

ORTONA ARMOURIES 1914

9722-102 STREET

RANGE 24 TOWNSHIP 52 WEST OF THE 4TH MERIDIAN

LOTS 13-14 BLOCK 2 PLAN 6417 AS

MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE 31 AUGUST 2004

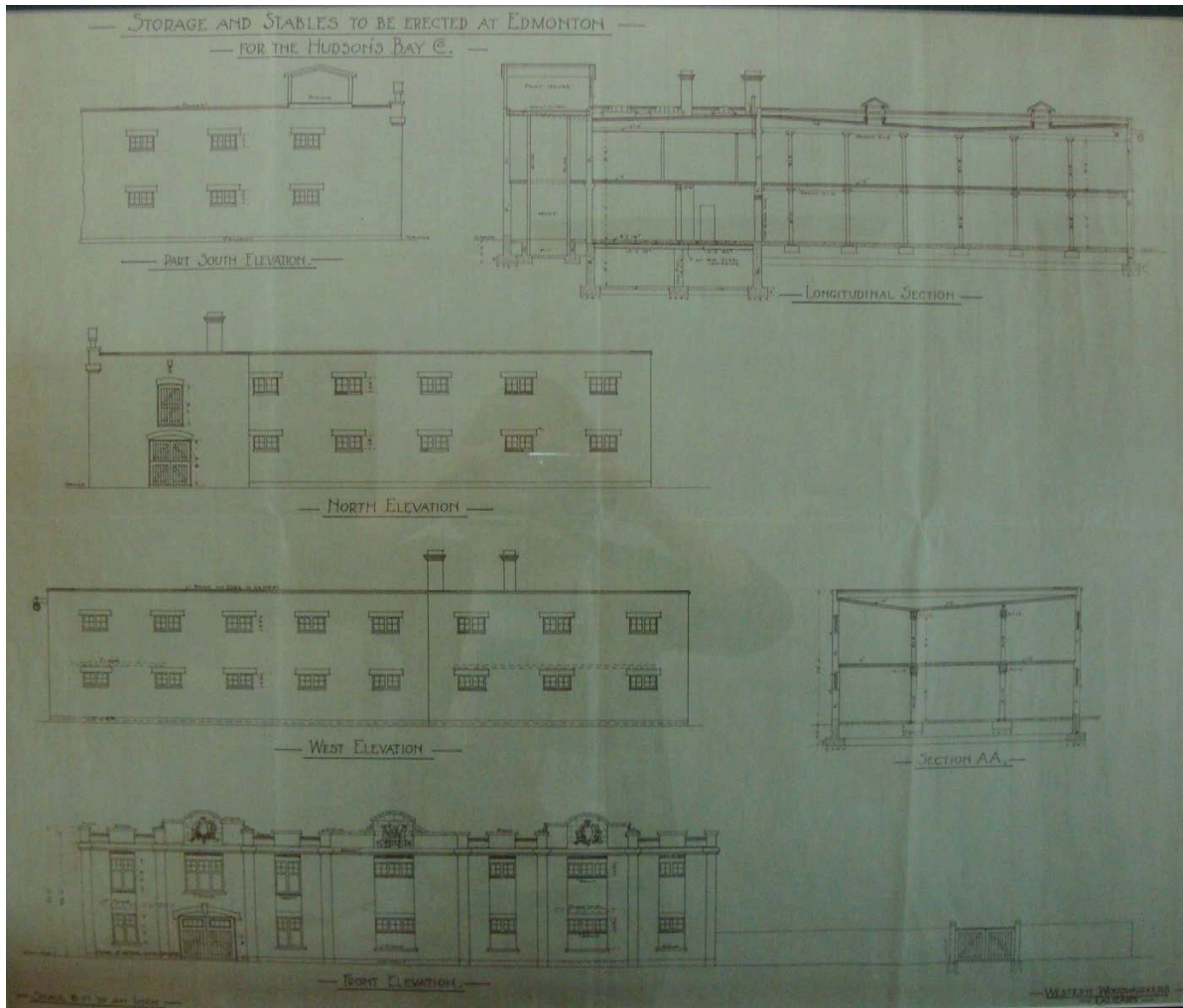
CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character-defining elements as expressed in the form, massing, materials and style of the principal facades such as: the eight brick pilasters that divide the front façade into seven bays; the brick detailing such as the brick dental course above the sandstone lintels on the upper floors, the round brick arches and flat arches over window openings, the brick band cornice at the parapet level; the stone details such as the lintels and sills; the hoist penthouse covered in pressed metal siding located on the south rooftop; the recessed windows in the front façade; the stone capped parapet; the three carved sandstone cartouches above the entrance bay, the centre bay and the northern bay; the pattern of recessed alternating double and triple windows on the front façade. [Alberta Register of Historic Places, Statement of Significance]

