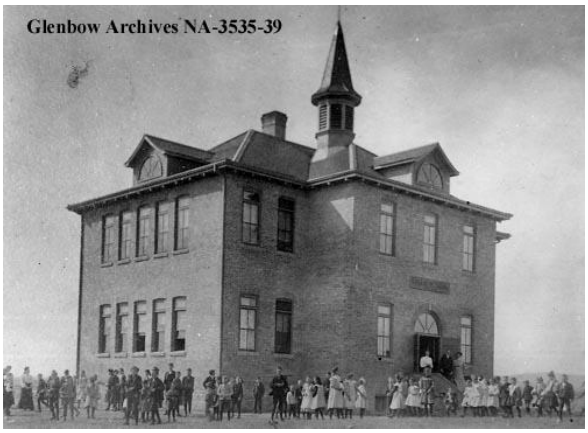


Figure 28. *Nanton Public School, 1907 - Glenbow Archive NA-3535-39, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

[91] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, *181-182*.
[92] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 176.
[93] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 228.

four new classrooms and an assembly hall on the third floor.[94] Over the following decades, several new schools were built to meet the needs of a growing student population and to replace aging facilities. Notably, in 1951, a four-room "steel school" was erected on Alberta (21st) Street next to the brick school. The J.T. Foster School, named after long-serving teacher Jack T. Foster, opened in February 1963 with an initial enrollment of 325 students.

Sports

Nanton has a rich sporting history, with baseball and hockey both beginning in the community as early as 1903. Rivalries between towns were fierce, and some teams even recruited outside players to strengthen their lineups. For example, Buzz Geddes was retained on the Nanton team by employing him as the town constable.[95]



Figure 29. *Nanton Hockey Team, 1912-13 - Glenbow Archives NA-3535-42, Glenbow Museum - public domain*

By 1907, women were also actively participating in sports, with the formation of a women's baseball team known as the "Aura Lee." The Nanton Skating Rink Association played a key role in developing local recreation, raising funds to build an outdoor rink on a pond created by the C & E dam. The rink was surrounded by high boards and included two changing rooms, but maintaining the ice was difficult due to frequent Chinook winds that caused melting. The first recorded game at the rink was a playful match between married men and bachelors, using a football as the puck and brooms as hockey sticks, though the result was never documented.[96]

Winter sports expanded with the establishment of the Penguin Ski Club in 1946. Initially located on a farm southeast of town, the club relocated several times due to unreliable snow conditions before constructing a 250-metre ski run at Williams Coulee. A rope tow powered by a 100-horsepower motor helped skiers reach the top, and a clubhouse offered refreshments. Unfortunately, after several winters with little snow, the club eventually closed.[97]

Golf also has deep roots in Nanton. The original nine-hole course opened in 1921, but limited resources meant play was mostly restricted to spring when the grass was short. In 1930, a new course was laid out, and sheep were used to keep the grass trimmed.[98] The course was expanded with the addition of a back nine in 1984.[99]

Over the years, Nanton residents have enjoyed a variety of other sports, including tennis, badminton, wrestling, and boxing.

Intellectual Life

The foundation of Nanton's intellectual life can be traced back to the establishment of its first school in May 1903, even before the village was officially incorporated. The rapid increase in student enrolment necessitated the construction of additional facilities, including a four-room brick building at the intersection of 20th Street and 23rd Avenue. The creation of the Nanton Consolidated School District in 1918 further expanded educational opportunities, with the addition of more classrooms and an assembly hall. The J.T. Foster School, named after a long-serving teacher, opened in 1963 and continues to serve the community.

[94] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 202.
[95] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 230.
[96] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 234.
[97] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 236.
[98] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup*, 1975, 237.
[99] Nanton and District Historical Society, *Mosquito Creek Roundup, vol. 2*, 86.

Libraries and literary societies have also played a crucial role in Nanton's intellectual life. The Nanton Public Library, established in the early 20th century, provided residents with access to a wide range of books and resources. Literary societies and book clubs were popular among the townspeople, fostering a love for reading and intellectual discussions.

Cultural organizations and events have significantly contributed to the intellectual vibrancy of Nanton. The Nanton Masonic Lodge, established in the early 1900s, was one of the first organizations to promote intellectual and social development. The Boy Scout troop, founded in 1912, provided young boys with opportunities to learn new skills and engage in community service. The Nanton Rifle and Revolver Club, formed in 1941, offered members a chance to participate in local and national competitions.

Museums and historical societies have preserved and promoted Nanton's rich history and heritage. The Nanton and District Historical Society, established in the mid-20th century, has been instrumental in documenting and preserving the town's history. The Bomber Command Museum of Canada located in Nanton is dedicated to preserving the history of the Bomber Command and educating the public about its significance.

The intellectual contributions of Nanton's residents have also played a significant role in shaping the town's intellectual life. Many residents have made notable contributions to various fields, including education, literature, and the arts. Their achievements have brought recognition to the town and inspired future generations.

Nanton's intellectual life has been shaped by its commitment to education, the presence of cultural organizations, and the contributions of its residents. The town's rich history and vibrant community continue to foster intellectual growth and development.

The Face of Alberta

After Nanton was incorporated as a village in 1903, the first Canadian census to include the community was the 1906 Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Nanton was grouped with nearby areas such as Cayley and High River in subdistrict 27. The census provided details about residents' birthplaces and immigration dates. Of the roughly 700 people living in the subdistrict, more than half—about 53 percent—had immigrated from the United States. Other settlers arrived from Canadian provinces of Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick, and various regions within Alberta.

The census also recorded a wide range of European origins among Nanton's residents, including England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Norway, Poland, and Switzerland. There were also individuals from Australia and China.

By the time of the 1911 Census, more specific information was available for Nanton itself. While Americans still made up the largest immigrant group, their proportion had dropped to 29 percent. The next largest group included people who had moved from other parts of Alberta or were born in Nanton, accounting for 21 percent of the population. Residents from Great Britain made up 22 percent, showing strong representation. Other Canadian provinces such as Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec were also well represented. International origins expanded to include Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Galicia, Sweden, Austria, Russia, Iceland, and China.

The census distinguished between ethnicity and nationality. For example, someone might have immigrated from the United States, identified as Scottish by ethnicity, and reported Canadian nationality. Others might have arrived from Ontario, listed Irish ethnicity, and held Canadian nationality. This diversity reflected the complex and multicultural makeup of Nanton's early population.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

- Alberta Government. *"Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."* November 1, 2013.
- Alberta Heritage Survey. HS 26146. 1981.
- Birrell, Dave. Interview. October 2, 2025.
- Jones, Bridget. Interview. October 4, 2025.
- Kimmerly, M. Email. October 9, 2025.
- McTighe, Emily. Interview. October 2, 2025.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Volume No. 1. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Nanton News. *Southern Alberta Newspaper Collection*. University of Lethbridge Library. https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/sanews/search/searchterm/nanton+news/field/title/mode/all/conn/and/order/date/ad/asc/cosuppress/1
- Nanton Scout-Guide Hall Program for official opening. April 24, 1957.
- *Survey of Nanton*. Edmonton: Alberta Department of Industry and Development, 1960.
- 1906 Northwest Prairie Provinces Census. 1906. Accessed August 19, 2025. https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=census&id=464104&lang=eng&
- The Vulcan Advocate. *Vulcan advocate (1924-02-13)*. Internet Archive: Charles A. Clark, Sr, February 13, 1924.

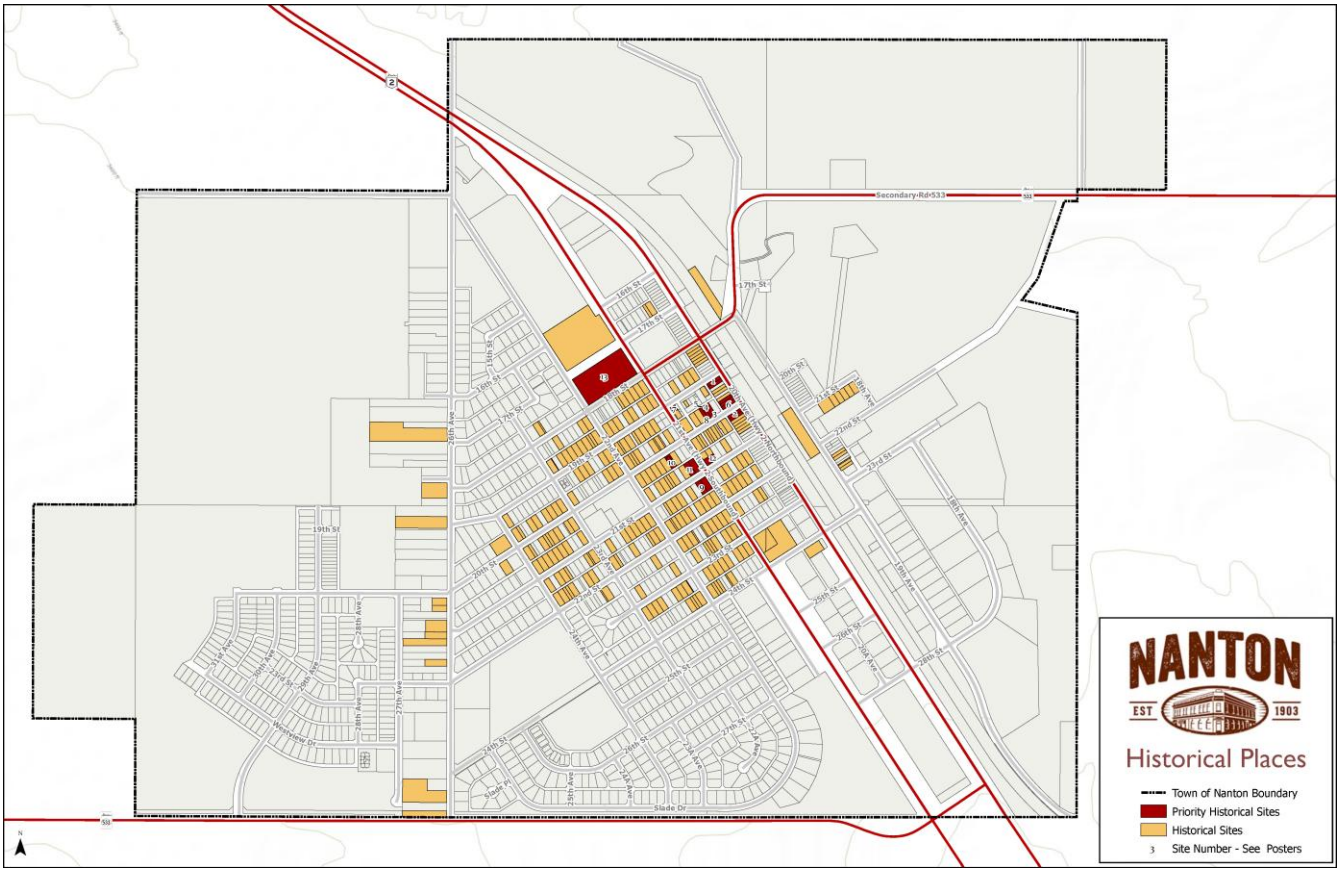
Secondary Sources

- Alberta Geological Survey. "Geology of Southern Alberta." *Alberta Energy Regulator*. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://static.ags.aer.ca/files/document/MAP/Map_601.pdf
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. "Macleod Trail Cultural Landscape." Accessed October 27, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=1&ObjectID=4664-0450
- Alberta.ca. "Archaeological Sites Alberta." Accessed August 15, 2025. https://www.alberta.ca/archaeological-sites-alberta
- Bomber Command Museum of Canada Archives. "The Tap Town Years – History of the Nanton Tap." *Bomber Command Museum Archives*. Accessed August 8, 2025. http://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/nanton/nantontap.html
- Brink, Jack. *The Rock Art of the Williams Coulee Site, EcPl-16, southwestern Alberta*. Edmonton: Archaeological Survey of Alberta, April 13, 2008.
- Britannica. "Meltwater deposits." Accessed October 28, 2025. https://www.britannica.com/science/glacial-landform/Meltwater-deposits
- Canadian Register of Historic Places. Accessed October 5, 2025. http://www.historicplaces.ca
- Cashman, Tony. *A Picture of Alberta*. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1979.
- Cashman, Tony. *Singing Wires: The Telephone in Alberta*. Edmonton: The Alberta Government Telephones Commission, 1972.
- Fidler, Peter. Journal of a Journey over Land from Buckingham House to the Rocky Mountains in 1792-93. *Except from Fidler's Journal,* Accessed October 30, 2025. http://www.ulethbridge.ca/lib/digitized_collections/ourheritage/index_page_stuff/following_trails/fidler/Fidler1.html
- Belyea, Barbara. David J. Wishart, Editor. "FIDLER, PETER (1769–1822)." *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/
- Allen, Robert S. "FIDLER, PETER." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Volume, no. 6, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003-. Accessed October 30, 2025. https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?Biold=36989
- George Wolstenholme – Wikipedia. Accessed October 30, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wolstenholme
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre. "About The Jump!" *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jum World Heritage Site*. Accessed October 28, 2025. https://headsmashedin.ca/about-jump
- Henry, Les. *Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others*. Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000.
- Lost Lemon Mine – Wikipedia & Mysteries of Canada. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Lemon_Mine
- Strand. Stephen. "Historic trade route still has a presence in the Foothills." *OkotoksOnline*. October 7, 2024. Accessed October 30, 2025.

https://okotoksonline.com/articles/historic-trade-route-still-has-a-prescence-in-the-foothills

- Osler, Hammond & Nanton. *New Homes, Free Farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Western Canada*. Winnipeg: Osler, Hammond & Nanton, ca. 1901.
- Peter Fidler – Wikipedia. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Fidler
- Berthelette, Scott. "Fur Trade Route Networks." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. February 2, 2023. Accessed October 27, 2025. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/fur-trade-routes
- Kilmury, Aaron. "Western Interior Seaway." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. February 28, 2025. Accessed October 28, 2025. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/western-interior-seaway

6. Map of Historic Places



The Oldman River Regional Services Commissions (ORRSC) prepared the Town Map and Downtown Map for the open houses and for this report.

6.1. Town Map

The Town Map above denotes all ninety-five heritage sites found from the HeRMIS database within the Town of Nanton that have a level of integrity worthy of closer inspection and consideration for placement on a Places of Interest List. The sites shown in **RED** represent the thirteen sites that now have Statements of Significance and are recommended for Municipal Resource Designation.

The sites shown in **YELLOW** are the remaining eighty-two of the 95 sites that could potentially form another phase of heritage building evaluations for future designation. Most of these sites are residential and institutional in nature, including one landmark

6.2. Downtown Map

The Downtown Map on the following page shows, in **RED**, the location and name of the thirteen heritage properties that were surveyed, assessed and evaluated, for the drafting of Statements of Significance, which are found in *Section 7* of this document.


N
3rd Ave
22nd Ave
Nanton Stern Hall - 1957
18th St
17th St
19th St
20th St
21st Ave (Hwy 2 southbound)
Kent Hospital/Ranton Hospital - 1927
Nanton News - 1908
Dr. McKeage's Dental Office - 1904
Creighton Residence - 1907
Masonic Hall - 1906
Nanton Telephone Exchange - 1919
Dennon's Meat Market - 1924
Patterson's Grocery - 1919
Nanton Drug Company - 1908
W.S. Kerby Building - 1923
Shawand Grover Block - 1909
Auditorium Hotel - 1923
21st St
20th Ave (Hwy 2 northbound)
22nd St
19th Ave
NANTON
EST
1903
Historical Places
Downtown Focus
Town of Nanton Boundary
Priority Historical Sites

7. Statements of Significance



7.1 The Structure and Purpose of a Statement of Significance

Within Alberta's heritage management framework, the Statement of Significance (SOS) is the central document that communicates why a historic place is important and what aspects of it must be conserved. It translates the findings of the eligibility, significance, and integrity assessments into a concise, practical summary that can be used consistently by municipal staff, Council, property owners, and the public. For Nanton, the SOS provides the formal basis for understanding each resource's contribution to the community's historical development and for guiding long-term stewardship.

The SOS is organized into three interconnected components—Description, Heritage Value, and Character-Defining Elements—each serving a distinct role in documenting the resource.

The Description offers a factual account of the historic place as it exists today. It outlines the building's form, materials, setting, and key physical features without interpretation. This establishes a shared understanding of the resource and ensures that future readers can clearly identify the place being evaluated.

The Heritage Value section explains why the resource is significant within the local context. It identifies the specific criteria under which the place holds importance—whether for its association with a historic theme, person, institution, architectural style, engineering method, information potential, or landmark qualities. This narrative situates the resource within Nanton's broader historical patterns, demonstrating how it reflects the community's development, identity, and cultural landscape.

The Character-Defining Elements (CDEs) translate the heritage value into the tangible features that must be retained to preserve the resource's significance. These may include architectural forms, materials, spatial relationships, landscape features, or other attributes that express the period during which the resource acquired its importance. CDEs form the basis for evaluating proposed alterations and ensuring that conservation decisions remain consistent with the resource's heritage value.

Together, these components ensure that the SoS is both interpretive and operational. It captures the essence of the historic place while providing clear direction for conservation, planning, and decision-making. For Nanton, the SoS supports transparent designation processes, aligns local practice with provincial standards, and strengthens the community's ability to protect the places that define its character and history.

1. Statement of Significance

W.S. Keeley Building

1901 20th Avenue
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The W. S. Keely Building was constructed in 1908 with completion in 1909. The building presents a strong two-storey brick façade that anchors a prominent corner in downtown Nanton. Its exterior is characterized by a series of ground-floor shopfronts with large display windows, centrally located recessed entrances, and a projecting mid-cornice above, reflecting its original commercial function. The upper storey is defined by evenly spaced rectangular windows set within the brickwork and crowned with a substantial upper cornice on the primary east-facing facade.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the W. S. Keeley Building lies in its association with the commercial, social, and institutional development of Nanton, its representation of early 20th century brick commercial architecture, and its enduring significance as a landmark anchoring the historic downtown core.

Constructed in 1908, the building reflects a period of optimism and growth spurred by the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which transformed Nanton into a service centre for surrounding ranching and farming communities. Historically, the building was erected by C.H. Marshall, one of Nanton's early merchants, and became home to Marshall's hardware, machinery, and furniture business. In 1914, it was the site of Nanton's first Chevrolet dealership, and its upper floor hosted community lodges such as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. The property's purchase by William S. Keeley in 1935 marked a new chapter, as Keeley's grocery, clothing, and hardware businesses contributed significantly to Nanton's mid-20th century economy. The adaptation of the second floor into modern apartments in 1941, which housed British Commonwealth Air Training Plan staff during WWII, illustrates the building's flexibility and its role in responding to changing community needs.

Architecturally, the W.S. Keeley Building is a distinguished example of early brick commercial design in southern Alberta. Its two-storey façade features pressed red brick laid in a running bond pattern, accented by corbelled brickwork along the parapet. The symmetrical arrangement of large display windows on the ground floor, framed by brick pilasters, reflects the building's original commercial function. The upper storey is characterized by evenly spaced sash windows with stone lintels and sills. The building's flat roof, prominent cornice, and subtle decorative brickwork contribute to its visual prominence and sense of permanence.

The W. S. Keeley building is important to the community for its continuous use as a hub for commerce, social gatherings, and residential life, reflecting the evolving needs and enterprising spirit of small-town Alberta. Its aesthetic value is evident in the durable materials, period detailing, and prominent two-storey brick façade, while its social and cultural significance is reinforced by its ongoing mixed-use function and its role as a focal point for community identity. The building's context is both local and regional, comparable to similar early commercial blocks in Claresholm, High River, and Fort Macleod, yet distinguished by its continuous use, sensitive restoration, and landmark presence along Highway 2.

The Keeley Building reflects the history and identity of Nanton through its original location, distinctive design, and enduring presence. It embodies broader patterns of Alberta's development, including the rise of brick commercial blocks as symbols of permanence and prosperity, the adaptation of buildings to changing social and economic needs, and the resilience of small-town communities. Its integrity, craftsmanship, and association with notable local merchants underscore its value as a representative example of southern Alberta's early commercial architecture. Its integrity, craftsmanship, and association with notable local merchants such as C.H. Marshall and William S. Keeley further underscore its value as a representative example of southern Alberta's early commercial architecture.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location is situated on a prominent corner facing Highway 2 north within Nanton's historic downtown core
- Two-storey form and massing with long rectangular street-facing facade and flat roof
- Stretcher bond brickwork construction with corbelled parapets
- Raised plain brick parapet with decorative brick edging
- Metal upper entablature with original W. S. Keeley letters within the frieze of the entablature
- Metal mid-cornice with brackets and the inscription of "Furniture" and "Hardware" within the frieze
- Central raked entry containing a tripartite of multi-panelled street-facing entrances
- Storefront with large fixed-glass display windows flanking central entrances with bulkhead and glass multi-lite transoms
- Original, shaped multi-panel wood entrance doors with glass upper panel and original door hardware
- Evenly spaced original upper storey wood single-hung windows with upper hinged wood storm windows and sandstone lintels and lug sills
- Continued mixed-use function (commercial ground floor, residential/office upper floor)
- Projecting metal sign hardware over central main entrance
- Landmark presence along Highway 2 within Nanton's historic commercial core.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Birrell, Dave. *Interview*. October 2, 2025.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Archival Collection: Local Business and Community History*. Glenbow Archives.
- Prairie Towns. *Historical Photographs of Nanton: Context of Town Development and Commercial Streetscape*. Archival collection.
- OhMy.ca. "Beautiful Historic Building in Nanton Alberta (Keeley Block History, Restoration Details, Upgrades)." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://ohmy.ca.
- Calgary Businesses for Sale. *MLS Listing A2174975: Keeley Block Description, Ownership History, Renovations*. Multiple Listing Service. Accessed December 4, 2025.
- Historical Society of Alberta. "Resources for Researchers." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://albertahistory.org/resources-for-researchers/.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. *(HS 28697)*. Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+48623.

2. Statement of Significance

Auditorium Hotel

2001 20th Avenue
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Auditorium Hotel is a two and three-storey, wood-frame brick-faced commercial building located on the southwest corner of Nanton's historic Shaw Street and Railway Avenue. Originally constructed in 1902, and expanded in 1912, the building features a flat roof, horizontal wood siding, and a symmetrical façade with large storefront windows and a central entrance. It has served continuously as a hotel, tavern, and social gathering place for over a century.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Auditorium Hotel lies in its association with the early 20th century transportation and hospitality industry, its representation of Edwardian Commercial design, and its significance as a landmark with symbolic value.

The heritage value of the Auditorium Hotel lies in its association with the early 20th century transportation and hospitality industry, serving as a key stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge and supporting regional travel, commerce, and social gathering. Its continuous operation as a hotel, tavern, and social hub for over a century reflects its enduring role in Nanton's community life and its connection to noteworthy events and people, including its original builder W.J. Brown and the Wynnyk family who led its restoration.

The Auditorium Hotel is an excellent representation of Edwardian Commercial design, characterized by its brick cladding, symmetrical fenestration, and restrained ornamentation. Despite the loss of its third floor in a 1983 fire, the building's restored façade, massing, and architectural details from its 1912 expansion remain legible, demonstrating the craftsmanship and material authenticity of the period. The 1993 restoration, supported by the Alberta Main Street Program, reinstated key design elements, contributing to the continuity of Nanton's historic streetscape.

As a landmark and symbol, the Auditorium Hotel is locally known as "The Aud" and stands as a visual anchor in Nanton's historic commercial core. Its role in music culture, community gatherings, and local folklore—including stories of past residents—adds layers of intangible heritage and symbolic value. The hotel's ongoing function as a hospitality venue and gathering place reinforces its significance as a marker of Nanton's identity and resilience.

The Auditorium Hotel is important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, social, and cultural reasons. It embodies the history and identity of Nanton, reflecting the town's development as a regional service centre during the railway and highway expansion era. Its layered history, architectural character, and enduring role in community life position it as a meaningful and representative example of early 20th century prairie hotel development in Alberta.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location at a prominent downtown intersection abutting public sidewalk
- Two-storey L-shaped form and massing with a flat roof reflecting the 1912 expansion
- Surviving two-storey massing reflecting the 1912 expansion

- Exterior detailing consistent with its Edwardian Commercial style
- Entablature above east portion of structure decorated with decorated finials, dropped pendants, and dentils
- Brick corbelling under entablature frieze
- Wood-frame windows with a mix of wood, brick, and concrete lug sills, and a mix of brick voussoirs and plain lintels
- Corner and east façade entrances with transom light
- Historic signage hardware and name association ("Auditorium Hotel" / "The Aud"
- Rear fire escape and counter weights
- Continued use as a hospitality venue and cultural gathering space
- Folklore and community memory associated with past guests and events
- Rectangular form and massing of brick "ice house," including vertical wood doors and original hardware, and rooftop "davit crane" to lift blocks of ice.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- University of Calgary Digital Collections – Glenbow Archives. "Auditorium Hotel – Nanton – Alberta." Accessed December 6, 2025. https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/archive/Auditorium-Hotel--Nanton--Alberta--2R3BF1OIKIKI.html.
- University of Lethbridge Library. Nanton News. Southern Alberta Newspaper Collection. May 2, 1912. https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/sanews/searchterm/nanton+news/.
- Waymarking.com. "Antique Hotels: Auditorium Hotel." Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM1W3A.
- Flickr – Eddy Match Company Archive. "Auditorium Hotel, Nanton." Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.flickr.com/photos/93390528@N04/47982648797/.
- Wolf Paranormal Investigations. "The Auditorium Hotel." Accessed June 16, 2015. https://wpinvestigations.wordpress.com/2015/06/16/the-auditorium-hotel/.
- Haunted Places. "Nanton Auditorium Hotel | Haunted Places | Nanton, AB, Canada." Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.hauntedplaces.org/item/nanton-auditorium-hotel/.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+29228

3. Statement of Significance

Fetherson's Grocery

2112 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

Fetherston's Grocery is a 1915 modest, one-storey brick commercial building that features simple massing, a street-facing orientation, and a utilitarian storefront typical of small-town prairie commerce. The upper façade contains a "Fetherston's Grocery" ghost sign partially covered by a fixed raked metal awning spanning the building's length over a recessed central entry. The building is centrally located within Nanton's historic commercial district on the north side of 20th Street.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the W. S. Keeley Building lies in its association with the commercial, social, and institutional development of Nanton, its representation of early 20th century brick commercial architecture, and its enduring significance as a landmark anchoring the historic downtown core.

Constructed in 1908, the building reflects a period of optimism and growth spurred by the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which transformed Nanton into a service centre for surrounding ranching and farming communities. Historically, the building was erected by C.H. Marshall, one of Nanton's early merchants, and became home to Marshall's hardware, machinery, and furniture business. In 1914, it was the site of Nanton's first Chevrolet dealership, and its upper floor hosted community lodges such as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. The property's purchase by William S. Keeley in 1935 marked a new chapter, as Keeley's grocery, clothing, and hardware businesses contributed significantly to Nanton's mid-20th century economy. The adaptation of the second floor into modern apartments in 1941, which housed British Commonwealth Air Training Plan staff during WWII, illustrates the building's flexibility and its role in responding to changing community needs.

Architecturally, the W.S. Keeley Building is a distinguished example of early brick commercial design in southern Alberta. Its two-storey façade features pressed red brick laid in a running bond pattern, accented by corbelled brickwork along the parapet. The symmetrical arrangement of large display windows on the ground floor, framed by brick pilasters, reflects the building's original commercial function. The upper storey is characterized by evenly spaced sash windows with stone lintels and sills. The building's flat roof, prominent cornice, and subtle decorative brickwork contribute to its visual prominence and sense of permanence.

The W. S. Keeley building is important to the community for its continuous use as a hub for commerce, social gatherings, and residential life, reflecting the evolving needs and enterprising spirit of small-town Alberta. Its aesthetic value is evident in the durable materials, period detailing, and prominent two-storey brick façade, while its social and cultural significance is reinforced by its ongoing mixed-use function and its role as a focal point for community identity. The building's context is both local and regional, comparable to similar early commercial blocks in Claresholm, High River, and Fort Macleod, yet distinguished by its continuous use, sensitive restoration, and landmark presence along Highway 2.

The Keeley Building reflects the history and identity of Nanton through its original location, distinctive design, and enduring presence. It embodies broader patterns of Alberta's development, including the rise of brick commercial blocks as symbols of permanence and prosperity, the adaptation of buildings to changing social and economic needs, and the resilience of small-town communities. Its integrity, craftsmanship, and association with notable local merchants underscore its value as a representative example of southern Alberta's early commercial architecture. Its integrity, craftsmanship, and association with notable local merchants such as C.H. Marshall and William S. Keeley further underscore its value as a representative example of southern Alberta's early commercial architecture.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location on the main street abutting public sidewalk within the historic commercial district
- Street facing orientation, one-storey form, rectangular massing, and flat roof
- Storefront configuration, including display windows and recessed entry
- Stretcher bond brick exterior superstructure cover with brick corbelling along upper parapet
- Brick lug window sills
- Ghost signage showing "Fetherston's Grocery"
- Association with the Fetherston family and their role in Nanton's civic history.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland*. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Birrell, Dave. *Interview*. October 2, 2025.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. *Archival Collection: Local Business and Community History*. Glenbow Archives.
- Prairie Towns. *Historical Photographs of Nanton: Context of Town Development and Commercial Streetscape*. Archival collection.
- OhMy.ca. "Beautiful Historic Building in Nanton Alberta (Keeley Block History, Restoration Details, Upgrades)." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://ohmy.ca.
- Calgary Businesses for Sale. *MLS Listing A2174975: Keeley Block Description, Ownership History, Renovations*. Multiple Listing Service. Accessed December 4, 2025.
- Historical Society of Alberta. "Resources for Researchers." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://albertahistory.org/resources-for-researchers/.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. *(HS 28697)*. Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+48623.

4. Statement of Significance

Nanton Drug Company
2114 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton Drug Company building, which later became known as Creighton Pharmacy, is a modest early 20th century commercial building constructed in 1908 and located in the historic downtown core of Nanton. The structure is characterized by its street-facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk, two-storey rectangular massing and brick exterior, a utilitarian storefront design with a recessed central entry flanked by large, fixed windows, and a second storey with four single-hung windows. The building is crowned by a stepped entablature with decorative urn finials, with the inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co."

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Drug Company lies in its association with the development of health care and commerce in Nanton and its connection to Dr. John Creighton as one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders, its representation of early 20th century commercial architecture, and its significance as a landmark.

The heritage value of the Nanton Drug Company is deeply rooted in its pivotal role in the evolution of health care and commerce in Nanton. Constructed in 1908, the building became the town's first dual-medical-pharmaceutical pharmacy where it served not only as a dispensary but also as a community hub for medical advice and supplies, especially during a time when Nanton lacked a formal hospital. This marked a significant advancement in local health services and commercial infrastructure. Its association with Dr. John Creighton is especially noteworthy. Dr. Creighton arrived in Nanton in 1903 after serving as a medical officer in the South African War, where he was awarded the Queen's Medal. As Nanton's first doctor, Dr. Creighton was instrumental in establishing medical services, often traveling by horseback to reach patients in rural areas. At the time, many of the first drug stores in Alberta were opened by a local physician. In partnership with Dr. G.M. Robertson, he purchased the drug business of W.A. Chisholm and built the brick Nanton Drug Company building, which quickly became a cornerstone of health care in the region.

The pharmacy's dual function as both a dispensary and a medical office exemplifies the customary practice in small Alberta towns, where physicians frequently dispensed medications directly to patients. This model was crucial for rural communities, providing accessible health care and pharmaceutical services at a time when such resources were scarce. Its role in supporting the Keen Hospital (1927 – 1940) further underscores its importance in the town's early healthcare infrastructure.

Beyond its medical significance, the Nanton Drug Company contributed to the commercial growth of Nanton. Its prominent location on Main Street and its durable, fire-resistant brick construction reflected the aspirations of the town's early business community. The building represents early 20th century commercial architecture, characterized by its two-storey brick construction, utilitarian storefront design, ornate entablature with decorative urn finials, and the prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co.", and conveyed stability and trustworthiness—qualities essential for a pharmacy and community business. Its significance as a landmark is reinforced by its enduring presence in the

historic downtown core, its role as a visual anchor in the streetscape, and its survival through key events such as the fire of 1924.

This resource is important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social value. It served as the local pharmacy and medical office, reflecting the dual roles often held by rural physicians in early Alberta towns, and supported the town's transition from a small railway community to a district metropolis. The building's well-preserved architectural features and its association with the modernization of rural services make it a valued part of Nanton's heritage landscape.

The Nanton Drug Company embodies the history and identity of Nanton by illustrating the pattern of service-oriented businesses clustering in prairie towns during the railway era, and by highlighting the aspirations and craftsmanship of its era through its classical detailing and durable construction. Its continued use and preservation reflect its enduring role in the community's commercial and social life, ensuring that the story of early commerce and healthcare in Nanton is effectively conveyed to present and future generations.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core abutting public sidewalk
- Two-storey form and massing with brick superstructure cover and stone foundation
- Long rectangular plan with short façade, stepped sidewall parapet, and flat roof
- Central recessed raked entrance with multi-panelled wood door with original hardware flanked by multi-panelled wood transoms and fixed storefront windows above
- Sandstone lug sills
- Upper entablature with decorated parapet, classical detailing and decorative brackets and urn finials
- Ornate metal mid-cornice with decorated brackets
- Brick voussoirs over second-floor windows
- Prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" within the entablature
- Association with Dr. Creighton and its dual development of healthcare and commerce.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Penley, Ken. The History of Pharmacy in Alberta: The First One Hundred Years. Edmonton: The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, 1993. https://archive.org/details/historyofpharmac0000unse/page/n13/mode/2up.
- Bomber Command Museum Archives. Nanton's Fetherston's Grocery Store. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/s,fetherstongrocerystore.pdf
- Nanton and District Historical Society Collection – Glenbow Archives https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/nanton-and-district-historical-society-collection.
- Creighton Pharmacy Postcard – Internet Archive https://archive.org/details/PC004486.
- "History of the Keen Building – Mainstreet Apartments." Mainstreet Nanton. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.mainstreetnanton.com/historyofthekeenbuilding.
- "1908 - Nanton Drug Co, Nanton, Alberta - Dated Buildings and Cornerstones." Waymarking.com. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wmZD3N_1908_Nanton_Drug_Co_Nanton_Alberta.Bomber Command Museum Archives. Nanton's Fetherston's Grocery Store. Accessed December 6, 2025. https://www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca/s,fetherstongrocerystore.pdf.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 18950). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 7, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+18950.

5. Statement of Significance

Denoon Butcher Shop

2116 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Denoon Meat Market is a 1924 modest one-storey, rectangular brick commercial building with a flat roof located mid-block on the north side of Nanton's main street (20th Street). A contemporary fixed awning spans the length of the façade over a raked recessed central entry.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Denoon Meat Market lies in its association with enterprising spirit of early settlers and the Denoon family, its representation of early 20th century prairie commercial architecture, and its significance as a community landmark.

The heritage value of the Denoon Meat Market lies in its association with the enterprising spirit of early settlers and the Denoon family, who were among the early settlers and entrepreneurs in the region and contributed significantly to the economic and social development of Nanton. Built in 1924 by William Denoon who was a member of town council, and became fire chief in 1925, the building operated as a butcher shop and meat market, providing essential services and acting as a social hub for local residents during the railway expansion era. His son Gordon became a partner in 1945, at which time the name changed to Denoon and Son, who eventually took over the business. The Denoon family's stewardship of the business contributed to the growth of small-town commerce and helped shape the community's identity.

The building is a representative example of early prairie commercial architecture, characterized by Its modest, one-storey, rectangular wood-frame construction with a distinctive false-front brick façade – a style commonly used in western Canadian towns to give businesses in small buildings a more prominent appearance on main street. The building's design, including its brick cladding, corbelled parapet, and original storefront details, demonstrates construction techniques and aesthetic choices typical of its era.

As a landmark, the Denoon Meat Market is a recognizable and enduring feature of Nanton's historic main street (20th Street), contributing to the community's identity and the continuity of its historic downtown district. Its location within a contiguous row of early commercial buildings and its preserved architectural features make it a symbolic anchor in the town's historic landscape.

The Denoon Meat Market is also important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It embodies the history and identity of Nanton by illustrating patterns of commercial development, community life, and architectural trends that shaped Alberta's small towns from the late 19th century through to the present. The building's integrity in location, design, materials, and association ensures it continues to evoke the atmosphere and function of a historic meat market, making it a valued part of Nanton's heritage.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location on the main street within a contiguous row of early commercial buildings in the historic commercial district.
- Street facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk.

- One-storey scale, short façade, and long rectangular massing
- Stretcher bond brick façade with a simple one-storey form and rectangular massing with raised parapet and flat roof
- Storefront configuration, including bulkhead, flat transom with multiple lites, and central recessed entry flanked by display windows with continuous wood sill
- Corbelled brick spanning upper brick parapet.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Jones, Bridget. Interview. October 4, 2025.
- Prairie Towns. “Historical Overview of Nanton.” Accessed December 7, 2025. https://prairie-towns.com/nanton-images.html.
- University of Calgary Archives. Nanton and District Historical Society Collection. Accessed December 7, 2025. https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/nanton-and-district-historical-society-collection.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+15965.

6. Statement of Significance

Shaw and Cooper Block

1919 20th Avenue
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Shaw and Cooper Block is a two-storey, square-plan commercial building located on a prominent corner of Highway 2 North and 20th Street within Nanton's historic downtown. The structure is constructed of brick with sandstone detailing, resting on a sandstone foundation. Its flat roof is edged by a parapet, with the most distinctive feature being the angled corner façade inscribed with "Shaw & Cooper" and the date "1909." The ground floor is articulated by elliptical Romanesque Revival windows, each framed with sandstone keystones and radiating voussoirs, while the second storey is defined by rectangular single-hung windows with sandstone lintels and sills. A classical triangular pediment with ornate brackets marks the corner and south entrance, and an earlier east entrance, emphasizing the building's dual orientation to the street. Heavy sandstone quoins, a continuous water table course, and a mid upper cornice with a plain frieze further enrich the exterior. The original heavy bracketed entablature once removed, has been reinstated.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Shaw and Cooper Block lies in its association with the entrepreneurial leadership of H.M. Shaw and J.T. Cooper, its association with the development of commerce and banking, its representation of early 20th century commercial design, and its significance as a landmark.

The heritage value of the Shaw and Cooper Block lies in its association with the entrepreneurial leadership of H.M. Shaw, founder of Nanton and federal Member of Parliament, and J.T. Cooper, the town's first mayor. H.M Shaw was the founder of Nanton and played a pivotal role in shaping the town's early development and instrumental in establishing the Shaw and Cooper Block as a centre for commerce and banking, reflecting the ambitions and optimism of Nanton's formative years. J.T. Cooper helped foster the development of banking and retail services that supported local ranchers and farmers, reinforcing the building's significance as a commercial anchor in Nanton.

The building is closely tied to the development of commerce and banking in Nanton, serving as the original home of the Bank of Hamilton and later the Canadian Bank of Commerce/CIBC, as well as hosting a variety of retail and office tenants that supported local ranchers and farmers.

Architecturally, its heritage value is further represented by is distinguished example of early 20th century commercial design, blending Romanesque Revival and classical architectural features, its two-storey, square-plan form is constructed of brick and sandstone detailing and foundation, reflecting the transition from wood to fire-resistant masonry typical of Alberta towns in the early 1900s. The building's most distinctive feature is its angled corner façade, inscribed with "Shaw & Cooper, 1909," which serves as a visual anchor in Nanton's historic downtown. The ground floor is articulated by elliptical Romanesque Revival windows, each framed with sandstone keystones and radiating voussoirs, while the second storey features rectangular single-hung windows with sandstone lintels and sills. Classical triangular pediments with ornate brackets mark the corner and south entrances, and in an earlier east entrance, emphasizing the building's dual orientation to the street. Heavy sandstone quoins, a continuous water table

course, and a mid-upper cornice with a plain frieze enrich the exterior. The original heavy bracketed entablature, once removed, has been reinstated, preserving the craftsmanship and stylistic vocabulary of its era.

As a landmark, the Shaw and Cooper Block anchors a prominent intersection in Nanton's historic downtown, symbolizing the town's heritage and serving as a focal point for community life. Its enduring presence and integrity – retaining original materials, design and workmanship – allow it to community its heritage value and the identity of Nanton as a town shaped by railway expansion, agricultural settlement, and civic leadership.

The site is important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It embodies the prosperity and optimism of Nanton's early years, and its ongoing use as a bank and commercial hub demonstrates continuity of practice and connection between past and present.