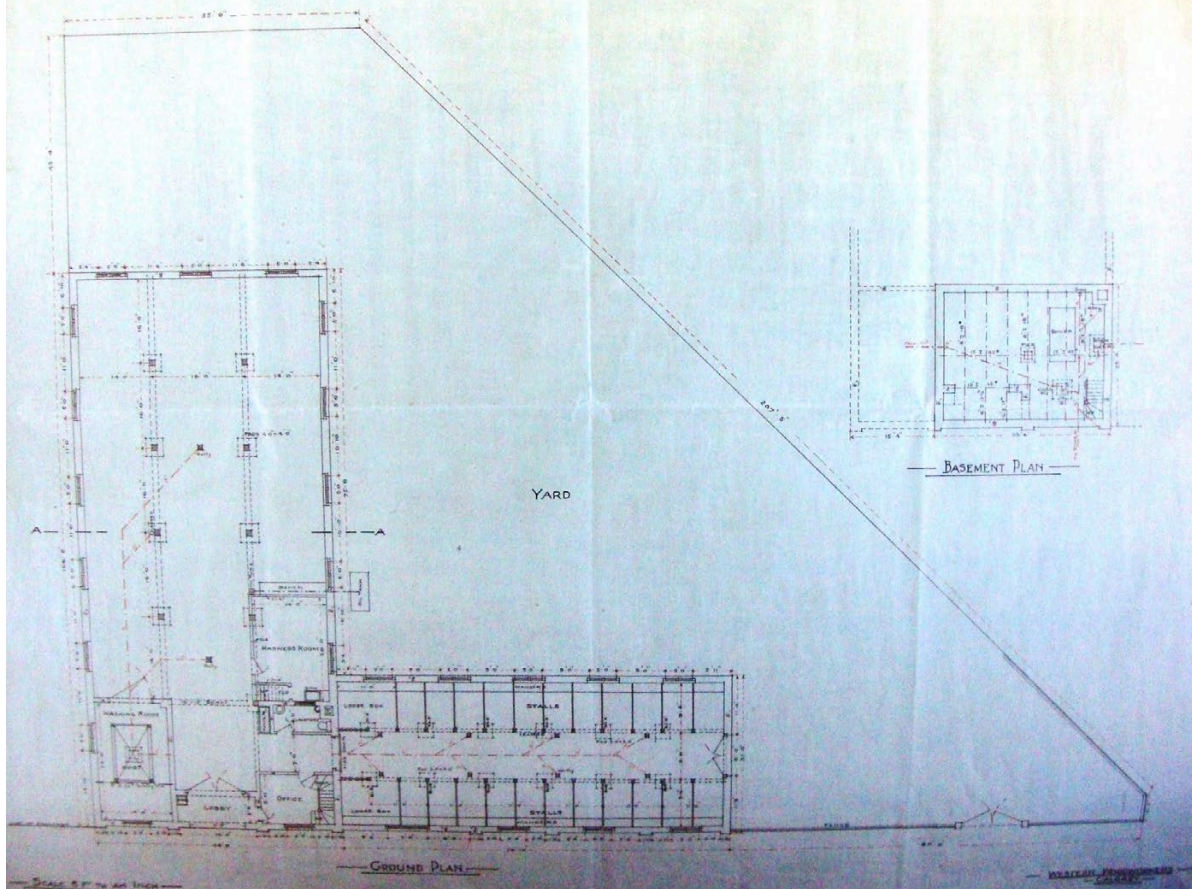
Introduction

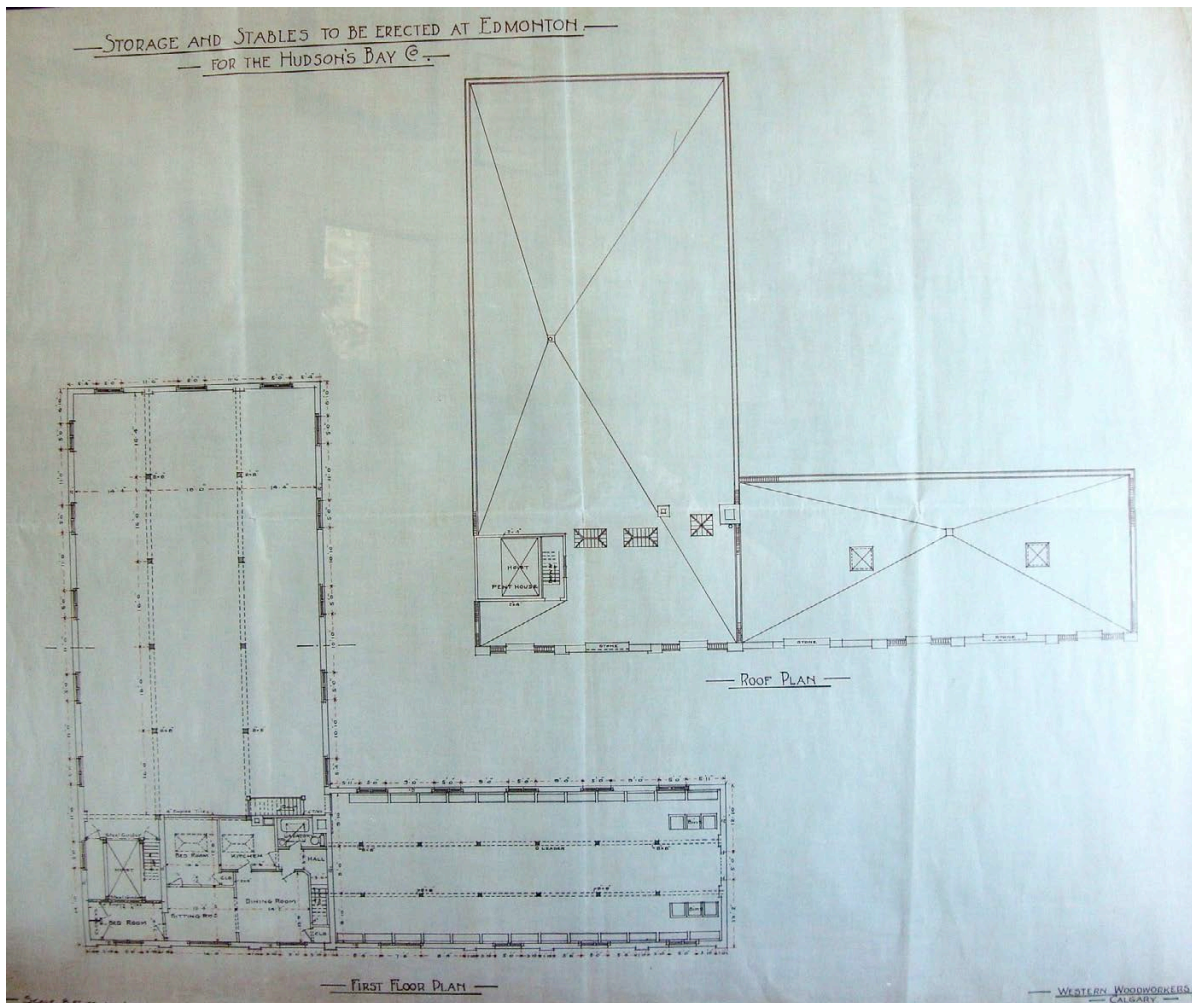
The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) built its large warehouse and brick stable for its delivery horses on Ross' Flats in 1914. Building Permit #716 was applied for by the HBC on Tuesday, 2 June 1914, for a "stable" to be constructed on Lots 13-14 Block 2 Hudson's Bay Reserve (HBR), on 102 Street. The architect was listed as the

“owners.” Value of the new building was placed at \$25,000.