The Shaw and Cooper block reflects the broader pattern of Alberta's history, marking the transition from fronter settlement to established municipality, and continues to symbolize the trust, prosperity, and continuity that define Nanton's civic and commercial development.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location is situated on a prominent corner facing Highway 2 north within Nanton's historic downtown core
- Two-storey form and massing with long rectangular street-facing facade and flat roof
- Stretcher bond brickwork construction with corbelled parapets
- Raised plain brick parapet with decorative brick edging
- Metal upper entablature with original W. S. Keeley letters within the frieze of the entablature
- Metal mid-cornice with brackets and the inscription of "Furniture" and "Hardware" within the frieze
- Central raked entry containing a tripartite of multi-panelled street-facing entrances
- Storefront with large fixed-glass display windows flanking central entrances with bulkhead and glass multi-lite transoms
- Original, shaped multi-panel wood entrance doors with glass upper panel and original door hardware
- Evenly spaced original upper storey wood single-hung windows with upper hinged wood storm windows and sandstone lintels and lug sills
- Continued mixed-use function (commercial ground floor, residential/office upper floor)
- Projecting metal sign hardware over central main entrance
- Landmark presence along Highway 2 within Nanton's historic commercial core.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. "Shaw & Cooper Block (HS 23546)." Government of Alberta. Accessed December 4, 2025. https://historicplacesalberta.ca.
- Waymarking.com. "Shaw and Cooper Block, Nanton, AB." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm12NPN_Shaw_and_Cooper_Block_Nanton_AB.
- Wikidata. "Shaw and Cooper Block Heritage Designation (Q44665583)." Accessed December 4, 2025. https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q44665583.

7. Statement of Significance

Nanton News

1902 21st Avenue
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton News building, constructed in 1908, is a two-storey, rectangular, brick-clad commercial structure located on 19th Street in downtown Nanton. Built of nailed-frame construction on a stone foundation, the building features a central double-door entrance flanked by fixed multi-pane windows, and two windows above, brick corbelling, brick voussoirs over the windows and doors, and a prominent façade typical of early prairie boomtown architecture. The ground floor historically housed the printing office and shop, while the second floor provided residential quarters. A side entrance and additional windows face Highway 2 South.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton News building lies in its association with journalism, civic engagement, communication and technological adaptation, and its representation of a purpose-built commercial structure projecting permanence and prosperity.

The heritage value of the Nanton News building lies in its association with the development of local journalism and civic engagement in Nanton, as the headquarters of the Nanton News newspaper from 1908 to 1986. The building is historically significant as a vital institution that documented settlement, promoted commerce, and fostered civic identity in southern Alberta. Founded by John M. Bender in 1907, the newspaper played a vital role in the community's growth, providing coverage of agricultural issues, local politics, and community events, and serving as a link between residents and the wider province.

The Nanton News relocation to a purpose-built office in 1908 marked Nanton's maturation as a civic hub, reflecting the town's emergence as a service centre for ranching and farming communities along the Calgary–Fort Macleod railway line. Its continuity of use as a newspaper office, with printing technology evolving from hand press to linotype, underscores its heritage value as a site of communication and technological adaptation. The preservation of back issues dating to 1907 further enhances its documentary importance, providing a record of community life and regional development.

Architecturally, the Nanton News building stands as a testament to the aspirations and resourcefulness of early prairie towns. Its two-storey commercial structure, with a rectangular plan and prominent façade, was designed to project permanence and prosperity. The nailed-frame construction on a sturdy stone foundation speaks to the utilitarian yet durable building practices of the early 20th century. The exterior is characterized by stretcher-bond brickwork, with corbelling along the upper north and west parapets, and a flat roof. The building's central entrance, flanked by original wood-frame windows, lugs sills, and multi-panelled wood and glass doors is further enhanced by brick voussoirs over the windows and doors – details that reflect both craftmanship and stylistic ambition. Its original corner-lot setting abutting the public sidewalk, anchors the building in the town's historic streetscape and reinforces its civic prominence.

The building's surviving materials and workmanship from its 1908 construction remains intact with only minor alterations, and the dual-use layout - with a printing office below and residential quarters above – remains legible,

reinforcing the building's functional authenticity and its role as a hub of communications and technological adaptation.

Although Nanton News experienced several owners over its time and relocated to the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street in 1986, the building is a rare surviving example of early newspaper architecture in Alberta. The Nanton News building is valued by the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It embodies the history and identity of Nanton, reflecting broader patterns of settlement and development in southern Alberta. Its enduring association with local journalism, civic pride, and communication networks ensures that its heritage values remain legible to present and future generations.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original corner-lot setting abutting public sidewalk within Nanton's historic commercial district
- Two-storey, nailed-frame form and massing with stretcher-bond brick superstructure cover, stone foundation, and flat roof
- Brick corbelling along upper north and west parapets
- Central entrance flanked by original wood-frame windows, wood lug sills, and multi-panelled wood and glass entrance doors
- Brick voussoirs over windows and main entrance doors
- Central main level entrance on west elevation with multi-panelled wood and glass door, and similar offset entrance opening and door on second level above
- Surviving materials and workmanship from its 1908 construction, including wood framing and masonry details
- Association with the evolution of printing technology from hand press to linotype.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+28697.
- McTighe, Emily. Interview. October 2, 2025.

8. Statement of Significance

Nanton Telephone Exchange

2118 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton Telephone Exchange building is a modest, single-storey utility structure located within the town's historic commercial core. Constructed in 1918 to house telecommunications infrastructure, the building features a functional design typical of the Alberta Government Telephone's mid-century rural exchanges, with stucco cladding applied to the brick-faced exterior, minimal ornamentation, and a rectangular footprint. It served as a local switching station and operations hub for telephone service in Nanton and surrounding areas

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Telephone Exchange building lies in its association with the development and modernization of provincial telecommunications infrastructure in Alberta, its representation of mid-century utility design, and its significance as a landmark with symbolic value.

The heritage value of the Nanton Telephone Exchange lies in its association with the development and modernization of provincial telecommunications infrastructure in Alberta, serving as the local switching station and operations hub for telephone service in Nanton and surrounding areas. Its role was pivotal in connecting Nanton's residents to the broader provincial and national telephone grid, marking a transformative period in the community's history when access to modern communication became a public good initiated by the Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) system, which was established in 1906 and expanded rural service throughout the province following its acquisition of Bell Telephone's Alberta operations in 1908.

Architecturally, the building is a representation of a mid-century utility design featuring a modest, single-storey structure, typical of Alberta Government Telephone's mid-century rural exchanges. Its design likely followed standardized provincial plans emphasizing durability, fire resistance, and functional layout, typical of AGT's rural exchanges from the mid-1910s to the 1950s. It features a rectangular footprint, stucco cladding applied over a brick-faced exterior, and minimal ornamentation. Key character-defining elements include its original location abutting the public sidewalk within Nanton's historic downtown core, a one-storey short-façade form and massing with a flat roof and stone foundation, and a symmetrical fenestration pattern. The centre entrance is distinguished by sidelights and a flat transom with multiple lights, while the plain parapet is accented by protruding pilasters extending down to a concrete plinth. The building also retains its original moulded name plate above the central entrance, concrete lug sills with applied stucco, and evidence of standardized provincial design and construction methods. These architectural features contribute to its legibility as a government utility structure and reflect the civic values of the era.

As a symbol of early telecommunications, the Nanton Telephone Exchange is valued by the community for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It embodies the collective memory of Nanton's residents, recalling the era when manual switchboards—often operated by local women—played a vital role in daily life and community connectivity. The building's association with the expansion of government telephone services and its enduring recognition within the community highlight its importance in Nanton's identity and heritage.

The building also reflects Nanton's evolution from a rural service centre to a connected community, illustrating broader patterns in Alberta's history of public infrastructure and equitable access to modern services. Its retention of original location, design, materials, and association with its ongoing role in community activities, ensures that the Nanton Telephone Exchange remains a valued and authentic part of Nanton's heritage.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location abutting public sidewalk within Nanton's historic downtown core
- One-storey short-façade form and massing with flat roof and stone foundation
- Original exterior brick superstructure cover beneath later applied stucco
- Centre entrance with sidelights and flat transom with multiple lights
- Symmetrical fenestration pattern
- Plain parapet with protruding pilasters extending down to a protruding concrete plinth
- Concrete lug sills with applied stucco
- Original moulded name plate above central entrance
- Association with manual switchboard operations and early telecommunications equipment
- Evidence of standardized provincial design and construction methods.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Alberta Government Telephones – Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta_Government_Telephones
- Nanton and District Historical Society Collection – Glenbow Archives https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/nanton-and-district-historical-society-collection
- Provincial Archives of Alberta – AGT Records https://searchprovincialarchives.alberta.ca/telephone
- "Alberta's Telephone Heritage - Home." Accessed December 8, 2025. https://wayback.archive-it.org/2217/20101208160425/http://www.abheritage.ca/telephone/index.html.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+26243.
- Alberta Government Telephones. En-Academic. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/979275.

9. Statement of Significance

Creighton Residence

2203 21st Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Creighton Residence is situated on a large well-treed lot, bordered by a low hedge, and located on a prominent southwest corner of 21st Street and Highway 2 South. It is a two-storey, 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 square-layout home, clad with shiplap and shingle siding. The structure has an open front porch, a medium-hip gable roof with a prominent cross gable, and single-hung windows on all elevations. The residence reflects the practical space-efficient design typical of Eaton kit houses from the early 20th century massing, and symmetrical fenestration pattern, conveying its original function as a healthcare facility.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Creighton Residence lies in its association with the pioneering Creighton family, notably Dr. John A. Creighton and his son, James Forbes Creighton, and the development of healthcare and business in Nanton, as well as its representation of early 20th century residential architecture exemplified by its design as a 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit house.

The heritage value of the Creighton Residence lies in its association with the pioneering Creighton family, notably Dr. John A. Creighton and his son, James Forbes Creighton. John A. Crieghton was the first doctor in the Nanton area, establishing his medical office in the Ingram Building and playing a foundational role in the development of local healthcare. He and his colleague, George Robertson, expanded the local pharmacy, building a new two-storey brick-clad business that became a central institution in the community. James Forbes Creighton, delivered by his father in the residence and living there until 2015, served in the Air Force during World War II, had a career in pharmacy, and contributed extensively to local sports and community development.

The structure's representation of early 20th century residential architecture is exemplified by its design as a 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit house, featuring a practical, space-efficient square two-storey layout, shiplap and shingle siding, open front porch, medium-hip gable roof with a prominent cross gable, and original millwork from Winnipeg. The residence's significance as a local landmark is reinforced by its prominent location at the corner of 21st Street and Highway 2 South, its generational continuity within the Creighton family, and its role as a symbol of community leadership and innovation.

The Creighton Residence is important to the community because it embodies historic, aesthetic and social values: as a home and workplace of Nanton's first doctor, the birthplace and lifelong residence of a prominent figure, James Forbes Creighton, and a rare surviving example of mail-order kit homes that reflect the economic practicality and ingenuity of rural Alberta families. The place reflects the history and identity of Nanton through its enduring association with the Creighton family, its architectural integrity, and its role in broader patterns of settlement, healthcare, and business development in the region. The residence also holds social value as a familiar feature within the neighbourhood, reinforcing community memory and continuity across generations.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton on a prominent corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street
- Square, two-storey scale and massing layout typical of Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit houses
- Nailed wood-frame superstructure
- Open front verandah and vertical support wood columns and closed railing
- Off-centre main entrance
- Medium-hip roof with a prominent cross gable
- Roof pediment on upper cross-gable dormer
- Shiplap with corner board and shingle-clad exterior
- Single-hung wood-frame windows and wood storm windows with slip sills standard with kit house package
- Original window and door placement as detailed in the Eaton's Eastbourne model 666 square-layout home
- Window and door millwork
- Centre brick chimney
- All structural components, including lumber, windows, doors and frames shipped by rail from British Columbia
- Association with the Creighton family, who played a foundational role in Nanton's medical services and business development.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Henry, Les. Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others. Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000.
- Tribute Archive. "James Forbes Creighton (Nanton) Obituary 1920-2015 High River, AB. Tribute Archive. 2015. https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/585797/James-Forbes-Crieghton-Nanton/.
- Our Canada. "I Grew Up in a Mail-Order House From the Eaton's Catalogue." Reader's Digest Canada. Accessed December 4, 2025. https://www.readersdigest.ca/travel/canada/mail-order-house/.
- Lumsden History Examined. "They Were Not All Eaton's Catalogue Homes." Blogspot. February 2010. https://lumsdenhistoryexamined.blogspot.com/2010/02/they-were-not-all-eatons-catalogue.html.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 28697). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 8, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+18324.

10. Statement of Significance

Keen Hospital

2207 20th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Keen Hospital is a two-and-one-half-storey, rectangular stucco-clad brick building with a concrete foundation and gable roof, constructed in 1927 as Nanton's first purpose-built hospital. Located on the west edge of Nanton's historic downtown core, the building originally contained a twelve-bed hospital, dispensary, medical office, bathrooms, kitchen, and a sunroom. Although later converted into apartments, the exterior retains its institutional massing, and symmetrical fenestration pattern, conveying its original function as a healthcare facility.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Keen Hospital lies in its association with the pioneering efforts of Dr. William H. Keen and Edith Keen, its association with the provision of accessible local medical services, its representation of early 20th century institutional design and construction, and its significance as a symbolic landmark of small-town hospitals.

For two decades, practitioners served patients from their offices, with those requiring hospitalization referred to facilities in High River or Calgary. The pioneering efforts of Dr. William H. Keen and Edith Keen in establishing modern healthcare in Nanton fostered a spirit of community self-sufficiency. Dr. Keen arrived in Nanton in 1905 and became one of the town's first physicians. His leadership in establishing the town's first purpose-built hospital in 1927 reflected both professional initiative and civic pride. The hospital had accommodation for twelve patients, contained its own dispensary, and was described by the Nanton News as "modern throughout" and having "the most up to date electrical equipment in the province for the treatment of disease…There are two bath rooms, a kitchen and a sun room, and a water system with electric pump." On January 18, 1929, Nanton council passed a motion that the Keen Hospital be accepted as an approved hospital by the provincial department of health.

Dr. Keen was assisted by his wife, Edith, a registered nurse who served as superintendent, and Dr. John Creighton who also provided patient care at this site. Together, they embodied the broader theme of local self-sufficiency in medical care, a hallmark of Alberta's rural communities in this era highlighting family and community dimensions of healthcare delivery in small towns. The hospital also became a focal point for social cohesion, providing essential local medical services at a time when travel to distant facilities was costly and difficult. The hospital's creation marked a turning point in the community's development, reflecting the collective ambition of Nanton's residents during the interwar period to provide accessible medical services locally, marking a turning point in community development and self-sufficiency.

The hospital's closure in the 1940s followed Dr. Keen's death in 1938. It was operated by Dr. Hector Mackenzie, with Edit Keen briefly presiding over the local branch of the Red Cross from its premises, until Dr. Mackenzie's enlistment and the retirement of Dr. Crieghton. The closure reflects the vulnerability of small-town institutions, dependant on individual practitioners. Patients were redirected to High River, underscoring the shift toward centralized healthcare delivery.

Architecturally, the Keen Hospital is a distinctive example of early 20th century institutional design in rural Alberta. The building features a two-and-a-half-storey, wood-frame rectangular form with an original brick exterior now clad with stucco, set on a concrete foundation. Its gable roof, symmetrical fenestration, and substantial massing convey a sense of permanence and modernity, distinguishing it from more modest maternity homes or converted residences typical of the era, such as the Sexsmith Maternity Home that began in a small shack and moved to several converted residences as the practice grew from 1921 to 1958. The main entrance, marked by a central doorway and balanced window arrangement, reinforces its institutional character. Despite later conversions to apartments, the exterior retains its original massing and fenestration pattern, preserving its architectural integrity and visual impact within the streetscape and ensuring its physical presence continues to anchor Nanton's historic core.

As a landmark, Keen Hospital occupies a prominent location on Nanton's Main Street, anchoring the historic downtown core and serving as a tangible link to the town's early healthcare history. Its continued presence reinforces its symbolic value as a civic landmark and a rare surviving example of small-town hospitals from the 1920s in Alberta. The site is also important to the community for its historic, aesthetic, and especially social significance. Keen Hospital stands as a testament to the challenges and aspirations of rural towns in providing modern amenities, and to the individuals whose initiative shaped local history. It reflects the broader pattern of Alberta's rural development, the evolution of healthcare delivery, and the enduring legacy of community pride, resilience, and mutual support.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core
- Rectangular plan and low gable roof form with two shed dormers on either side of gable roof
- Rear offset brick chimney
- Institutional two-and-a-half-storey scale and massing
- Original exterior brick tile beneath the existing stucco with concrete foundation
- Projecting wood eaves with exposed rafters
- Wood brackets in projecting verges
- Shaped structural fenestration openings
- Symmetrical fenestration pattern and plain lug sills
- 8 over 1 pane arrangement on front porch level window and 4-over-4 pane arrangements on west side windows
- Open porch with closed railing and wood posts and open wood rail at second storey
- Continued association with Dr. W.H. Keen and early healthcare history.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- South Peace Regional Archives. "Extended Care: The Johanna Haakstad Maternity Home Records." South Peace Regional Archives Blog, March 29, 2016. Accessed December 10, 2025. https://www.southpeacearchives.org/blog/extended-care-the-johanna-haakstad-maternity-home-records/.
- Alberta Register of Historic Places. (HS 31482). Government of Alberta. Accessed December 10, 2025. https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=2&ObjectID=HS+26243.
- Lethbridge Herald (Lethbridge, Alberta). "Dr. Keen, Pioneer Physician of Nanton, Dies at Calgary." August 1, 1938, p. 3. https://newspaperarchive.com/obituary-clipping-aug-01-1938-1575689/.
- "Nanton." The Lethbridge Herald (Lethbridge, Alberta), January 18, 1929, p. 7. Newspapers.com. https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/64000211/.
- Keen (Nanton) Hospital – Nanton, AB. "Western Canadian Heritage on Waymarking.com. Accessed December 10, 2025. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm12NPH_Keen_Nanton_Hospital_Nanton_AB

11. Statement of Significance

Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office

2204 21st Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office constructed in c1904-05 is a modest early 20th century wood-frame dwelling located on a prominent northwest corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street in Nanton. It is situated across from the Creighton's residence, and opposite the Masonic Hall (previously St. Andrew's Hall) and the Nanton United Church and is bound by a low hedge and surrounded by a mix of mature trees. The two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular wood-frame house has a stone foundation, an open corner porch with an open rail and vertical posts, and a high-hip gable roof with a high-hip gable dormer on the east centre portion of the rood. The structure is clad with shiplap and contains decorative painted cedar shingles in the gable ends. The residence has operated as both a private residence and professional dental office for several decades.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office lies in its association with Dr. George Ernest McKeage and the delivery of healthcare, and its representation of modest, utilitarian design and craftsmanship of local builders.

The heritage value of the Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office lies in its association with Dr. George Ernest McKeage, Nanton's first full time dentist, whose home-based dental practice exemplified the integration of professional services into the daily life of Nanton. This site stands as a testament to the way rural healthcare was delivered in Alberta, where practitioners operated from their residences, fostering close social ties and accessibility for all members of the community.

The dual function of this residence illustrates a broader cultural practice in prairie towns, where professionals lived among those they served, reinforcing trust, stability, and a sense of belonging. This pattern of home-based service provision was not only practical but also deeply social, shaping the way residents interacted, cared for one another, and built lasting relationships. Dr. McKeage was active in civic, community and social affairs, and was a long-serving councillor, and mayor in 1921-24. He was also a life member of the Masonic Lodge. Dr. McKeage retired in 1948 and died in 1961 in High River.

Architecturally, the building is a distinguished example of early 20th century prairie domestic design. Its two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular wood-frame form is anchored by a stone foundation and crowned with a high-hip gable roof, including a high-hip gable dormer on the east centre portion. The exterior features shiplap siding with corner boards and decorative painted cedar shingles in the gable ends, reflecting the craftsmanship of local builder Elzie Robertson. The open corner porch, with its rail and vertical posts capped by Doric capitals, the centred single brick chimney, and the original fenestration with wood-framed windows and lug sills, all contribute to the building's historic character. The west side office addition, with its triangular moulded pediment and large fixed window, further illustrates the adaptation of domestic architecture for professional use.

The community values this site for its historic, aesthetic, and social significance. It evokes the lived experience of early Nanton residents, reflecting the town's rapid growth, the adaptation of domestic spaces for professional use, and the enduring importance of accessible, community-centered healthcare. The building's preserved location, design, materials, and workmanship allow it to communicate its heritage value to present-day observers, while its association with the McKeage family and the tradition of home-based services continues to inspire a sense of pride and continuity within the community.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton on a prominent corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street
- Overall form and massing with its two-and-a-half -storey, rectangular plan
- High-hip gable roof form with a high-hip centre gable
- Curved gable end that meets with continuous eave
- Stone foundation visible at grade
- Traditional shiplap with corner boards, and decorative wood shingle cladding with a painted design in the gable ends
- Plain fascia and soffit with decorative wood brackets
- West side office addition with triangular moulded pediment with dentils, plain facia, a large, fixed window with a plain structural opening, and a low-sloped shed roof
- Original fenestration openings, wood-framed windows, wood storm windows, and lug sills
- Location and one-storey scale of corner open porch and surviving porch details such as the open rail and wood vertical posts with doric capitals
- Centred single brick chimney
- Visible workmanship in joinery and trim that reflect local building practices and the documented skill of the builder
- Association with Dr. G.E. McKeage and evidence of dual use (i.e., ground-floor room with separate access).

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Nanton News. "Professional Card for Dr. G. E. McKeage." August 14, 1924. University of Calgary Digital Collections. https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/asset-management/2R3BF1EWSITU.
- Nanton News. "Professional Card for Dr. G. E. McKeage." July 16, 1925. University of Calgary Digital Collections. https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/archive/649-2R3BF1EWAZBP.html.
- Ancestry.ca. "Dr. George Ernest McKeage Profile." Accessed December 9, 2025. https://www.ancestry.ca/genealogy/records/dr-george-ernest-mckeage-24-6h8tfn.

12. Statement of Significance

Nanton Masonic Hall

2120 21st Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton Masonic Hall is located on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street. It is a modest, early 20th century wood-frame hall originally constructed in 1906 as a Presbyterian church hall. The building features a rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained classical proportions. It has been adapted over time, most notably in 1951 when the Freemasons purchased and reoriented the structure 180 degrees to serve as Lodge No. 17's permanent home. The rear enclosed porch was originally the main entrance that contained a central two-leaf entrance with a transom window. A symbolic stained glass oculus featuring the Star of David, often referred to as a "Magen David" window was located within the gable above this original entrance representing divine protection, communal identity, and continuity of faith.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Masonic Hall lies in its association with the religious, civic, and fraternal life of Nanton, notably as a gathering place for the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations, and later as the home of Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons. Its value is further enhanced by its representation of a modest early 20th century wood-frame hall design and its adaptive reuse.

Originally constructed in 1906 as a Presbyterian church hall, known as St. Andrew's Hall, and later known as Grace Hall, the building served as a central gathering place for worship, Sunday school, youth programs, and community meetings. Its transition to the home of Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons in 1951 marked a new chapter, as the hall continued to host charitable activities and fraternal ceremonies, reflecting the adaptability of small-town institutions.

Architecturally, the hall represents the modest wood-frame design typical of early 20th century prairie community halls, with its rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained classical proportions. The building's integrity is evident in its original form, scale, and massing as a one-storey nailed-frame structure with stucco cladding and minimal ornamentation. Distinctive features include the projecting eaves and verges, enclosed front and rear porches (the latter originally serving as the main entrance), and the pattern of original fenestration openings with plain wood trim and decorative upper trim, and lug sills.

The building's adaptive reuse is visible in the reorientation of the entrance in 1964, when the Freemasons rotated the structure 180 degrees in 1964 to suit lodge use, installed a basement, water, sewer and washrooms, a modification that respected the building's essential character while accommodating new social purposes. A symbolic stained glass oculus, known as a "Magen David" window, was originally located within the gable above the main entrance, representing divine protection and communal identity. The building also retains the original rear chimney stack within the reoriented front gable end, extending from the shed roof of the enclosed porch to the underside of the extended verge.

As a landmark, the Nanton Masonic Hall occupies a prominent corner in Nanton's historic downtown, symbolizing the continuity of community institutions and the layered history of the town's development. It is important to the

community for its historic, social, and cultural significance: the hall has continuously served as a venue for religious services, community events, cultural programming, and fraternal ceremonies for over a century, including holding the first district court in 1908, all reflecting the adaptability and enduring social value of small-town institutions.

The Hall also embodies the history and identity of Nanton by illustrating broader patterns in Alberta's settlement history – the establishment of denominational institutions to anchor community identity, the multi-purpose use of halls as civic and cultural centres, the rise of fraternal organizations as civic leaders, and the adaptive reuse of buildings to ensure continuity of use and preservation of heritage fabric. Its modest scale, enduring use, and strong associations with both religious and fraternal traditions reinforce its role as a living heritage site and a symbol of collective memory in the community.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's historic downtown streetscape and situated on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street
- Form, scale, and massing of modest one-storey nailed-frame and stucco-covered structure with restrained ornamentation
- High-pitched gable roof with projecting eaves and verges
- Evidence of adaptive reuse, including the reorientation of the entrance in 1951
- Enclosed front porch
- Enclosed rear porch which was initially the original front façade entrance prior to the structure being rotated 180 degrees
- Pattern of original fenestration openings with plain wood trim and lug sills
- Chimney stack located within front gable end extending from shed roof of enclosed porch to underside of extended verge
- Continued association with Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- Ryan McTighe. "Nanton Masonic Hall Research." Unpublished research paper provided to author, October 1, 2025.
- Nancy McGregor and Patricia Wardrop. "Chautauqua." The Canadian Encyclopedia. Published February 7, 2006. Last edited December 16, 2013. https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/chautauqua-emc.
- Grand Lodge of Alberta. "History of Grand Lodge of Alberta." Grand Lodge of Alberta. https://freemasons.ab.ca/history-of-grand-lodge-of-alberta/.

13. Statement of Significance

Nanton Scout-Guide Hall

2222 18th Street
Nanton, Alberta



Description of Resource

The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall is a modest, horizontal-log building constructed in 1957 to serve as a permanent home for local Scouting and Guiding organizations. Located within Nanton's civic core, the hall is a simple rectangular structure with a low-pitched roof, and a central projecting gabled entrance. It is located within a large natural treed space.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Nanton Scout-Guide Hall lies in its association with the development of Scouting and Guiding in Nanton, its association with the province-wide trend of collaboration to create shared halls, its representation of mid-century volunteer-built log construction, and its significance as a modest but enduring community landmark.

This site is important to the community because it was conceived, funded, and constructed through the collective volunteer efforts of Nanton residents to serve as a permanent home for youth organizations, a space for leadership, citizenship, and community engagement. Scouting and Guiding in Alberta has a long history from the 1900s to present day and has served thousands of youth in programs designed for their environment. Cooperative development between Scout and Guide organizations was a recognized pattern in Alberta during the mid-20th century, particularly as both groups sought modern, multi-purpose facilities to support expanding youth programs. By the 1950s, several Alberta communities saw their local Scout and Guide associations collaborate to fund, construct, or jointly operate shared halls, reflecting a broader provincial trend toward resource pooling and community-driven infrastructure. This pattern is formally documented in the Alberta Register of Historic Places, which notes that by the 1950s the Calgary Scout and Guide organizations "forged a partnership to build a new integrated facility," demonstrating that such collaborations were neither isolated nor incidental but part of a wider movement in youth-organization development. The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall, completed in 1957, aligns with this province-wide trend and illustrates how local volunteer groups contributed materially to community-building during the postwar period.

In 1955, the Scout Association was renamed Nanton Scout and Guide Association after considering the values of bringing both groups under one organization. Previously, a separate committee governed the Guides and Brownies.

At the time, local families recognized the need for a dedicated facility for youth organizations. Parents and community members came together to procure logs from the Priddis area, raise funds, and build the hall themselves, under the guidance of a hired carpenter, Mr. Starritt. The official opening was held with three hundred in attendance. This spirit of volunteerism and collaboration is a defining feature of Nanton's identity, and the hall stands as a testament to the town's commitment to supporting its youth.

Generations of Nanton residents have participated in Scouting, Guiding, and community events within its walls, making it a hub for youth programming and civic gatherings. The hall's construction through volunteer labour not only provided essential infrastructure but also fostered a sense of pride, ownership, and belonging among community

members. Its continued use and preservation demonstrate the enduring value of grassroots initiative and civic engagement in Nanton.

While the hall is not architecturally distinguished in terms of elaborate design or ornamentation, its modest vernacular style is significant as a "type example" of small-town halls built in Alberta during the 1950s. The building's horizontal log construction, simple rectangular form, and utilitarian finishes embody the practical ethos of volunteer-driven community infrastructure. Its lack of ornamentation is itself a defining stylistic feature, and the workmanship reflects the collective effort and resourcefulness of Nanton's residents.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the heritage value and must be conserved include:

- Original location within Nanton's civic core on a large grassed and treed lot
- Rectangular form and massing
- Medium-gable roof with projecting eaves and verges
- Horizontal log construction with corner boards
- Enclosed porch entrance with central door flanked by fixed wood-framed windows
- Wood-framed fenestration openings with a plain wood slip sill
- Associative value as a gathering place for Scouts, Guides and the wider community.

Sources

- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.
- Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.
- The Calgary Albertan. October 27, 1955. 20. https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/729365319/.
- The Calgary Albertan. "Scout-Guide Hall Opened." April 26, 1957. 20. https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/729310047/.
- "Scouting and Guiding in Alberta." Wikipedia. Accessed December 9, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_and_Guiding_in_Alberta.
- "Program for the Official Opening of the Nanton Scout-Guide Hall." PE004697. Discover Archives, University of Alberta. Accessed December 10, 2025. https://discoverarchives.library.ualberta.ca/program-for-official-opening-of-nanton-scout-guide-hall.
- Janet Allcock, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Yukon (ANY) Archive Lead. Email January 19, 2026.

Appendix A – Heritage Resource Assessments and Evaluations



Nanton's heritage assessments and evaluations follow a clear, methodical structure designed to document the community's historic places, determine their significance, and guide long-term conservation decisions. Each assessment typically begins with a factual description of the property – its location, architectural features, materials, and condition – establishing a baseline record of what physically exists. This is followed by a historical overview that situates the building within broader local, regional, and thematic contexts, drawing on archival sources, oral histories, and comparative examples.

The evaluation phase applies Alberta's heritage value criteria – design, historical, cultural, and landmark significance – to determine why the place matters and how it contributes to Nanton's identity. Character-defining elements are then identified to clarify which features must be preserved to maintain that significance. Together, these components support transparent, evidence-based recommendations for municipal design, conservation planning, and future interventions. The overall purpose is to ensure that decisions about Nanton's heritage buildings are grounded in rigorous research, consistent methodology, and a clear understanding of community value.

RESOURCE EVALUATION

W. S. Keeley Building

1901 20th Avenue
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**W. S. Keeley Building**
Other Names	**Marshall's Hardware, Keeley Hardware, Keeley Block**
Legal Description	**Lot: 10 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The W. S. Keely Building was constructed in 1908 with completion in 1909. The building presents a strong two-storey brick façade that anchors a prominent corner in downtown Nanton. Its exterior is characterized by a series of ground-floor shopfronts with large display windows, centrally located recessed entrances, and a projecting mid-cornice above, reflecting its original commercial function. The upper storey is defined by evenly spaced rectangular windows set within the brickwork and crowned with a substantial upper cornice on the primary east-facing facade.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a commercial structure located in downtown Nanton. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1909, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building served as a commercial and institutional hub, contributing to Nanton's 20th century development.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1908 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The W. S. Keeley Building, constructed in 1908 with completion in 1909. The building is situated at a prominent corner in downtown Nanton along Highway 2, the main north-south route through southern Alberta. Its location reflects the town's early growth as a service centre for surrounding ranching and farming communities, a development spurred by the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The building was originally erected by C.H. Marshall, one of Nanton's early merchants, during a period of optimism when brick commercial blocks were rising across Alberta's small towns, symbolizing permanence and prosperity. Marshall moved his hardware, machinery, and furniture business into the building and, in 1914, it became Marshall & Son, who were the first agents to sell Chevrolet cars in Nanton. A plumbing department and tin shop were soon added, and the upstairs was rented to various lodges, including the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) and the Rebekahs, a branch of the IOOF. The business name changed to Marshall Bros. in 1923 when Charles Marshall retired. In 1935, the property was purchased by William S. Keeley, a local merchant whose business contributed significantly to Nanton's mid-20th century economy. Keeley

	operated a grocery business and a men's and ladies wear, and then a hardware and general store the following year, and in 1941 adapted the second floor into three-room suite/apartments equipped with fireplace, gas range, oak floors, venetian blinds, and an electric washer in the laundry - a change that illustrates the evolving needs of small-town Alberta and the flexibility of mixed-use commercial blocks. During WWII, when British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) training schools near Claresholm, Vulcan and High River, several permanent school staff, including senior officers and instructors, lived in apartments of the Keeley Block. William Keeley died in 1949, and his son Jim continued the business. Over the subsequent decades, the building housed a variety of enterprises, including antique shops. The Keeley Block's context is both local and regional. Locally, it anchors Nanton's historic downtown streetscape and remains a focal point for community identity. Regionally, it compares to similar early brick commercial blocks in Claresholm, High River, and Fort Macleod, yet distinguishes itself through continuous use, sensitive restoration, and its landmark presence along a provincial highway.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building illustrates the growth of Nanton's downtown as a service hub for surrounding ranching and farming communities. The building is linked to William S. Keeley, a prominent merchant whose business contributed to Nanton's mid-20th century economy, and whose family's ownership and adaptation of the building demonstrate entrepreneurial responses to evolving needs in small-town Alberta. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building is significant for its high-quality early 20th century commercial construction, with durable materials and period detailing. Its two-storey brick massing with multiple store fronts and a central raked tripartite entrance. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Located at the intersection of Railway (20th) Avenue and 19th Street, the building's enduring presence is a significant landmark that anchors the historic downtown core.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location is situated on a prominent corner facing Highway 2 north within Nanton's historic downtown core • Two-storey form and massing with long rectangular street-facing facade and flat roof • Stretcher bond brickwork construction with corbelled parapets • Raised plain brick parapet with decorative brick edging • Metal upper entablature with original W. S. Keeley letters within the frieze of the entablature • Metal mid-cornice with brackets and the inscription of "Furniture" and "Hardware" within the frieze • Central raked entry containing a tripartite of multi-panelled street-facing entrances • Storefront with large fixed-glass display windows flanking central entrances with bulkhead and glass multi-lite transoms • Original, shaped multi-panel wood entrance doors with glass upper panel and original door hardware • Evenly spaced original upper storey wood single-hung windows with upper hinged wood storm windows and sandstone lintels and lug sills • Continued mixed-use function (commercial ground floor, residential/office upper floor).

	• Projecting metal sign hardware over central main entrance • Landmark presence along Highway 2 within Nanton's historic commercial core.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location on a prominent corner within Nanton's downtown core, reinforcing historical continuity. ■ **2. Design** The exterior form, brick facades, shopfronts, fenestration patterns, and upper entablature and mid-cornice, wood single-hung windows with upper-hinged storm windows, and sandstone sills remain intact. ■ **3. Environment** The building maintains its role as a prominent two-storey brick commercial building on an equally prominent corner location facing Highway 2 north. ■ **4. Materials** Authentic materials are maintained, including brick, the upper metal entablature and mid-cornice, wood-frame windows, and sandstone sills. ■ **5. Workmanship** Evidence of early 20th century craftsmanship remains visible in masonry, entablature and cornice, storefront and entrance detailing. ■ **6. Feeling** The building strongly conveys its historic commercial function and continued role as a community landmark. ■ **7. Association** Ongoing use and preservation reinforce its connection to Nanton's identity and historic downtown.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Keeley building continues to communicate its heritage value in terms of them and activity. Its ongoing commercial and residential use, combined with landmark presence, preserves the cultural practices of small-town commerce and adaptation. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The W. S. Keeley Building communicates its heritage value strongly through its design and construction. It remains a representative example of early commercial architecture in southern Alberta, comparable to blocks in Claresholm, High River, and Fort Macleod. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Located at the intersection of Railway (20th) Avenue and 19th Street, the building's enduring presence continues to be a significant landmark that anchors the historic downtown core.
Statement of Integrity	The **W. S. Keeley Building** retains a high degree of integrity. Constructed in 1909 and continuously used as a commercial block, the building remains on its original downtown corner site along Highway 2, reinforcing its landmark presence in Nanton's historic core. Its design integrity is evident in the two-storey brick façade, flat roof with corbelled parapet, entablature detailing, and evenly spaced upper-storey windows with sandstone lintels and sills. The ground-floor shopfronts, recessed entrances, and display windows continue to express their early commercial function. Original exterior materials have been preserved and communicate the building's heritage character. The workmanship of early 20th century masonry and finishes remains visible, conveying the skill and permanence associated with Alberta's small-town commercial architecture. The building's setting within Nanton's downtown

	streetscape, and its ongoing use for retail and residential purposes, reinforce its historic role as a hub of commerce and community life. Together, these qualities ensure that the W. S. Keeley Building continues to communicate its heritage value. Its integrity demonstrates both the resilience of early commercial architecture and the adaptability of small-town buildings to changing social and economic needs, making it a strong candidate for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Auditorium Hotel

2001 20th Avenue
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Auditorium Hotel**
Other Names	**The Aud**
Legal Description	**Lot: 5,6,9,10 Block: 3 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Auditorium Hotel is a two and three-storey, wood-frame brick-faced commercial building located on the southwest corner of Nanton's historic Shaw Street and Railway Avenue. Originally constructed in 1902, and expanded in 1912, the building features a flat roof, horizontal wood siding, and a symmetrical façade with large storefront windows and a central entrance. It has served continuously as a hotel, tavern, and social gathering place for over a century.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The hotel was built in 1902, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building retains key architectural features from its 1912 expansion and has strong associations with Nanton's early commercial development, transportation history (Greyhound stop), and social life.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1902 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Auditorium Hotel is situated in the historic commercial core of Nanton, at the intersection of Highway 2 North and 20th Street. Constructed in 1902 and expanded in 1912, the hotel reflects the town's development as a regional service centre during the early 20th century when railway and highway infrastructure facilitated increased travel, commerce, and settlement across southern Alberta. Nanton emerged as a key node along the Calgary-Lethbridge corridor, serving ranching communities and travelers navigating the expanding prairie frontier. W.J. Brown built the Auditorium Hotel to accommodate this demand, offering lodging, dining, and social amenities. Initially it had 12 rooms, a dining room, kitchen and a bar. An expansion in 1903 saw the original portion moved back and a new structure added to front the avenue. The Calgary Brewing Company purchased the hotel in 1912, the same year another expansion occurred when a three-storey building with 35 rooms was added on the back-alley side. A large brick icehouse at the rear was also constructed to store ice and remains in situ to this day. In the years following, many changes of ownership occurred.