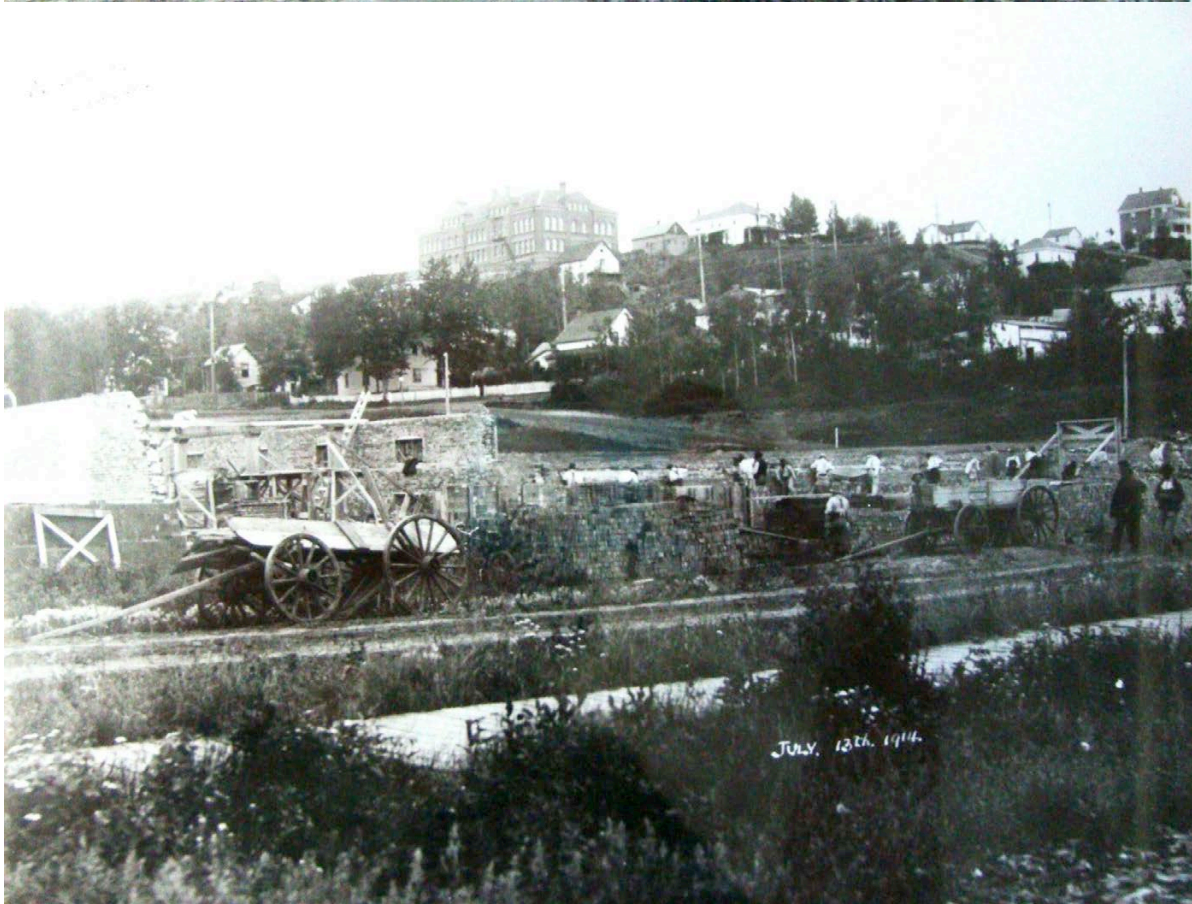


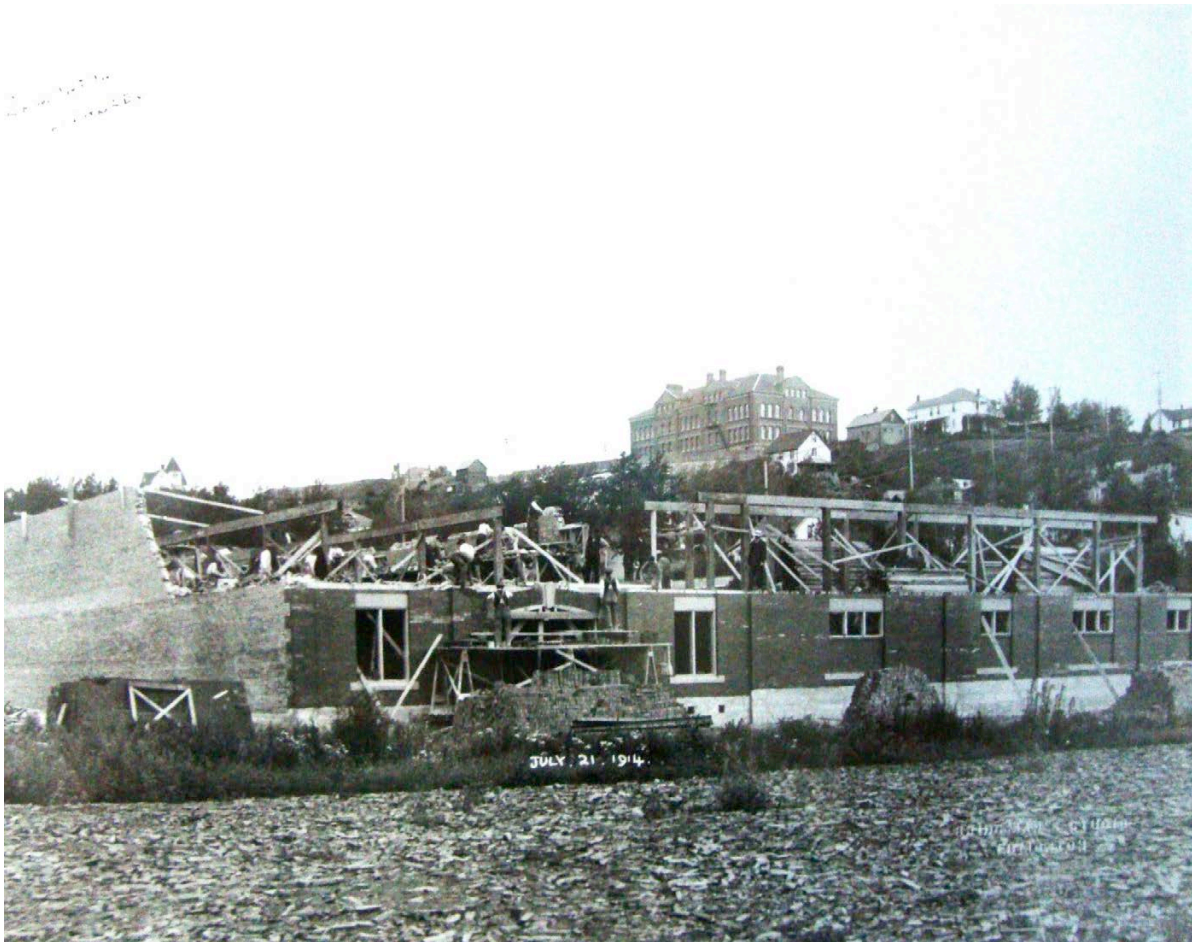
— STORAGE AND STABLES, TO BE ERECTED AT EDMONTON —
— FOR THE HUDSON'S BAY CO. —





[Blueprints for the Hudson's Bay Company Stables and Warehouse]







[Stages of construction the Hudson's Bay Company Stables and Warehouse, July to August 1914]

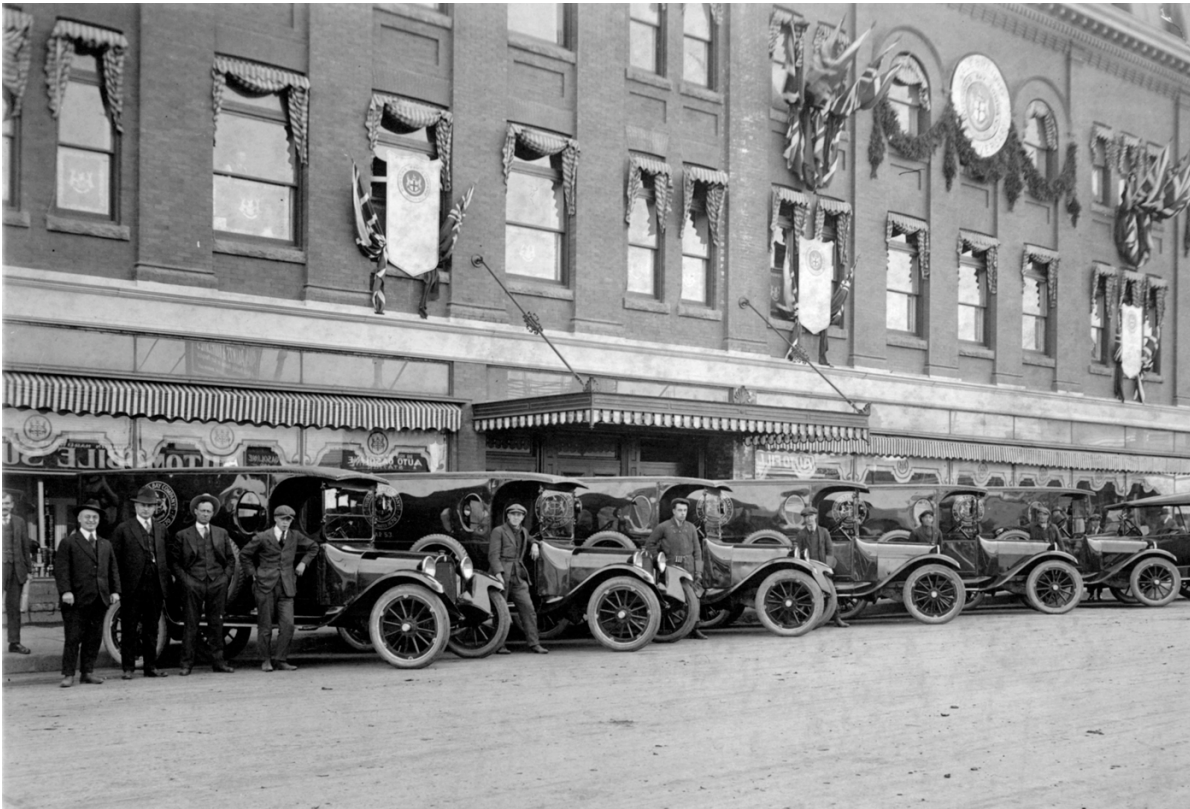
The *Empress of Ireland* had just sunk (29 May 1914), with thirteen Edmontonians on board. The building permit was taken out at a time when most of the news was focused on the recent oil speculation west of Calgary in the Turner Valley field. The coming global war was still simply a matter for speculation.

When the large, relatively ornate stables and warehouse opened, it was an impressive two-storey L-shaped building. It was constructed on a frame of heavy semi-milled wood and faced with brick. Stables were located in the east wing, with a hayloft and storage space directly above it. The wagon house was located in the south wing, with staff quarters located above it.

When the HBC ended its 1899 decision to withdraw many subdivided lots in Ross' Flats from sale, it made the decision in 1913 to sell 75% of its newly for-sale blocks, while retaining one corner lot and one adjoining lot. The HBC Stables were built on the southeast corner of 102 Street and Hardisty (98) Avenue. The field to the south of the stable and warehouse was used to pasture its delivery horses. Evan Petley-Jones, who grew up in the Rossdale neighbourhood, and was one of the first artists to live in the area, recalls these horses vividly. The Petley-Jones lived on the corner of 104 Street and 97 Avenue during the 1920s and 1930s, and when the teams left the stables before 1924 they made an impressive parade. "The horses were all light-coloured palominos, with well groomed manes and tails. Their wagons were green with gold trim and lettering, all kept in beautiful condition. I winter, sleighs were used, and the sound of the harness bells added to the delight of the elegant show."

[Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited, *Rossdale Historical Land Use Study*, 2004, p. 135]

The HBC ended its horse-drawn delivery service, and there was no further need for the stables. In May 1924 several employees of the Edmonton City Dairy began to lease the building for their Edmonton Pure Butter Company. Its product was briefly exported internationally. The Edmonton Pure Butter Company operated in the building until 1927.



[City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-1468. The fleet of HBC motorized delivery vans in 1919]

Joseph S. Babiuk established the National Trade School in the building beginning in 1928. Other uses followed during the Great Depression, including the Alberta Poultry Pool, and the Boys Department, Youth Training School, where men aged 18 to 30 the apprentice and rehabilitation programs funded by the federal and provincial governments.

The HBC stables and warehouse building were sold to the Department of National Defence for one dollar shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. A building permit was issued in August 1939 for a \$14,000 conversion of the stables and warehouse into a military facility, designed by Ottawa architect C.R. Sutherland. This was the north wing, which provided office space and training facilities for the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR). The RCNVR Edmonton Half-Company

was active at this site for the duration of the war, with many recruits being trained in the north wing. As a tribute to the legendary role played by the *Nonsuch* in 1668 in the establishment of the HBC two years later, as well as other ships in the Royal Navy to bear the name, the Edmonton district Royal Canadian Navy base was named HMCS *Nonsuch* when it was commissioned in the old HBC building on 1 November 1941.

General contractor Ernest E. Litchfield built a drill hall nearby on 97 Avenue during 1943. This transformed the L-shaped armouries into a U-shaped facility with greater room for the very busy naval “ship.” The addition had a concrete foundation, load-bearing brick masonry and wooden trusses spanning the interior. The drill hall was demolished in 1989.

HMCS *Nonsuch* was one of the most active naval facilities in Canada during the Second World War. Many “prairie sailors” were enlisted and trained there, seeing service through the global conflict. Federal budget cuts in January 1964 led to the closure of HMCS *Nonsuch*; Edmonton Sea Cadet and Navy League Cadet Corps used the building for the remainder of 1964.

Unfortunately, the naval presence in the building saw the removal of the distinctive brick and sandstone parapet in 1961. With them went the character defining carved sandstone cartouches and HBC coat of arms. Fortunately these have been since restored to the east façade.

HMCS *Nonsuch*, which had assumed many identities since 1914, was renamed the Ortona Armouries by 3rd Battalion, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment in 1965. This was to commemorate The Regiment’s signal battle

honour of the Second World War. The Italian town of Ortona lay in the path of the Allied advance toward Rome in December 1943. The Allied press began to call Ortona a “second Stalingrad” because of its heavily entrenched enemy resistance. Adolf Hitler now demanded that his forces hold Ortona at all costs, and Ortona became the most costly engagement in Italy up to this time. House-to-house fighting began on 21 December 1943, with mines killing an entire Loyal Edmonton Regiment platoon, with the exception of one man who survived eighty hours buried in the rubble. Two German platoons were destroyed in the same way in retaliation. The Canadians developed the technique of “mouse holing,” in which they blasted out the connecting walls as they progressed from house to house. Ortona fell on 28 December 1943.

Public Works Canada began management of the building in 1977. About this time the Ortona Armouries began to assume a broader cultural identity. Tenants like the National Film Board, Edmonton Folk Festival, FAVA, Ortona Gymnastics Club and the Trincan Steel Band, as well as an active art gallery and artists’ studios, began to leave another brand on the site.

On 10 November 2003 Anne McLellan, federal Minister of Health, on behalf of Allan Rock, Minister of Industry and Minister Responsible for Infrastructure, and Stephen Owen, Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification)(Indian Affairs and Northern Development), announced \$12.1 million in community infrastructure projects approved by the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP), signed in 2000. Among the projects selected were nine Municipal Historic Sites from the Registry of Historic Resources, including the

Ortona Armouries. Under ICAP the federal and provincial governments provide two-thirds of the funding, while Edmonton, in this case, provided the remaining third. Under the ICAP deal \$1,328,700 was provided for the Edmonton project. In December 2004 it was reported that \$400,000 had been allocated for restoration of the historical principal facade and removal of lead paint from the brick.

[Western Economic Diversification Canada, news release, 10 November 2003; Lawrence Herzog, Ortona Armoury, It's Our Heritage, 23 December 2004]

The Hudson's Bay Company Stables/Ortona Armouries, the rather awkward designation chosen to acknowledge the diverse roles played by the building received a historical plaque on 25 September 2006. This was one of 23 such plaques awarded that year by the Edmonton Historical Board (EHB). The plaque was awarded that evening at a public ceremony held at the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, and was mounted to the left of the front entrance of the Ortona Armouries somewhat later. The plaque program has been administered by the EHB since 1975, and in 2006 additional funding from the Planning and Development Department allowed more than double the usual number of plaque presentations. This allowed the EHB to present plaques to buildings that had been designated as Municipal Historic Resources.