	Expansions of the hotel coincided with a period of economic optimism and population growth, reinforcing its role as a prominent hospitality venue. Over the years, the hotel contained a barbershop, a ladies' wear store, a drugstore, and even held Presbyterian church services prior to the construction of St. Andrews Hall. Architecturally, the hotel exemplifies the Edwardian Commercial style, characterized by its brick cladding, symmetrical fenestration, and restrained ornamentation. Although a fire in 1983 destroyed the third floor and damaged upper levels, the building's essential form and street-facing façade remain legible. A 1993 restoration, supported by the Alberta Main Street Program, reinstated key design elements from the 1912 period, contributing to the continuity of Nanton's historic streetscape. The hotel also holds cultural significance as a longstanding social hub. Often referred to as "The Aud," it has hosted music events, including performances by renowned musicians like Ian Tyson, served as a Greyhound bus stop, and fostered community gatherings across generations. Folklore surrounding former residents – such as Rex Irwin, a ranch hand, and Lizzie Boutelle, who had been a waitress there from 1904, adds intangible heritage value and deepens its associative significance. The Auditorium Hotel remains a functioning hospitality venue and a visual anchor within Nanton's downtown. Its layered history, architectural character, and enduring role in community life positions it as a meaningful and representative example of early 20th century prairie hotel development in Alberta.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The hotel reflects the theme of early 20th century transportation and hospitality, serving as a key stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge. It supported the activity of regional travel, commerce, and social gathering, including use as a Greyhound stop and music venue. It also demonstrates the growth of Nanton as a service centre during the railway and highway expansion era and reflects the boom period of 1912 when the hotel expanded to accommodate increased traffic and prosperity. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Originally built in 1902, shifted west in 1903 with a new structure added to front Railway Avenue, and then expanded in 1912, the façade is restored to reflect its period as an Edwardian Commercial building with brick cladding, symmetrical fenestration, and modest ornamentation. Although a fire in 1983 destroyed the third floor and damaged upper levels, the building's essential form and street-facing façade remain legible. A 1993 restoration, supported by the Alberta Main Street Program, reinstated key design elements from the 1912 period, contributing to the continuity of Nanton's historic streetscape. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Locally known as "The Aud," the hotel is a symbol of Nanton's resilience and hospitality. Its role in music culture and ghost folklore also adds symbolic and interpretive value.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location at a prominent downtown intersection abutting public sidewalk • Two-storey L-shaped form and massing with a flat roof reflecting the 1912 expansion • Surviving two-storey massing reflecting the 1912 expansion • Exterior detailing consistent with its Edwardian Commercial style

	• Entablature above east portion of structure decorated with decorated finials, dropped pendants, and dentils • Brick corbelling under entablature frieze • Wood-frame windows with a mix of wood, brick, and concrete lug sills, and a mix of brick voussoirs and plain lintels • Corner and east façade entrances with transom light • Historic signage hardware and name association ("Auditorium Hotel" / "The Aud" • Rear fire escape and counter weights • Continued use as a hospitality venue and cultural gathering space • Folklore and community memory associated with past guests and events • Rectangular form and massing of brick "ice house," including vertical wood doors and original hardware, and rooftop "davit crane" to lift blocks of ice.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The Auditorium Hotel retains a high degree of integrity, demonstrating the physical and associative characteristics necessary to convey its heritage value. Despite alterations over time-including fire damage and partial interior loss-the resource continues to express its original function, architectural style, and cultural significance within the community. ■ **2. Design** The building's design integrity is intact. While the third floor was lost to fire in 1983, the massing, fenestration patterns, and street-facing elevations reflect the 1912 expansion period. The 1993 restoration, supported by the Alberta Main Street Program, reinstated key design elements, including brick cladding, parapet detailing, and symmetrical window placement, allowing the building to convey its Edwardian Commercial style. ■ **3. Environment** The Auditorium Hotel retains name recognition and nostalgic value and contributes to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials** Original materials such as brick masonry and wood trim have been preserved or sensitively replaced. Restoration efforts prioritized material authenticity, using historically appropriate finishes and construction techniques. The retention of these materials supports the building's architectural and historical legibility. ■ **5. Workmanship** Evidence of early 20th century craftsmanship is visible in the brickwork and window detailing. Restoration work respected traditional methods, ensuring that workmanship remains legible and contributes to the building's heritage character. ■ **6. Feeling** The Auditorium Hotel continues to evoke the atmosphere of a historic prairie hotel. Its scale, form, and signage contribute to a sense of continuity with Nanton's early 20th century streetscape. The building's use as a music venue and gathering place further reinforces its social and cultural resonance. ■ **7. Association** The resource maintains strong associate integrity through its enduring role in Nanton's hospitality and cultural life. It is linked to W.J. Brown, its original builder, and to the Wynnyk family, who led its restoration. Local folklore-including tales of Rex Irwin and Lizzie Boutelle-adds layers of intangible heritage that deepen its community connection.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The hotel remains in its original location, preserves its historic function as a stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge, reinforcing its role in regional

	transportation and commerce. It continues to operate as a hospitality venue and gathering place, maintaining continuity with its original use. The hotel's scale, signage, and interior layout continue to evoke prairie-era lodging accommodation, supporting its identity as a site of social interaction and storytelling. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The hotel continues to evoke prairie-style accommodation and continues to reflect its Edwardian Commercial style in a very recognizable manner that continues to strengthen its identity as a site of social gathering and interaction. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The 1993 restoration reinstated the 1912 façade, preserving the building's massing, symmetrical fenestration, and parapet detailing. These elements reflect the architectural vocabulary of early 20th century commercial hotels. Original brick cladding and wood trim remain visible and were sensitively repaired or replicated during restoration, ensuring material continuity. Surviving masonry and restored finishes demonstrate the craftsmanship of the period and contribute to the building's architectural legibility. ■ **D. Information Potential** The building helps contextualize its role in local and regional history and demonstrates authenticity of its architecture and materiality. It also highlights ongoing cultural and social relevance, which speaks to its heritage value. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The hotel is prominently located at a key downtown intersection and remains a visual anchor in Nanton's historic commercial core. Known locally as "the Aud," the building is embedded in community memory as a site of hospitality, music, and folklore. Its distinctive presence and stories contribute to its symbolic value as a marker of Nanton's identity. Its ongoing function as a venue for social gathering also reinforces its symbolic role and supports its landmark status.
Statement of Integrity	The **Auditorium Hotel** retains sufficient physical and associative integrity to express its significance under criteria. Despite the loss of its third floor in a 1983 fire, the building's restored façade reflects its 1912 expansion and Edwardian Commercial style. Key elements – including original brickwork, fenestration patterns and massing – remain legible. The hotel continues to evoke its historic function as a regional stopover and gathering place, maintaining strong associative value through its enduring presence in Nanton's commercial core, and its role in local cultural memory embedded in narratives that allow it to continue conveying its heritage values to both residents and visitors.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Fetherston's Grocery

2112 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Fetherston's Grocery**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: 23 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	Fetherston's Grocery is a 1915 modest, one-storey brick commercial building that features simple massing, a street-facing orientation, and a utilitarian storefront typical of small-town prairie commerce. The upper façade contains a "Fetherston's Grocery" ghost sign partially covered by a fixed raked metal awning spanning the building's length over a recessed central entry. The building is centrally located on the north side on 20th Street.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The grocery store operated by James Orville Fetherston dates to the early-mid 20th century, exceeding the 50-year threshold. • **Integrity:** The building retains its original location and appears to maintain key exterior features consistent with its historic use.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1915 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	Nanton was established in the late 1890s along the Calgary-Fort Macleod Railway and incorporated as a village in 1903, gaining town status in 1907. The town quickly developed a vibrant commercial core, with brick and wood-frame buildings lining its main street. These included general stores, hotels, and service businesses like grocery stores, which were essential to prairie life. Fetherston's Grocery is a representative example of small-town commercial architecture from the mid-20th century. The building's modest, utilitarian design reflects the economic and social realities of prairie communities during this period, where local businesses served as essential hubs for goods and social interaction. The grocery store played a significant role in the daily life of Nanton residents, providing access to food and household supplies while fostering a sense of community. Its presence on the main street (Shaw Street) contributed to the continuity and vitality of the town's commercial core, supporting local economic development and reinforcing the traditional streetscape.

	Fetherston's Grocery is not only valued for its association with Orie Fetherston, a prominent local businessman and former mayor, but also for its association with the evolution of retail practices in rural Alberta, illustrating the transition from independent, family-run stores to more centralized commercial enterprises. The building's enduring physical form and location within Nanton's historic downtown district make it an important marker of the town's heritage, embodying the patterns of settlement, commerce, and community life that have shaped Alberta's small towns.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The store played a central role in Nanton's mid-20th century commercial life, serving as a hub for groceries and community interaction, and reflects broader patterns of prairie town development and family-run businesses in Alberta's post-settlement era. Located within Nanton's historic main street, the building contributes to the visual and cultural continuity of the downtown core. ■ **B. Institution/Person** Association with Orie Fetherston, a prominent local businessman and former mayor, contributes to the building's historic value. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building exhibits modest early 20th century commercial architecture typical of small-town Alberta: simple massing, storefront orientation, and utilitarian design. While not architecturally unique, its design contributes to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Fetherston's Grocery continues to serve as a landmark and symbol for Nanton due to its preserved location, architectural features, community recognition, and historical associations. These aspects ensure that the building still conveys its landmark and symbolic value effectively.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location on the main street abutting public sidewalk within the historic commercial district • Street facing orientation, one-storey form, rectangular massing, and flat roof • Storefront configuration, including display windows and recessed entry • Stretcher bond brick exterior superstructure cover with brick corbelling along upper parapet • Brick lug window sills • Ghost signage showing "Fetherston's Grocery" • Association with the Fetherston family and their role in Nanton's civic history.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location on the main street and therefore retains excellent integrity of location. ■ **2. Design** The original commercial design appears intact, though some alterations may exist (e.g., signage, fenestration), therefore retains good integrity of design. ■ **3. Environment** Known locally as "Fetherston's Grocery," the building retains name recognition and nostalgic value. While not architecturally rare, it contributes to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials**

	The original brick cladding remains intact, and the material integrity is strong. Store windows, transoms, and the entry door have modern replacements. Overall, the building has moderate to good integrity of materials. ■ **5. Workmanship** As a utilitarian structure, workmanship is modest but consistent with its era, therefore it retains fair integrity of workmanship. ■ **6. Feeling** The building retains its small-town commercial character and evokes mid-century community life; therefore, it retains strong integrity of feeling. ■ **7. Association** Directly associated with the Fetherston family and Nanton's civic history, therefore excellent integrity of association.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Recognizable as a hub for groceries and community interaction, reflecting prairie town development. ■ **B. Institution/Person** Maintains association with Orie Fetherston, a significant local figure. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Retains features typical of early 20th century small-town Alberta commercial architecture. ■ **D. Information Potential** Fetherston's Grocery building retains potential to yield information about local history, architectural trends, and the social role of family-run businesses in prairie towns. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Fetherston's Grocery continues to serve as a landmark and symbol for Nanton due to its preserved location, architectural features, community recognition, and historical associations. These aspects ensure that the building still conveys its landmark and symbolic value effectively.
Statement of Integrity	The **Fetherson's Grocery** has strong overall integrity and continues to embody the essential characteristics that communicate its heritage value. The building remains in its original location on main street (Shaw Street or 20th Street) in Nanton, preserving its historic context and contributing to the continuity of the town's commercial core. Its modest early 20th century commercial design, original brick cladding, and utilitarian storefront are intact, with only minor alterations that do not significantly diminish its ability to reflect its historic function and context. The resource maintains a high degree of integrity in location, design, environment, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The resource also has the potential to yield information about local history, architectural trends, and family-run businesses at the time. These aspects are sufficient to embody the selected Significance Criteria, including its role as a hub for groceries and community interaction, its association with Orie Fetherston, and its representation of early 20th century small-town Alberta commercial architecture. Fetherston's Grocery is clearly recognizable to contemporaries of its period of significance and continues to communicate its heritage value to the present day.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Drug Company

2114 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton Drug Company**
Other Names	**Creighton Drug, Creighton Pharmacy**
Legal Description	**Lot: 23 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Drug Company building is a modest early 20th century commercial building constructed in 1908 and located in the historic downtown core of Nanton. The structure is characterized by its street-facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk, two-storey rectangular massing and brick exterior, a utilitarian storefront design with a recessed central entry flanked by large, fixed windows, and a second storey with four single-hung windows. The building is crowned by a stepped entablature with decorative urn finials, with the inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co."
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1908, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with the development of health care and commerce and its role in the modernization of rural services.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event .** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1908 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Nanton Drug Company building, which later became known as Creighton Pharmacy, was constructed in 1908 and stands out as a prominent two-storey brick structure in downtown Nanton. The building is notable for its ornate architectural details, including an entablature, urn finials, and decorative mid-cornice, and brick voussoirs crowing the second storey windows. The pharmacy played a central role in the community's development, serving as the local drugstore from its early days. The building's inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" marks its historic roots. Dr. John Creighton served as a medical officer in the South African War (Boer War) for which he was awarded the Queen's Medal. He arrived in Nanton in 1903 and filed on a homestead east of Nanton and became Nanton's first doctor, and made his rounds by horseback to visit his patients. Dr. Creighton was instrumental in establishing medical services in the town as many of the first drug stores were

	opened by a local physician. He partnered with G.M. Robertson to purchase the drug business of W.A. Chisholm in 1908, built the brick Nanton Drug Company building and opened a pharmacy, which became a cornerstone of healthcare in the area. He sold the drug store in 1923 but a short time later he returned and resumed the business until 1955 when his son, James Creighton, assumed the operations of the drug store. Dr. Creighton also contributed to the local hospital, which was built in 1927 by Dr. William Keen. Both doctors treated patients from their offices and later at the hospital, which included its own dispensary. The pharmacy and its associated medical practitioners were vital to Nanton's growth, providing essential services to residents and supporting the town's transition from a small railway community to a district metropolis. This dual medical-pharmaceutical model was common in small Alberta towns where physicians often dispensed medications directly. The pharmacy's location and enduring presence reflect its importance in the commercial and social life of Nanton. The Nanton Drug Store Co/Creighton Pharmacy architectural style is typical of early 20th century mercantile buildings in Alberta, designed to stand out in the commercial core of Nanton's main street. The building's brick superstructure was chosen for durability and fire resistance, which was important for commercial buildings of the era. The decorative elements that include the entablature urns and voussoirs over the second-floor window surrounds were intended to convey stability and trustworthiness – qualities desirable for a pharmacy and community business. Overall, the building is a well-preserved example of early 20th century commercial architecture in Alberta. Its brick construction, classical detailing, and prominent location reflect both the aspirations of Nanton's early business community and the architectural trends of the time. The building remains a key part of Nanton's heritage landscape, valued for its character-defining elements and its role in the town's history.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building is significant in the theme of Health Care and Commerce and represents the intersection of early medical practice and commercial enterprise in southern Alberta. As both a pharmacy and a medical office, it reflects the dual roles often held by rural physicians in the early 20th century. It is also significant for its association with railway-era town development. Creighton Pharmacy emerged during Nanton's rapid growth following the extension of the Calgary-Edmonton Railway and the establishment of the Dominion Land Office in 1904. It exemplifies the pattern of service-oriented businesses clustering in prairie towns during this period. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building is strongly associated with Dr. John Creighton, one of Nanton's earliest physicians and civic leaders. Dr. Creighton arrived in Nanton in 1903 and was instrumental in establishing medical services in the town, and he was also instrumental in shaping the town's infrastructure and public services. His collaboration with G.M. Robertson to open the pharmacy illustrates the entrepreneurial and civic-minded spirit of early settlers. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The Nanton Drug Co. building is a modest commercial structure typical of early prairie towns, with utilitarian design and storefront orientation. While not typically rare, it represents the vernacular of its era and complements the historic streetscape. The building's brick superstructure was also chosen for durability and fire resistance, which was important for commercial buildings of the era. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building served as a cultural and medical landmark during a formative period in Nanton's development and survived the fire of 1924. The façade is

	adorned with ornate cornice work on the first floor shelf and top entablature, giving the building a sense of grandeur and permanence. The inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" is prominently displayed at the top of the building marking its historic origins and serving as a visual anchor in the streetscape.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core abutting public sidewalk • Two-storey form and massing with brick superstructure cover and stone foundation • Long rectangular plan with short façade, stepped sidewall parapet, and flat roof • Central recessed raked entrance with multi-panelled wood door with original hardware flanked by multi-panelled wood transoms and fixed storefront windows above • Sandstone lug sills • Upper entablature with decorated parapet, classical detailing and decorative brackets and urn finials • Ornate metal mid-cornice with decorated brackets • Brick voussoirs over second-floor windows • Prominent inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" within the entablature • Association with Dr. Creighton and its dual development of healthcare and commerce.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** Surrounded by other historic structures, Creighton Pharmacy contributes to the overall character of Nanton's downtown and supports the town's heritage landscape. ■ **2. Design** The two-story brick construction, rectangular plan, flat roof, and classical detailing—including ornate cornice work, entablature, urns, and voussoirs—are intact and clearly visible. ■ **3. Environment** The Nanton Drug Co/Creighton Pharmacy continues to contribute to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials** The brick exterior, wood-frame windows, brick voussoirs over second-storey windows, lug sills, mid-cornice and upper entablature with urn finials are all intact and their original inter-relationship retained. ■ **5. Workmanship** The craftsmanship evident in the facade's decorative elements and masonry reflects early 20th century building practices and remains well-preserved. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to evoke its historic role as a pharmacy and commercial hub, maintaining its visual prominence and connection to the community's heritage. ■ **7. Association** The structure continues to evoke its original function and the "Nanton Drug Co" inscription in the entablature contributes to the building's contribution to health care and commerce in the early 20th century in southern Alberta.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Although the specific business operations have evolved, the building's function as a commercial space in the heart of Nanton's business district

	remains. Its continued use and preservation reflect its enduring role in the community's commercial landscape. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building's preservation as a heritage site ensures that its historical significance in health care and commerce is maintained, making it familiar to anyone with knowledge of its past. Additionally, the inscription of "1908 Nanton Drug Co" solidifies its ongoing association with health care and its earliest physicians in Nanton. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The two-storey brick construction, rectangular plan, flat roof, and classical detailing – including ornate cornice work, entablature, urns and voussoirs – are intact and clearly visible. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The pharmacy's classical façade, prominent location, and preservation of the exterior make it a landmark in Nanton.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Drug Company/Creighton Pharmacy** building stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of early 20th century commerce and health care in Nanton. Situated at its original location on 20th Street, the building continues to anchor the historic downtown, maintain its longstanding relationship with the surrounding streetscape and community. From the moment of construction in 1908, the pharmacy's two-storey brick façade, rectangular plan, and flat roof have defined its architectural presence. The classical detailing – ornate cornice work, entablature, urns and voussoirs – remain intact, reflecting the aspirations and craftsmanship of its era. These features, along with the original brickwork, stone foundation, and window surrounds, have been carefully preserved, with any repairs undertaken using materials that respect the building's historic character. The workmanship evident in the masonry and decorative elements continues to convey the quality and standards of the period, while the building's setting among other heritage structures reinforces its role as a visual and cultural landmark in Nanton's downtown. The pharmacy's enduring presence evokes its historic function as a centre for health care and commerce, sustaining its associative value and its significance within the community. Through the preservation of its original location, design, materials, and workmanship, the Nanton Drug Company/Creighton Pharmacy building remains an authentic and recognizable representation of Nanton's heritage. Its integrity ensures that the story of early commerce and health care in the town is effectively conveyed to present and future generations.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Denoon Butcher Shop

2116 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Denoon Meat Market**
Other Names	Denoon Butcher Shop, Denoon and Son
Legal Description	Lot: 22 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Denoon Meat Market is a 1924 modest one-storey, rectangular brick commercial building with a flat roof located mid-block on the north side of Nanton's main street (20th Street). A contemporary fixed awning spans the length of the façade over a raked recessed central entry.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a commercial building located in Nanton's historic commercial core. It is physical structure with a clear footprint and identifiable boundaries. • **Age:** The building dates to 1924, thus meeting the general age threshold for historic resource evaluation. • **Integrity:** The building retains its original location, appears to maintain key exterior features consistent with its historic use, and remains part of a cohesive streetscape of heritage buildings.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1924 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	Nanton was established in the late 1890s along the Calgary-Fort Macleod Railway and incorporated as a village in 1903, gaining town status in 1907. The town quickly developed a vibrant commercial core, with brick and wood-frame buildings lining its main street. These included general stores, hotels, and service businesses like butcher shops and meat markets, which were essential to prairie life. The Denoon Meat Market is a historic building known for its distinctive false front brick facade, a common architectural style in early western Canadian towns intended to give small businesses a more prominent and impressive appearance on the main street, while masking the modest size of the actual structure behind a more imposing flat front wall. The shop serves as a representative example of commercial architecture from its era, reflecting both the practical needs and the aspirations of early settlers in the region. Meat markets and butcher shops like Denoon were essential services in prairie towns, providing fresh meat and serving as social hubs for local residents. The

	Denoon Meat Market not only reflects the enterprising spirit of early settlers but also illustrates the practical and aesthetic choices made to adapt to the economic realities of the time. Its preservation offers insight into the commercial development patterns, community life, and architectural trends that shaped Alberta's small towns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Denoon Meat Market reflects the growth of small-town commerce in Alberta during the railway expansion era. Meat markets and butcher shops were vital to rural communities, providing fresh meat and often serving as informal gathering places in prairie towns. This building represents the spirit of early settlers and entrepreneurs in the region. The building also contributes to the understanding of Nanton's development as a service hub for surrounding agricultural communities. Its location and function align with the historic pattern of clustered commercial activity along 20th Street. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The Denoon name is locally recognized, and the shop is associated with early settlers who contributed to Nanton's economic and social fabric. While not of provincial prominence, the association holds community-level significance. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Architecturally, the building is a modest, false-fronted wood-frame structure typical of early prairie commercial architecture used to give such buildings a more imposing street presence. It is a simple, boxy shape with the façade clad in brick with brick corbelling which is used to enhance its visual impact and give the building a more imposing presence. While not architecturally unique, its design contributes to the visual identity of Nanton's heritage district. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value .** Serves as a recognizable and enduring feature of Nanton's historic Main Street, contributing to the community's identity.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location on the main street within a contiguous row of early commercial buildings in the historic commercial district • Street facing orientation abutting a public sidewalk • One-storey scale, short façade, and long rectangular massing • Stretcher bond brick façade with a simple one-storey form and rectangular massing with raised parapet and flat roof • Storefront configuration, including bulkhead, flat transom with multiple lites, and central recessed entry flanked by display windows with continuous wood sill • Corbelled brick spanning upper brick parapet.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location within Nanton's historic downtown, contributing to its contextual authenticity, and therefore retains excellent integrity of location. ■ **2. Design** The overall design, including massing, roofline, fenestrations, and architectural detailing appear intact, and therefore retains very good integrity of design. ■ **3. Environment**

	The surrounding environment retains its historic character, including adjacent buildings and streetscape features. Modern intrusions are minimal and do not detract from the resource's historic ambiance; therefore, integrity of environment is excellent. ■ **4. Materials** The original brick cladding remains intact, and the material integrity is retained and visible. Store windows, frames, bulkheads and transoms, and the entry door all remain intact. Overall, the building has very good integrity of materials. ■ **5. Workmanship** Evidence of original craftsmanship is present in features such as decorative trim, masonry and joinery, and the resource demonstrates construction techniques typical of its period and type. It therefore retains very good integrity of workmanship. ■ **6. Feeling** The building evokes a strong sense of its historic function and era through its preserved from and context; therefore, it retains strong integrity of feeling. ■ **7. Association** The building continues to evoke the character of early prairie commerce and is recognizable as historic commercial shop. It also maintains a clear and documented connection to its original use and occupants through archival records; therefore, it retains very good integrity of association.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment .	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building's continued presence and preserved features reflect its historic role as a meat market, representing small-town commerce and community life in Alberta's railway era. Integrity of use and context is strong, allowing the resource to clearly convey its historic activities and cultural practices. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building is closely associated with the Denoon family who contributed significantly to Nanton's economic and social development. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The one-storey wood-frame construction with a brick false-front façade, and original storefront details remain intact. These character-defining elements exemplify early 20th century prairie commercial architecture, demonstrating integrity in design, style, and construction. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** Located in Nanton's historic commercial core, the Denoon Meat Market is a recognizable and enduring feature of the streetscape. Its distinctive architecture and longstanding presence contribute to its symbolic value as a community landmark.
Statement of Integrity	The **Denoon Meat Market** retains a high degree of integrity in its location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The building remains in its original setting on Nanton's main street (Shaw Street or 20th Street), preserving its historic context and relationship to the community. Key architectural features—including the brick cladding, false-front façade, and original storefront details—are intact, exemplifying early 20th century prairie commercial architecture. The shop's association with the Denoon family, and its role in the economic and social development of Nanton, are well documented and clearly reflected in the resource. The building continues to evoke the atmosphere and function of a historic meat market and butcher shop, contributing to the heritage character and continuity of Nanton's commercial core. Overall, the Denoon Meat Market possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historical, architectural, and cultural significance.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Shaw and Cooper Block

1919 20th Avenue
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Shaw and Cooper Block**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: 1 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Shaw and Cooper Block is a two-storey, square-plan commercial building located on a prominent corner of Highway 2 North and 20th Street within Nanton's historic downtown. The structure is constructed of brick with sandstone detailing, resting on a sandstone foundation. Its flat roof is edged by a parapet, with the most distinctive feature being the angled corner façade inscribed with "Shaw & Cooper" and the date "1909." The ground floor is articulated by elliptical Romanesque Revival windows, each framed with sandstone keystones and radiating voussoirs, while the second storey is defined by rectangular single-hung windows with sandstone lintels and sills. A classical triangular pediment with ornate brackets marks the corner and south entrance, and an earlier east entrance, emphasizing the building's dual orientation to the street. Heavy sandstone quoins, a continuous water table course, and a mid upper cornice with a plain frieze further enrich the exterior. The original heavy bracketed entablature once removed, has been reinstated.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is an intact commercial structure located on its original site on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1909, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building retains a high degree of integrity. Its enduring presence on Nanton's main street testifies to the aspirations of Nanton's founders and the town's early prosperity.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **D. Information Potential** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1909 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Shaw and Cooper Block was constructed in 1909 during a period of rapid growth in southern Alberta, when railway expansion and agricultural settlement were transforming small prairie towns into permanent communities. Nanton, established as a siding on the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s, had by the early 20th century developed into a service centre for surrounding ranches and farms. The construction of substantial brick and sandstone buildings along the

	main street reflected both the prosperity of the region and the ambitions of its civic leaders to project stability and permanence. Commissioned by H.M. Shaw, founder of Nanton, agent to Calgary – Edmonton Railway, was a federal Member of Parliament for the Macleod riding, and J.T. Cooper, the town's first mayor, the block embodied the ambitious spirit of its builders. Shaw and Cooper were typical of small-town leaders in Alberta at the time—men who invested heavily in local development and sought to anchor their communities with durable, architect-designed structures. Their decision to hire Calgary architect William Dodd was seen as similarly sophisticated and ambitious as Dodd's success at winning the commission to design the Calgary City Hall. However, Dodd's contract with Calgary ended in in his contract being severed. However, a December 9, 1909, Nanton News publication shows W.M. Dodd applying for a permit, which is assumed to be related to the Shaw and Cooper Block. The use of brick and sandstone construction signaled confidence in Nanton's future and aligned with broader provincial trends toward fire-resistant, masonry commercial blocks. Contractor Andrew Davis and bricklayer Allen Brown built the building. The building's first tenants—the Bank of Hamilton and Sibbett & Hallett's variety store operating the Nanton Trading Company selling dry goods, groceries, and men's clothing—illustrate the dual economic role of such blocks in Alberta towns. Additional tenants included a barber shop and pool hall in the basement in 1927, a clothing and small wares store, and for a brief time an office operated by Dr. George Wannop. Shaw and Cooper also sold Ford cars from their building's real estate office. Banks provided financial credibility and access to capital, while retail stores supplied everyday goods to settlers and ranchers. Together, they made the Shaw and Cooper Block the commercial heart of Nanton. When the Bank of Hamilton merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1924, the building continued its banking function, reinforcing its role as a stable financial institution in the community. In 1961, the Canadian Bank of Commerce merged with the Imperial Bank of Canada and became the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The branch still remains in the Shaw and Cooper building. Within the wider provincial context, the Shaw and Cooper Block represents the transition from frontier settlement to established town, a theme common across Alberta in the early 20th century. Its enduring presence on main street demonstrates how architecture was used to express civic pride, economic optimism, and permanence in communities shaped by railway access and agricultural expansion.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Shaw and Cooper Block is associated with the theme of commerce and banking, entrepreneurship, and urban development. The block was the centre of financial activity in Nanton, housing the bank and retail stores that supported local ranchers and farmers. It also reflects the enterprising spirit of Shaw and Cooper, who invested in civic infrastructure and commercial growth, and represents a broader theme of small-town commercial architecture in Alberta, where multi-purpose blocks consolidated banking, retail, and offices under one roof. The building's angled corner entrance and prominent signage made it a focal point of Nanton's main street, reinforcing the cultural practice of locating banks and key businesses at central intersections. Its ongoing use as a bank and commercial space demonstrates continuity of practice – the building remains a place where residents conduct daily businesses, linking past and present. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building's first major tenant was the Bank of Hamilton (1909 – 1924), symbolizing financial credibility and stability in the young town. The Canadian Bank of Commerce / CIBC (1924 onward) continued the building's role as

Nanton's financial anchor, reinforcing its long-term institutional importance. In addition, retail and office tenants, such as the Sibbett & Hallett's variety store and other businesses, reflects the building's role as a multi-purpose commercial hub, typical of small-town Alberta blocks.

The building is also associated with H.M. Shaw, the founder of Nanton, Member of Parliament for the Macleod riding, and one of the building's commissioners. His involvement ties the block to both local and national leadership. The building is also associated with J.T. Cooper, Nanton's first mayor and co-builder of the block. His role underscores the building's connection to municipal governance and civic ambition. Together, Shaw and Cooper exemplify the entrepreneurial and civic leadership that shaped Nanton's identity in the early 20th century.

■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**

The Shaw and Cooper Block is significant for its Romanesque Revival influence evident in the elliptical ground-floor windows with sandstone keystones and radiating voussoirs. Its classical details are seen in pedimented entrances on the east and south facades, heavy sandstone quoins, and a continue water table course. The angled corner façade with a recessed entrance and parapet inscription ("Shaw & cooper, 1909") created a strong civic presence at the intersection of what originally was Railway Avenue and Shaw Street. The architectural intent in the stylistic blend of Romanesque and classical elements was typical of early bank and office building, projecting permanence, prosperity, and civic pride.

Designed by William Dodd of Calgary also links the building to professional architectural practice rather than vernacular construction. Durable brick superstructure with a sandstone foundation and trim, reflects the shift from wood to fire-resistant masonry in Alberta towns, and careful detailing in stonework, fenestration, and entablature (later removed, but since reinstated under the Alberta Main Street Program), and mid cornice and frieze demonstrates investment in quality and permanence.

■ **D. Informational Potential**

The building demonstrates early 20th century masonry practices with sandstone trim and foundation, and reflects the transition from wood to fire-resistant masonry construction.

Its Romanesque Revival windows and classical detailing provide insight into design preferences for banks and commercial blocks, and the angled corner entrance illustrates how buildings were designed to maximize visibility and accessibility at key intersections, a practice common in Alberta's developing towns.

The block's placement and orientation also reveals how civic leaders shaped commercial streetscapes to project permanence and prosperity. It continued use as a bank offers evidence of the longstanding role of financial institutions in sustaining small-town economies.

The resource also embodies the ambitions of H.M. Shaw and J.T. Cooper, and studying its history provides information about the role of local leadership in town building.

■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**

Located at the intersection of Railway (20th) Avenue and Shaw (20th) Street, the building's angled corner façade and recessed entrance make it a visual anchor in Nanton's downtown streetscape. The parapet inscription "Shaw & Cooper, 1909" serves as a public marker of civic pride and permanence, reinforcing its identity as a cornerstone of the community. Its long-standing role as a bank and commercial hub has also ensured that generations of residents recognize it as a central place of business and gathering.

	Commissioned by Nanton's founder (H.M. Shaw) and first mayor (J.T. Cooper), the block symbolizes the leadership and enterprising spirit that shaped the town's early development. As home to the Bank of Hamilton and later the Canadian Bank of Commerce/CIBC, it became a symbol of financial trust and prosperity in the community, and its enduring presence on main street makes it a symbol of Nanton's heritage, embodying the town's transition from frontier settlement to an established municipality.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ Yes ☐ No **List:** • Location on a prominent corner at 20th Avenue and 20th Street in Nanton's commercial core • Form and massing of the two-storey, square-plan commercial block • Flat roof with parapets on all sides • Angled corner façade with recessed entrance • Symmetrical fenestration pattern across facades • Stretcher bond brick superstructure exterior • Rusticated sandstone foundation, lintels, lug sills, keystones, quoins, and continuous sandstone water table course along the foundation • Elliptical Romanesque Revival windows on the ground floor • Rectangular single-hung windows on the second floor • Classical pedimented entrances on corner, and east and south facades • Heavy sandstone quoins articulating corners • Reinstated decorated entablature with cornice and plain frieze with decorated soffit brackets • Parapet inscription "Shaw & Cooper, 1909" • Longstanding use as a bank and commercial hub.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains on its original site at the corner of 20th Avenue and 20th Street. ■ **2. Design** The overall two-storey form, square plan, angled corner façade, fenestration pattern, and recessed corner entrance are intact. While the original heavy bracketed cornice/entablature was removed, it has been reinstated with the essential design features. ■ **3. Environment** The block continues to anchor Nanton's commercial streetscape, surrounded by other early 20th century commercial buildings. Its relationship with the downtown environment is unchanged, maintaining integrity of setting. ■ **4. Materials** Original brick superstructure, sandstone foundation, lintels, sills, keystones, and quoins remain in place, and triangular pediment elements survive over the corner entrance and on the east and south sides. Despite minor alterations, the building retains integrity of materials. ■ **5. Workmanship** The masonry detailing, Romanesque Revival windows, and classical pedimented entrances demonstrate the craftsmanship of early 20th century construction. These features remain visible and intact, supporting integrity of workmanship. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to convey the sense of permanence, prosperity, and civic ambition intended by its founders. Its massing, detailing, and prominent

	corner presence evoke the early 1900s commercial character of Nanton, retaining integrity of feeling. ■ **7. Association** Strongly associated with H.M. Shaw and J.T. Cooper, as well as with the Bank of Hamilton and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Its ongoing use as a bank and commercial hub reinforces continuity of association.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment .	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** A contemporary can still recognize the block as a product of early civic leadership. Its prominent corner siting, inscription ("Shaw & Cooper, 1909"), and substantial masonry construction clearly express the founders' intent to project permanence and prosperity. The building's ongoing use as a bank and commercial space allows a contemporary to experience the continuity of its original function. The recessed corner entrance and large ground-floor windows still signal its role as a place of business and financial exchange. To a contemporary, the block remains a landmark in Nanton's downtown streetscape. Its angled corner façade and architectural detailing embody the cultural practice of locating banks and key businesses at central intersections, reinforcing its symbolic role in community life. ■ **B. Institution/Person** A contemporary of the Bank of Hamilton or the Canadian Bank of Commerce would still recognize the building's enduring role as a financial institution. Its corner siting, recessed entrance, and formal architectural detailing clearly convey its original function as a place of trust, stability and commerce. The building's ongoing use as a bank and retail space demonstrates continuity of institutional activity, allowing its heritage value to remain legible to those familiar with its financial history. The parapet inscription "Shaw & Cooper, 1909" continues to communicate the founders' civic ambition. A contemporary of Shaw would recognize the building as a tangible expression of his investment in Nanton's permanence and prosperity. The block also remains a symbol of civic leadership. A contemporary of Cooper would see the building as evidence of his role in shaping the town's identity and anchoring its commercial core. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** A contemporary familiar with early 20th century commercial architecture would still recognize the Romanesque Revival ground-floor windows with sandstone keystones and voussoirs, and the classical pedimented entrances as hallmarks of the period. The angled corner façade with its recessed entrance and parapet inscription ("Shaw & Cooper, 1909") remains legible as a stylistic device used to emphasize civic pride and visibility at key intersections. The original cornice/entablature was removed earlier, but has been reinstated to express the stylistic vocabulary of its time in conjunction with the building's massing, fenestrations, and detailing. The use of the brick superstructure with a sandstone foundation and trim clearly reflects a shift from wood to fire-resistant masonry construction. A contemporary of the era would recognize the workmanship in masonry, stone detailing, and durable materials as evidence of investment in permanence and prosperity. With the building in its original form, modern observers would understand the construction practices and the architectural ambitions of 1909. ■ **D. Information Potential** A contemporary familiar with construction methods of early 20th century building practices would recognize the shift from wood to fire-resistant masonry. The architectural style of the Romanesque Revival details and

	features would also remain legible to someone educated in architectural history. The building's prominent location and orientation is a clear example to a contemporary of small-town planning and how civic leaders shaped the commercial street to emphasize permanence and prosperity. It also provides direct cues with the parapet inscription as to the individuals and institutions that defined Nanton's early growth. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building is still recognizable as a deliberate design choice to anchor the angled corner façade and recessed entrance on a prominent intersection on Nanton's main street to ensure it remains a focal point in the downtown streetscape. The parapet inscription continues to communicate its identity and founding date, reinforcing its landmark status. To a contemporary the block would still symbolize the ambition and investment H.M Shaw and J.T. Cooper had in Nanton's permanence. Its long association with banking institutions continues to embody trust, prosperity, and financial continuity.
Statement of Integrity	The **Shaw and Cooper Block** retains a high degree of integrity, allowing it to continue to communicate its heritage value as a cornerstone of Nanton's civic and commercial development. Situated at its original location on the prominent corner of 20th Avenue and 20th Street, the building still anchors the town's main street and maintains its intended role as a landmark in the community. Its overall design remains legible, with the two-storey square plan, angled corner façade, recessed entrance, and symmetrical fenestration continuing to convey the architectural intent of permanence and prosperity. The surrounding environment of early 20th century commercial buildings reinforces its contextual integrity, while the retention of original materials—including brick superstructure, sandstone foundation and trim, and triangular pediment elements—ensures that its construction methods remain visible. The workmanship of the masonry detailing, Romanesque Revival windows, and classical pedimented entrances is still evident, preserving the craftsmanship of its era. Together, these elements sustain the building's ability to evoke the feeling of civic pride and economic confidence that defined Nanton's early years. Finally, the block continues to embody its associations with H.M. Shaw and J.T. Cooper, as well as with the Bank of Hamilton and Canadian Bank of Commerce, institutions that anchored the town's financial life. Despite minor alterations, the Shaw and Cooper Block retains integrity in location, design, environment, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and remains a powerful communicator of its heritage value.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton News

1902 21st Avenue
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton News**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: 17 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton News building, constructed in 1908, is a two-storey, rectangular, brick-clad commercial structure located on 19th Street in downtown Nanton. Built of nailed-frame construction on a stone foundation, the building features a central double-door entrance flanked by fixed multi-pane windows, and two windows above. brick corbelling, brick voussoirs over the windows and doors, and a prominent façade typical of early prairie boomtown architecture. The ground floor historically housed the printing office and shop, while the second floor provided residential quarters. A side entrance and additional windows face Highway 2 South.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in pre-1910, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building served as the headquarters of the Nanton News, a vital source of local journalism and civic engagement.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1908 to 1986.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Nanton News building, constructed in 1908, reflects the growth of Nanton as a service centre for ranching and farming communities in southern Alberta. The town emerged along the Calgary – Fort Macleod railway line, which stimulated settlement and commerce in the Mosquito Creek district. By the early 20th century, Nanton's downtown core was expanding with commercial buildings that projected permanence and prosperity, design modest construction methods. The Nanton News was founded by John M. Bender in 1903, who was also the first overseer for the Village of Nanton, N.W.T. in 1903, and also elected as president of the Nanton Board of Trade the same year. The newspaper was in several temporary locations before Bender built this building. Its relocation to this purpose-built office in 1908 marked the town's maturation as a civic hub. In 1986, under the ownership of George Meyer, the Nanton News moved into the former Lockton Electric building on 20th Street. The paper was later sold to Westmount Press in 1995. Over years of various owners, the Nanton News won many awards in the annual competition for excellence.