The Ortona Armouries within its historical context

Early site occupation:

“Natural and societal history may be two different subjects, but they come together in prehistory, which focuses on human use of, and interaction with, natural

resources,” the authors of the *Rossdale Historical Land Use Study* observe. “Indeed, as the new discipline of environmental history reveals, they were inextricably linked until little more than two centuries ago....” Early peoples were attracted to the North Saskatchewan River valley because “it offered shelter, fuel, and game in the winter; diverse plant resources in the spring, summer, and fall; and water and fish throughout most of the year.”

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The valley's geological history further enhanced its attractiveness by providing flat, well-drained sites for camping and a ready supply of quartzite for making stone tools. There are some indications that the stretch of valley through Edmonton was particularly popular with the region's first inhabitants, although this may just reflect a higher incidence of sampling in the Greater Edmonton area than elsewhere along the North Saskatchewan.

END INDENT

[Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited (Harold Kalman, Project Manager, Heritage Resource Planner, Meg Stanley, Senior Historian, Clint Evans, Historian, Brian Ronaghan, Senior Archaeologist, Golder Associates, Guy Cross, Geophysicist, Golder Associates), *Rossdale Historical Land Use Study*, for City of Edmonton Planning and Development Department, February 2004.]

In 1754 Anthony Henday of the Hudson's Bay Company was the first known European to pass through the region where Edmonton would be established in the early 19th century. Cree and Assiniboine bands also were moving into the area by the time Henday arrived, although it apparently still was recognized as Blackfoot territory.

Most anthropologists and historians suggest that the Cree and Assiniboine were successfully expanding westward at this time due to the advantage obtained from their better access to European goods in their traditional territory located to the east of the western prairies and parklands.

[*Ibid.*, citing Arthur Ray, *Indians in the Fur Trade: Their Role as Hunters, Trappers and Middlemen in the Lands Southwest of Hudson Bay, 1660 - 1870* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1974); John S. Milloy, *The Plains Cree: Trade, Diplomacy and War, 1790-1870* (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1988); and David Mandelbaum, *The Plains Cree: An Ethnographic, Historical, and Comparative Study* (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 1979)]

When the first Edmonton House was founded near present-day Fort Saskatchewan in 1795, the Edmonton area was on “the western fringe of Cree lands.” The Edmonton region, in other words, lay in an ethnic or cultural transitional zone between the Cree and Blackfoot (the Blackfoot proper, Blood, and Peigan) and their respective allies. It was also a transitional zone between the woodland cultures to the north and the plains tribes to the south.

[Dale R. Russell, *Eighteenth-Century Western Cree and their Neighbours*, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Archaeological Survey of Canada, Mercury Series Paper 143, 1991]

The leading archaeologists and historians for this period and place describe the situation in the following terms:

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The North Saskatchewan River itself probably held little interest for the Blackfoot, as they are well known to have been plains dwellers with little knowledge of river travel and a strong prejudice against eating fish.'" The Cree, however, were experts at constructing and utilizing birch bark canoes, fish made up an important part of their diet, and by the mid-1750s they had clearly come to value the North Saskatchewan River in the vicinity of Edmonton for the resources it had to offer. Anthony Henday, for example, reported that a small Cree band with whom he was traveling spent the winter hunting buffalo in the parkland before moving to an important "canoe building site" in the North Saskatchewan River valley just downstream of Edmonton. Henday spent most of March and part of April, 1755 [during his return to Hudson Bay], camped on the banks of the North Saskatchewan observing the Cree gathering bark from stands of birch, building canoes, socializing with a steady stream of newcomers, and going on short hunting trips. By the time his party was ready to depart on the long canoe voyage down the North Saskatchewan to York Factory on Hudson Bay, the canoe-building site had grown into a large camp, which may well suggest that the Greater Edmonton area, at least late in its history was an important gathering and staging place for Aboriginal groups such as the Cree at certain times of the year.

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[Heinz W. Pyszczyk, Ross W Wein, and Elizabeth Noble, "Aboriginal Land use of the Greater Edmonton Area," Unpublished Paper cited in Commonwealth, 2004]

Martin Magne, another regional archaeologist of note, adds the following:

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The Blackfoot tribes would continue to trade at the companies' posts even after open warfare broke out between them and the Cree / Assiniboine in 1806, "but there was little trust between Blackfoot and Atsina bands and the fur traders." This climate of rising tension and aggression is reflected in the HBC's decision to locate the first Edmonton House and later posts with the same name on the north side of the North Saskatchewan River. The river offered some protection from Blackfoot aggression and, at least in the minds of the fur traders, it subsequently served as a symbolic boundary between the territory of the friendly Cree and Assiniboine and that of the potentially-hostile Blackfoot.

[Martin Magne, *Archaeology in Alberta*, 1986, Archaeological Survey of Alberta, Occasional Paper No. 31, 1987.]

The flats at Rossdale provided a level site on which to locate the second and fourth trading posts, as did the high terrace on the north side of the river where the fifth and final Edmonton House was built in c.1830. Convenient close stands of balsam popular and aspen in the valleys and ravines, and on the river escarpment above, were a reliable source of fuel. Thousands of cords of firewood were required by Edmonton House. The flood plain offered relatively rich and easily tilled fields for growing potatoes and vegetables, while oats and barley were grown for the horses at the various Edmonton Houses, from the time of the amalgamation of the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821 until the land transfer to the new Dominion of Canada in 1869-1870. A ford near the present location of the 105 Street

Bridge was a significant factor in the development of the early sites of Fort Edmonton. Most importantly, the Edmonton district occupied “a central location within trading distance of numerous tribes who occupied and exploited a wide range of ecological zones,” and may have been a “key rendezvous point and staging area in the annual travel patterns of aboriginal groups by the 1750s [and probably] for thousands of years.”