	Local newspapers were also essential institutions in early Alberta, documenting settlement, promoting commerce, and fostering civic identity. The Nanton News provided coverage of agricultural issues, local politics, and community events, serving as a vital link between residents and the wider province. Its presence in the downtown core reinforced the role of print media in shaping democratic participation and community cohesion. The building's two-storey, brick-clad, commercial structure gave a more imposing appearance, symbolizing stability and prosperity. Its rectangular plan, stone foundation, nailed-frame construction, and brick corbelling are characteristic of early 20th century vernacular architecture. Its corner-lot location contributes to the historic streetscape of Nanton's downtown, reinforcing its architectural contextual value. With the building housing the Nanton News for decades, with printing technology evolving from hand press (until 1918) to linotype (from 1921), this continuity of use underscores its heritage value as a site of communication and technological adaptation. The preservation of back issues dating to 1907 further enhances its documentary importance, providing a record of community life and regional development. The Nanton News building is also part of a broader heritage landscape in Nanton that includes commercial, civic, and residential structures from the early 20th century. Together, these resources illustrate the town's role in southern Alberta's settlement and development. The building contributes to the collective memory of the community and remains a rare surviving example of early newspaper architecture in the province.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Built in 1908, the building housed the Nanton News, a vital local newspaper that documented community life and regional development and represents the role of print media in shaping civic identity, especially in small prairie towns, thus contributing to its significance in communication and community development. Its location on 19th Street in downtown Nanton also contributes to the historic commercial streetscape, and its brick clad two-storey scale is designed to project prosperity, thus reflecting urban and commercial growth. The Nanton News operated at this location for decades, with early printing technology (hand press until 1918, linotype from 1921), and its back issues dating to 1907 remain preserved on microfilm and available in Nanton's library, thus reinforcing its documentary value. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building's two-storey, brick-clad, commercial structure gave a more imposing appearance, symbolizing stability and prosperity. Its rectangular plan, stone foundation, nailed-frame construction, and brick corbelling are characteristic of early 20th century vernacular architecture. Its corner-lot location contributes to the historic streetscape of Nanton's downtown, reinforcing its architectural contextual value.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original corner-lot setting abutting public sidewalk within Nanton's historic commercial district • Two-storey, nailed-frame form and massing with stretcher-bond brick superstructure cover, stone foundation, and flat roof • Brick corbelling along upper north and west parapets • Central entrance flanked by original wood-frame windows, wood lug sills, and multi-panelled wood and glass entrance doors

	• Brick voussoirs over windows and main entrance doors • Central main level entrance on west elevation with multi-panelled wood and glass door, and similar offset entrance opening and door on second level above • Surviving materials and workmanship from its 1908 construction, including wood framing and masonry details • Association with the evolution of printing technology from hand press to linotype.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location within Nanton's downtown core and contributes to the historic streetscape. ■ **2. Design** The exterior form, fenestration patterns, masonry exterior and brick corbelling, and roofline are intact and appear consistent with archival photos. Overall, the building is intact with only minor alterations to signage and fenestrations, thus demonstrating architectural integrity. ■ **3. Environment** The building is located within its original setting and maintains is relationship to Nanton's historic commercial district. ■ **4. Materials** The brick clad exterior, brick corbelling, wood windows and doors remain intact with minimal changes to ensure retention of the building authenticity. ■ **5. Workmanship** The building retains materials, workmanship, and design features consistent with its 1908 construction. It reflects mid-century construction standards as a durable utilitarian building. ■ **6. Feeling** Retains the character of a small-town press office. ■ **7. Association** Strong link to Nanton News and local journalism legacy.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building's façades and commercial frontage remain intact. Its unaltered downtown setting demonstrates how newspapers anchored small-town identity and growth, and still conveys its role as a hub of local news and civic discourse, reinforcing its role in economic life. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building's preserved mass, scale, and design embodies the stylistic choices of prairie boomtowns, visually expressing prosperity and permanence.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton News** retains a high degree of integrity that allows it to continue expressing its heritage significance as a hub of communication, civic identity, and small-town commerce in southern Alberta. The building remains on its original corner lot in downtown Nanton, anchoring the historic commercial streetscape and reinforcing its role as a civic institution within the town's early business district. Its location continues to convey the prominence of newspapers in small prairie communities, where such institutions were deliberately situated in visible, central settings to symbolize their importance to civic life. The design of the building is intact, with its two-storey rectangular form, prominent brick façade, and brick corbelling exemplifying the boomtown commercial style that characterized early prairie towns. This design, modest in construction yet ambitious in appearance, reflects the aspirations of Nanton's citizens to project prosperity and permanence during the settlement era. The

	dual-use layout, with a printing office below and residential quarters above, remains legible and reinforces the building's functional authenticity. Situated among other early 20th century commercial and civic structures, the Nanton News building contributes to the collective memory of Nanton's historic downtown. Its continued presence within this streetscape allows it to be understood in its original context, strengthening its ability to convey heritage values. The survival of original materials – including nailed-frame construction, stone foundation, and masonry details – ensures that the building retains physical authenticity. These materials, combined with the workmanship evident in the corbelled brickwork and vernacular construction techniques, embody the skill and resourcefulness of early prairie builders. Together, they allow the building to physically express its age, function, and architectural character. Beyond its physical attributes, the building continues to evoke the feeling of a small-town newspaper office. Its modest scale, brick clad two-storey façade, and downtown setting create an atmosphere that recalls the civic pride and communication networks central to early 20th century Alberta towns. This sense of place is reinforced by its enduring association with the Nanton News, which operated here for decades and documented the life of the community from its earliest years. The continuity of use, combined with the preservation of back issues dating to 1907, strengthens the building's associative integrity. Overall, these aspects of integrity ensure that the Nanton News building continues to embody its heritage significance. Its intact location, design, materials, and associations allow it to fully convey its role in the development of communication, civic identity, and commercial growth in southern Alberta. The building remains a rare and authentic example of early newspaper architecture in the province, and its integrity ensures that its heritage values remain legible to present and future generations.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Telephone Exchange

2118 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton Telephone Exchange**
Other Names	**Alberta Government Telephones Exchange**
Legal Description	**Lot: 22 Block: 4 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Telephone Exchange building is a modest, single-storey utility structure located within the town's historic commercial core. Constructed in 1918 to house telecommunications infrastructure, the building features a functional design typical of the Alberta Government Telephone's mid-century rural exchanges, with stucco cladding applied to the brick-faced exterior, minimal ornamentation, and a rectangular footprint. It served as a local switching station and operations hub for telephone service in Nanton and surrounding areas.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1918, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with the development of provincial telecommunications infrastructure and its role in the modernization of rural services.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1918 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) system was established in 1906 by the Liberal government under Premier Alexander Cameron Rutherford. Its creation marked Alberta's commitment to public ownership of telephone infrastructure, especially in rural areas underserved by private companies. In 1908, AGT acquired Bell Telephone's Alberta operations, consolidating its reach across the province. AGT operated as a public utility under the Department of Public Works until 1958, when it became a Crown corporation. It remained the dominant provider outside Edmonton until its privatization in 1991, eventually becoming part of TELUS. Nanton's Telephone Exchange building was part of a province-wide network of telephone exchange buildings constructed to house switching equipment and support local service delivery. While exact construction dates vary, many AGT buildings in small towns were built between the mid-1910s and 1950s, often in a utilitarian style with modest brick or stucco facades. This 24' x 34' building was constructed by contractor S. Turner of Medicine Hat, Alberta, with a 15' x 12' addition later added to the rear of the structure.

	In Nanton, the building served as a local telephone exchange and operations hub. It was a vital link in connecting residents to the broader provincial and national telephone grid. These building typically housed manual switchboards in the early years, operated by local telephone operators – often women – who played a central role in community communication. The Nanton Telephone Exchange closed in 1964 when direct dialing service started, and operators were no longer required to make calls, after which the office moved to High River. The building continues to be used for companies offering general insurance coverage. Though modest in scale, the building reflects the architectural and civic values of mid-century Alberta. Its design likely followed standardized provincial plans emphasizing durability, fire resistance, and functional layout. These buildings were often located in new town centres, reinforcing their role as essential public infrastructure. The Nanton structure is emblematic of AGT's rural service mandate and the province's investment in equitable access to telecommunications. It stands as a physical reminder of the era when telephone service was a public good, managed locally but integrated provincially.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building represents the expansion of provincial telecommunications and public ownership of telephone infrastructure in rural Alberta. It also reflects the role of the provincial government in modernizing rural services, aligning themes of governance, technology, and community development. AGT was established in 1906 and expanded rural service throughout the province, including Nanton, following its acquisition of Bell Telephone's Alberta operations in 1908. As a telephone exchange, the building facilitated manual switching and local connectivity, often staffed by community operators. It played a central role in linking Nanton residents to broader provincial and national networks. The building also reflects Alberta's investment in equitable access to modern services during the mid-20th century, contributing to civic modernization. The building is also recognized by residents as a symbol of early telecommunications. Its location within Nanton's historic downtown contributes to the area's institutional character and reinforces the narrative of Nanton as a service centre for southern Alberta. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The Nanton Telephone Exchange building likely follows standardized provincial plans used across Alberta from this period to the 1950s, often modest Modernist or Art Deco-influenced brick structures with utilitarian detailing. These designs emphasized fire resistance, durability, and functional layout. While not ornate, the building's form and materials reflect mid-century public architecture, contributing to its legibility as a government utility structure. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building is recognized by residents as a symbol of early telecommunications and played a role in linking Nanton residents to broader provincial and national networks.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location abutting public sidewalk within Nanton's historic downtown core • One-storey short-façade form and massing with flat roof and stone foundation

	• Original exterior brick superstructure cover beneath later applied stucco • Centre entrance with sidelights and flat transom with multiple lights • Symmetrical fenestration pattern • Plain parapet with protruding pilasters extending down to a protruding concrete plinth • Concrete lug sills with applied stucco • Original moulded name plate above central entrance • Association with manual switchboard operations and early telecommunications equipment • Evidence of standardized provincial design and construction methods.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location within Nanton's downtown core, reinforcing historical continuity. ■ **2. Design** The exterior form, fenestration patterns, and roofline are intact and appear consistent with original AGT design standards, demonstrating architectural integrity. ■ **3. Environment** The Nanton Telephone Exchange retains name recognition and nostalgic value and contributes to the cohesive streetscape of the main street. ■ **4. Materials** The brick cladding beneath the application of stucco, typical of AGT buildings, remains intact. ■ **5. Workmanship** Evidence of mid-century construction techniques is visible, though further investigation may be required to assess interior integrity. Minor alterations have occurred over time (e.g., signage, central glass door, and lower sliding window inserts above main level fixed windows), but these do not significantly compromise the building's ability to communicate its historic role. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to evoke its original function and era. ■ **7. Association** The community continues to recognize the building as a former AGT facility/hub.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building's use as a government telephone office reflects the development of communications infrastructure in Alberta, is a key theme in the province's history, and continues to be recognized cultural practice of telecommunications. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building retains a substantial portion of its original materials and craftsmanship. Alterations have occurred over time, such as the application of stucco over the original brick cladding, and minor alterations have also occurred (e.g., signage, central glass door, and lower sliding window inserts above main level fixed windows), but these do not significantly compromise the building's ability to communicate its historic role. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building's location within Nanton's historic downtown contributes to the area's institutional character
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Telephone Exchange** retains sufficient physical and associative integrity to express its significance under the two criteria. The building continues to reflect its original role as a hub for telecommunications in the community, representing a significant period in Alberta's development of public infrastructure.

	Its association with the expansion of government telephone services is evident in its location, historical use, and ongoing recognition within the community. The building's presence supports local heritage values and contributes to the collective memory of Nanton's residents, maintaining its relevance in community activities and cultural practices. The building also preserves its original architectural style, construction methods, and materials to substantial degree. Key elements such as the exterior façade, structural layout, and distinctive design features remain intact, demonstrating the workmanship and aesthetic values of its era. Any modifications have been sympathetic to the original character, ensuring that the building's historic appearance and physical authenticity are maintained. The setting and context of the building further reinforce its integrity, as it continues to contribute to the historic streetscape and sense of place. It also holds symbolic value for the community. It is recognized by residents as a symbol of early telecommunications and its location within Nanton's historic downtown contributes to the area's institutional character. The building facilitated manual switching and local connectivity, often staffed by community operators, and played a vital role in linking Nanton residents to broader provincial and national networks. Overall, the Nanton Telephone Exchange building exhibits integrity through its retention of original location, design, materials, and association with significant community events and practices. It stands as a testament to the evolution of telecommunications in Alberta and remains a valued part of Nanton's heritage.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Creighton Residence

2203 21st Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Creighton Residence**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: 1 Block: 7 Plan: 959J**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Creighton Residence is situated on a large well-treed lot, bordered by a low hedge, and located on a prominent southwest corner of 21st Street and Highway 2 South. It is a two-storey, 1917 Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 square-layout home, clad with shiplap and shingle siding. The structure has an open front porch, a medium-hip gable roof with a prominent cross gable, and single-hung windows on all elevations. The residence reflects the practical space-efficient design typical of Eaton kit houses from the early 20th century.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing residential structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1917, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with the Creighton family and their contributions to healthcare, commerce, and civic life.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1917 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Creighton Residence in Nanton stands as a testament to the pioneering spirit and community leadership of the Creighton family. Built in 1917 as an Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 kit house, the residence reflects a unique period in Canadian history when families could order homes through catalogues and have all the necessary materials shipped by rail from British Columbia. Between 1910 and 1932, the T. Eaton Company Limited sold kit homes through their catalogue. The package included all the necessary lumber, window, doors, and frames. The lumber was not pre-cut, necessitating the services of a carpenter to construct the house and often a small building, such as a garage or shed, with leftover materials. The house was constructed for Dr. John A. Creighton, the first doctor in the Nanton area, who homesteaded just east of town and established his medical office in the Ingram Building on Railway (20th) Avenue. Dr. Creighton's commitment to healthcare and business development was foundational to the growth of Nanton. He and his colleague, George Robertson, acquired and expanded the local pharmacy, building a new two-storey brick-clad building that became a central business in the community.

	The Creighton Residence was not only a family home but also the birthplace and lifelong residence of James Forbes Creighton, who was delivered by his father in the house and lived there until his passing in 2015. James Creighton's life included service in the Air Force during World War II, a career in pharmacy, and extensive involvement in local sports and community development, notably the Nanton Tennis Club. Architecturally, the residence is significant as an Eaton kit house, representing the economic practicality and innovative spirit of early 20th century rural Alberta. Its square, two-storey design maximizes space and minimizes costs, making it an affordable and moder choice for prairie families. The house's construction and continued use by the Creighton family highlight its importance as a local landmark and a symbol of generational continuity. The architectural features included standard windows and doors with the option for buyers to order extras for an additional fee. Doors, windows, and cabinetry were manufactured in Winnipeg and shipped as part of the kit, ensuring quality and consistency in the home's interior finishes. Unlike some other kit homes, Eaton's lumber was not pre-cut. Boards and beams arrived in standard lengths and required on-site measuring and cutting by a carpenter. This process often left enough material for a small outbuilding such as a garage or shed. All structural components, including lumber, windows, doors and frames, were shipped by rail from British Columbia to the nearest station, then transported to the building site. Buyers of Eaton kit homes could select option upgrades, such as indoor plumbing (about $150 extra) and heating ($90 extra in the 1910s), allowing the home to be adapted to modern needs. The house was assembled by local carpenters following plans provided in the catalogue, sawdust insulation in the walls, and battery tables in the basement for early electrical systems contributed to the home's longevity. While there are no records of major public events directly tied to the Creighton Residence, its historical significance lies in its role as the home of a prominent local family, its connection to the development of healthcare and businesses in Nanton, and its status as a rare and enduring example of an Eaton kit house.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The residence is closely tied to the development of healthcare and business in Nanton, serving as the home and workplace of the town's first doctor, Dr. John A. Creighton, and later his son, James Forbes Creighton. It was the site of important community activities, including the birth and lifelong residence of James Creighton, who contributed to local sports and civic development. The house's construction as an Eaton kit home reflects a broader cultural practice of mail-order homes in early 20th century Alberta, representing economic practicality and innovation in rural communities. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The Creighton Residence is directly associated with the Creighton family, who played a foundational role in Nanton's medical services and business development. Dr. John A. Creighton was the first doctor in the area, and the family pharmacy became a central institution in the community. The generational continuity of the residence, with James Forbes Creighton living there until 2015, underscores its importance as a symbol of local leadership and legacy. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction.** Architecturally, the Creighton Residence is a rare and well-preserved example of an Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666, notable for its square, two-storey layout, shiplap and shingle-clad exterior, and robust construction. The house's design maximizes space and minimizes construction complexity, reflecting the innovative spirit of early 20th century kit homes. Features such

	as sawdust insultation, millwork from Winnipeg, and the ability to customize with extra windows and doors further highlight its architectural value.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ Yes ☐ No **List:** • Original location within Nanton on a prominent corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street • Square, two-storey scale and massing layout typical of Eaton's Eastbourne kit houses • Nailed wood-frame superstructure • Open front verandah and vertical support wood columns and closed railing • Off-centre main entrance • Medium-hip roof with a prominent cross gable • Roof pediment on upper cross-gable dormer • Shiplap with corner board and shingle-clad exterior • Single-hung wood-frame windows and wood storm windows with slip sills standard with kit house package • Original window and door placement as detailed in the Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No. 666 square-layout home • Window and door millwork • Centre brick chimney • All structural components, including lumber, windows, doors and frames shipped by rail from British Columbia • Association with the Creighton family, who played a foundational role in Nanton's medical services and business development.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The residence remains in its original location in Nanton, maintaining its historical context within the community. ■ **2. Design** The house retains its square, two-storey Eaton's Eastbourne kit design with original exterior appearance, window and door layout, and architectural features still clearly evident. ■ **3. Environment** The surrounding environment, including its position within the local streetscape and proximity to other historic sites, has been preserved, contributing to its heritage value. ■ **4. Materials.** Original materials, such as shiplap and shingle siding, lumber, millwork from Winnipeg, wood single-hung windows with wood storms, and vertical wood porch posts are still present, reflecting the construction methods of the period. ■ **5. Workmanship** The craftsmanship involved in assembling the kit home, including on-site measuring and cutting, and sturdy construction, remains evident in the residence's structure. ■ **6. Feeling.** The residence continues to evoke the sense of early 20th century prairie life, with its enduring presence and generational continuity within the Creighton family. ■ **7. Association**

	The house is strongly associated with the Creighton family, particularly Dr. John A. Creighton and James Forbes Creighton, and their contributions to healthcare, business, and community development in Nanton.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Creighton Residence continues to reflect the cultural practice of mail-order kit homes, a defining feature of early 20th century Alberta. Its ongoing presence as a family home and its association with community activities – such as the birth and lifelong residence of James Forbes Creighton – would be immediately familiar to someone from its era. The house's role in local healthcare and business development is still apparent in its historical context and physical location. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The direct association with the Creighton family remains clear. The residence was home to Nanton's first doctor, Dr. john A. Creighton, and later his son, both of whom played pivotal roles in t the town's medical and business history. The generational continuity – spanning from its construction to the passing of James Forbes Creighton in 2015 – preserves its identity as a symbol of local leadership and legacy. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Architecturally, the Creighton Residence retains its distinctive Eaton's Eastbourne kt house features: a square, two-storey layout, clad with shiplap on the main floor exterior and shingles on the upper level exterior, and robust construction. These elements are visually and structurally consistent with their original design, making it easily recognizable to a contemporary familiar with early 20th century kit homes.
Statement of Integrity	The **Creighton Residence** retains a high degree of integrity. Its original location in Nanton remains unchanged, anchoring the home within its historic community context. The design – a square, two-storey Eaton's Eastbourne kit house – has been preserved with the layout and architectural features still evident and recognizable. The environment surrounding the residence, including its placement within the local streetscape and proximity to other historic sites, continues to reflect the character of early 20th century Nanton. The house maintains its original materials, such as shiplap and shingle siding, lumber, and millwork from Winnipeg, which are visible on the exterior finishes. The workmanship is evident in the sturdy construction and the careful assembly of kit components by local carpenters. These features showcase the building practices of the era and contribute to the home's enduring quality. The residence evokes a strong feeling of its historical period with its enduring presence and generational continuity within the Creighton family. The sense of place is reinforced by the home's association with Dr. John A. Creighton and James Forbes Creighton, whose contributions to healthcare, business, and community life in Nanton are integral to the property's story. Overall, the Creighton Residence demonstrates strong integrity, making it a significant and authentic heritage resource within the community.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Keen Hospital

2207 20th Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Keen Hospital**
Other Names	**Nanton Hospital / Main Street Apartments / Main Street Suites**
Legal Description	**Lot: N/A Block: N/A Plan: 0312590**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Keen Hospital is a two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular stucco-clad brick building with a concrete foundation and gable roof, constructed in 1927 as Nanton's first purpose-built hospital. Located on the west edge of Nanton's historic downtown core, the building originally contained a twelve-bed hospital, dispensary, medical office, bathrooms, kitchen, and a sunroom. Although later converted into apartments, the exterior retains its institutional massing, and symmetrical fenestration pattern, conveying its original function as a healthcare facility.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing commercial structure located on Nanton's Main Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1927, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The Keen Hospital maintains its landmark presence within the streetscape. Its location remains unchanged, reinforcing the hospital's historic association with the community it served.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1927 to 1940.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The Keen Hospital must be understood within the wider context of community development and healthcare provision in rural Alberta during the interwar period. In the early 20th century, small towns across the province were expanding as railway hubs and service centres, yet medical facilities lagged behind population growth. For Nanton, patients requiring hospitalization were sent to High River or Calgary, a journey that was both costly and time consuming. The construction of the Keen Hospital in 1927 marked a significant turning point, symbolizing the town's ambition to provide modern services locally and reinforcing its role as a regional centre in the foothills. The hospital was closely tied to the career of Dr. William H. Keen, who arrived in Nanton in 1905 and became the town's first physician. His leadership in establishing a purpose-built hospital reflected both professional initiative and civic pride. The involvement of his wife, Edith Keen, a registered nurse who served as superintendent, highlights the family and community dimensions of healthcare

	delivery in small towns. Together, they embodied the broader theme of local self-sufficiency in medical care, a hallmark of Alberta's rural communities in this era. Dr. John Creighton also provided patient care at the site. Architecturally, the Keen Hospital represents a rare example of a small-town hospital purpose-built in the 1920s. Its two-and-a-half-storey brick construction (prior to the application of stucco), concrete foundation, and gable roof conveyed permanence and modernity, contrasting with the more modest maternity homes or converted residences that often served rural hospitals. This institutional scale reinforced Nanton's identity as a service hub, while also aligning with provincial trends toward professionalized and standardized healthcare facilities. The hospital's closure in the early 1940s, following Dr. Keen's death and the enlistment of Dr. Hector MacKenzie, reflects the vulnerability of small-town institutions dependent on individual practitioners. Patients were redirected to High River, underscoring the shift toward centralized healthcare delivery. Yet the building's survival, later adapted into apartments, ensures that its physical presence continues to anchor Nanton's historic core. Overall, the Keen Hospital stands as a reminder of the challenges and aspirations of rural towns in providing modern amenities, and of the individuals whose initiative shaped local history.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The Keen Hospital is the first purpose-built hospital in Nanton, filling a critical gap in local healthcare. Associated with Dr. W.H. Keen, a prominent physician, rancher, town councilor, and civic leader, the building reflects the expansion of rural healthcare in Alberta during the interwar period. The hospital is also a symbol of community pride and self-sufficiency. Mrs. Edith Keen, wife of Dr. Keen and a registered nurse, served as superintendent, reinforcing family and community involvement. The hospital provided accessible healthcare when travel to Calgary or High River was difficult. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building is associated with Dr. W.H. Keen and Edith Keen, who played central roles in local healthcare. Dr. Keen arrived in Nanton in 1905 and became Nanton's first physician. He was also a rancher, town councilor, and political candidate. The hospital was privately owned and operated by Dr. Keen, with the assistance of his wife, Edith Keen, a registered nurse who also served as the superintendent. Dr. Keen operated the hospital until his death in 1937. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building is a two-and-a-half-storey brick tile construction with an exterior stucco application, a concrete foundation, and gable roof. Its purpose-built institutional design is rare in small Alberta towns of the 1920s. It retains massing, exterior form and materials, despite later conversion, stucco application and metal roof. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The structure is in a prominent location in Nanton's townscape, reinforcing its role as a civic landmark. It is one of two hospitals established in Nanton in the late 1920s, reflecting local ambition, and a rare surviving example of small-town hospitals from this era in Alberta.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton's historic downtown core • Rectangular plan and low gable roof form with 2 shed dormers on either side of gable roof

	• Rear offset brick chimney • Institutional two-and-a-half-storey scale and massing • Original exterior brick tile beneath the existing stucco with concrete foundation • Projecting wood eaves with exposed rafters • Wood brackets in projecting verges • Shaped structural fenestration openings • Symmetrical fenestration pattern and plain lug sills • 8-over-1 pane arrangement on front porch level window and 4-over-4 pane arrangements on west side windows • Open porch with closed railing and wood posts and open wood rail at second storey • Continued association with Dr. W.H. Keen and early healthcare history.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains in its original location on the edge of Nanton's downtown core, reinforcing historical continuity. ■ **2. Design** The exterior rectangular footprint, form and massing, fenestration patterns, and roofline are intact. ■ **3. Environment** The building is still part of Nanton's historic downtown core, maintaining its landmark presence. ■ **4. Materials** The brick tile and concrete foundation are hidden beneath the application of stucco and are not visible. Wood-frame windows remain intact. ■ **5. Workmanship** Masonry exterior is not visible thus workmanship is not conveyed. Wood-frame windows maintain their original workmanship. ■ **6. Feeling** The institutional character is still somewhat evident in the pattern of fenestrations that once marked the locating of the 12-room interior, thus character still evident despite adaptive reuse. ■ **7. Association** Strongly tied to Dr. Keen and early healthcare history.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** A contemporary from the hospital's early years would recognize the Keen Hospital by its exterior, location, and overall institutional presence. The building's essential attributes – form, materials, and landmark setting – have been preserved (albeit the brick has been covered with stucco but still remains intact), allowing it to convey its heritage value and remain a tangible link to Nanton's early healthcare history. ■ **B. Institution/Person** A contemporary of Dr. Keen or the hospital's early years would recognize the building's exterior and its prominent place on Main Street (20th Street). However, the interior and its current use as apartments would be unfamiliar, as the medical facilities and hospital-specific features have been replaced by residential accommodations. The building stands as a historic landmark, but its purpose and internal structure have evolved since its days as Keen Hospital. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building retains a substantial portion of its original materials and craftsmanship. Minor alterations have occurred over time (e.g., signage, central glass door, and lower sliding window inserts above main level fixed

	windows), but these do not significantly compromise the building's ability to communicate its historic role. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The Keen Hospital's landmark and symbolic value are actively conveyed through its preserved character-defining elements, its prominent place on the west edge of Nanton's historic downtown core, and its enduring role in community storytelling. While the building's function has changed, the building continues to serve as a tangible link to Nanton's history and the legacy of Dr. Keen.
Statement of Integrity	The **Keen Hospital** retains moderate to high level of integrity, sufficient to convey its heritage value as Nanton's first purpose-built hospital. Constructed in 1927, the building continues to occupy its original site in the town's historic core, maintaining its landmark presence within the streetscape. Its location remains unchanged, reinforcing the hospital's historic association with the community it served. The design of the building is still legible, with its two-and-a-half-storey rectangular plan, institutional massing, and gable roof form intact. While interior alterations have occurred during its conversion to apartments, the exterior continues to express its original institutional character. The environment of the hospital also contributes to its integrity with it situated among smaller residential and commercial buildings, and its scale and location distinguish it as a civic landmark. The materials of the hospital, particularly the brick masonry and concrete foundation are no longer visible due to the application of stucco and parging, but continue to remain authentic to the construction beneath. These elements, combined with straightforward workmanship of the structure, convey the durability and permanence intended by its builder, Dr. W.H. Keen. The workmanship of the masonry is not visible, however construction techniques with wood-framed windows and other wood elements continue to reflect the standard of interwar institutional architecture in small-town Alberta. Despite adaptive reuse, the hospital retains a strong feeling of its institutional origins. Its massing, fenestration rhythm, and durable materials evoke its former role as a healthcare facility. The association with Dr. Keen and the history of medical care in Nanton remain clear, reinforced by the building's survival and continued recognition as a heritage landmark. In summary, although interior modifications have altered aspects of the hospital's original function, the Keen Hospital preserves the essential attributes and ensures that the building continues to express its heritage significance and stands as a rare surviving example of a small-town hospital from the 1920s in Alberta.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office

2204 21st Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Dr. G. E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office**
Other Names	**McKeage's, Dr. McKeage's Dental Office, Hammill Residence**
Legal Description	**Lot: 20 Block: 6 Plan: 959J**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Dr. G.E. McKeage Residence and Dental Office constructed in c1904-05 is a modest early 20th century wood-frame dwelling located on a prominent northwest corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street in Nanton. It is situated across from the Creighton's residence, and opposite the Masonic Hall (previously St. Andrew's Hall) and the Nanton United Church and is bound by a low hedge and surrounded by a mix of mature trees. The two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular wood-frame house has a stone foundation, an open corner porch with an open rail and vertical posts, and a high-hip gable roof with a high-hip gable dormer on the east centre portion of the rood. The structure is clad with shiplap and contains decorative painted cedar shingles in the gable ends. The residence has operated as both a private residence and professional dental office for several decades.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing residential structure located on a prominent northwest corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street. • **Age:** The structure was built in c1904-05, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has strong association with Dr. George Ernest McKeage who represents the professionalization of rural health services in Alberta, where practitioners often operated from their homes. Association with McKeage also reflects broader patterns of community development, where civic leaders like McKeage contributed to both public health and social cohesion.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **B. Institution/Person** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1909 to 1950s.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The McKeage Residence and Dental Office sits within Nanton's early 20th century boom. It served as a combined family home and professional practice for Dr. G.E. McKeage and reflects the town's development and era around the railway and local professionalization. Nanton grew rapidly after the arrival of the Calgary – Fort Macleod railway in the late 1890s and was incorporated as a village in 1903 and a town in 1907, creating a demand for residences and local services such as medical and dental care; the

	McKeage property was constructed during this formative period of civic expansion. The house was constructed in c1904-05 by builder Elzie Robertson and is a two-storey, rectangular wood-frame dwelling with a stone foundation, shiplap siding, and painted cedar shingle gable ends. Local newspapers and directories from the 1920s show professionals advertising "office at residence" arrangements, and Dr. G.E. McKeage is documented among Nanton's professional cards, indicating the building functioned as both a family home and dental office, a common pattern in small prairie towns where professionals combined domestic and business spaces to serve a growing rural clientele. As a combined residence and practice, the McKeage site illustrates how healthcare provision was embedded in everyday community life – dentists and doctors often lived where they worked, contributing to local stability and civic identity. This pattern supported Nanton's role as a service centre for surrounding agricultural districts during the early 20th century.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The property embodies the theme of local health provision because it served as a dentist's office integrated with a residence, This ties directly to Nanton's role as a service centre for surrounding rural areas during the town's early development. The building's historic use as both a family home and a dental practice demonstrates the common small-town activity of professionals operating from their residences. That dual use is an important municipal story about how everyday services were delivered in the community. The site also illustrates a cultural practice in prairie towns where medical and dental practitioners lived where they worked, reinforcing social ties and accessibility. This practice contributes to the town's social history and sense of place. While not tied to a single major public event, the resource is associated with the broader event of Nanton's early 20th century growth in terms of the railway era and civic expansion. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The McKeage Residence and Dental Office has municipal significance primarily through its association with local practitioner, D. G.E. McKeage, and the McKeage family's long presence in Nanton. Dr. G.E. McKeage advertised his dental practice as "office at residence" in local newspapers, demonstrating a direct link between the building and the provision of health services to the town. The McKeage family also remained part of the Nanton community across generations, reinforcing the site's associative value at the municipal level. Although not an institution itself, the site embodies the local institution of community healthcare in a broader sense – illustrating how small towns relied on home-based professional services rather than separate institutional facilities. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The building's simple, two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan and high-hip gable roof reflects the restrained, utilitarian domestic styles common in small Alberta towns during the railway-era expansion. It is not an ornate high-style example, but its straightforward massing and original roof form embody the vernacular aesthetic of the period and contribute to the historic streetscape of Nanton. The structure's stone foundation, nailed frame superstructure, and shiplap and cedar shingle siding are materials and methods typical of early 1900s

	prairie construction and demonstrate local building technology and material choices of the era. The building is also linked to a known local craftsperson, Elzie Robertson, in the town's early development phase. While modest, the residence is a representative example of its building type and period rather than a unique architectural landmark. Collectively, such examples illustrate patterns of settlement, local craftsmanship, and material culture, and exemplifies early-town domestic building practices.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton on a prominent corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street • Overall form and massing with its two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan • High-hip gable roof form with a high-hip centre gable • Curved gable end that meets with continuous eave • Stone foundation visible at grade • Traditional shiplap with corner boards, and decorative wood shingle cladding with a painted design in the gable ends • Plain fascia and soffit with decorative wood brackets • West side office addition with triangular moulded pediment with dentils, plain facia, one large fixed window with plain structural opening, and a low-sloped shed roof • Original fenestration openings, wood-framed windows, wood storm windows, and lug sills • Location and one-storey scale of corner open porch and surviving porch details such as the open rail and wood vertical posts with doric capitals. • Centred single brick chimney • Visible workmanship in joinery and trim that reflect local building practices and the documented skill of the builder • Association with Dr. G.E. McKeage and evidence of dual use (i.e., ground-floor room with separate access).
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains on its original site, preserving its spatial relationship to the historic town core. ■ **2. Design** The two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan and high-hip gable roof remain intact, and the overall form, massing, and roofline convey the original design intent. ■ **3. Environment** The residence sits within Nanton's historic residential/commercial streetscape, maintaining its contextual relationship to other early 20th century buildings. ■ **4. Materials** Key materials such as the stone foundation, wood-frame construction, wood shiplap and shingle cladding remain visible and intact. ■ **5. Workmanship** The craftsmanship of the stone foundation and wood framing reflects local building practices of c1904-05. ■ **6. Feeling**

	The house conveys the sense of an early 20th central professional residence, modest in design but clearly historic. The building's scale, form, and materials evoke its period of construction and use. ■ **7. Association** Strongly associated with Dr. G.E. McKeage, a local dentist, and the broader practice of home-based professional services in small prairie towns.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building's association with healthcare and professional services, with Dr. G.E. McKeage, and its dual use as both residence and dental office is still legible. Its physical form reinforces the theme of local service provision as part of everyday life and allows this practice to be communicated to present-day observers. ■ **B. Institution/Person** The building was both the residence and dental office of Dr. McKeage, a named professional documented in Nanton newspapers and directories. Because the house remains on its original site, retains its domestic form, and is supported by documentary evidence of McKeage's practice, the personal connection is still legible. Association with McKeage also illustrates how individual professionals shaped small-town life by embedding their services directly into the community fabric. Similar to the Creighton Residence, it represents the broader institution of community healthcare provision in early prairie towns where professional services were often delivered from private residences. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan and high-hip gable roof remain intact, preserving the building's original massing and silhouette. The overall form and proportion are still legible, allowing the resource to convey its early 20th century domestic design intent. Although some alterations, such as incomplete painting have occurred, the essential design character is preserved. The house also represents a vernacular prairie domestic style that is modest, functional, and typical of early railway-era towns. Its lack of ornate detailing is itself stylistically significant, reflecting the utilitarian approach of small-town builders in c1904-05. Materials, such as the stone foundation, wood-frame superstructure and wood cladding are characteristic of the period and remain visible enough to demonstrate local construction practices, and the builder, Elzie Robertson, is recorded, tying the resource to local workmanship.
Statement of Integrity	The **McKeage Residence and Dental Office** retains sufficient integrity to communicate its heritage value as an early 20th century professional residence in Nanton. Constructed in c1904-05 by local builder Elzie Robertson, the resource remains on its original site at 2204 – 21st Street, preserving its spatial relationship to the historic town core and reinforcing its integrity of location. The building's two-and-a-half-storey rectangular plan and high-hip gable roof continue to define its overall massing, ensuring that the original design intent is legible despite the passage of time. The surrounding streetscape, characterized by other early residential and commercial buildings, provides a contextual setting that supports the resources environmental integrity. The house's stone foundation, wood-frame construction, wood shiplap and shingle cladding remain visible and convey materials and construction practices typical of Nanton's formative period. These elements also reflect the skill of its builder, demonstrating the workmanship of local tradespeople in the early 1900s. Together, these physical attributes allow the building to evoke the feeling of an early prairie town residence adapted for professional use. The modest scale and

	domestic character, combined with documentary evidence of its use as Dr. G.E. McKeage's dental office, reinforce the resource's associative integrity. This association illustrates the cultural practice of home-based professional services in small Alberta towns, where healthcare and other essential services were embedded in everyday community life. Overall, the McKeage Residence and Dental Office remains a representative example of Nanton's early development and the lived experience of professionals who shaped the town's civic and social fabric.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Masonic Hall

2120 21st Street
Nanton, AB



Site Name	**Nanton Masonic Hall**
Other Names	**St. Andrews Hall / Grace Hall**
Legal Description	**Lot: 18 Block: 3 Plan: 4362I**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Masonic Hall is located on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 south and 21st Street. It is a modest, early 20th century wood-frame hall originally constructed in 1906 as a Presbyterian church hall. The building features a rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained classical proportions. It has been adapted over time, most notably in 1951 when the Freemasons purchased and reoriented the structure 180 degrees to serve as Lodge No. 17's permanent home in 1964. The rear enclosed porch was originally the main entrance that contained a central two-leaf entrance with a transom window. A symbolic stained glass oculus featuring the Star of David, often referred to as a "Magen David" window was located within the gable above this original entrance representing divine protection, communal identity, and continuity of faith.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource is a **Type 2 Exclusions**, but is eligible for an exception from the particular exclusion as it falls under "**Resources that have been moved**" meets eligibility requirements as the resource: • was reoriented on its same footprint early in its history • developed significant historical associations on its new location prior to the last 50 years • is the sole surviving resource most importantly associated with a historic cultural practice and institution in Nanton • remains in the immediate vicinity of its original location and its association with its historic environment is maintained. The resource is therefore eligible for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a cultural gathering hall located on the edge of Nanton's commercial core. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1906, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building has a strong association with religious, social, and fraternal associations, and in its representation of adaptive reuse in small-town Alberta.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1906 to present.**

Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	The building now known as the Nanton Masonic Hall reflects the layered development of religious, civic, and fraternal institutions in small-town Alberta during the early to mid-20th century. Constructed in 1906 as St. Andrew's Hall, the building served as a Presbyterian church hall. It was later renamed Grace Hall, continuing its role as a congregational and community gathering place for both the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations from approximately 1911 to 1918, during their period of union. Following the formation of the United Church in 1925, resulting from the merger of these two denominations, the building continued to be used for church services until the completion of Grace United Church. Church halls of this era were essentially auxiliary spaces, hosting Sunday school, youth programs, meetings, and cultural events. They embodied the strong influence of Protestant denominations in shaping civic and moral life in prairie towns. Beyond its religious function, the hall was used for broader community activities, including cultural programming such as the Chautauqua circuit in the 1920s, which brought lectures, music, and theatre to rural Alberta. This illustrates the building's role as a hub of intellectual and social engagement during a period when towns like Nanton sought to connect to wider cultural currents. The inaugural meeting of the Nanton Masonic Lodge was convened in 1904 at Shaw's Opera House, located on Shaw (20th) Street and owned by H. M. Shaw, who was among the founding members of the Lodge. In October 1909, the Lodge relocated to its newly acquired hall space in the upstairs rooms of the Marshall Block (now the W. S. Keeley Building). The depression resulted in fewer members which led to the Lodge vacating the Marshall Block and renting the Grace Hall (also known as St. Andrew's Hall). In February 1946, the Lodge initiated proceedings to purchase Grace Hall from the United Church, along with two adjacent lots. In February 1951, the building was officially purchased by Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons, part of the province-wide expansion of Freemasonry after the Grand Lodge of Alberta was established in 1905. The lodge reoriented the building in 1964, rotating the structure end-for-end and placed atop a concrete basement floor, and adapted for fraternal ceremonies and charitable activities. This transition reflects a common pattern in Alberta towns, where existing civic or religious buildings were repurposed by fraternal organizations rather than replaced. In the broader context, the building's evolution mirrors larger trends in Alberta's settlement history, such as the early establishment of denominational institutions to anchor community identity; the multi-purpose use of halls as cultural and civic centres in small towns; the rise of fraternal organizations as influential civic actors in the mid-20th century; and, the adaptive reuse of buildings, ensuring continuity of use and preservation of heritage fabric.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** Constructed as St. Andrew's Hall, the building served as a Presbyterian church hall, hosting Sunday school, congregational meetings, and community events. Later renamed Grace Hall, it continued to function as a centre of religious and civic life, reflecting the importance of auxiliary church halls in prairie towns. In 1951, the building was purchased by Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons. The lodge reoriented the building, turning the back into the front entrance, and adapted it for fraternal ceremonies and charitable activities. This transition illustrates the enduring role of Freemasonry in Alberta's civic leadership and the reuse of existing structures for new social purposes. The building's layered history – from church hall to community hall to Masonic lodge – embodies the adaptability of small-town institutions. Each phase reflects a different dimension of Nanton's civic identity; spiritual, social, and fraternal. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**

	The building represents a modest early 20th century wood-frame hall design, featuring a rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained classical proportions, as well as its adaptive reuse over time, including the significant reorientation and modifications made by the Freemasons in 1951. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The Nanton Masonic Hall occupies a prominent corner in Nanton's historic downtown, symbolizing the continuity of community institutions and the layered history of the town's development. The hall has continuously served as a venue for religious services, community events, cultural programming, and fraternal ceremonies for over a century, reflecting the adaptability and enduring social value of small-town institutions.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton's historic downtown streetscape and situated on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street • Form, scale, and massing of modest one-storey nailed-frame and stucco-covered structure with restrained ornamentation • High-pitched gable roof with projecting eaves and verges • Evidence of adaptive reuse, including the reorientation of the entrance in 1951 • Enclosed front porch • Enclosed rear porch which was initially the original front façade entrance prior to the structure being rotated 180 degrees • Pattern of original fenestration openings with plain wood trim and lug sills • Chimney stack located within front gable end extending from shed roof of enclosed porch to underside of extended verge • Continued association with Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The building remains on its original downtown site, maintaining its historic relationship to the town's civic core. Its placement continues to reflect the early 20th century pattern of locating religious and fraternal institutions within walking distance of commercial and residential areas. ■ **2. Design** The rectangular plan, high-pitched gable roof, and modest hall form are intact, consistent with its original construction as a Presbyterian church hall. The 1951 reorientation of the entrance by the Freemasons altered circulation but did not compromise the overall design integrity; instead, it reflects adaptive reuse while retaining the building's essential character. ■ **3. Environment** The hall remains embedded in Nanton's historic downtown streetscape, surrounded by other early 20th century institutional, commercial, and residential buildings. Its scale and form continue to contribute to the small-town civic environment that defines Nanton's heritage character. ■ **4. Materials.** Original wood-frame construction is largely preserved though repairs and replacements have occurred over time. The exterior has been clad with stucco and the original fenestrations are filled in, yet the original wood window trim/frame within the structural openings are intact. ■ **5. Workmanship**

	The building demonstrates the craftmanship typical of modest prairie hall construction, with straightforward functional detailing. Later modifications by the Freemasons were sympathetic to the original workmanship, ensuring continuity of construction quality. ■ **6. Feeling** The hall continues to convey its historic role as a community gathering place, first for religious and civic functions, later for fraternal activities. Its modest scale and enduring use evoke the social fabric of small-town Alberta, reinforcing its authenticity of feeling. ■ **7. Association** The building retains strong associations with both the Presbyterian congregation (Grace/St. Andrew's Hall) and the Freemasons (Nanton Lodge No. 17). Its continued use as a gathering space for over a century underscores its enduring social and cultural significance.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** As St. Andrew's Hall and later Grace Hall, the building was central to the Presbyterian congregation's social and spiritual life, hosting Sunday school, youth programs, and congregational meetings. It also functioned as a community hall, accommodating cultural events such as the Chautauqua circuit, which brought lectures, music, and theatre to Nanton. These associations remain legible in the building's modest hall form and its location within the town's civic core. Since 1951, the building has been home to Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons, a fraternal organization with deep civic and charitable roots in Alberta. Its continued use for lodge meetings and ceremonies ensures that the building remains a living heritage site, actively tied to traditions of fellowship, philanthropy, and civic leadership. The building's uninterrupted role as a gathering place for over a century communicates its enduring social value. Whether for religious, cultural, or fraternal purposes, it has consistently served as a venue where community members come together, reinforcing its cultural significance. The hall's, modest scale, and downtown location continue to embody the small-town civic identity of Nanton, symbolizing the adaptability of community institutions and their role in shaping collective memory. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The modest, rectangular, high-pitched gable roof, with restrained classical proportions reflects the practical ethos of early 20th century community halls. Its restrained classical features and lack of ornamentation itself is a defining stylistic feature. Although the hall's adaptive reuse required a significant reorientation with a 180 degree rotation, the structure still retains the original exterior characteristics, massing, and fenestration pattern reflective of straightforward construction methods typical of modest prairie halls. ■ **E. Landmark/Symbolic Value** The building still retains its original location on a prominent northeast corner of Highway 2 South and 21st Street, maintaining its historic relationship to the town's civic and commercial streetscape. Its key architectural features are intact, and the hall's form, scale, and location continue to remain a visible and integral part of Nanton's historic fabric.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Masonic Hall** retains a high degree of integrity and continues to communicate its heritage value through its location, design, environment, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building remains on its original site in Nanton's historic downtown core, preserving its relationship to the surrounding civic and commercial streetscape. Its modest scale and siting reflect the early 20th century pattern of placing church

	and community halls within walking distance of other institutions, and this continuity of location reinforces its authenticity. The overall design of the hall, with its rectangular plan, gable roof, and restrained proportions, is consistent with its origins as a Presbyterian auxiliary hall. Although the Freemasons reoriented the entrance in 1951 to suit lodge use, this adaptation did not compromise the building's essential character. Instead, it illustrates the layered history of the resource and the adaptability of small-town buildings to new social purposes. The hall continues to contribute to the heritage environment of Nanton's downtown. Its form and scale complement nearby early 20th century churches, schools, commercial blocks, and residences, ensuring that it remains a visible part of the town's historic fabric. Although wood-frame construction is intact, sympathetic repairs and replacements have occurred over time to adapt for lodge use. The workmanship of the hall reflects straightforward construction methods typical of modest prairie halls, and later modifications respected craftsmanship, ensuring continuity of quality and reinforcing the building's authenticity. The resource continues to evoke the feeling of a community gathering place. Its modest scale, enduring use, and layered history convey the social fabric of small-town Albera, where buildings often served multiple generations and organizations. Overall, the hall retains strong associations with both its religious origins as Grace Hall and St. Andrew's Hall, and its fraternal role as Nanton Lodge No. 17. Its continuous use as a gathering space for over a century underscores social and cultural significance.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

RESOURCE EVALUATION

Nanton Scout-Guide Hall

2222 18th Street
Nanton, AB



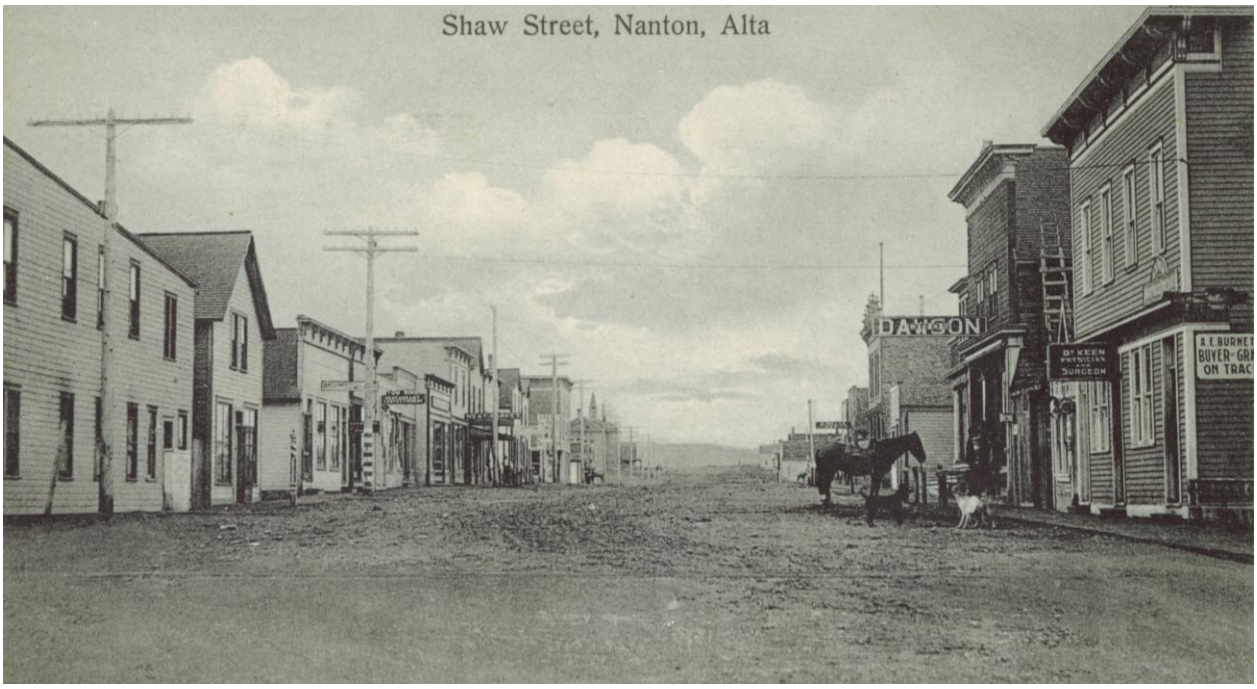
Site Name	**Nanton Scout-Guide Hall**
Other Names	
Legal Description	**Lot: N/A Block: 38 Plan: 6864FU**
Part One: Eligibility Assessment	
Description of Resource	The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall is a modest, horizontal-log building constructed in 1957 to serve as a permanent home for local Scouting and Guiding organizations. Located within Nanton's civic core, the hall is a simple rectangular structure with a low-pitched roof, and a central projecting gabled entrance. It is located within a large natural treed space.
Eligibility for Designation	Resource meets eligibility requirements for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource due to the following attributes: • **Physical Site:** The building is a standing organization structure located within Nanton's civic core. • **Age:** The structure was built in 1957, clearly meeting the age threshold. • **Integrity:** The building retains integrity of location, design, and its original association with youth organizations and community life, which is sufficient to convey heritage values.
Part Two: Assess Significance	
Step 1 – Which Significance Criteria Apply?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction**
Period of Significance	Period of time during which the resource acquired its significance is **1957 to present.**
Step 2 – What is the Context of the Resource?	A Boy Scout troop was founded in Nanton in February 1912, and comprised of twelve members under the guidance of Walter Frantzen, the inaugural Scout Master. Initial meetings were held at various locations until a group of fathers determined that a dedicated facility was required. Logs were procured from the Priddis area, and construction of the building was completed with assistance from a hired carpenter, Mr. Starritt, who supervised the parents building the hall. The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall officially opened on April 25, 1957. Since its establishment, the facility has undergone several minor renovations and continues to serve as a centre for youth development, outdoor education, and community engagement. The construction of the Scout-Guide Hall in 1957 reflects the postwar civic expansion that characterized small towns across Alberta. During the 1950s, communities invested in schools, halls, and recreational facilities to meet the needs of growing populations to provide structured opportunities for youth. In Nanton, the hall was part of this wave of civic improvement, symbolizing the town's commitment to fostering leadership and citizenship among its younger generations.

	The hall's establishment also coincided with the peak of Scouting and Guiding activity in Canada when these organizations were central to youth development. They emphasized outdoor skills, teamwork, service and civic responsibility – values that resonated strongly in rural Alberta communities. By providing a dedicated facility, Nanton ensured that local Scouts and Guides had a permanent home for meetings, training, and events, reinforcing the importance of these organizations in shaping community identity. Cooperative development between Scout and Guide organizations was a recognized pattern in Alberta during the mid-20th century, particularly as both groups sought modern, multi-purpose facilities to support expanding youth programs. By the 1950s, several Alberta communities saw their local Scout and Guide associations collaborate to fund, construct, or jointly operate shared halls, reflecting a broader provincial trend toward resource pooling and community-driven infrastructure. This pattern is formally documented in the Alberta Register of Historic Places, which notes that by the 1950s the Calgary Scout and Guide organizations "forged a partnership to build a new integrated facility," demonstrating that such collaborations were neither isolated nor incidental but part of a wider movement in youth-organization development. The Nanton Scout-Guide Hall, completed in 1957, aligns with this province-wide trend and illustrates how local volunteer groups contributed materially to community-building during the postwar period. The hall was built through local fundraising and volunteer labour, a hallmark of prairie community-building in the mid-20th century. Its construction demonstrates the collective effort of Nanton residents to provide infrastructure for their youth. This volunteer-driven ethos is itself a heritage value, reflecting traditions of civic pride and grassroots initiative. In 1955, the Scout Association was renamed Nanton Scout and Guide Association after considering the values of bringing both groups under one organization. Previously, the Guides and Brownies were governed by a separate committee. Architecturally, the Scout-Guide hall is representative of vernacular mid-century community buildings in Alberta. Its modes rectangular horizontal log construction, and utilitarian finishes reflect the practical approach of volunteer-built facilities. While not architecturally distinguished, its design is significant as a "type example" of small town civic halls of the 1950s built for function rather than ornamentation.
Step 3 – Does the Resource Have Municipal Significance?	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The building represents the postwar expansion of Scouting and Guiding in Alberta, reflecting national trends in youth citizenship and volunteerism. It also embodies local fundraising and volunteer labour traditions, showing how small towns mobilized to create civic infrastructure. The building also served as a hub for youth programming, community events, and civic gatherings for decades, thus holding strong value for generations of Nanton residents who participated in Scouting, Guiding, and community functions. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** Log scout buildings in Alberta are part of a broader tradition of log construction that dates back to the province's earliest days of European settlement. These structures – often built by scouts, pioneers, and community volunteers – reflect both practical needs and cultural heritage. Log buildings became a favoured style for scout camps and lodges in the early 20th century as they were seen as rugged, self-sufficient, and emblematic of outdoor life. The building is of modest vernacular design typical of 1950s community halls with simple rectangular form, utilitarian finishes, and a functional layout.

	While not architecturally distinguished, its design reflects the practical ethos of volunteer-built civic buildings of the era. Although maintenance, as well as repairs in 1998-99 to secure log wall corners and to replace roof with a metal slipcover, have reduced some material authenticity, including metal slipcovers over the upper gable ends and soffit, and the application of stucco on the rear elevation of the building, the essential design and construction character remain. Additions to the building include a washroom and kitchen, the installation of electricity and water. Originally, the building was only heated by a fireplace.
Part Three: Assess Integrity	
Step 1 – Are Character Defining Elements Visible Enough to Convey Their Significance?	■ **Yes** ☐ **No** **List:** • Original location within Nanton's civic core on a large grassed and treed lot • Rectangular form and massing • Medium-gable roof with projecting eaves and verges • Horizontal log construction with corner boards • Enclosed porch entrance with central door flanked by fixed wood-framed windows • Wood-framed fenestration openings with a plain wood slip sill • Associative value as a gathering place for Scouts, Guides and the wider community.
Step 2 – Does the Resource Retain the Relevant Aspects of Integrity?	■ **1. Location** The hall remains on its original site, preserving its spatial relationship to Nanton's civic core. ■ **2. Design** Retains its basic 1957 form and layout, though it is unclear whether interior modifications may have occurred to meet evolving program needs. ■ **3. Environment** The building maintains its relationship to the surrounding open space and vegetation, and its projecting entrance continues to face the street. ■ **4. Materials** Original exterior finishes remain intact. ■ **5. Workmanship** The building reflects the volunteer construction methods of the period, though not highly crafted. ■ **6. Feeling** The building continues to evoke its role as a youth and community gathering place, even if active Scouting use has diminished. ■ **7. Association.** Continues to evoke its role as a youth and community gathering place, even if active Scouting use has diminished.
Step 3 - Integrity Assessment	■ **A. Theme/Activity/Cultural Practice/Event** The hall was purpose-built for Scouting and Guiding, and it retains that associative value even if active use has declined. ■ **C. Design/Style/Construction** The rectangular massing, low-pitched roof, and utilitarian layout remain intact, preserving the building's mid-century vernacular character. While modest, the hall reflects the practical ethos of 1950s community halls. Its lack of ornamentation itself is a defining stylistic feature. The horizontal log

	construction and volunteer workmanship are also still legible; thus, the essential design and construction character remain.
Statement of Integrity	The **Nanton Scout-Guide Hall** retains enough integrity to continue embodying its heritage significance. Situated on its original site within the town's civic core, the building maintains its spatial relations to other community landmarks and preserves the context in which it was constructed. Its simple rectangular massing, low-pitched roof, and utilitarian layout remain legible, reflecting the vernacular design of mid-20th century community halls. Although some materials may have been replaced or upgraded over time, the essential construction character – volunteer-built, modest, and functional – still conveys the ethos of is 1957 construction. Equally important, the hall continues to express its associative values. It remain strongly linked to the institutions of Scouting and Guiding, and to the community volunteers who raised funds and built it. The building evokes memories of youth programming, civic gatherings, and the collective effort that brought the building into being. As a result, its integrity is not only physical but also thematic: the hall still represents the cultural practices, events, and traditions of volunteerism and youth development that defined its purpose. Finally, the hall retains symbolic value as a modest but enduring landmark in Nanton's heritage landscape. While its architectural distinction is limited, its role as a community symbol is clear, and its informational potential – through archival records, oral histories, and comparative study – remains strong. Taken together, these attributes demonstrate that the Scout-Guide Hall possesses sufficient integrity in location, design, association, and symbolic meaning to embody its heritage significance.
Final Evaluation and Recommendation	■ **Place resource on the Municipal Heritage Inventory** ■ **Designate as a Municipal Resource** ☐ **Designate as a Provincial Resource (potential)** ☐ **Remove resource from the historic resources management process**

Appendix B – Heritage Site Surveys



Nanton's Heritage Survey updates provide an organized, downtown-focussed snapshot of the town's historic building stock, ensuring that information about the heritage resources remains current, accurate, and useful for planning decisions. Each survey entry follows a consistent structure: a basic property profile (address, photographs, construction date), a concise physical description, and a brief historical summary that captures the building's role in Nanton's development. This is paired with a high-level assess of heritage value, noting architectural features, cultural associations, and contextual importance.

The purpose of the updated survey is not to designate buildings, but to identify and document places with potential heritage interest. It supports long-range planning by highlighting patterns in Nanton's history, flagging properties that may warrant future evaluation, and providing a baseline record for monitoring change over time. Ultimately, the survey strengthens the Town's ability to make informed, proactive decisions about conservation, growth, and community identity.

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 48623

[2]Site Name: W.S. Keeley Building

[3]Other Name(s)

Keeley Block	other name
Keeley Hardware	other name
Marshall's Hardware	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0412 - Mercantile/Commercial: General Retail Store

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	10	

[15]Address: 1901-20 Avenue [16]Number: 01

[17]Street: 19

[18]Avenue: 20

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

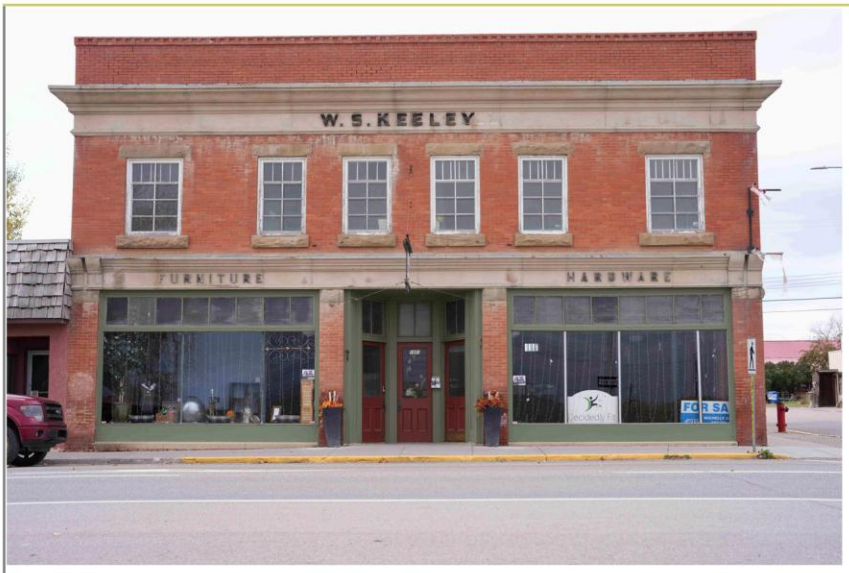
[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.349379	-113.772117	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-038 [38]View: North East [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/17 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-037
[38]View:	East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-036
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-035
[38]View:	South West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1202 - Rectangular Long Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1807 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Concrete

[45]Superstructure

Type
3013 - Undetermined Wood Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
1613 - Number of Bays - Facade: First or Ground Floor, 3 Bays
1626 - Number of Bays - Facade: Second Floor, 6 Bays
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3122 - Wall Design and Detail: Plain Parapet
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3514 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Brackets
3515 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Corbelled Cornice
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3609 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Metal
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5007 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5404 - Window - Sill Material: Stone
5503 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5708 - Window - Number of Sashes: Other
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6607 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Multiple Lights
6702 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6403 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7002 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Shaped Panel
7303 - Main Porch - Type: Recess

7510 - Main Porch - Material: Other
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
3125 - Wall Design and Detail: Stepped Parapet
3131 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorative Brick
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5708 - Window - Number of Sashes: Other
5809 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Other
5923 - Window - Special Types: Blind
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
3131 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorative Brick
6303 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Moulded Flat
6403 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6702 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6803 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 3 or More
6903 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 3
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: Main Floor - Windows are single pane with transoms and bulkheads. Upper Floor - Windows are inner five-over-one double-hung, and and top-hinged storms with 8 lights. Rear facade upper floor has one five-over-four window and one undetermined pane arrangement. Voussoirs. Blind window. On rear of building is a wood frame, sloped roof stairway with a door at the bottom. Blade sign above front entrance. Ghost sign on north wall recently applied for movie set.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Building located on SW corner of 20th Avenue and 19th Street, facing the avenue. The building abuts the public sidewalk on the street and avenue.

[53]Condition: In good condition (Oct. 2025). Front upper and mid metal cornices require new coats of paint, including applied wood lettering. Transom windows require recaulking. All wood windows require sanding, new coats of paint, and recaulking. Efflorescence is evident on brick just below upper cornice. North elevation requires repointing, and rising damp along the base of the brick façade is clearly evident.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1909.	1909/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Hardware store	1909/01/01	K
Grocery, dry goods, hardware	1929/01/01	E
Apartments on the upper floor	1941/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Charles Marshall	1908/01/01
William Keeley	1935/01/01
T. Dixon Holdings Inc	2025/10/01

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: The W. S. Keeley Building, commonly known as the Keeley Block, is a two-storey brick commercial structure prominently located at the corner of Highway 2 and 19th Street in downtown Nanton. Constructed in 1908 and completed in 1909 by C.H. Marshall, the building originally housed a hardware machinery, and furniture store before being purchased in 1935 by William S. Keeley, a local merchant whose business contributed significantly to the town's economy. In 1941, Keely adapted the second floor into apartments, reflecting the evolving needs of the community and the flexibility of small-town commercial blocks. Architecturally, the Keeley Block is representative of the early 20th century Commercial style, with its flat roof, corbelled parapet, entablature detailing, and evenly spaced upper-storey windows with sandstone lintels and sills. The ground floor retains its large shopfronts and recessed entrances, and many of the original materials are intact. Over time, the building has accommodated a variety of uses, including antique shops, and today continues to serve as a missed-use commercial and residential property.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Birrell, Dave. Interview. October 2, 2025.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: [74]Borden Number: [75]Register:

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 29226

[2]Site Name: Auditorium Hotel

[3]Other Name(s)

Aud	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial
0405 - Mercantile/Commercial: Hotel or Inn

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	3	5,6,9,10	

[15]Address: 2001- 20 Avenue [16]Number: 01

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 20

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

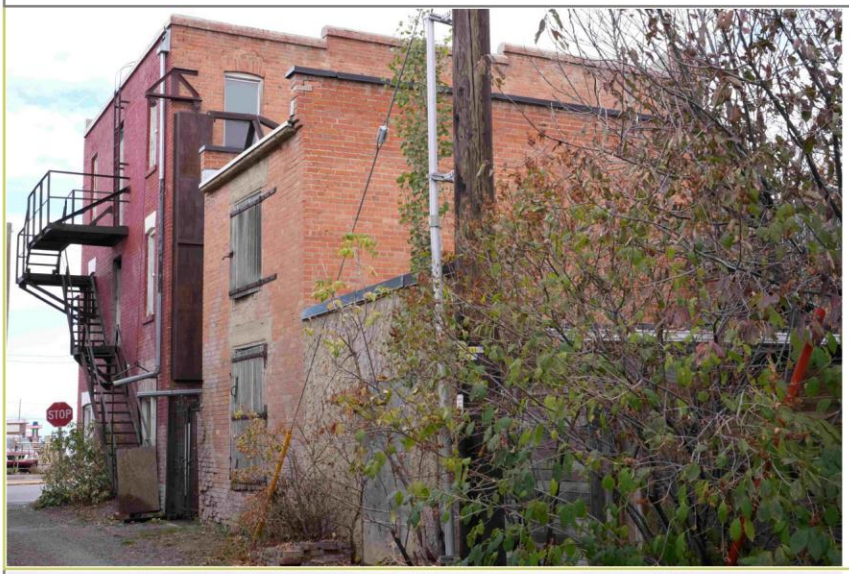
[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348676	-113.771401	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-015 [38]View: North East [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/17 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-016
[38]View:	East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-017
[38]View:	South West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-018
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-019
[38]View:	Ice House
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1204 - L

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone
1807 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Concrete

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3118 - Wall Design and Detail: Corbelling
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3131 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorative Brick
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5007 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5405 - Window - Sill Material: Brick
5408 - Window - Sill Material: Concrete
5503 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded

5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6104 - Main Entrance - Location: Corner
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6307 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5008 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Moulded Lintel
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6606 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6903 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 3
7002 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Shaped Panel
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
7203 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight Side
5923 - Window - Special Types: Blind
4708 - Roof Trim - Special Features: Drop or Pendant
6605 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Blind
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
3126 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorated Parapet
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: All double-hung windows replaced with vinyl inserts. The west three storey addition has a center entrance door. A brick icehouse is located on the southwest corner of the L facing the alley.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: The building is located on the southwest corner of 20th Street and the northbound lane of highway 2 with the shorth facade facing the highway. The entablature above the east addition is decorated with finials, dropped pendants and dentils. The building abuts the public sidewalk on both the street and avenue.

[53]Condition: Very Good (October 2025)

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
First section constructed in 1902	1902/01/01	K
Second section constructed in 1903	1903/01/01	K
Third section constructed in 1912	1912/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Hotel	1902/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
M.J. Brown	1902/01/01
Malcolm Kane & Walter Rounds	1907/01/01
Calgary Brewing Company	1912/01/01
Donald Hardy	1939/01/01
Vespucci Holdings Inc.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Located at the heart of Nanton's historic downtown, the Auditorium Hotel stands as a testament to the town's early 20th-century growth and enduring community spirit. Built in 1902 and expanded in 1912, this Edwardian Commercial-style landmark has served as a hotel, tavern, and social hub for over a century. Its brick-clad façade, symmetrical windows, and prominent signage reflect its architectural heritage, while its role as a stopover between Calgary and Lethbridge, music venue, and gathering place highlight its cultural significance. Known locally as "The Aud," the hotel remains a symbol of Nanton's resilience, hospitality, and rich folklore, anchoring the town's identity and streetscape from 1902 to the present.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. University of Lethbridge Library. Nanton News. Southern Alberta Newspaper Collection. May 2, 1912.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date

Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: [74]Borden Number: [75]Register:

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 16659

[2]Site Name: Fetherston's Grocery

[3]Other Name(s)

Shaw's	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	23	

[15]Address: 2112 - 20 Street **[16]Number:** 12

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

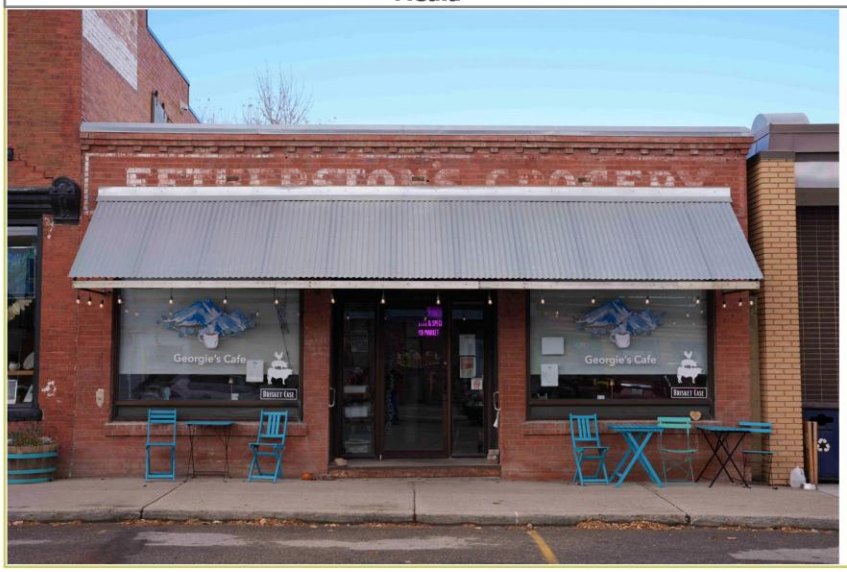
UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348464	-113.772318	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-011 **[38]View:** South **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/18 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-012
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1107 - Massing of Units: Row, Non-Related, Intermediate
3118 - Wall Design and Detail: Corbelling
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5405 - Window - Sill Material: Brick
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7303 - Main Porch - Type: Recess

[50]Exterior: All windows and doors replaced with modern metal inserts. Ghost sign on upper facade " Featherston Grocery". Sills topped with concrete parging. Brick dentils in corbel parapet. One string header bond in the upper facade.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located mid-block on south side of 20th Street, between 20th and 21st Avenues. The building abuts the public sidewalk.

[53]Condition: Very Good.(October 2025) Slight mortar cracking in upper facade. Some mortar failure in lower facade.

[54]Alterations: Fixed awning attached in the 1990's.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1916	1916/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Grocery Store	1916/01/01	K
Bakery	1920/01/01	E

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Dr. George Robertson	1916/01/01
James Fetherston	1917/01/01
Georgie's Ltd.	2025/10/01

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: A modest, one-storey brick commercial building constructed in 1915, Fetherston's Grocery is a representative example of early 20th-century small-town Alberta architecture. Featuring simple massing, a utilitarian storefront, and a distinctive "Fetherston's Grocery" ghost sign, the building has served as a hub for groceries and community interaction on Nanton's historic Mainstreet (Shaw Street). Closely associated with Orie Fetherston, a prominent local businessman and former mayor, the store reflects the evolution of prairie commerce and family-run businesses in Alberta's post-settlement era. Retaining its original location, brick cladding, and key exterior features, Fetherston's Grocery continues to contribute to the visual and cultural continuity of the downtown core, embodying the patterns of settlement, commerce, and community life that have shaped Nanton's heritage.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 18950

[2]Site Name: Nanton Drug Company

[3]Other Name(s)

Creighton Drug	other name
Creighton Pharmacy	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	23	

[15]Address: 2114 - 20 Street [16]Number: 14

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

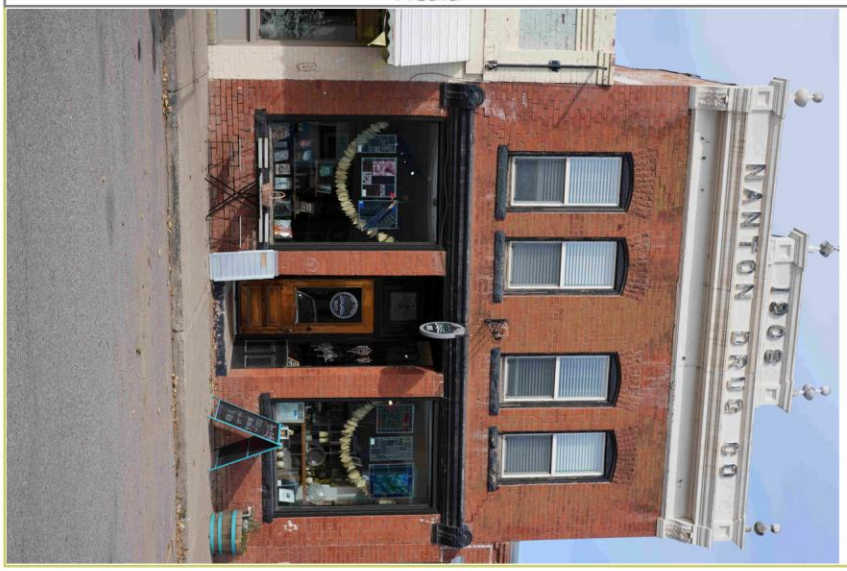
UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34842	-113.77237	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-022 [38]View: South [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-023
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1107 - Massing of Units: Row, Non-Related, Intermediate
1613 - Number of Bays - Facade: First or Ground Floor, 3 Bays
1624 - Number of Bays - Facade: Second Floor, 4 Bays
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3514 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Brackets
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5203 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: Wood

5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5404 - Window - Sill Material: Stone
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5506 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6606 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
6903 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 3
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7303 - Main Porch - Type: Recess
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
7009 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Stained Glass
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
3512 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Moulded Frieze
3609 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Metal
4704 - Roof Trim - Special Features: Finial
3126 - Wall Design and Detail: Decorated Parapet
3515 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Corbelled Cornice
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: There is a mid-level metal cornice with brackets. Side walls have a stepped parapet.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on northside, mid-block of 20th Street, between 20th and 21st Avenues. The building abuts the public sidewalk.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct. 2025). Some mortar failure. Paint spaling on mid and upper level cornices.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1908.	1908/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Pharmacy	1908/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Dr. J. Creighton & Dr. G. Robertson	1908/01/01
Primal Soul Inc.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1908, the Nanton Drug Company (Creighton Pharmacy) stands as a distinguished landmark in the heart of Nanton's historic downtown. Originally established as the Nanton Drug Company, this two-storey brick building has served generations as a centre for health care and commerce. Its classical façade adorned with ornate cornice work, urns, a stepped entablature, and the proud inscription "1908 Nanton Drug Co" reflects the optimism and craftsmanship of its era. Associated with pioneering figures such as Dr. John Creighton and Dr. G.M. Robertson, the pharmacy played a vital role in the community's development, offering essential medical services and anchoring the commercial streetscape. As one of the earliest and most enduring businesses in Nanton, Creighton's Pharmacy contributed to the town's transformation from a railway outpost to a thriving district metropolis. The building's presence supported the establishment of local hospitals and medical infrastructure, making it a cornerstone of public health in southern Alberta.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Penley, Ken. The History of Pharmacy in Alberta: The First One Hundred Years. Edmonton: The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, 1993.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: [74]Borden Number: [75]Register:

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 15965

[2]Site Name: Denoon Butcher Shop

[3]Other Name(s)

Denoon's Meat Market	other name
Denoon's	other name
Denoon and Son	other name

[4]Site Type

Type

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	22	

[15]Address: 2116 - 20 Street [16]Number: 16

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34849	-113.77259	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-013 [38]View: South [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-014
[38]View:	North
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1107 - Massing of Units: Row, Non-Related, Intermediate
3118 - Wall Design and Detail: Corbelling
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5308 - Window - Sill Type: Continuous Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5503 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
5507 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Multiple Lights
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)

6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6702 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6901 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 1
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight

[50]Exterior: Fixed raked awning.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on the north side of 20th Street between 10th and 21st Avenues. The building abuts the public sidewalk.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct. 2025). Some paint spaling. Some rot in window corner joints.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1924	1924/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Meat Market/Butcher Shop	1920/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
William Denoon	1920/01/01
Barbara L.M. Deno	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1924, the Denoon Butcher Shop is a modest, one-storey brick commercial building featuring a distinctive brick false-front façade and original storefront details. Centrally located in Nanton's historic commercial core. The building reflects the entrepreneurial spirit of early prairie settlers and the growth of small-town commerce during Alberta's railway expansion era. Closely associated with the Denoon family, it played a significant role in the economic and social development of the community. Retaining its original location, brick cladding, and utilitarian storefront, the Denoon Meat Market maintains strong integrity in location, design, materials, and association, and continues to contribute to the heritage character and continuity of Nanton's commercial main street.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005. Jones, Bridget. Interview. October 4, 2025.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 23456

[2]Site Name: Shaw and Cooper Block

[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
0400 - Mercantile/Commercial: General and Mixed Use Commercial

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	1	

[15]Address: 1919 - 20 Avenue **[16]Number:** 19

[17]Street: 19

[18]Avenue: 20

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348742	-113.771664	NAD83	

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-027 [38]View: South East [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-028
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-029
[38]View:	East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1201 - Square

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher
2208 - Stone - Finish: Rusticated

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
1612 - Number of Bays - Facade: First or Ground Floor, 2 Bays
3121 - Wall Design and Detail: Entablature
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3510 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Decorated Soffit
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
4709 - Roof Trim - Special Features: Monumental Pediment
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4906 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Semi-Circular
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5007 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5404 - Window - Sill Material: Stone
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
5509 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Shaped Transom, Single Light
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6104 - Main Entrance - Location: Corner
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6307 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Lintel
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6606 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Single Light
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6802 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 2
6902 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 2
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
3129 - Wall Design and Detail: Inscription or Date Stone

[50]Exterior: Finished sandstone base. Mid-projecting cornice with plain frieze. Sandstone lintels above all upper floor windows. Main floor voussoirs bookended with sandstone central key. Door codes relate to door at west end.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on the north west corner of 20th Street and 20th Avenue. Building abuts the street and avenue public sidewalks.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct 2025).

[54]Alterations: Two major bays altered with new slip covers. Retracting awnings.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1909.	1909/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Bank, Offices, Store, Apartments	1909/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
H. Shaw and J. Cooper	1909/01/01
Cecilia Burns	1977/08/17
645927 Alberta Ltd.	2025/10/01

[63]Architect: William Dodd.

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

66 History: Constructed in 1909 at the prominent corner of 20th Avenue and 20th Street in Nanton, the Shaw and Cooper Block is a two storey brick and sandstone commercial building designed by Calgary architect William Dodd. Commissioned by H.M. Shaw, founder of Nanton and Member of Parliament for the Macleod riding, together with J.T. Cooper, the town's first mayor, the block reflects the civic ambition and entrepreneurial spirit of its builders. Originally housing the Bank of Hamilton and Sibbett and Hallett's variety store, the building has remained a centre of commerce and finance for more than a century, later serving the Canadian Bank of Commerce and CIBC. With its Romanesque Revival windows, classical pedimented entrances, and angled corner façade bearing the inscription "Shaw and Cooper, 1909," the block continues to anchor Nanton's main street as a landmark of permanence and prosperity. Recognized as an Alberta Registered Historic Resource in 1979, it stands today as a symbol of the town's early development and enduring identity.

67 Sources: Alberta Register of Historic Places. "Shaw and Cooper Block (HS 23546)." Government of Alberta. Accessed December 4, 2025. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.

OFFICE USE

Status

68 Status	69 Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

70 Designation Status	71 Date

72 Priority

Type

73 Geo Code: 74 Borden Number: 75 Register:

Internet Link

76 Link	77 Date

Internet Link Description

78 Description	79 Date

Internet Link Type

80 Type	81 Date

Internet Link Title

82 Title	83 Date

84 Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 28697

[2]Site Name: Nanton News

[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
1204 - Communications: Newspaper Building

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	17	

[15]Address: 1902 - 21 Avenue [16]Number: 02

[17]Street: 19

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34867	-113.77392	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-024 [38]View: North West [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/17 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-025
[38]View:	North
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-026
[38]View:	South West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1504 - Storeys: 2

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2303 - Brick - Bond: Stretcher

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3122 - Wall Design and Detail: Plain Parapet
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5012 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Voussoirs
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5503 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
5603 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5802 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Unknown
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6501 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: None
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6802 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 2
6903 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 3
7002 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Shaped Panel
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight

[50]Exterior: Brick corbelling on top of north and west elevations. West elevation contains central entrance with wood, multi-panel door with glass. A similar door opening directly above.

[51]Interior: Originally printing shop on main level with living quarters above.

[52]Environment: Located on the south east of 19th Street and 21st Avenue.

[53]Condition: Good (Oct. 2025). Some mortar failing. Some dislodged voussoirs and corbels. Some staining on bricks. Wood sills on upper floor have rot and peeled paint. Some paint failure on ground level window sills.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1908.	1908/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Newspaper office & residence	1908/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
A. Jessup, sons Ralph & Clyde	1908/01/01
Dick Hawk & George Meyer	1957/01/01
Dick Hawk	1959/01/01
Ed & Lynne Maynard	1977/01/01
George Meyer	1986/01/01
Edward Maynard	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1908, the Nanton News Building is a two-storey, brick-clad commercial structure located on 19th Street in downtown Nanton, Alberta. Built of nailed-frame construction on a stone foundation, the building features brick corbelling, a rectangular plan, and a prominent false-front façade typical of early prairie boomtown architecture. Historically, the

ground floor housed the printing office and shop for the Nanton News, one of Alberta's earliest newspapers, while the second floor provided residential quarters. The building is significant for its association with the development of communication, civic identity, and commercial growth in southern Alberta. It retains a high degree of integrity in location, design, materials, and workmanship, with minimal alterations since its construction. The Nanton News Building stands as a rare surviving example of early newspaper architecture in the province, contributing to the historic streetscape and collective memory of the community.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005. McTighe, Emily. Interview. October 2, 2025.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 26243

[2]Site Name: Nanton Telephone Exchange

[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
1201 - Communications: Telephone Building

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	4	22	

[15]Address: 2118-20 Street [16]Number: 18

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34832	-113.77256	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-020 [38]View: South [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/17 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-021
[38]View:	North
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1
1708 - Basement: Full Below Ground Level

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2308 - Brick - Bond: Other
2405 - Composition: Plaster or Stucco

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3219 - Flat

[48]Roof Cover

Type

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1107 - Massing of Units: Row, Non-Related, Intermediate
3107 - Wall Design and Detail: Pier or Pilaster
3120 - Wall Design and Detail: Plinth
3122 - Wall Design and Detail: Plain Parapet
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5408 - Window - Sill Material: Concrete
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed

6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6607 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Flat Transom, Multiple Lights
6710 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Side Lights
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6901 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 1
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
5406 - Window - Sill Material: Plaster or Stucco
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5802 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Unknown
7008 - Main Entrance - Leaves - Special Feature: Glass

[50]Exterior:

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located in mid-north side 20th Street between 20th and 21st Avenues. Building abuts the public sidewalk.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct 2025). Some stucco cracking in lower plinths. Some rotting in wood window frames and flanking entry.