[Pyszczyk]

As the authors of the Commonwealth report conclude, quoting the Pyszczyk study, the pre-contact history of Edmonton may have had as much to do with “the selection and then permanency of Edmonton” as the more conventional reasons presented from a “purely Euro-Canadian perspective.” Drawing upon James MacGregor’s *History of Alberta*, the Commonwealth report concludes:

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By the end of the second decade of the nineteenth century, Edmonton House and Fort Augustus had become the “headquarters of all fur trade activity in the western prairies.” This position was enhanced after the Hudson’s Bay Company merged with the North West Company in 1821 by the construction of a trail to Fort Assiniboine on the upper reaches of the Athabasca River. Constructed over the winter of 1824-25, this trail provided access to the former NWC’s territory in present-day British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon via Athabasca Pass and the Columbia River. Over the next twenty years Edmonton served as the main storage and transshipment depot on the HBC’s transcontinental route to the Pacific Coast. In 1825 Edmonton House’s growing importance was formally

recognized by HBC Governor George Simpson, when he made it headquarters for a new district, the Saskatchewan District, under Chief Factor John Rowand. The Saskatchewan District embraced all of modern-day Alberta south of Lesser Slave Lake and a sizeable portion of Saskatchewan as well. Chief Factor Rowand was responsible for supervising trade in the entire region and overseeing the operations of numerous posts, including Rocky Mountain House, Jasper House, Fort Assiniboine, and Fort Pitt.

Changes in the importance of Fort Edmonton were in the wind decades before the Hudson's Bay Company sold its vast western lands to Canada. Its importance as a regional trade centre declined during the mid-19th century because of American commercial competition on the upper Missouri River, the route connecting London and the Pacific coast by way of Cape Horn after the loss of the Columbia District by the Oregon Boundary Treaty of 1846, and a general decline in the fur trade due to the declining fashion of fur hats in Europe. More trade was carried in Red River carts from Fort Garry to Edmonton House along the Carlton trail after the 1860s, following the establishment of a steamboat connection between Fort Garry and St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1859.

A history of cyclical flooding has characterized the river flats and shaped their development from the beginning of occupation. Serious floods occurred in the Edmonton area in the springs of 1825 and 1899. The 1825 flood inundated the flats around the forts and convinced the Hudson's Bay Company to move from its location on Rosedale Flats (Edmonton House IV) to the higher terrace in about 1830. The 1899 flood caused much damage on

Gallagher's Flats, Riverdale flats, and Ross Flats, and forced Dominion engineers to raise the piers of the Low Level Bridge by eight feet in anticipation of future floods. The summer of 1900 saw another very high flood. The most destructive flood occurred in June 1915 and would reduce development permanently on the flats after its catastrophic destruction.

This first fur trading post, Fort Augustus, built by the North West Company (NWC) in 1795, was located near present Fort Saskatchewan. The Hudson's Bay Company soon built Edmonton House across the river in the same year. These first posts were abandoned for sites further upriver, at what is now Rosedale, in about 1802, where they remained until 1810. Fur trade historian Alice Johnson notes that, "The exact date of the closing of the Edmonton House ... cannot be determined because the post journals for the seasons 1800-01 to 1804-06 are missing." (Johnson is certain that "by September 1806 the post then called Edmonton House was on the site of the present City of Edmonton.")

[Alice Johnson, Introduction, *Saskatchewan Journals and Correspondence. Edmonton House, 1795-1800, and Chesterfield House, 1800-1802* (London: Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1967)]

A third site at White Earth Creek, about 80 km northeast of Edmonton, was occupied briefly. Edmonton historian James MacGregor writes that Indians burned the forts at Rosedale following the move in 1810. The XY and Ogilvie Companies may have occupied sites in the vicinity between 1798 and 1804 too. Nancy Saxberg and her team proposed a location for this complex of forts straddling the present Rosedale Road, based on their recent

research. The two trading posts returned to Rossdale in the winter of 1812-1813, with what are known as Edmonton House IV and Fort Augustus IV.

[Nancy Saxberg, Claire Bourges, Scott Haddow, and Brian Reeves, "Fort Edmonton Burial Ground: An Archaeological and Historical Study," Report prepared for EPCOR by Lifeways of Canada Limited, Calgary, 2003]

The site of Edmonton was established as one of the principal fur trade settlements in the district after 1813. James Bird, in charge of Edmonton House IV in 1815, wrote in his "Edmonton Report, 1815," that "all ... methods for improving the trade that could be suggested have already been tried, outposts have been made in all favourable situations, and even the principal Settlements abandoned and new ones built...."

With the transfer of Rupert's Land from the HBC to Canada in 1870, the HBC took formal ownership of an important land "reserve" at the emerging Edmonton Settlement. The HBC would continue to administer this land. In addition to these reserves, the HBC also received one-twentieth of the land in the fertile belt, which includes Edmonton. This represented about two sections for every township in the Northwest Territories. The Crown administered the remaining land. The Hudson's Bay Reserve (HBR) at Edmonton, which included the site of Fort Edmonton, amounted to 3,000 acres north of the Saskatchewan River. All of Rossdale was included in the HBR.

Indian Commissioner Wemyss M. Simpson reported in 1871: "In the neighbourhood of Fort Edmonton...there is a rapidly increasing population of miners and other white

people.” A small settlement began to develop east of the Hudson’s Bay Company Reserve (HBR) retained by the Company following its land sale to Canada. The Edmonton Settlement grew slowly during the 1870s and 1880s, as the Canadian Pacific Railway bypassed the lower Leather Pass (Yellowhead Pass) for a southern route for political reasons, and ran through the Fort Calgary district instead.