[54]Alterations: The facade was originally exposed brick but was covered in stucco likely mid-century.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1918.	1918/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Telephone switchboard & office	1918/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Alberta Government Telephones	1918/01/01
1145175 Alberta Ltd.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Built in 1918, the Nanton Telephone Exchange is a modest utility building in Nanton, Alberta. It served as a vital hub for rural telecommunications, connecting the community to provincial and national networks. The building's original design and location remain largely intact, making it a significant symbol of early public infrastructure and local heritage. Despite minor alterations overtime, the building retains its original location, exterior form, and key architectural features, including its brick cladding under the applied stucco, symmetrical fenestration, and moulded name plate. These elements, along with its continued recognition within the community, embody the integrity and heritage value of the resource.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Cashman, Tony. Singing Wires: The Telephone in Alberta. Edmonton: The Alberta Government Telephones Commission, 1972.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 18324

[2]Site Name: Creighton Residence

[3]Other Name(s)

[4]Site Type

Type
0101 - Residential: Single Dwelling

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
959j	7	1	

[15]Address: 2203 - 21 Street [16]Number: 03

[17]Street: 21

[18]Avenue: 22

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.346920	-113.772559	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-039 [38]View: North East [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-040
[38]View:	East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-041
[38]View:	South West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-042
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1201 - Square

[43]Storeys

Type
1505 - Storeys: 2 1/2

[44]Foundation

Type
1807 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Concrete

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2011 - Wood: Shiplap
2016 - Wood: Shingle or Shake

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3208 - Medium Hip
3304 - Cross Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3405 - Asphalt Shingle

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3115 - Wall Design and Detail: Corner Board
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3508 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Soffit
3511 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Frieze
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia
3708 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Soffit
3717 - Roof Trim - Verges: Pediment
3803 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Wood
4403 - Chimney Location - Front to Rear: Centre
4603 - Chimney Stack Massing: Single
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5002 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
5102 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5302 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Slip Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1

7104 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Closed Railing
7306 - Main Porch - Type: Open Verandah
7402 - Main Porch - Special Features: Posts
7412 - Main Porch - Special Features: Closed Railing
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
3711 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Frieze
4504 - Chimney Stack Material: Brick

[50]Exterior: All windows have original wood storms, 1 over 1. There is a ground level entrance on the north side.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Building is located on the southwest corner of 21st Street and south bound Highway 2. The large treed lot is bordered by a low hedge.

[53]Condition: Very good (October 2025.)

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1917.	1917/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Residence	1917/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Dr. John & Minnie Creighton	1917/01/01
Doris Creighton	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Built in 1917, the Creighton Residence is a two-storey Eaton's Eastbourne (E15), No.666 kit house, ordered by Dr. John A. Creighton, Nanton's first physician. The home has remained in the Creighton family for generations, serving as the birthplace and lifelong residence of James Forbes Creighton. The residence is notable for its shiplap and shingle-clad exterior, square layout, and robust construction, reflecting early 20th century mail-order home practices. Closely associated with the development of healthcare and businesses in Nanton, the Creighton Residence stands as a rare and enduring example of an Eaton kit house and a local landmark of generational continuity.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Volume No. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005. Henry, Les. Catalogue Houses: Eaton's and Others. Saskatoon: Henry Perspectives, 2000.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant

Sites
Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 31482

[2]Site Name: Keen Hospital

[3]Other Name(s)

Nanton Hospital	other name
Old Hospital	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
1503 - Medical: Hospital or Infirmary

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
0312590			

[15]Address: 2207 - 20 Street [16]Number: 07

[17]Street: 20

[18]Avenue: 22

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.34749	-113.77411	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-006 [38]View: North [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



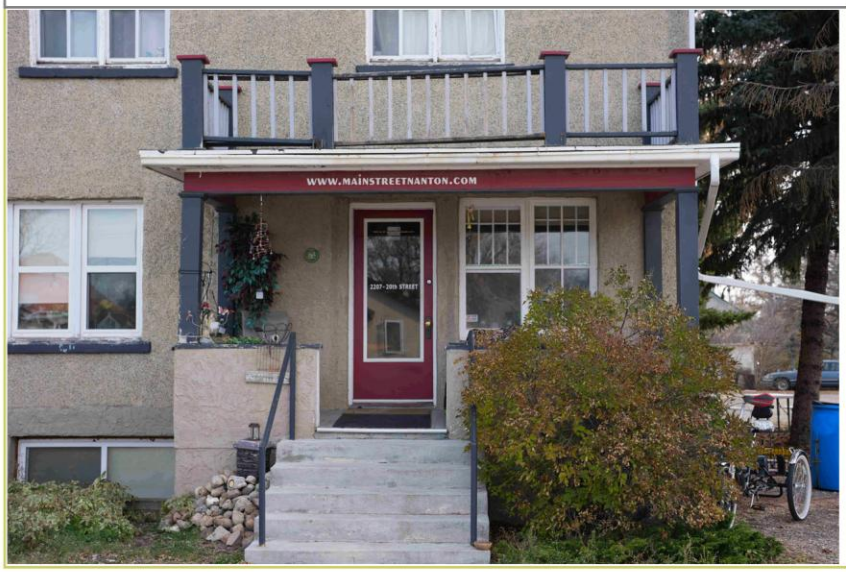
[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-007
[38]View:	South East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-008
[38]View:	North east
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-009
[38]View:	Window Detail
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-010
[38]View:	Entrance Detail
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1505 - Storeys: 2 1/2

[44]Foundation

Type
1807 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Concrete

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2405 - Composition: Plaster or Stucco
2308 - Brick - Bond: Other

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3201 - Low Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3409 - Metal

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3504 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Rafters Exposed
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3714 - Roof Trim - Verges: Brackets
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia
3803 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Wood
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
4904 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Segmental
5001 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: None
5102 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain

5201 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: None
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5408 - Window - Sill Material: Concrete
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5707 - Window - Number of Sashes: Four or More, Double Hung
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
5809 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Other
5708 - Window - Number of Sashes: Other
6008 - Window - Pane Arrangements: 8 over 1
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6303 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Moulded Flat
6326 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Other
6413 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Other
6506 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Plaster or Stucco
6603 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Moulded
6703 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Moulded
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
7304 - Main Porch - Type: Open Porch
7402 - Main Porch - Special Features: Posts
7412 - Main Porch - Special Features: Closed Railing
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7506 - Main Porch - Material: Plaster or Stucco
7602 - Main Porch - Height: Second Storey
1304 - Wings: Either Side
4211 - Dormer Type: Shed
4405 - Chimney Location - Front to Rear: Offset Rear
7411 - Main Porch - Special Features: Open Railing
4603 - Chimney Stack Massing: Single
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
4504 - Chimney Stack Material: Brick

[50]Exterior: Roof has four shed dormers - two each side. Open front porch has closed rail on main and open rail at second storey. Brick bond unknown due to application of stucco.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located in middle of 20th Street, between 21st and 22nd Avenues, on the southside.

[53]Condition: In good condition (Oct. 2025). All painted wood surfaces are seeing paint failures and require painting to avoid wood rot. Some blistering of paint on west concrete window sills. No stucco failures evident. Water damage along roof edge of open porch due to failing eavestrough.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1927	1927/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Hospital	1927/01/01	K
Apartments	1940/01/01	E

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Dr. William Keen	1927/01/01
Eyeota Inc.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1927 by Dr. William H. Keen, Keen Hospital stands as a testament to early rural healthcare innovation in southern Alberta. This 2 ½-storey brick (now with stucco cladding) building on Shaw Street (now 20th Street) provided modern medical care to the community, featuring up-to-date facilities and serving as a vital centre for treatment, surgery, and recovery. Operated by Dr. Keen and later Dr. Hector Mackenzie, the hospital addressed local needs until its closure in

1940. The structure remains a prominent landmark, now repurposed as Main Street Apartments, and continues to symbolize Nanton's commitment to community well-being and the legacy of its pioneering medical professionals.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 16180

[2]Site Name: McKeage's Residence and Dental Office

[3]Other Name(s)

McKeage Residence	other name
Hammill Residence	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0101 - Residential: Single Dwelling

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
959j	6	20	

[15]Address: 2204 - 21 Street **[16]Number:** 04

[17]Street: 21

[18]Avenue: 22

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.347160	-113.772942	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-043 **[38]View:** South West **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/18 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-044
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-045
[38]View:	South East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/17
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1201 - Square

[43]Storeys

Type
1505 - Storeys: 2 1/2
1702 - Basement: Unknown

[44]Foundation

Type
1805 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: Stone

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2011 - Wood: Shiplap

2016 - Wood: Shingle or Shake

[47]**Roof Structure**

Type
3203 - High Gable
3302 - Centre Gable
3204 - Hipped Gable

[48]**Roof Cover**

Type
3405 - Asphalt Shingle

[49]**Exterior Codes**

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
1304 - Wings: Either Side
3115 - Wall Design and Detail: Corner Board
3128 - Wall Design and Detail: Painted Design
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3508 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Soffit
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia
3707 - Roof Trim - Verges: Decorated Fascia
3708 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Soffit
3716 - Roof Trim - Verges: Returned Eaves
3803 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Wood
4403 - Chimney Location - Front to Rear: Centre
4504 - Chimney Stack Material: Brick
4603 - Chimney Stack Massing: Single
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5002 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
5101 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: None
5203 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: Wood
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5803 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Single or Double Hung
5918 - Window - Special Types: Bay, Bow or Oriel
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6602 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
6702 - Main Entrance - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6914 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: Not Applicable
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
7203 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight Side
7306 - Main Porch - Type: Open Verandah
7403 - Main Porch - Special Features: Columns
7405 - Main Porch - Special Features: Doric Capital
7411 - Main Porch - Special Features: Open Railing
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
3514 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Brackets

[50]**Exterior:** The pane arrangement is one-over-one. The wing addition on the south side has shiplap, corner boards and a low-sloped shed roof. Also moulded pediment, dentils, plain fascia and one large fixed window, with plain structural opening. Gable end curves outward to meet a continued eave across bottom of gable.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: The building is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street and 21st Avenue with a low hedge along the front of the building.

[53]Condition: Good (October 2025). There is paint peeling on the shingles, window sills and other areas. A repaint of the building has not been completed. The bottom rail on the front stair railing is sagging.

[54]Alterations: The survey does not include the one-storey structure to the south, and attached to the wing.

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1905.	1905/01/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Residence	1905/01/01	K
Residence/Dentist Office	1910/01/01	E

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Hammill	1905/01/01
Dr. G.E. McKeage	1910/01/01
Bessie McKeage	1948/01/01
Alexander D. Beattie	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in c1904-05 by local builder Elzie Robertson, the McKeage Residence and Dental Office is a two-storey, rectangular wood-frame dwelling with a high-hip gable roof, stone foundation, and ship and shingle wood cladding. The building originally served as a private residence and later housed the dental practice of Dr. G.E. McKeage, who advertised his office "at residence" in local newspapers during the 1920s. The property illustrates the early development of Nanton as a railway-era service centre and reflects the cultural practice of professionals combining domestic and work spaces in small prairie towns. Its modest vernacular design, durable construction materials, and continued presence on its original site contribute to its heritage value as a representative example of early 20th century community architecture in southern Alberta.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Vol. 2. Mosquito Creek History Society, 2005.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data Update Summary

[1]Key: HS 21746

[2]Site Name: Nanton Masonic Hall

[3]Other Name(s)

Presbyterian Church	other name
St. Andrews Hall	other name
Grace Hall	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0202 - Social and Recreational: Club or Lodge
1603 - Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
4362I	3	18	

[15]Address: 2120 - 21 Street **[16]Number:** 20

[17]Street: 21

[18]Avenue: 21

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton **[21]Near Town:**

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.347384	-113.772718	NAD83	GPS

Media

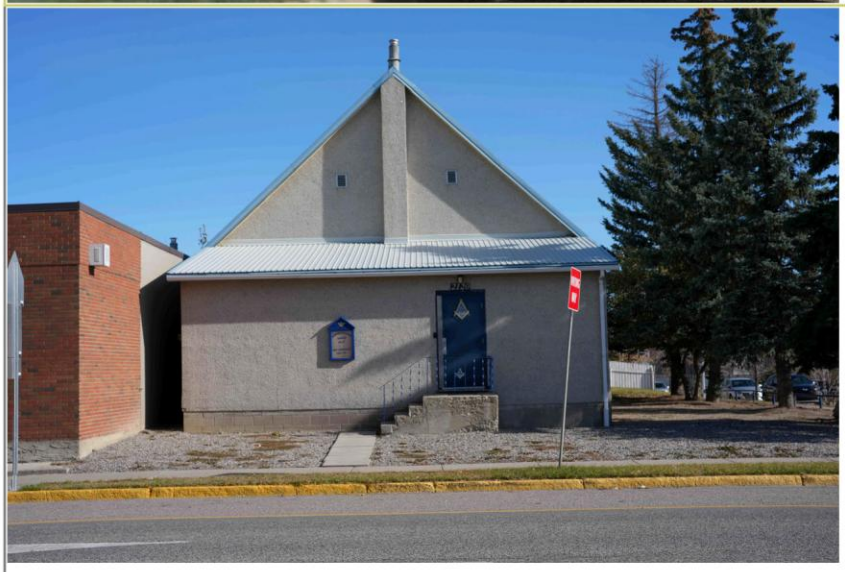
Media	
	**[36]Type:** Image **[37]Number:** 25-D0024-030 **[38]View:** South West **[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):** 2025/10/18 **[40]Source:** R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-031
[38]View:	South East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-032
[38]View:	Masonic Symbol
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-033
[38]View:	West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-034
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1203 - Rectangular Short Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1
1702 - Basement: Unknown

[44]Foundation

Type
1824 - Concrete: Cement Block

[45]Superstructure

Type
3011 - Nailed Frame

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type
2405 - Composition: Plaster or Stucco

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3203 - High Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3409 - Metal

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3603 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Wood
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia
3708 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Soffit
3803 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Wood
4406 - Chimney Location - Front to Rear: Front
4608 - Chimney Stack Massing: Other
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5004 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Decorated Flat
5305 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Lug Sill

5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
6103 - Main Entrance - Location: Off-Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6509 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Metal
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6901 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 1
7103 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Open Railing
7203 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight Side
7305 - Main Porch - Type: Closed Porch
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7506 - Main Porch - Material: Plaster or Stucco
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
4508 - Chimney Stack Material: Metal

[50]Exterior: Stucco applied to verge and soffit. Original window openings covered. Original building was rotated 180-degrees in 1964. Building placed on a new concrete block foundation. The original enclosed front porch is on east facade before rotated 180-degrees.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Building is located on north east corner of 21st Street and 21st Avenue.

[53]Condition: Very good (Oct. 2025) Exterior covered with no failures.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1906.	1906/06/01	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Church	1906/06/01	K
Church Hall	1925/01/01	E
Masonic Hall	1951/01/01	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Presbyterian Church	1906/01/01
Nanton United Church	1925/01/01
Nanton Masonic Lodge	1951/01/01
Nanton Lodge A.F. & A.M.	2025/10/15

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder:

[65]Craftsman:

[66]History: Constructed in 1906 as St. andrews Hall, this modest wood-frame building originally served the Presbyterian congregation in Nanton as a church hall, and later renamed Grace Hall. It functioned as a centre for worship-related activities, Sunday school, and community gatherings, reflecting the importance of auxiliary halls in prairie towns. Beyond its religious role, the hall hosted cultural programs and civic events, including itinerant Chautauqua performances, underscoring its place in the town's social life. In 1951, the building was purchased and adapted by Nanton Lodge No. 17 of the Freemasons, part of the province-wide expansion of fraternal organizations following the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 1905. The lodge reoriented the structure, turning the back into the front entrance, and has used it continuously for meetings, ceremonies, and charitable activities. The resource communicates its layered heritage value as a religious, civic, and fraternal landmark. Its uninterrupted role as a gathering place for over a century illustrates the adaptability of small-town institutions and their enduring contribution to Nanton's cultural identity.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. McTighe, Ryan. "Nanton Masonic Hall Research." Unpublished research paper provided to author, October 1, 2025.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code:

[74]Borden Number:

[75]Register:

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Heritage Survey Site Form - Data mmary

[1]Key: HS 108969

[2]Site Name: Scout - Guide Hall

[3]Other Name(s)

Nanton Scout Hall	other name

[4]Site Type

Type
0202 - Social and Recreational: Club or Lodge

ATS Legal Description

[5]LSD	[6]Quarter	[7]Section	[8]Township	[9]Range	[10]Meridian
			16	28	4

PBL

[11]Plan	[12]Block	[13]Lot	[14]Metes & Bounds
6864FU	38		

[15]Address: 2222 -18 Street [16]Number: 22

[17]Street: 18

[18]Avenue: 22

[19]Other:

[20]Town: Nanton [21]Near Town:

[22]County:

UTM

[27]Zone	[28]Northing	[29]Easting	[30]Datum	[31]Coordinate Determination

LAT

[32]Latitude	[33]Longitude	[34]Datum	[35]Coordinate Determination
50.348765	-113.776703	NAD83	GPS

Media

Media	
	[36]Type: Image [37]Number: 25-D0024-001 [38]View: South East [39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd): 2025/10/18 [40]Source: R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-002
[38]View:	North East
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-003
[38]View:	North West
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.



[36]Type:	Image
[37]Number:	25-D0024-005
[38]View:	South
[39]Date(yyyy/mm/dd):	2025/10/18
[40]Source:	R. Earley, CDS Inc.

[41]Style

Type

[42]Plan Shape

Type
1202 - Rectangular Long Facade

[43]Storeys

Type
1502 - Storeys: 1
1701 - Basement: None

[44]Foundation

Type
1801 - Basement/Foundation Wall Material: None

[45]Superstructure

Type
3005 - Horizontal Log

[46]Superstructure Cover

Type

[47]Roof Structure

Type
3202 - Medium Gable

[48]Roof Cover

Type
3409 - Metal

[49]Exterior Codes

Type
1101 - Massing of Units: Single Detached
3115 - Wall Design and Detail: Corner Board
3508 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Soffit
3503 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Projecting Eaves
3505 - Roof Trim - Eaves: Plain Fascia
3609 - Roof Trim Material - Eaves: Metal
3809 - Roof Trim Material - Verges: Metal
4902 - Window - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
5102 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5203 - Window - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Material: Wood
5302 - Window - Sill Type: Plain Slip Sill
5403 - Window - Sill Material: Wood
5502 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Head: Plain
5602 - Window - Trim Within Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
5702 - Window - Number of Sashes: One
5808 - Window - Opening Mechanism: Fixed
6025 - Window - Pane Arrangements: Other
6102 - Main Entrance - Location: Centre (Facade)
6202 - Main Entrance - Structural Opening Shape: Flat
6302 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Head: Plain Flat
6402 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening - Sides: Plain
6503 - Main Entrance - Trim Outside Structural Opening Material: Wood
6801 - Main Entrance - Number of Leaves: 1
6901 - Main Entrance - Number of Panels Per Leaf: 1
7102 - Main Stairs - Location and Design: First or Ground Floor, Without Railing
7202 - Main Stairs - Direction: Straight
7305 - Main Porch - Type: Closed Porch
7503 - Main Porch - Material: Wood
7601 - Main Porch - Height: First Storey
3703 - Roof Trim - Verges: Projecting Verges
3705 - Roof Trim - Verges: Plain Fascia

5708 - Window - Number of Sashes: Other

[50]Exterior: Window pane arrangements are 1-over-1. Windows flanking central fixed window. Access ramp on westside entrance.

[51]Interior:

[52]Environment: Located on large grassed and treed lot on southside of 19th Street west of 21st Avenue.

[53]Condition: Very Good (Oct 2025). Some rust staining on fascia.

[54]Alterations:

Construction

[55]Construction	[56]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[57]Code
Constructed in 1957	1957/04/24	K

Usage

[58]Usage	[59]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)	[60]Code
Boy Scout Activities	1957/04/24	K

Owner

[61]Owner	[62]Date(yyyy/mm/dd)
Town of Nanton	2025/10/01

[63]Architect:

[64]Builder: Hall was constructed by fathers of Boy Scouts under supervision of a carpenter.

[65]Craftsman: Construction supervised by carpenter.

[66]History: Constructed in 1957, the Nanton Scout-Guide Hall is a modest, horizontal log constructed community building located within the town's civic core. Purpose-built through local fundraising and volunteer labour, the hall provided a permanent home for Scouting and Guiding organizations in Nanton during the postwar period. Its simple rectangular form, low-pitched roof, and utilitarian layout are representative of mid-20th century vernacular community halls across Alberta. The hall is significant for its social and historical associations with youth programming, volunteerism, and civic pride. It served as a hub for meetings, training, and community events, shaping generations of local residents and reinforcing traditions of grassroots initiative. While architecturally modest, the building retains integrity of location, design, and association, and continues to symbolize Nanton's investment in youth development and community life.

[67]Sources: Nanton and District Historical Society. Mosquito Creek Roundup: Nanton-Parkland. Nanton, AB: Nanton and District Historical Society, 1975. The Calgary Albertan. October 27, 1955. 20. Calgary Albertan. "Scout-Guide Hall Opened." April 26, 1955. 20. Calgary Herald. April 11, 1957. 23.

OFFICE USE

Status

[68]Status	[69]Date
Active	2025/10/15

Designation Status

[70]Designation Status	[71]Date

[72]Priority

Type

[73]Geo Code: **[74]Borden Number:** **[75]Register:**

Internet Link

[76]Link	[77]Date

Internet Link Description

[78]Description	[79]Date

Internet Link Type

[80]Type	[81]Date

Internet Link Title

[82]Title	[83]Date

[84]Related Significant Sites Record:

Appendix C – Media Coverage



Key Themes Across Coverage

Recent media coverage paints a clear picture of how Nanton's Heritage Building Project has been unfolding in the public eye. Across local news, municipal updates, and regional radio, the project has been consistently framed as a major community initiative focussed on documenting, evaluating, and celebrating the town's historic places.

Strong municipal leadership and grant support

The Town's official project page highlights the successful grant from the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program and outlines how this funding enabled a comprehensive review of heritage buildings, the creation of a context paper, and detailed evaluations for 13 high-priority sites.

Community engagement as a central pillar

Multiple updates emphasize the September and January Open Houses, where residents were invited to learn about the project, review draft Statements of Significance, and provide feedback. The OkotoksOnline article underscores the Town's messaging that this is a shared community conversation about how Nanton protects and celebrates its heritage.

Clear Communication about process and outcomes

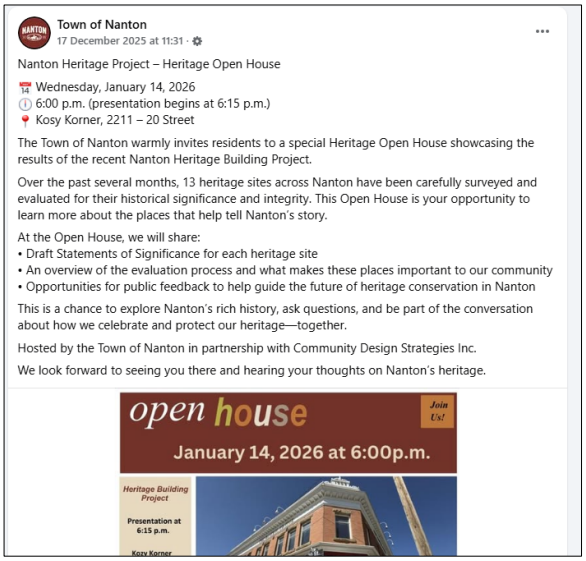
Media pieces consistently explain the project's structure" heritage surveys, evaluation of significance and integrity, and preparation of Statements of Significance. The Town's page also notes that all evaluations, SoSs, and the context paper will be presented publicly, reinforcing transparency and accessibility.

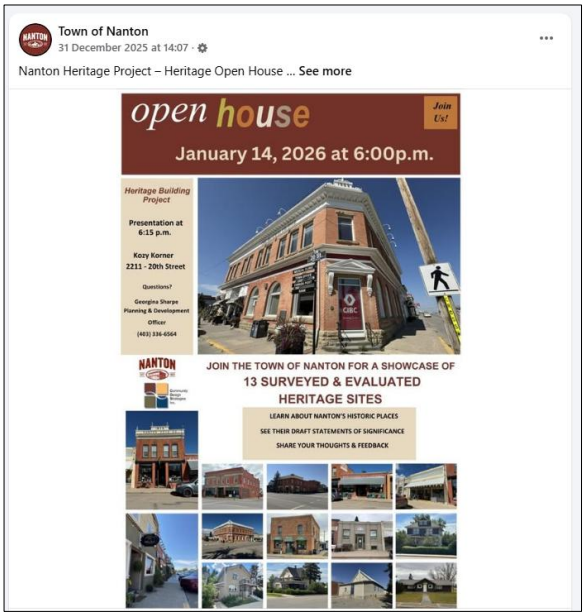
Regional interest in Nanton's heritage story

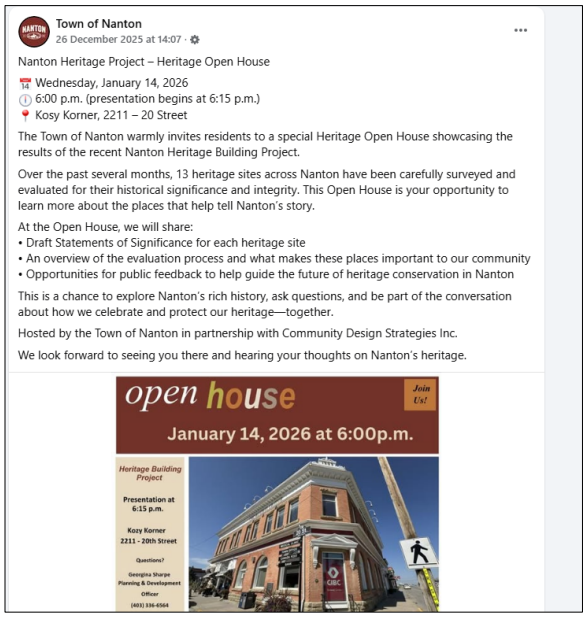
CBC's *Calgary Eyeopener* featured an 8-minute segment discussing Nanton's efforts to document its architectural history, signalling that the project resonates beyond the town itself. The segment positions Nanton as a community taking proactive steps to understand and preserve its built heritage.

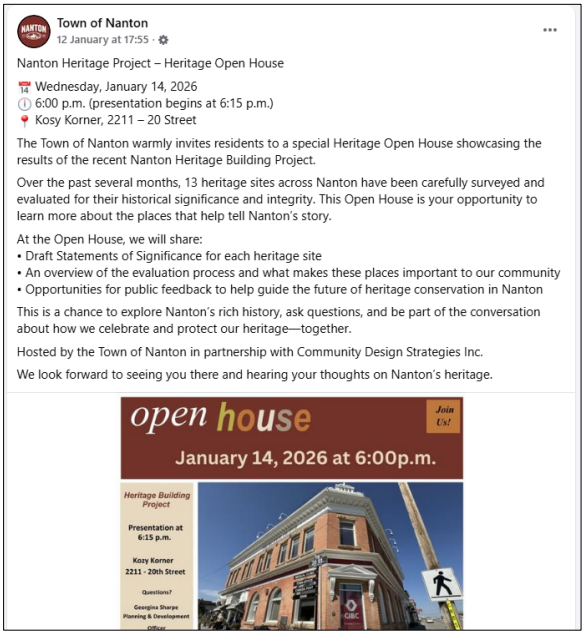
Overall...

Taken together, the coverage present the Heritage Building Evaluation Project as a well-organized, well-funded, and community-oriented initiative. The reporting highlights both the technical rigor – surveys, evaluations, Statement of Significance – and the broader cultural value of the work. The consistent message across platforms is that Nanton is investing in its identity, strengthening its heritage knowledge base, and inviting residents to participate in shaping the future of its historic places.


Town of Nanton
17 December 2025 at 11:31
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)
Kosy Korner, 2211 – 20 Street
The Town of Nanton warmly invites residents to a special Heritage Open House showcasing the results of the recent Nanton Heritage Building Project.
Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been carefully surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity. This Open House is your opportunity to learn more about the places that help tell Nanton's story.
At the Open House, we will share:
• Draft Statements of Significance for each heritage site
• An overview of the evaluation process and what makes these places important to our community
• Opportunities for public feedback to help guide the future of heritage conservation in Nanton
This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage—together.
Hosted by the Town of Nanton in partnership with Community Design Strategies Inc.
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts on Nanton's heritage.
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner


Town of Nanton
31 December 2025 at 14:07
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House ... See more
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner
2211 - 20th Street
Questions?
Georgina Sharpe
Planning & Development Officer
(403) 336-6564
NANTON
JOIN THE TOWN OF NANTON FOR A SHOWCASE OF
13 SURVEYED & EVALUATED
HERITAGE SITES
LEARN ABOUT NANTON'S HISTORIC PLACES
SEE THEIR DRAFT STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS & FEEDBACK


Town of Nanton
26 December 2025 at 14:07
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)
Kosy Korner, 2211 – 20 Street
The Town of Nanton warmly invites residents to a special Heritage Open House showcasing the results of the recent Nanton Heritage Building Project.
Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been carefully surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity. This Open House is your opportunity to learn more about the places that help tell Nanton's story.
At the Open House, we will share:
• Draft Statements of Significance for each heritage site
• An overview of the evaluation process and what makes these places important to our community
• Opportunities for public feedback to help guide the future of heritage conservation in Nanton
This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage—together.
Hosted by the Town of Nanton in partnership with Community Design Strategies Inc.
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts on Nanton's heritage.
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner
2211 - 20th Street
Questions?
Georgina Sharpe
Planning & Development Officer
(403) 336-6564


Town of Nanton
12 January at 17:55
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)
Kosy Korner, 2211 – 20 Street
The Town of Nanton warmly invites residents to a special Heritage Open House showcasing the results of the recent Nanton Heritage Building Project.
Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been carefully surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity. This Open House is your opportunity to learn more about the places that help tell Nanton's story.
At the Open House, we will share:
• Draft Statements of Significance for each heritage site
• An overview of the evaluation process and what makes these places important to our community
• Opportunities for public feedback to help guide the future of heritage conservation in Nanton
This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage—together.
Hosted by the Town of Nanton in partnership with Community Design Strategies Inc.
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts on Nanton's heritage.
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner
2211 - 20th Street
Questions?
Georgina Sharpe
Planning & Development

New heritage project brings Nanton's past into the future

By David Gale

A new heritage initiative is underway in Nanton that promises to preserve the town's history while shaping its future. At the helm is Merinda Conley, owner and principal of Community Design Strategies Inc., a company she founded in 2006 after nearly two decades leading Alberta's Main Street Program.

Conley, whose career has taken her across Alberta and Saskatchewan helping communities rediscover and protect their historic main streets, is now back in familiar territory.

"I used to work with the Alberta Main Street Program when Nanton and Claresholm were part of it," she explained. "So for me, this feels like coming full circle."

The current project began when the Town of Nanton applied for and received provincial funding through the Preservation Partnership Program, which provides annual grants of up to $25,000 for heritage research and planning. Nanton then selected Conley's firm to guide the community through identifying, researching, and evaluating its historic buildings.

The process started with a comprehensive review of nearly 200 potential heritage sites. From that list, 24 "places of interest" were brought to the public at a recent open house. Residents were invited to weigh in on which sites they felt best told Nanton's story.

The community response was clear: six buildings rose to the top, with another six close behind. These 12 properties will now undergo detailed evaluation to determine their eligibility for official designation under provincial heritage criteria.

Why does this matter? Conley says it's about more than nostalgia.

"Heritage is value-based," she explained. "These buildings help tell the story of how Nanton developed. They may be linked to important people, architectural styles, or landmark events. Preserving them not only protects history – it strengthens community identity, boosts tourism, and can even attract new businesses."

Designated property owners may also qualify for grants of up to $50,000 annually to maintain or restore their buildings, a benefit Conley believes will encourage investment in Nanton's downtown.

"It's about creating pride, economic opportunity, and a stronger sense of place," she said.

Another public open house of community engagement will be scheduled for early to mid January as the project is on a tight timeline: research and evaluations must be completed by the end of January, with a presentation to town council scheduled for early February. The final package will then be submitted to the province by Feb. 28.

But Conley hopes the momentum won't stop there. She envisions the project sparking renewed interest in local history, potentially leading to the rebirth of a historical society or even the creation of a dedicated Nanton museum.

As technology continues to advance, Conley believes the tactile experience of heritage will remain irreplaceable.

"You can't get the same feeling from a screen as you do from walking down a historic main street, touching brick and wood, and sensing the atmosphere of another time," she said.

Still, she welcomes blending technology with tradition. The research gathered could one day support interactive walking tours or virtual reality experiences – tools that would allow both visitors and residents to explore Nanton's heritage in new ways.

"This project is about stepping back into history so we can move forward," Conley reflected. "By understanding and valuing our past, we build a stronger future for Nanton."

If you are able to contribute to the research and stories connected to these heritage buildings, you can contact Merinda Conley at cds.inc@telus.net.



HISTORIC NANTON - A new project is aiming to preserve the heritage of buildings in Nanton.

Photo submitted



HISTORIC NANTON - A new project is aiming to preserve the heritage of buildings in Nanton.

Photo submitted

ELECT BRAD TOONE
Livingstone Range School Board Trustee

VOTE
KEVIN TODD
Livingstone Range School Division Trustee
I will be at both forums:
October 7 • 6:30pm
Granum School
October 8 • 6:00pm
Claresholm Community Centre
kevin@coolgear.ca

TOWN NEWS

NANTON EST 1903

403-646-2029 info@nanton.ca www.nanton.ca 1907 - 21 Ave, Box 609, Nanton T0L 1R0

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS
OCTOBER 6
at 7 p.m.
Council Chambers are located at the Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre Meeting Room, 2122 18th Street on the second floor.
Access to the meeting room is through the Southwest door and up the stairs.
Meetings available for viewing on YouTube.
PUBLIC VIEWING IS WELCOME IN THE GALLERY.

Nanton Thelma Fanning Library
EVENTS & PROGRAMS
Kids Playdate
Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm
Story Hour
Thursday 10:30-11:30 am
NNLC
Thursday, Oct. 16 – 6:30-8:30 pm
Presentation by Linda Johnstone – Indigenous Costume Artist
[Nanton Native Learning Circle]
Technology Made Easy
Thursday, Oct. 25
12:00-1:00 pm
Support for Technology questions/problems

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Due to the Postal strike, we want to ensure you continue to receive your utility bills on time.
Sign up for eSend and receive your utility bill electronically
Avoid any delays and get your bill directly to your inbox!
How to sign up:
- Fill out the form to register for eSend and email it to billing@nanton.ca
- Drop in to the Town Office
Complete your registration by October 22, 2025 to ensure your next bill, due at the end of October, is delivered on time.
Don't miss out – sign up today!
For more information or assistance, please contact us at **billing@nanton.ca**

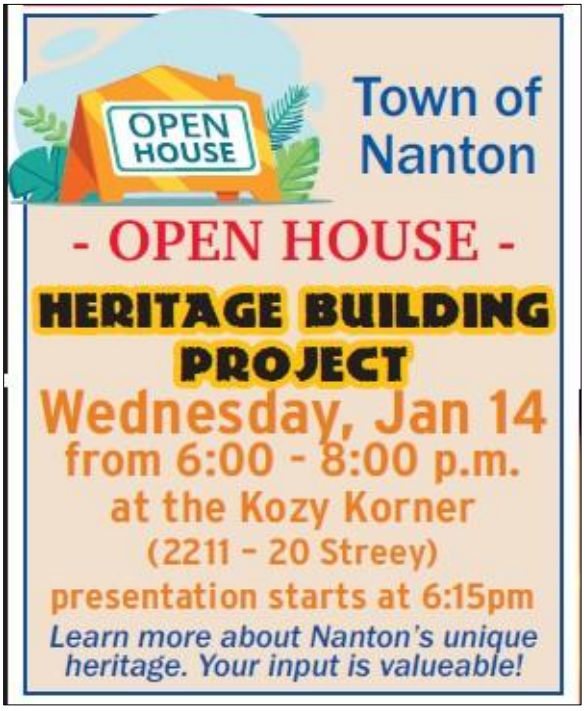
2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION
ELECTION DAY
• Monday, October 20, 2025
• 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
• Nanton Community Centre
ADVANCE POLL
• Friday, October 17, 2025
• 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
• Kosy Korner
For more info on candidates and voting requirements visit our website!
Your Vote, Your Choice

Nanton Lights the Way
KICKS OFF
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29
WITH THE DISTINCTLY NANTON CHRISTMAS MARKET
AT THE NANTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
Watch for more promotions to shop local this holiday season.
• Shopping Deals • Contests
• Holiday Cheer!
Shop Local
For more information, or to participate contact us @nantonchamber.com

Volunteer with the Nanton Fire Department
Scan the QR Code to learn more and apply!
Questions? Email fire@nanton.ca or call 403-646-2526

NANTON CHAMBER PRESENTS
2025 Municipal Election
MEET THE CANDIDATES
Tues., Oct 7 at 7 p.m.
Nanton Community Centre
Door open 6:30 p.m.
Scan this QR Code for more info on Nanton!

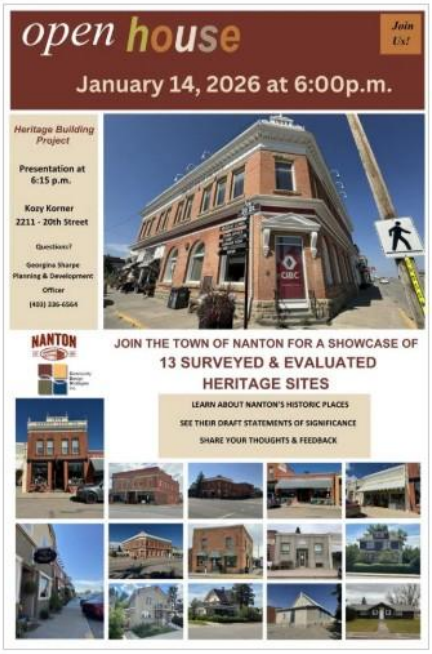




Nanton Offers A Look Into It's Heritage Buildings and History with Heritage Open House

By Sarah Scott

Jan 8, 2026 | 12:19 PM



If you've ever wondered about the stories behind some of Nanton's most familiar buildings, this is your chance to learn more.

The Town of Nanton is inviting residents to a Heritage Open House to share the results of the Nanton Heritage Project, a months-long effort to better understand and document the community's historic buildings and places.

Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across town were carefully surveyed and evaluated for both their historical significance and how well they've been preserved. Now, the town is opening the doors for residents to see what was discovered and to be part of the conversation about what comes next.

CJWE had a chance to speak with Georgina Sharpe, Merinda Conley and Robert Earley more about the Heritage Open House:

https://cjwe.ca/2026/01/08/nanton-offers-a-look-into-its-heritage-buildings-and-history-with-heritage-open-house/

The Heritage Open House takes place January 14 at Kozy Korner, located at 2211 20 Street in Nanton. Doors open at 6 p.m. and all residents are welcome and invited.

LOCAL NEWS

Grant funding to support the preservation of Nanton's heritage

Emily Rogers, HighRiverOnline.com | Friday, Aug 08 2025, 12:43 PM

Share:



The Town of Nanton has received funding through the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program to identify buildings for heritage designation. High River Online/Kevin Wallace

The Town of Nanton has received grant funding to help preserve the town's history.

Funding through the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program will be used to support Community Design Strategies to identify heritage buildings that could potentially receive official heritage designation.

As a first step, Community Design Strategies will conduct a "windshield survey" of heritage buildings currently listed in Nanton's Heritage Resource Information Management System (HeRMiS).

The survey will help the town update the heritage site inventory and identify high-priority sites for future community consideration.

Over the coming weeks, residents could see team members around town or asking questions about specific buildings.

Anyone with information that could help with the project is encouraged to contact the town at 403-646-2029.

LOCAL NEWS

Nanton to unveil historic sites as part of Heritage Project

Emily Rogers, HighRiverOnline.com | Monday, Jan 05 2026, 12:00 PM

Share:



Nanton residents are invited to a Heritage Open House, to learn about the history of Nanton.

The Town of Nanton is inviting residents to a Heritage Open House, showcasing the findings of the Nanton Heritage Project.

For several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity.

The open house is an opportunity for residents to learn about the buildings and sites that tell the history of Nanton.

At the open house, attendees can expect a draft statement of significance for each heritage site, an overview of the evaluation process, what makes each site important to the community, and an opportunity to share feedback.

"This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage, together," the Town of Nanton said in a Facebook post.

Grant funding for the project was awarded to the Town of Nanton in the summer.

The funding was allotted to support Community Design Strategies in identifying heritage buildings that could potentially receive official heritage designation.

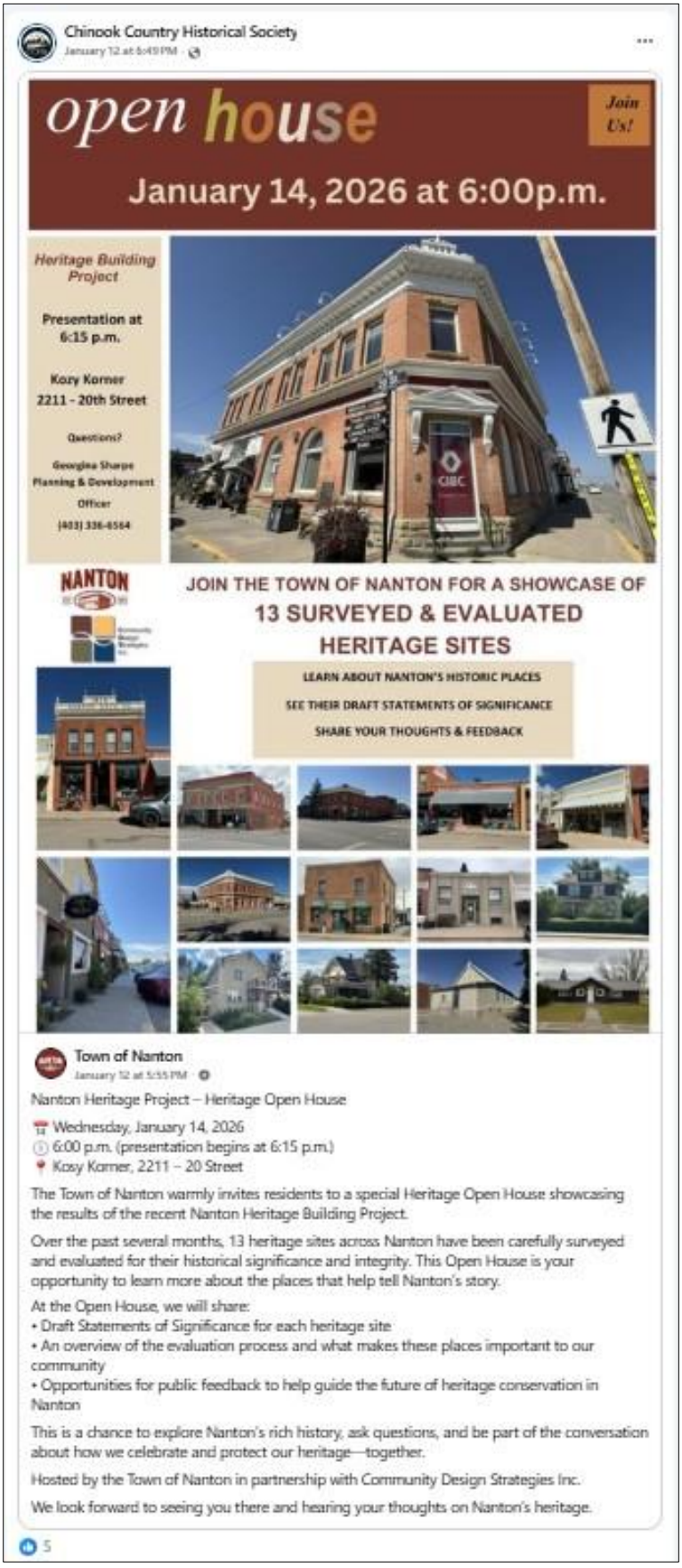
The survey aimed to help the town update the heritage site inventory and identify high-priority sites for future community consideration.

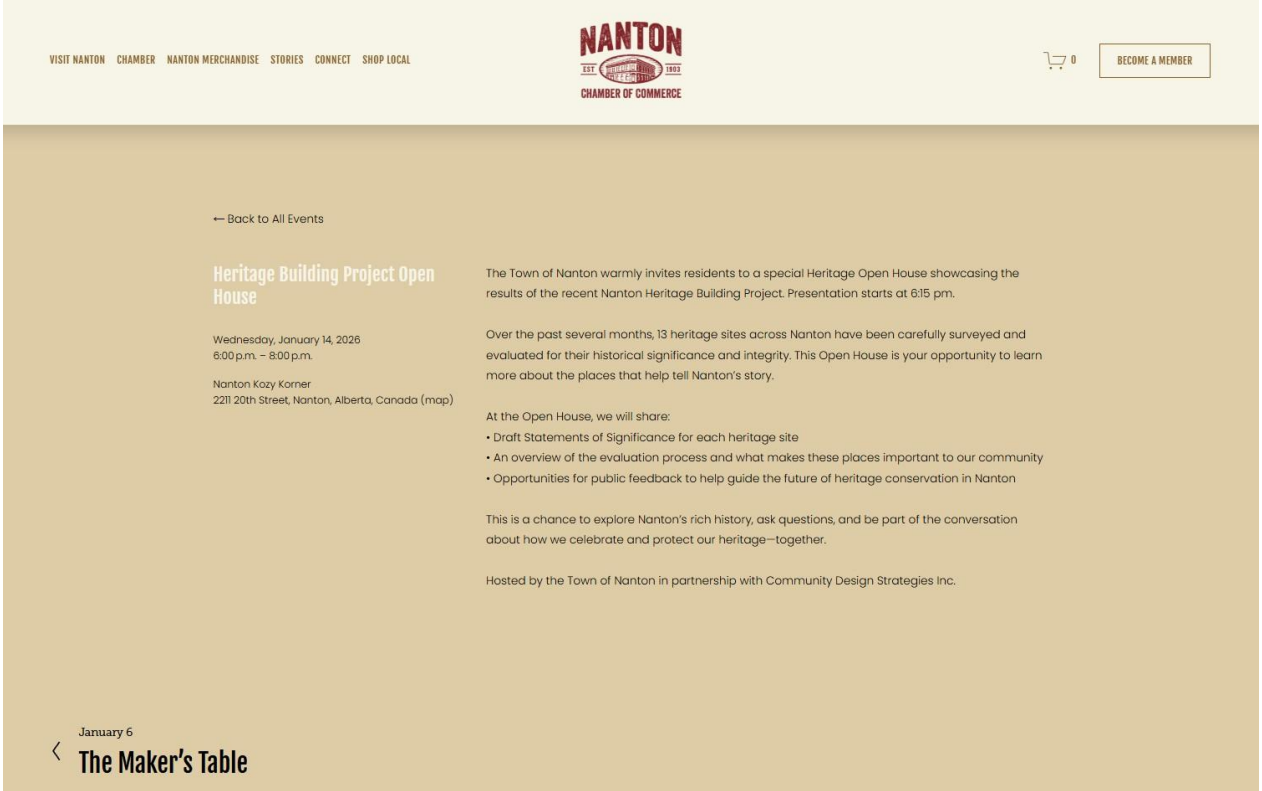
The open house is set for Jan. 14, at Kozy Korner (2211 20 Street, Nanton) at 6 p.m.

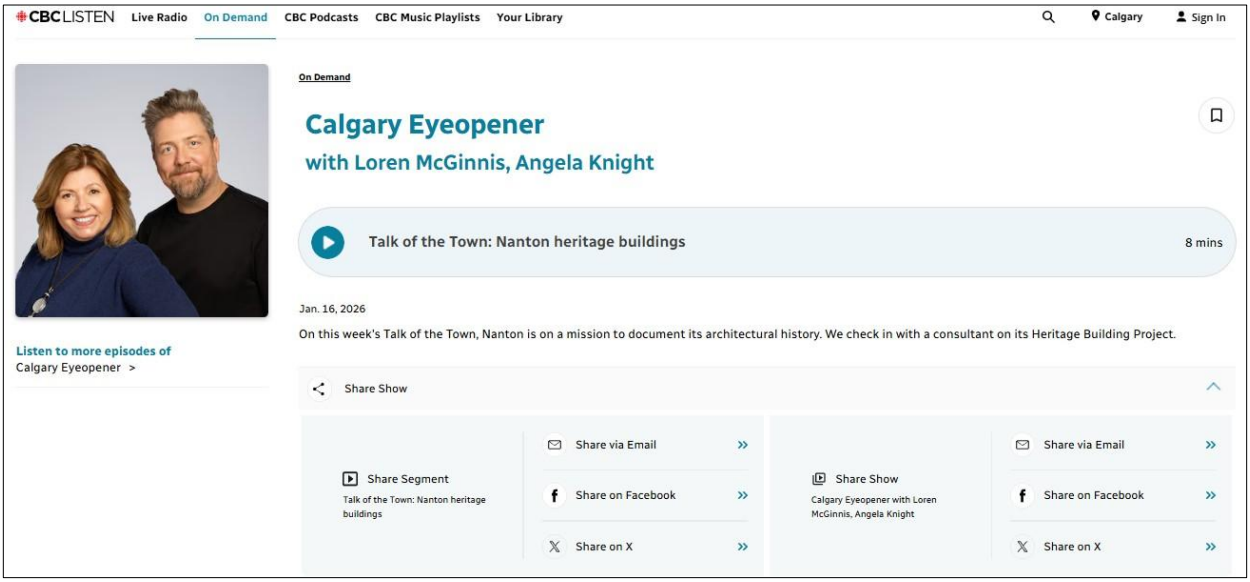
RELATED STORIES



Grant funding to support the preservation of Nanton's heritage


Chinook Country Historical Society
January 12 at 5:49 PM
open house
Join Us!
January 14, 2026 at 6:00p.m.
Heritage Building Project
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.
Kozy Korner
2211 - 20th Street
Questions?
Gewgina Sharpe
Planning & Development Officer
(403) 336-6564
CIBC
NANTON
JOIN THE TOWN OF NANTON FOR A SHOWCASE OF
13 SURVEYED & EVALUATED HERITAGE SITES
LEARN ABOUT NANTON'S HISTORIC PLACES
SEE THEIR DRAFT STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS & FEEDBACK
Town of Nanton
January 12 at 5:55 PM
Nanton Heritage Project – Heritage Open House
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. (presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)
Kozy Korner, 2211 – 20 Street
The Town of Nanton warmly invites residents to a special Heritage Open House showcasing the results of the recent Nanton Heritage Building Project.
Over the past several months, 13 heritage sites across Nanton have been carefully surveyed and evaluated for their historical significance and integrity. This Open House is your opportunity to learn more about the places that help tell Nanton's story.
At the Open House, we will share:
• Draft Statements of Significance for each heritage site
• An overview of the evaluation process and what makes these places important to our community
• Opportunities for public feedback to help guide the future of heritage conservation in Nanton
This is a chance to explore Nanton's rich history, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about how we celebrate and protect our heritage—together.
Hosted by the Town of Nanton in partnership with Community Design Strategies Inc.
We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts on Nanton's heritage.
5





Talk of the Town: Nanton heritage buildings | Calgary Eyeopener | On Demand | CBC Listen

COUNCIL PLANNING OVERVIEW

LAND USE PLANNING IN ALBERTA



Presented by:

JANUARY 2026

OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

AGENDA

1. Why Municipalities Plan
2. Planning Framework
3. Roles & Responsibilities
4. Subdivision and Development Land Use Processes
5. Making Good Planning Decisions
6. Appeals & Disputes

WHO ORRSC IS ?

ORRSC provides professional planning services to 40 municipalities across southern Alberta.

- We support long-range planning (MDPs, ASPs, growth studies), land use bylaw updates, subdivision review, and development permit assistance.
- We offer GIS mapping, policy research, and technical planning support for councils and administration.
- ORRSC also administers and provides support to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) for participating municipalities.
- We coordinate and manage the Assessment Review Board (ARB) process, providing procedural guidance and administrative support.

WHAT IS LAND USE PLANNING AND WHY DO MUNICIPALITIES DO IT?

WHAT IS PLANNING ?

Planning is spatial governance…. It asks us how do we want to organize our space.

The MGA, Part 17 Planning & Development:

The purpose of this Part and the regulations and bylaws under this Part is to provide means whereby plans and related matters may be prepared and adopted

(a) to achieve the orderly, economical and beneficial development, use of land and patterns of human settlement, and

(b) to maintain and improve the quality of the physical environment within which patterns of human settlement are situated in Alberta,

without infringing on the rights of individuals for any public interest except to the extent that is necessary for the overall greater public interest

WHY PLAN?

Deciding on the community's desired direction and figuring out how to get there

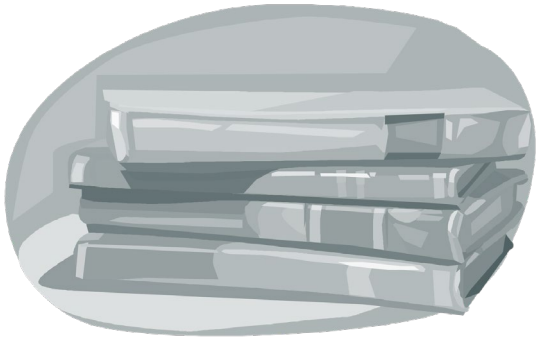


This means:

- Building on strengths
- Acknowledging limitations
- Considering cumulative impacts
- Minimizing negative externalities
- Not revisiting past decisions but moving forward with the current circumstances

Why Plan?

To Comply with Provincial Regulations



- Every municipality must adopt a Municipal Development Plan to serve as a framework for future development within the municipality
- Every municipality must adopt a Land Use Bylaw which prohibits, regulates, and controls land use within corporate limits as mandated by the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*
- To ensure conformity with various Acts and Regulations

REASONS TO ENGAGE IN LAND USE PLANNING



Public Good & Efficiency

- Protect public health, safety & welfare
- Promote efficiency in delivery and use of infrastructure
- Protect public investments



Fairness, Equity, Rationality

- Provide equal opportunity in development process
- Ensure a democratic process including mechanisms for dispute resolution
- Create stable, predictable environment within which development can flourish
- Concern for future generations

REASONS TO ENGAGE IN LAND USE PLANNING



Beauty & orderliness

- Help promote, maintain, and create a community's unique identity
- Maintain neighborhood integrity



Legal considerations

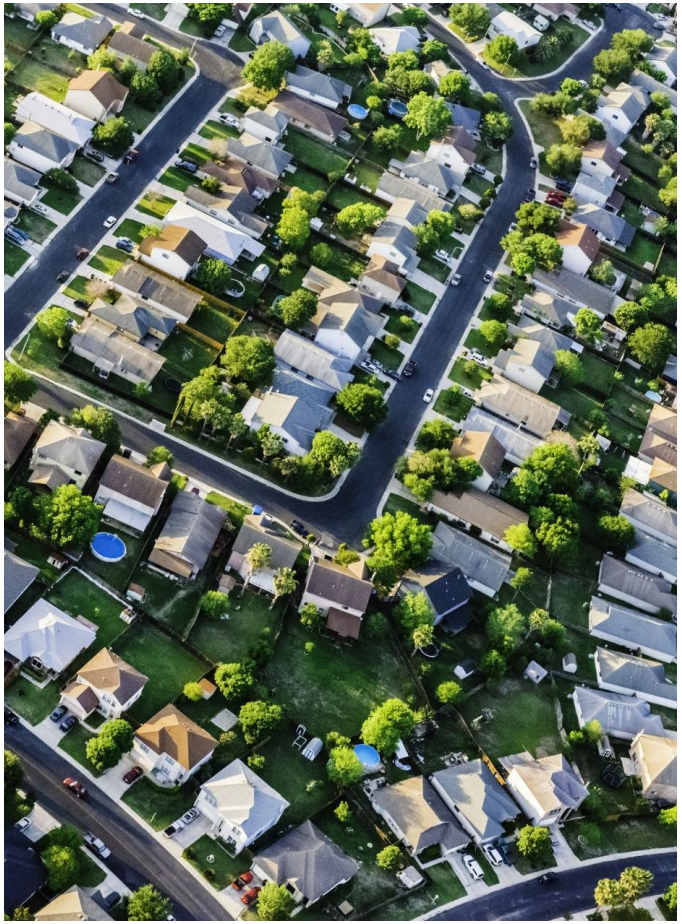
- Provide basis for land use decisions and foundation for other plans and bylaws
- Protect property rights and values



Environmental protection & resource management

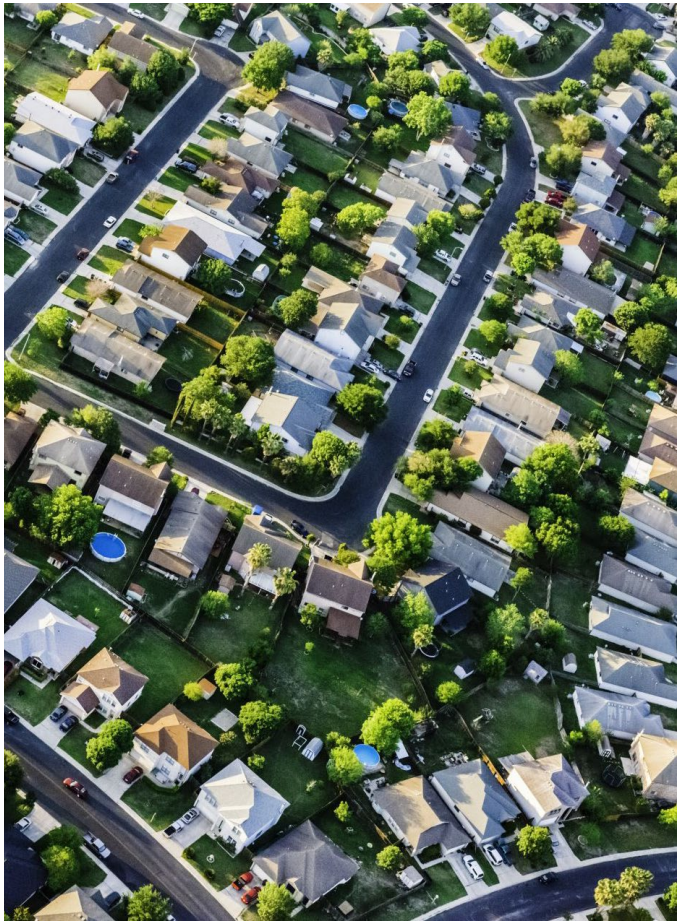
- Help maintain, protect, and manage resources (natural, physical, social, cultural, economic, etc.)
- Minimize negative impacts and ensure hazard mitigation

What do Community Planners do?



- Work with Councils to ensure their vision of the community is reflective in the planning documents
- Understand the legislated requirements for planning and the relevant acts and regulations that pertain to subdivision and development of land
- Help community members through the planning process when they are developing their own land

What do Development Officers do?



- First point of contact for landowners and developers
- Answer all development related questions and provide advise on development proposal to ensure that they meet the standards in the planning documents.
- Process and issue development permits, create reports to go the municipal planning authority, make submissions to the appeal board, and undertakes enforcement when necessary

PLANNING

PROVINCIAL LEVEL

- Municipal Affairs
- NRCB, AER, AUC
- Land and Property Rights Tribunal

LOCAL LEVEL

- Municipal Council
- Development Authority
- Subdivision Authority
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

PLANNING FRAMEWORK

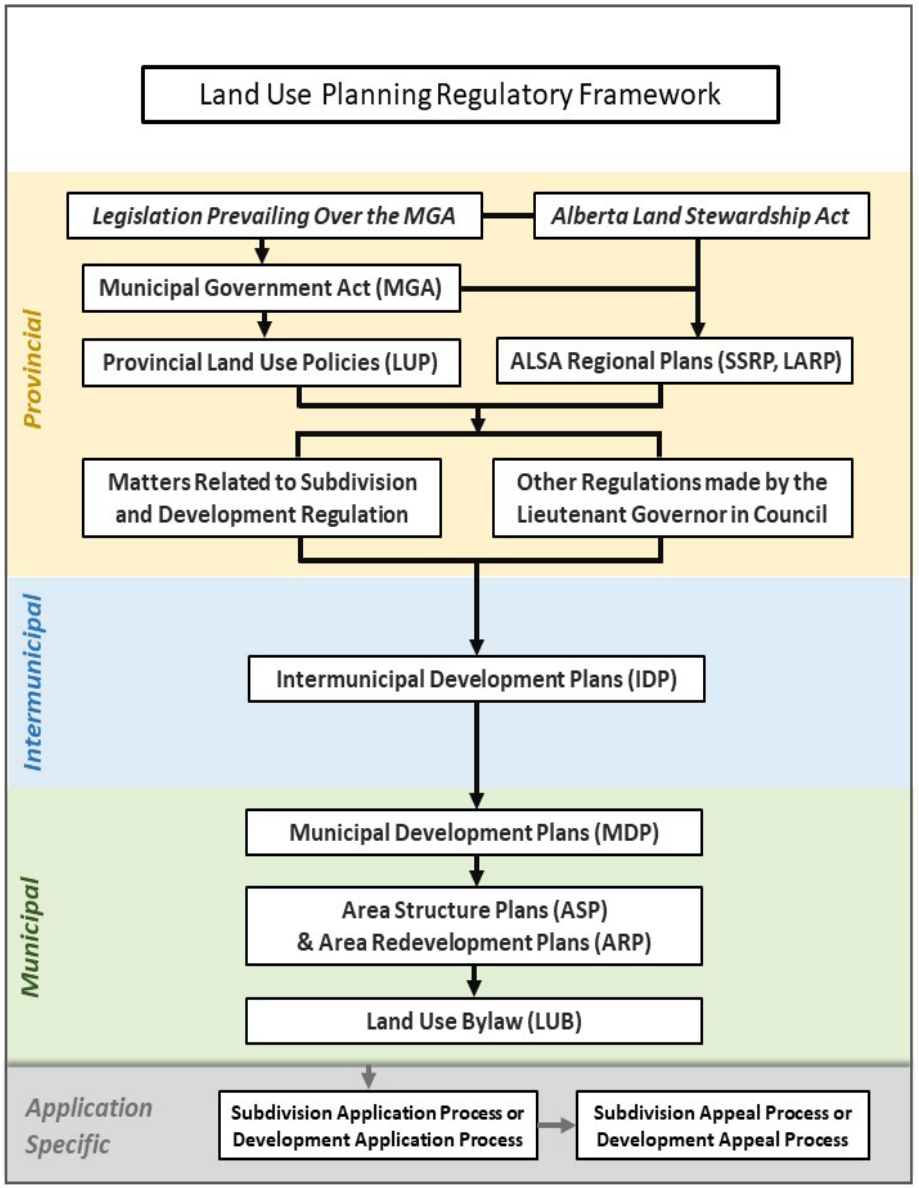
PLANNING IN ALBERTA

Land Use Planning in Alberta has a regulatory Framework.

There are provincial and municipal components to planning in Alberta:

- Provincial
- Intermunicipal
- Municipal

In Alberta, planning documents have been legislated to prevail over one another in case of conflict between two sets of policy or rules.



ALBERTA LAND STEWARDSHIP ACT (ALSA)

- Royal Assent & Proclamation – 2009
- Legal authority to implement the land use framework
- Purpose of act:
  - Government to provide **direction and leadership** in identifying objectives of the province (economic, environmental, social)
  - **Plan for the future** – manage activity (reasonably meet needs of current and future generations)
  - Create **legislation and policy** that enable **sustainable development**
- Sets the stage for regional planning
- SSRP was approved on Sept. 1 , 2014



SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PLAN (SSRP)

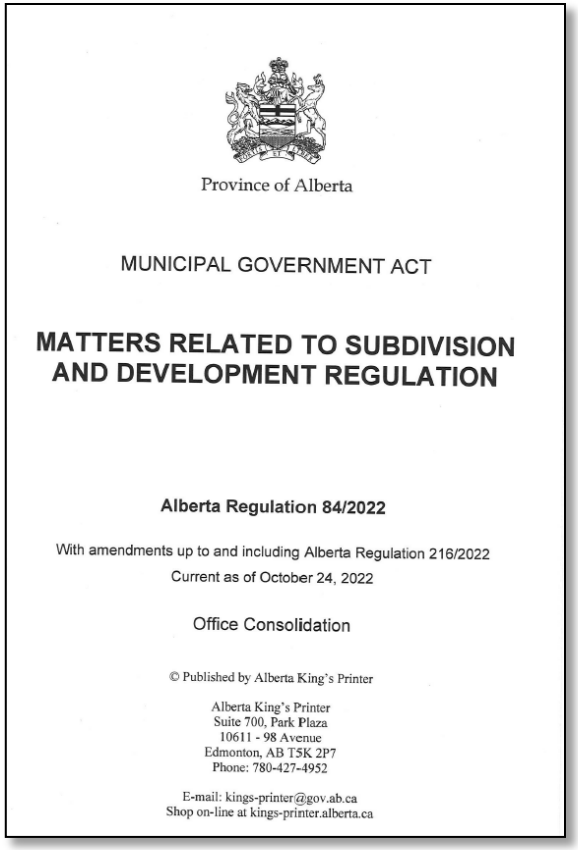
- *8.1 Work together to achieve the shared environmental, economic and social outcomes in the south Saskatchewan regional plan and minimize negative environmental cumulative effects.*
- *8.20 Limit the fragmentation of agricultural lands and their premature conversion to other, non-agricultural uses, especially within areas where agriculture has been identified as a primary land use in the region. Municipal planning, policies and tools that promote the efficient use of land should be used where appropriate to support this strategy*
- *8.30 Establish appropriate setbacks from waterbodies to maintain water quality, flood water conveyance and storage, bank stability and habitat.*

Strategies



MATTERS RELATED TO SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT REGULATION

- Regulation passed by Cabinet
- Basic procedures and approval criteria for subdivision and development applications
- Establishes circulation system for applications
- Outlines jurisdiction (approvals and appeals)
  - Landfill sites
  - Sewage lagoons
  - Highways
  - Sour gas facilities
  - Water bodies



Province of Alberta

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

MATTERS RELATED TO SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION

Alberta Regulation 84/2022

With amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 216/2022
Current as of October 24, 2022

Office Consolidation

© Published by Alberta King's Printer

Alberta King's Printer
Suite 700, Park Plaza
10611 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7
Phone: 780-427-4952

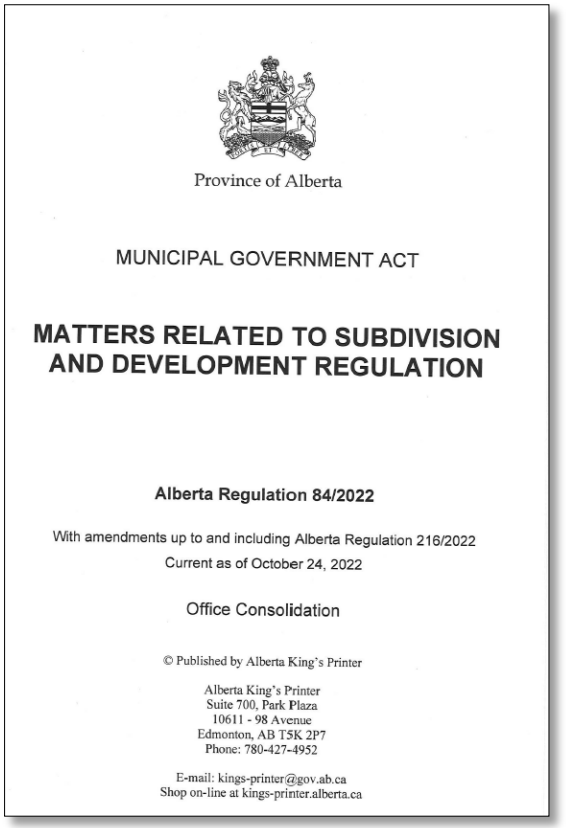
E-mail: kings-printer@gov.ab.ca
Shop on-line at kings-printer.alberta.ca

MATTERS RELATED TO SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT REGULATION

What does the regulation mean for municipalities & councils?

Outlines:

- Decision timelines
- Application requirements
- Relevant considerations (suitability)
- “Reasons” for decision
- Appeal board training requirements
- Provincial appeals (LPRT)



Province of Alberta

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

MATTERS RELATED TO SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION

Alberta Regulation 84/2022

With amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 216/2022
Current as of October 24, 2022

Office Consolidation

© Published by Alberta King's Printer

Alberta King's Printer
Suite 700, Park Plaza
10611 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7
Phone: 780-427-4952

E-mail: kings-printer@gov.ab.ca
Shop on-line at kings-printer.alberta.ca

MUNICIPAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Hierarchy of plans – must be consistent (s. 638 of MGA)

- SSRP (Provincial)
- Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP)
- Municipal Development Plan (MDP)
- Area Structure Plan (ASP)
- Area Redevelopment Plans (ARP)

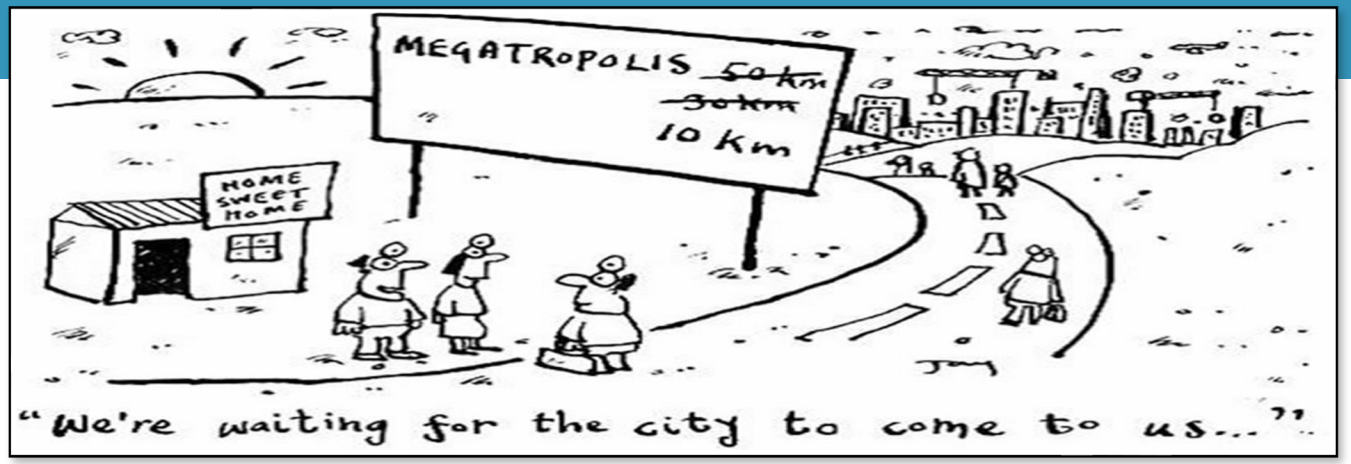
  - Plans provide policies
  - Land Use Bylaw implements policies
  - Municipal Planning Bylaws require three readings
  - Planning Bylaws require public consultation

Statutory Plans



Land Use Bylaw

INTERMUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)



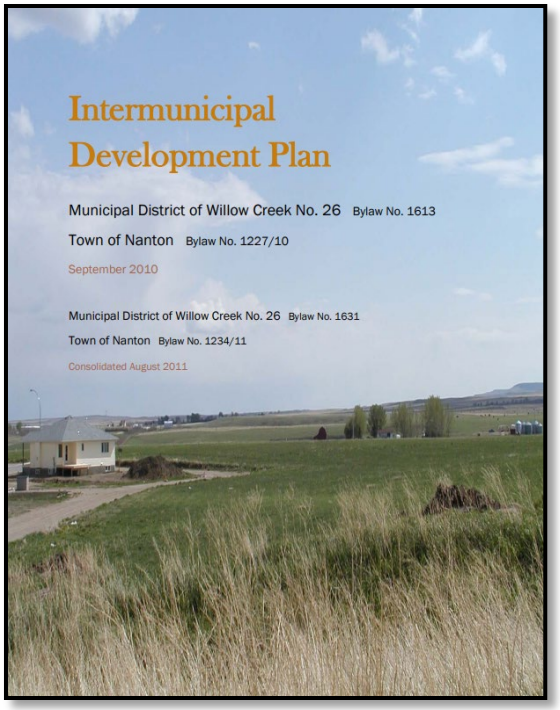
- Implemented in areas of interface between two municipalities
- IDPs are required to contain:
  - Goals and objectives for growth and development
  - Future land use
  - Coordination of future growth patterns
  - Address required transportation systems
  - Discuss municipal services
  - Dispute resolution procedure

INTERMUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

Town of Nanton has adopted IDP with its neighboring urban municipality

Objectives:

- Foster intermunicipal cooperation
- Ensure development is planned in a manner that is complementary to existing and proposed development
- Facilitate on-going consultation and cooperation
- Promote orderly, coordinated and economical planning
- Identify possible joint ventures
- Establish a framework to ensure that each municipality may expand development and assessment base within its boundaries; minimum or eliminate future conflict; provide sufficient flexibility to react to changes in the economy and individuals and investors interested in located within these municipalities



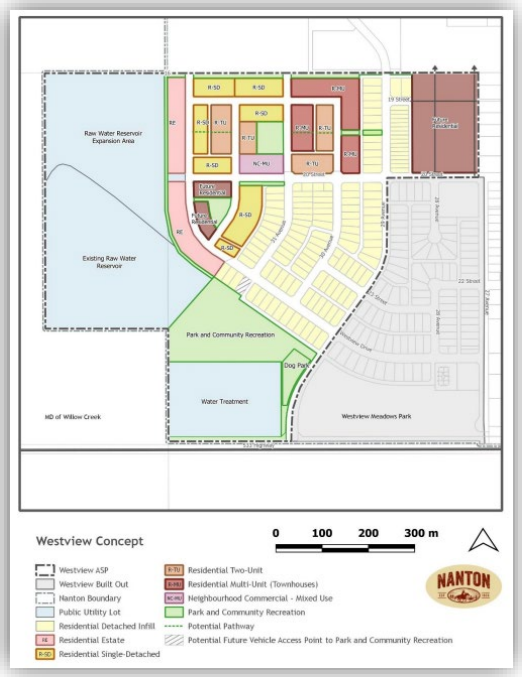
MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP)

- Policies set the direction and guide long range planning decisions
- All municipalities must adopt one
- Encompasses entire municipality
- Policies typically address:
  - Goals and objectives for growth and development
  - Future land use
  - Proposals for future development
  - Coordination of future growth patterns
  - Address required transportation systems
  - Municipal services
  - Location of sour gas facilities
  - Allocation of reserves (municipal, school, environmental)
  - Protection of agricultural operations



AREA STRUCTURE PLAN (ASP)

- Framework for subdivision in **specific areas** of a municipality for specific land parcels
- Typically describes:
  - Sequence of development
  - Land use(s)
  - Subdivision design / lot layout
  - Servicing of land (water, sewage)
  - Density of population
  - Locations of major transportation routes
  - Public utilities and availability
  - Any other matters deemed necessary by council



AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (ARP)

Redevelopment area

- Council may designate a specific area(s) of the municipality
- A redeveloped area may involve **preserving, rehabilitating, or improving** buildings, land, roads, or infrastructure
- Remains an integral part of the municipality
- ARP may provide for the imposition and collection of a “redevelopment levy”









LAND USE BYLAW (LUB)

- Every municipality must pass a Land Use Bylaw
- The “implementation document”
- Divides municipality into land use districts (zones)
- Lists uses (permitted / discretionary / prohibited)
- Articulates process for reviewing applications, making decisions, and issuing permits
- Guidelines and rules for subdivision
- Guidelines and standards for development
- Stop order – outlines enforcement mechanism
- Council establishes waiver / variance guidelines for the Development Officer, MPC



Rural



Urban Residential



Urban Commercial

LAND USE BYLAW (LUB) AMENDMENTS



- Councils' role to make decisions on LUB amendments
- Two types
  - Text amendments
  - Land use redesignations – changing the zoning on land

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES : COUNCIL

COUNCIL'S ROLE IN PLANNING – *MGA Part 17*



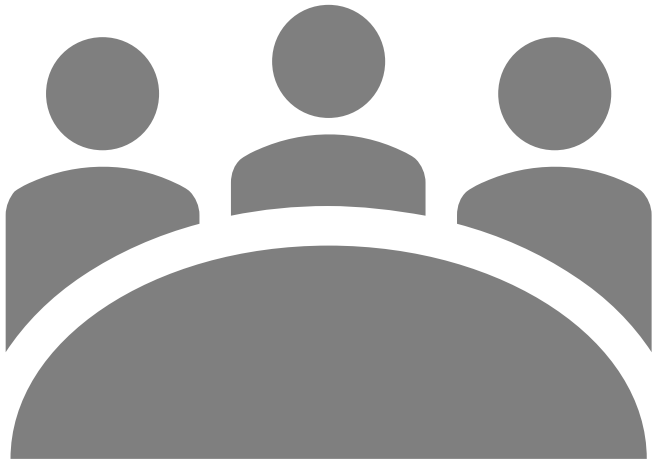
Policy makers

Set community's long-range planning policy and planning tools

- Municipal Development Plan
- Area Structure Plans; Area Redevelopment Plans
- Intermunicipal Development Plans & Agreements
- Other community plans – CIP, Sustainability Plan, etc.
- Land Use Bylaw
- Redevelopment and off-site levies
- Development Agreements
- Establish Planning Authorities

COUNCIL'S ROLE

- Council creates the vision and policies to manage growth and development through the adopted plans and bylaws
- Other bodies implement the policies
- Council may act as the Development Authority in Direct Control districts



MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES : SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Purpose

- Make decisions on subdivisions
- Consider applications in light of statutory plans and Land Use Bylaw
- Make decisions on applications for development permits in accordance with the land use bylaw
- Has authority to issue stop orders to enforce planning rules

Composition

- Municipalities may define composition as established by their bylaw
- May be combined or separated entities as detailed by council and through the bylaws



MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES : SDAB

SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD (SDAB)

Purpose

- Hear valid appeals (as defined in the *MGA*) of subdivision or development decisions
- May establish an "Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board"
  - Chinook Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

Composition

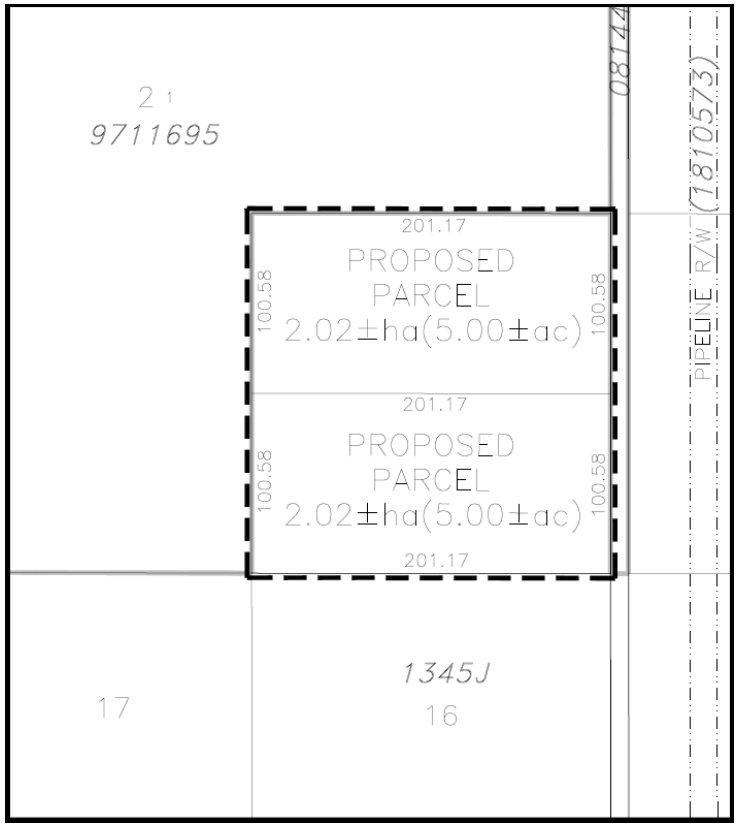
All Council	✗
One Councillor	✓
Municipal Planning Commission	✗
Citizens	✓
Development Officer or Municipal Employee	✗

SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT LAND USE PROCESS

SUBDIVISION OF LAND

Subdivision is …

the division/separation of a parcel of land for the purpose of obtaining separate title(s) to part(s) of the original title



Subdivision is subject to:

- Provincial regulations
- Municipal bylaws and policies

SUBDIVISION PROCESS

Initiation

- Preliminary discussions with applicant, municipality and Planner
- Examination of land and proposal to determine suitability
- Application submitted (determine completion)

Circulation

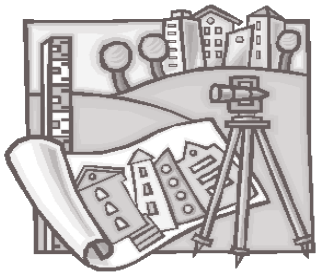
- Circulated to adjacent landowners
- Circulated to required referral agencies (utility, government, etc.)

Evaluation

- Evaluation by Planner
- Prepares a recommendation for the Subdivision Authority

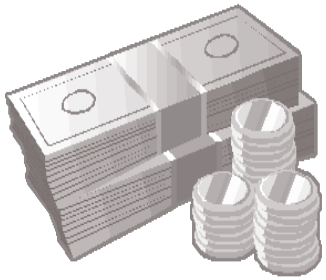
MUNICIPAL RESERVE DEDICATION

- The *Municipal Government Act* requires that municipal reserve be addressed when land is subdivided



Land

- Land that is provided as municipal reserve shall not exceed 10% of the gross area



Money

- Council may require the owner to provide money in place of land (or some combination) – undeveloped market value
- Money shall not exceed 10% of the appraised market value

COUNCILS MAIN ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Establishes the rules and standards for local development through the adoption of the statutory plans and the Land Use Bylaw
- Makes decisions on bylaw amendments, such as rezonings of land
- Outlines/negotiates the terms of Development Agreements entered into with Developers
- May make decisions on development permits in Direct Control districts
- An individual Councilor may get more directly involved by being appointed to sit on a Subdivision or Development Authority, MPC or to the Appeal Board

MAKING GOOD PLANNING DECISIONS



SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT

DUTY TO ACT FAIRLY (NATURAL JUSTICE)

Approval authority has a duty to act fairly

Right to an unbiased decision maker:

- Pecuniary/monetary interest
- Bias
  - Actual
  - Reasonable apprehension of bias



PECUNIARY INTEREST & CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section 170(1) of the MGA:

Subject to subsection (3), a councillor has

(a) a **pecuniary interest** in a matter if

i) The matter could monetarily affect the councillor or an employer of the councillor, or

ii) The councillor knows of or should know that the matter could affect a private interest of the councillor's family

(b) A **conflict of interest** in a matter if

i) the matter could affect a private interest of the councillor or an employer of the councillor, or

(ii) The councillor knows or should know that the matter could affect a private interest of the councillor's family

PECUNIARY INTEREST

Disclosure of Pecuniary interest:

- Must disclose general nature of pecuniary interest prior to any discussion on the matter
- May be required to abstain from any discussion on the matter
- May be required to leave the room
- Must abstain from voting

Although not prescribed in the MGA, same rule generally applies to non-council members of Municipal Planning Commission.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest or Perceived Conflict of Interest:

If a councillor discloses a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest, the councillor may if present, do any one or more of the following:

- abstain from voting on any question relating to the matter;
- abstain from any discussion of the matter;
- leave the room in which the meeting is being held until discussion and voting on the matter are concluded.

Although not prescribed in the MGA, same rule generally applies to non-council members of Municipal Planning Commission.

BIAS

Actual bias:

- Conduct that shows bias or hostility before having heard all the parties
- Prior involvement – meeting with party in the absence of the other parties, private interviews

BIAS

Apprehension of bias (may not be acting in an impartial manner):

- A reasonably informed person would conclude that the decision-maker has:
  - Judged the matter before hearing all of the evidence
  - Prejudicial attitudes toward a party or the position they represent
  - Previous involvement with the issues to the extent that their mind is made up
  - Had involvement with one party to the extent that they are unable to make an objective determination

Can have opinions about an issue, but must remain open-minded

ACTIONS TO AVOID

Do not:

- Meet with or contact applicants privately
- Enter onto property, take measurements or photos or gather other information
- Advise on development/subdivision matters
- Conduct independent research or data gathering
  - Poll the public
  - Contact government departments
- Act as the advocate for the development



ACTIONS TO TAKE



What to do:

- Refer development questions and applicants to administration (Development Team, Planners)
- Ask questions during Subdivision and Development Authority/MPC meeting
- Request additional information
  - At Subdivision and Development Authority/ MPC meeting
- Provide feedback to Development Team about quality of information being supplied and any additional information necessary to make an informed decision

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Purpose

Public Input

- To provide a fair opportunity for the public to express their views, concerns, or support for a proposed bylaw or action

Informed Decision-Making

- To collect opinions and evidence that will form part of the record upon which Council makes its decision

Mandatory Requirements

Municipal Government Act (MGA)

- The MGA mandates public hearings for specific matters, such as amending planning bylaws or disposing of certain land

Procedural fairness:

- Public hearings must follow principles of procedural fairness, including the right for the public to be heard by an impartial decision-maker and to know the case they need to respond to.

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS



1. Public notification:

Municipalities publish (advertise) notices to inform the public about upcoming hearings, often in newspapers and on their websites/ social media, may also use direct mail.



2. Agenda package:

Agendas are published before the meeting, providing access to the proposed bylaw and any relevant reports or information that Council will consider.



3. Submissions:

Written submissions: the public can submit written comments to the municipality, which are included in the public record and provided to Council.

Oral testimony: attendees can offer oral testimony at the meeting in person or virtually.



4. Council deliberation:

Council listens to the public submissions and uses the information to help inform their decision-making process.



5. Public record:

All submissions become part of the public record and are available to the public.

APPEALS & DISPUTES



FUNCTION OF APPEAL BOARDS

Subdivision And Development Appeal Boards

Provides a mechanism to challenge:

- A decision on a **development** application (not under the jurisdiction of the LPRT)
- A decision on a **subdivision** application (not under the jurisdiction of the LPRT)
- The issuance of a **Stop Order**

Land And Property Rights Tribunal

Hears development and subdivision appeals in areas of provincial interest:

- Green area as classified by public lands
- Areas within prescribed distances of:
  - A highway
  - A body of water
  - A sewage treatment facility
  - A waste management facility
  - Is subject to a provincial license, permit or approval

  (AUC, AER, NRCB)

WHAT CAN BE APPEALED?

LPRT can now hear

Subdivision Decisions

- Conditions of Approval
- Application refused
- Failure to make a decision (Deemed refusal)

Development Decisions

- Conditions of Approval
- Permit refused
- Failure to make a decision
- (Deemed refusal)

Stop Orders

- Order issued under s. 645 of *MGA*

WHO CAN APPEAL?

Subdivision Decisions

- Applicant
- Government departments
- A school authority

Development Decisions

- Applicant
- Any person affected by the decision

Stop Orders

- Registered property owner
- Person responsible for contraventions
- Person in possession of land/building

APPEAL BOARD - AUTHORITY

Requirements

- Board members must take training, obtain provincial certification
- Certification valid for 3 years
- Not more than 1 councilor can sit on a panel to hear appeal
- Clerks assisting board must take provincial training, be certified

POWERS & DUTIES

- Is a quasi-judicial body, acts independently from municipality
- Must base decision on planning and land use, established planning law
- Must provide written reasons for decision based on identified facts
- Has broader powers than Subdivision and Development Authorities, but is bound by “use” provisions of bylaw

FURTHER APPEALS

Provincial Courts

- Decision of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board is final and binding on all parties and persons, subject only to Appeal to the Provincial Court of Appeal.
- Court first determines if there is a reasonable chance of success or legal arguments that require to be heard
- Court decisions look at matters of legal jurisdiction & process, what local appeal board took into consideration, not just because appellant disagreed with the decision

LAND USE PLANNING IN ALBERTA

Main Take Aways:

- Local planning is subject to provincial acts and regulations
- Council acts at a higher level, sets the vision and policy framework in which decisions are made (adopts plans and bylaws)
- Council dictates through its bylaws how it wants local planning decisions to be made (i.e., MPC Bylaw)
- Council may act in a limited role at the “ground” stage, through a Direct Control, or individually by being appointed to sit on an MPC or Appeal Board
- In Alberta planning law, the “process” is a paramount component & consideration



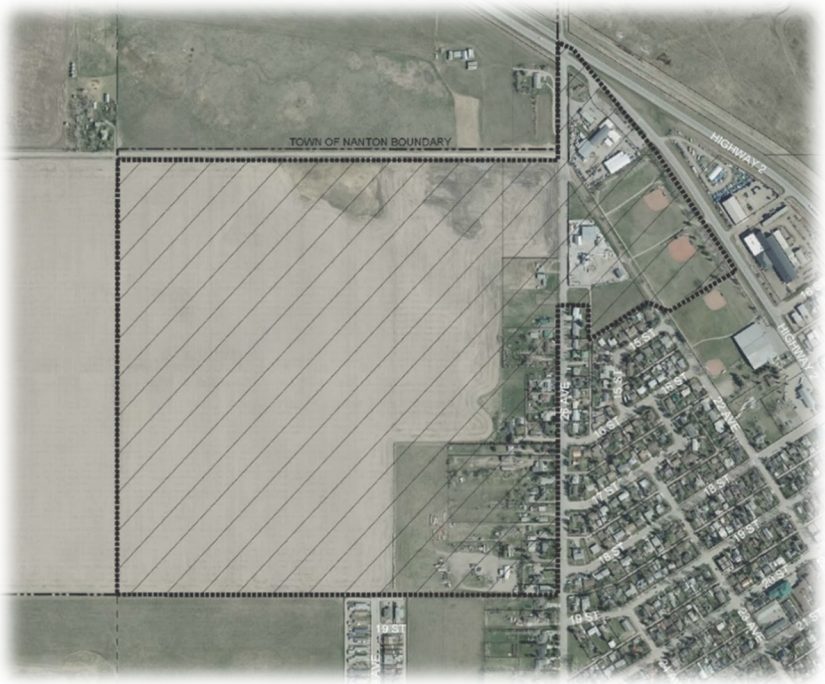
END OF PRESENTATION

THANK YOU!

TOWN OF NANTON

NORTHWEST AREA STRUCTURE PLAN

JANUARY 2026



Presented by:

OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Agenda

1. Northwest ASP : Project Background
2. Overview of project activities to date
3. Current Stage
4. Next Steps

NORTHWEST ASP : PROJECT BACKGROUND

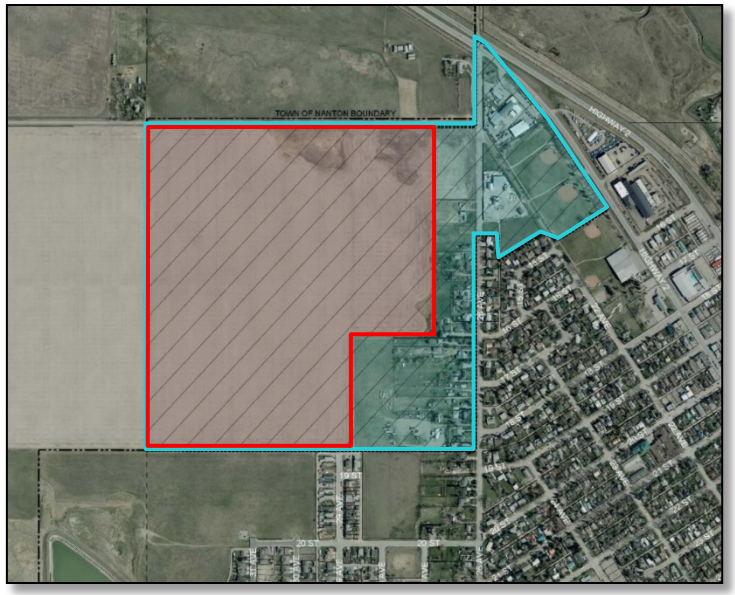
PROJECT BACKGROUND

- The Northwest Area Structure Plan (ASP) is a long-range planning project that guides future growth and development in the northwest area of the Town of Nanton.
- The NW ASP covers:
  - Future land use and density
  - Road, pathway, and connectivity planning
  - Servicing and stormwater management considerations
  - Parks, open space, and environmental features
- It establishes a comprehensive framework to ensure development occurs in a coordinated, orderly, and policy-aligned manner before subdivision or development applications proceed.
- In preparing the Northwest Area Structure Plan, consideration has been given to existing statutory plans, familiarity of the former Lancaster Landing ASP and its challenges, and an understanding of the infrastructure compacity available now and steps to be taken to expand capacity for future development.

REPEAL OF THE LANCASTER AREA STRUCTURE PLAN (ASP) 2011



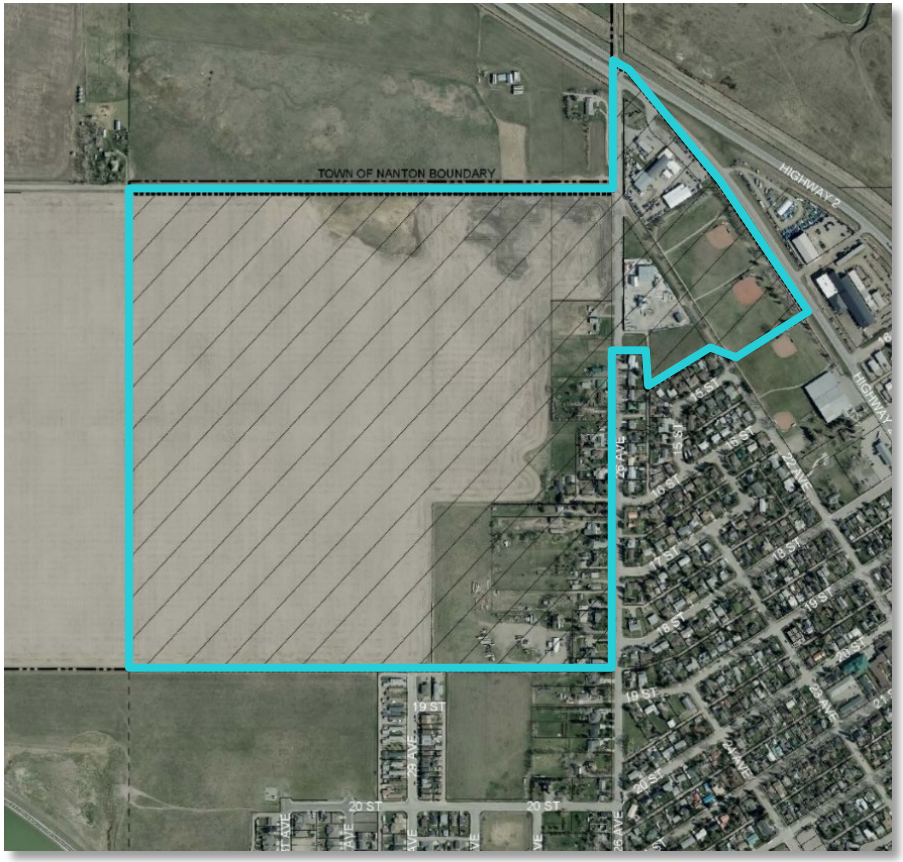
- The Lancaster Area Structure Plan (2011) was prepared to guide development on a large portion of the northwest area, primarily lands owned by D2S, which also form a significant portion of the new Northwest ASP area.
- **In 2023, the Lancaster ASP (2011)** was repealed by Council as it no longer reflected the Town's updated vision for development, servicing, and infrastructure planning in the northwest area.
- The new Northwest Area Structure Plan covers a broader area than the Lancaster ASP, including additional lands and the existing residences along 26 Avenue, to support coordinated, area-wide planning across the entire northwest growth area.



NW ASP PLAN AREA & CONTEXT

The Northwest Area Structure Plan (NW ASP) applies to approximately 182 acres (73.6 hectares) of largely undeveloped land located on the northwest edge of the Town of Nanton, primarily within the NE ¼ of Section 16, Township 16, Range 28, West of the 4th Meridian.

The plan area is generally bounded by Township Road 163 to the north, the Westview neighbourhood to the south, the Town's boundary to the west, and 26 Avenue to the east, and represents a logical direction for future urban growth.



Northwest Area Structure Plan

NW ASP - PROJECT TIMELINE

The Northwest Area Structure Plan is being completed over an approximately 18-month timeframe, from initiation to adoption. The project follows a seven-phase process to ensure coordinated planning, engagement, and review.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7
Initiate	***Identify***	***Engage & Collaborate***	***Draft***	***Review***	***Consult***	***Adopt***
• Project initiation. • Landowner /public notification of project.	• Compile and review background information. • Identify opportunities & constraints. • Preparation for Council & landowner engagement sessions.	• Council, landowner, and public engagement. • Individual meetings with select landowners within plan area. • Development of the land use concept.	• Preparation of the draft ASP based on the preferred land use concept. • Preparation of maps.	Administrative and Council review of NW ASP draft.	• Draft ASP is made available to the public online and at a Public Open House. • Draft ASP Circulation to IDP Partner, the MD of Willow Creek, & applicable review agencies. • Feedback review.	• 1st Reading. • Public Notification of proposed Bylaw. • Public Hearing. • 2nd & 3rd Reading. • Any necessary amendments throughout adoption process.



OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES TO DATE

PAST ACTIONS

OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

With numerous private landowners included within the plan area, the ASP process required thorough and thoughtful consultation with landowners. To ensure landowners understand the purpose of the plan, how it may impact them, and allow for a shared vision of how northwest Nanton is to be developed a series of public engagement sessions were hosted to gather ideas and input from landowners, the general public, and Council.

Phase 1 - Establishing a Vision

Session 1 - March 26, 2025 (Landowners)

Session 2 – March 31, 2025 (Council)

Phase 2 - Evaluating Planning Scenarios

Session 3 – May 26, 2025 (Council)

Session 4 – June 10th, 2025 (Landowners)

Session 5 – June 18, 2025 (Public)

Phase 3 - Confirming Community Preferences

Community Online Survey (April 24 – June 2, 2025)

PHASE 1 - ESTABLISHING A VISION

__TWO__ engagement sessions (Spring 2025) with landowners within the plan area and Council were hosted to build a vision and gather preferences for the plan area.

Session 1 - March 26, 2025 (Landowners)

The first engagement session was held with the landowners within the plan area. A total of 26 invitations were mailed, and 9 landowners attended the engagement session. ORRSC planners presented the NW ASP purpose and considerations and facilitated a table-based mapping exercise. Each table produced a hand-drawn concept that reflected the values and aspirations of the landowners present.





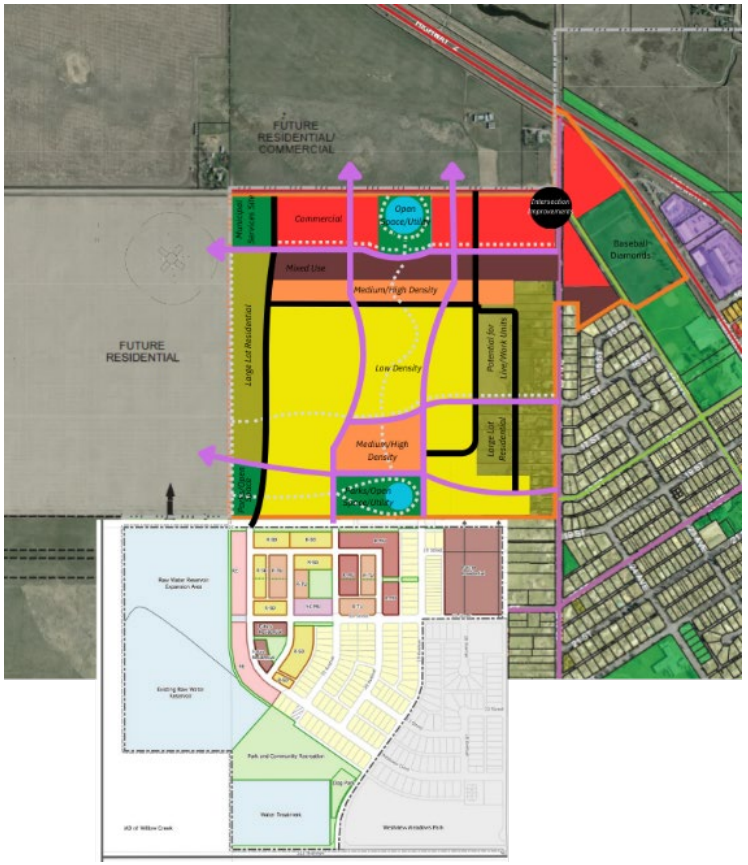


PHASE 1 - ESTABLISHING A VISION

__TWO__ engagement sessions (Spring 2025) with landowners within the plan area and Council were hosted to gather vision and preferences for the plan area.

Session 2 – March 31, 2025 (Council)

A second engagement session was held with the Council as a closed Committee of the Whole meeting, delivered in a hybrid format with in-person and virtual participation. A shared online whiteboard was used to collaboratively develop the concept plan in real time.



PHASE 2 - EVALUATING PLANNING SCENARIOS

*The purpose of Phase 2 was to present and refine land use concepts based on the ideas gathered during Phase 1. This phase involved **THREE** engagement sessions. One each with Council, landowners, and the public to create potential land use concepts that reflected community values and aspirations.*

Session 3 – May 26, 2025 (Council)

The third engagement session was held with Council. Using the concepts developed in Phase One of engagement, ORRSC created four land use concepts, along with one concept provided by the majority landowner (D2S), for Council to evaluate and select three concepts that would be presented to the Public.

Session 4 – June 10th, 2025 (Landowners)

The fourth engagement session was held with the landowners within the plan area. Three updated concept plans, reflecting Council's recommendations from the previous session, were displayed for landowners to gather input and vote on their preferred land use concept. Invitations were mailed to all 26 property owners within the plan area. Of those invited, 14 landowners attended this session.



PHASE 2 - EVALUATING PLANNING SCENARIOS

Session 5 – June 18, 2025 (Public)

The final public engagement session was held in a drop-in format, using the same three concept plans presented in engagement session 4, allowing residents of the Town and MD of Willow Creek to review the plans, ask questions, and provide input. Again, each attendee was asked to vote on their preferred land use concept. Approximately 22 people attended this session.



PHASE 3 - CONFIRMING COMMUNITY PREFERENCES

Community Online Survey (April 24 – June 2, 2025)

Following engagement session 4 and prior to engagement session 5, the three land use concepts were made available for viewing on the Town of Nanton website and comments were accepted through the website. In total, 11 responses were received.



Detailed results of the public engagement process were documented in the Town of Nanton **Northwest Area Structure Plan – Engagement Summary (2025).**

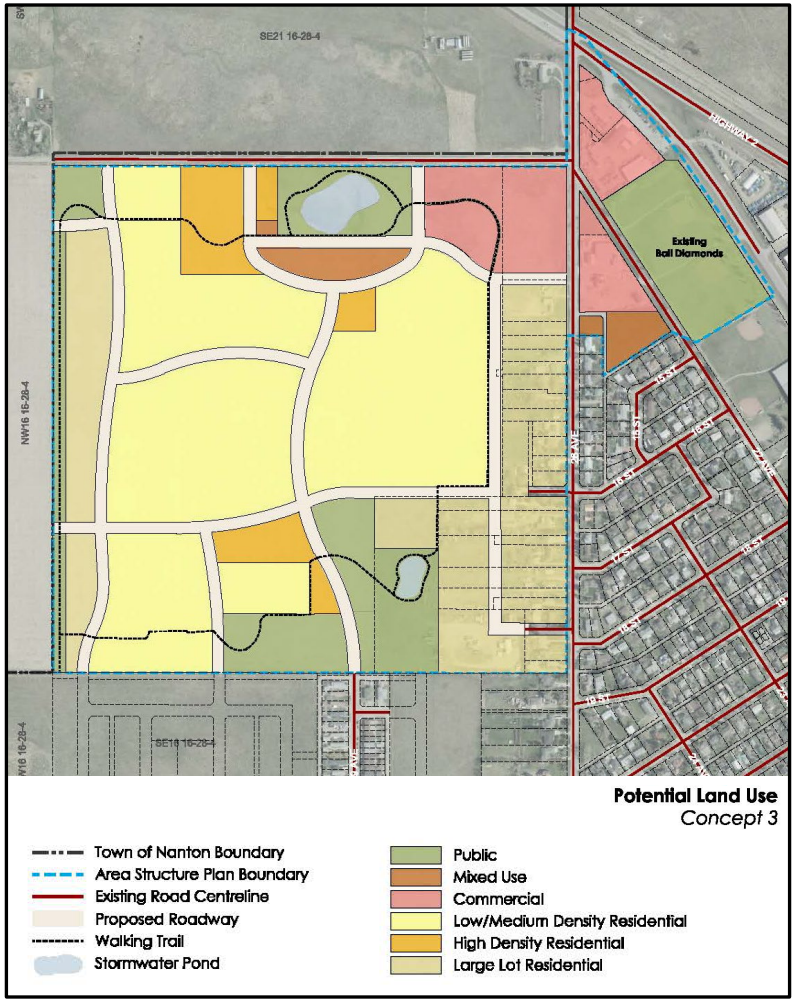
This report was presented to Council prior to it being available for public review.

PREFERRED LAND USE CONCEPT: ENGAGEMENT

Through the engagement sessions with Council, landowners, and the public, a number of common themes were identified in Phase 2 of engagement and **Concept 3** was identified as the preferred land use concept for the plan area.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Continued interest in large lot residential along the western edge.
- Support for maintaining stormwater retention in its natural low-lying location.
- Pathways and walkability remained a priority.
- Mixed opinions were shared regarding traffic circles and the inclusion of light industrial uses.
- Preference for preserving Nanton's small-town character.
- Preference to retain residential land use instead of mixed-use along 26th Avenue in the east side of the plan area.

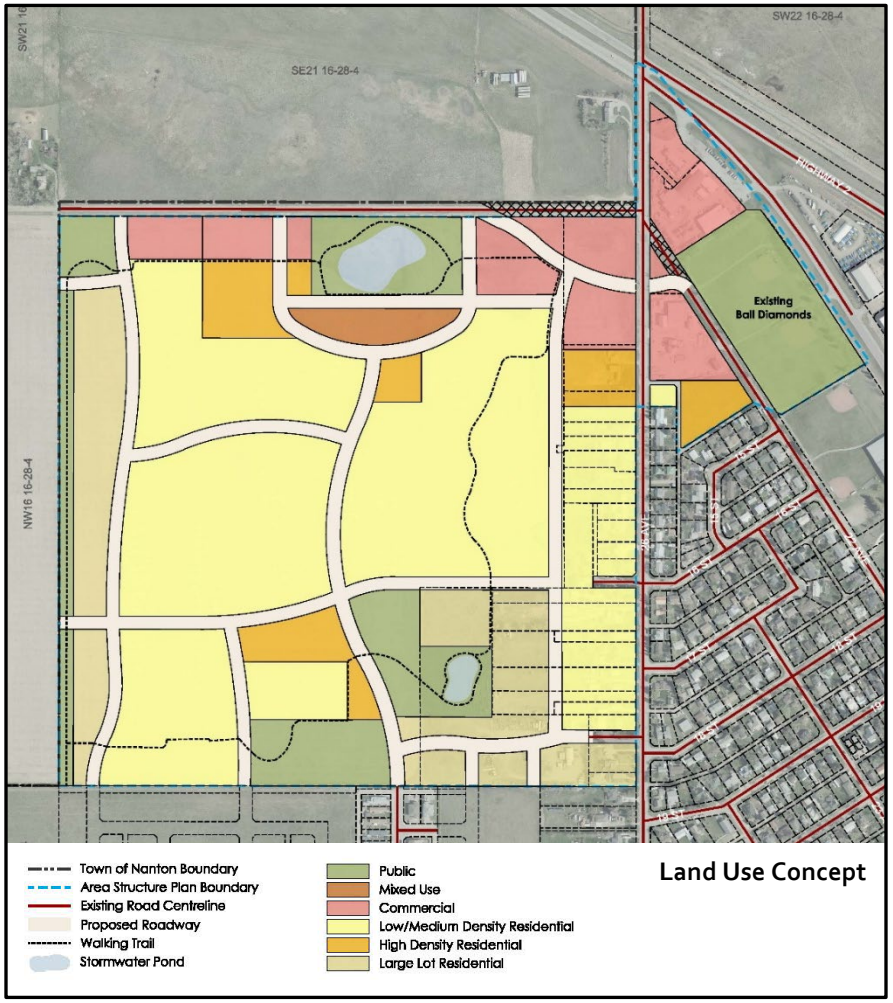


FINAL LAND USE CONCEPT

Council Review On Preferred Land Use Concept

At the **August 26th Council meeting**, the Engagement Summary (2025) report was presented to Council to summarize community engagement results, and a recommended Land Use Concept was presented.

Based on this information, Council confirmed a modified **Concept 3** as the preferred land use concept. Minor modifications to the suggested concept are necessary to reduce the overall amount of public lands within the plan area.



CURRENT STAGE

PHASE FOUR: DRAFT

CURRENT STAGE

PHASE FOUR: DRAFT

- The project is currently at **Phase Four: Draft.** of the Northwest Area Structure Plan project
- At this stage, ORRSC is preparing an initial draft of the ASP document and associated maps, as required based on:
  - The preferred land use concept identified by Council
  - Input received through Council and landowner engagement sessions
  - Good planning practices
  - Input from Town Administration
- The NW ASP does not include detailed engineering designs or technical studies at this stage. Detailed engineering and supporting studies will be required at the Outline Plan /Subdivision and/or Land Use Amendment stage, when specific development proposals are brought forward. This approach allows Developers to consider the current realities at the time of development to determine lot layout, servicing capacity, stormwater management, and compatibility with surrounding uses. Allowing the plan area to develop based on community need and market conditions.

NEXT STEP

PHASE FIVE: REVIEW

NEXT STEP

PHASE FIVE: REVIEW

- An initial draft of the ASP will be provided to Administration for review and changes may be made before it is presented to Council.
- Council will review the initial draft and amendments may be made, if requested by Council.
- The draft ASP is provided to the MD of Willow Creek and edits to the draft ASP may take place based on the feedback received.
- Permission is granted by Council to continue to public consultation and finally, adoption of the plan.

ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

INFORMATION BRIEF

Meeting: January 26th 2026
Agenda Item: 3.1 COW

Westview – future plans and options

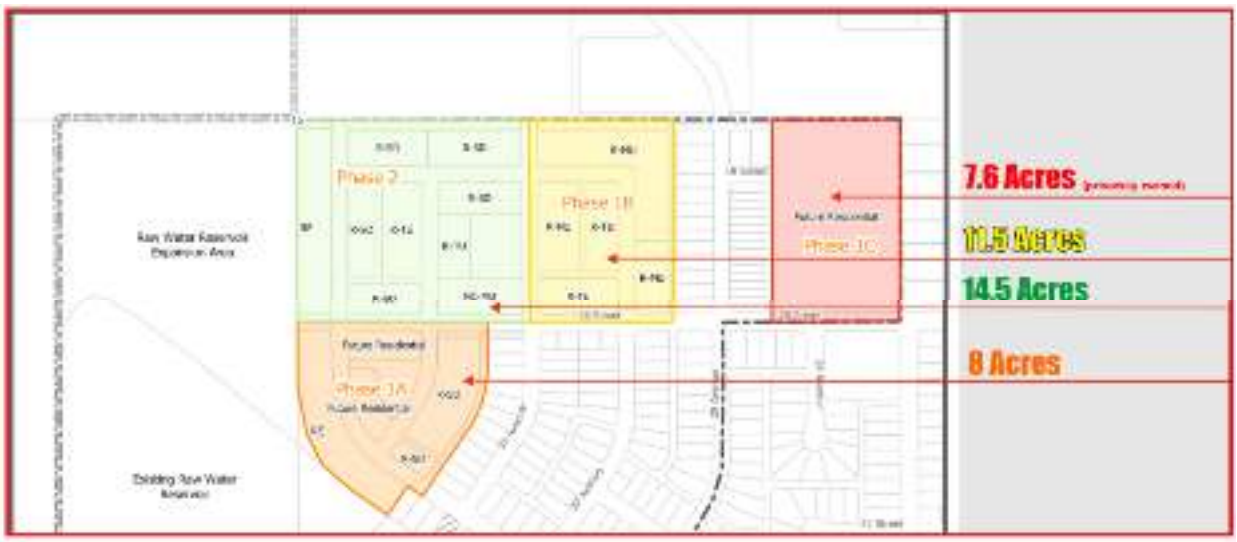
Purpose:

Administration was asked to prepare an Information Brief for Council/ Request for Decision discussing the status and some potential options for the Westview Area Structure Plan. As Administration has no recommendations that require immediate action and Council has not voted to initiate anything beyond projects and grant applications currently in process, this is an Information Brief.

This Information Brief will also be added to the added for the next Committee of the Whole to facilitate ongoing discussion in the planning context and perhaps also utilized, if appropriate, during Strategic Planning.

Background:

The current Westview information page is here: https://www.nanton.ca/services/planning-and-development/westview-area-structure-plan-development-opportunities



Phase 1C (red) is not a Town-owned bare land parcel.

The Westview ASP area offers a future development area for residential growth of more than 40 acres. Eighty-two percent (82%) of that land is municipally owned. Phases 1A and 1B are currently subject to a grant submission to the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF), seeking 50% funding land servicing costs (sewer, water, road, landscaping, concrete works estimated at a $4.7 million total cost). While almost one year has passed since the Town submitted the application, based on recent experience, administration urges patience until at least the Fall of 2026 before writing off the prospects of the application or taking an action that might invalidate eligibility for funds. A grant for this work could be worth well over $2 million. The federal government will not provide timelines for decisions and, if successful, the Town must also seek

provincial approval of any prospective contribution agreement of this scale. **Some firmly aligned subdivision design and survey work could perhaps safely proceed at this time, but it would not be eligible for any form of grant aid cost recovery (if it were initiated).**

The Area Structure Plan provides guidance to interested developers in terms of the balance and mix of housing types in these phases with potential basic conceptual parcels for divestment to interested private or public actors. The Town could, of course, develop one or more of the conceptual parcels itself, the least costly being those closest to the north side of 20th Street where current service connections terminate.

Private sector developer interest in Westview has thus far been limited by these factors:

- 30 acres of land, while a lot to the Town, is not a lot of land in the development community which often invests in sites of hundreds of acres in area;
- The cost of construction and bare land deep servicing is presently very high, making profits frequently marginal even in city areas.
- Single Family Dwellings, although not addressing priority community needs, remain the most profitable vehicle for builders and developers.

Possibilities not tied to grant applications



Phase 2 of the ASP is not presently subject to any potential CHIF grants. The block of four prospective parcels identified here, about 3 ½ acres in total, could be developed in isolation for developer interest and amenity expansion, opening small scale opportunities for R-GEN and M-TRAN zoning eventually, while the Town relocates and develops a park in line with the ASP that allows 20th Street to continue. 10-15 SFD lots might be possible or a combination of different housing types and densities. If Council wished to delve into the 'master planning' of a small area to set the tone of future development in Westview, this would be manageable in terms of scale, varying residential density opportunities and other possible uses, while building an anchor park incentive.
Working with a consulting engineer strong in land development would be encouraged for this. How far the level of bare land subdivision would go before opportunities were taken to market would be up to the recommendations of consultants, administration and Council's ultimate perspective.

There are also other possible partnerships with different landowners and stakeholders for niche developments.

There is a private landowner holding 7.6 acres of residential land (1C) within the Westview ASP, for instance, which they could subdivide and service themselves at any time of their choosing. The onus does not lie exclusively with Council to develop Westview or prospective smaller infill properties elsewhere in Town. Partnership is possible and possibly more affordable.

Financial capacity

At present, the Town's global borrowing capacity is $10 million. For illustration of the challenge among competing imminent and future projects for the Town, regardless of funding sources for debt servicing or other contributions that reduce timelines and taxpayer impact.

Project	Estimated Cost	Grant application	Borrowing estimate
Westview Phase 1A and 1B	$4.7 million	Yes, 50%	$2.35 million
NW Sewer Collector	$3.4 million	Yes, 50%	$1.7 million
Industrial road phases 1-3 (multi-year)	$2.8 million	No	$1.4 million
THRC Renovation	$1.6 million	No	$650,000
RCMP conversion of Town Office	$1.3 million	No-but with full cost recovery	$1.3 million
WWTP dewatering – Town cost share	$500,000	Already received	$500,000
18th Street Road Rebuild (multi-year)	$812,000	No	Undetermined

This is list of future 'possibles', while not complete and avoiding getting overly speculative, shows the possibility that the Town could find itself well on the way to its borrowing limit (at least for a time) if a number of projects proceeded within a similar timeframe in the next couple of years. We already know that some of these projects are proceeding.

Right now, debenture payments are a very small percentage of the annual property tax bill (about 1.5%). Every new debenture will have an increased fiscal impact, particularly if it is in the $2 million or greater area. Even if non-taxation revenue is accessed to pay for debt servicing in some cases (for example lease revenue that funds improvements on a building or lot sales), the municipal borrowing limit is still reduced by the existence of the debenture. If the Town gets far enough into its borrowing capacity (75%), Ministerial approval becomes necessary for further new debentures.

For Westview at this time, current administration is of the view that a borrowing limit of $2.5 million for a project is about as high as could be responsibly considered given known competing capital demands. If the Town's applications to CHIF are unsuccessful, those metrics could change as Council would likely choose to develop phase 1A or 1B (or even a portion of one phase) instead of both and the NW Sewer Collector, also a CHIF submission, would likely be deferred into another future term. The latter is arguably only a project worthy of prioritizing if a large injection of non-municipal funding is available or agreed.

Prepared By:

Neil Smith
Chief Administrative Officer

CAO Comments:

This is my final opportunity to weigh in on Westview before it becomes the preserve of another manager, who may have different analysis to offer. I apologize in advance for its length.

While the Town has, by some metrics, done well in the past with it being developer of single family dwelling lots, the magnitude of costs and their recovery prospects have shifted markedly since 2009 to the point that the borrowing capacity required for a comparative phase to old Westview (deep servicing bare land subdivision for 80 or more lots) is almost outside of the Town's reach, particularly if borrowing is also required for multiple other, greater priority, projects. Just as it turned out with the 2009 phase, selling sufficient units to quickly cover debt servicing is theoretically possible, but should not be presumed – economic and market conditions can and will change, the cost of construction as it now stands has rarely been greater. Grant aid or a private sector partnership is arguably essential for a large phase being realized in today's market realities.

At strategic planning, the question should always be discussed as to what the goal or purpose of subsidizing single family dwelling development in the community, at this time, actually is. For as long as the Town remains the perceived dominant developer in Nanton, reputable private sector initiatives, driven by the market, are far less likely to seriously emerge. As the last twenty-five years has shown, simply facilitating

more SFDs, while growing the number of households, has not markedly grown the Town's population, nor put more children in the schools. While additional residential assessment is ultimately welcome, growth in **non-residential** assessment is a significantly greater benefit to a community presently ratioed at 80/20 residential/ non-residential assessment. Without that non-residential growth, simply growing more residential subdivisions for SFDs means a continued trajectory of increasing general taxation to keep pace with the costs of infrastructure and resident service level expectations.

It is arguably difficult to justify borrowing for residential development if a major water or road project, as examples only, need that borrowing or funding capacity. We have seen much debate recently over the past budgetary decisions of a major city neighbour for allegedly prioritizing non-core projects over basics like water main renewal. Hindsight is a great thing and sometimes an unfair judge on the pressures at any given time on decision-makers, but the Town can reasonably assume that it will need borrowing and reserve capacity for roads, water and wastewater renewal projects of scale in the future. Caution is recommended.

A focus on projects that facilitate non-residential development, future industrial land acquisition and residential options for single people and lower income working families should, arguably, take precedence over municipal bare land subdivision **for single family dwellings** that will likely cost the buyer half a million dollars or more. While still costly and a much longer-term game for success, I encourage Council to consider such a path this term through both existing planning work and capital budget priorities. Through the planning work we have completed together and continue to work on, Nanton is setting the table for future success.

_____ Date Signed: _____