[Report of the Indian Branch of the Department of the Secretary of State for the Provinces, 1871, pp. 31-32
[http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/indian affairs](http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/indian%20affairs). Indian Affairs Annual Reports, 1864-1990]

Land surveys by the new Dominion government would now define land use and were an integral and necessary part of the rapid settlement of the Edmonton district after 1870. The first land survey that had a direct effect on the Rosedale flats was a survey of the boundaries of the HBC reserve, carried out in 1873. It placed the Ross flats within the HBR, close to its eastern boundary. This survey was undertaken by the Dominion government at the request of the HBC, under the terms of the deed of surrender in 1869. W.S. Gore undertook this survey between 13 March and 17 March 1873, producing only an outline of the reserve. It simply located an outline of Fort Edmonton within the reserve boundaries, and the only other features on the flats shown in this survey are clumps of trees or bushes. W.F. King followed Gore, establishing the location of major settlements in the Edmonton district during 1877 and 1878, traversing the Edmonton Settlement, and beginning to take evidence regarding land claims at St. Albert. Surveyor Montague Aldous submitted a report from Edmonton late in the fall of 1879, noting “the urgent necessity which exists for the

immediate settlement and sub-division survey in the neighbourhood of Edmonton and Big Lake. Every year's delay will result in an endless amount of difficulty amongst those who are now taking up land in the country." Samuel Lucas began the survey of the Edmonton Settlement in 1881.

[Montague Aldous, "Report of Montague Aldous, Esq., D.T.S. Standard Outline Survey," Report of the Surveyor General of Dominion Lands, Part II, Annual Report of the Department of the Interior, 43 Victoria, For year ended June 1879, Ottawa: Maclean Roger and Co, 1880, p. 41; "Schedule Showing Dominion Land Surveyors Employed During Year Ending 31st December 1881," in Annual Report of the Department of the Interior For Year Ended 30th June 1881. Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co, 1882, p. 25]

Uses made of the Rossdale flats have changed as required over the years. In addition to being the sites of Fort Augustus/ Edmonton House II and IV, the flats were also used for agriculture, camping, and the Fort's burial ground during the 19th century. Trails crossed the flats, since this area was used largely as a transitional area connecting the north and south sides of the North Saskatchewan River for some time. By the 1870s, permanent residences stood on the east side of the flats, as well as above them, outside the Fort walls, although the flats remained largely unoccupied.

The earliest documented reference to agriculture at Rossdale Flats is associated with Edmonton House II. The traders planted barley, likely in the flats, and

returned to harvest it in 1810 from Fort Augustus / Edmonton House III, downriver at White Earth Creek. A description of agriculture at Fort Augustus / Edmonton House IV, which was located on Rosedale Flats, is provided by James Bird in his 1815 report. Bird described the soil in the vicinity of Edmonton House as being “a rich black mould of from one foot to eighteen inches in depth below which it becomes [river sand] at a depth of about three feet....”

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The Garden at Edmonton House was made in the Spring of 1814 its produce last Fall was two hundred Bushels of Potatoes, fifty bushels of turnips, eighty bushels of barley, and two thousand three hundred cabbages. The increase of barley and potatoes about twenty fold. The fence around the garden was considerably enlarged last spring bur all rhe new ground cannot be sown this season. Perhaps four times the extent of this garden might by degrees be brought into cultivation without additional expense but the produce of a greater extent of ground ... would interfere with the necessary duties of the Men in the Autumn.

END INDENT

[HBCA, B.60/e/1, James Bird, Edmonton Report, 1815. By 1818-1820 there were “no more than 5 acres under cultivation at Edmonton.” See B.60/e/3. Edmonton, Reports on Districts, 1818-1820: Cited in Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited, 2004, pp. 62-63]

Alexander Ross later described the land surrounding the fort built in 1812-1813 as having “two large parks [fields].” He added that “adjoining the cultivated fields is a very fine level race ground, of two miles or more in length,” foreshadowing a popular use later made of the flats as an exhibition and race track site.

[Frank G. Roe, “Edmonton: A Century Ago,” *Alberta Historical Review*, 12, No. 1 (Winter 1964), p. 11]

Terrance O’Riordan uses HBC post journals to describe expansion of the farming operation in the 1860s and 1870s, concluding that the Company “developed additional fields near the fort on the top of the riverbank, in addition to extending their existing fields on the flats below.”

[O’Riordan, p. 14]

Nancy Saxberg and her colleagues indicate the location of camps in the vicinity of the fort through their research. Saxberg concludes that “during the early history of Fort Edmonton V (1830s-1860s), the westernmost edge of the Rosedale Flats served as a camping area for local Aboriginal people trading at the Fort.” However her attempts to construct a chronology of camping activity on the flats in the 1860s-1880s, arguing that in the 1870s this use was shifted to an area behind the fort and away from the river, was “frustrated by lack of precision in the sources consulted.” This conclusion is also undermined by a painting of Fort Edmonton by Father Petitot which shows skin lodges on the flats east of the fort around

1876, and by at least one reference in the post journal to native people camped “below the hill” in 1873. There is also a description of a thirst dance held on the flats below the fort in 1882.

[Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited, 2004, p. 67]

A mixed pattern of land use emerged in Rossdale in the late 19th century. The 2004 Commonwealth report concludes that this reflected “the modest social status of its residents, the ambitions of its landowners, and visions of what the river valley might best be used for.” Rossdale now formed part of the broader Edmonton community, incorporated as a town in 1892 and a city in 1904. An electrical generating station was built here in 1902 and a water treatment plant was added in 1903. Roads, a railway line, and bridges all served to link it to the expanding city.

Development of the Rossdale flats reflected this change. In February 1882 Montague Aldous produced a plan of the southern portion of the HBR, from Jasper Avenue to the North Saskatchewan River, based on the survey work that he had done previously. The north-south streets were numbered from First to Twenty-first (101 to 121 Streets after 1914), and the east-west avenues were named (but also numbered after 1914). Some land was subdivided for future sale, while the most southerly portion south of McLeod (95th) Avenue and west of 104th Street, was retained “for the trade.” Features marked on this survey include a “warehouse” located on the riverbank, and the “burial ground.”

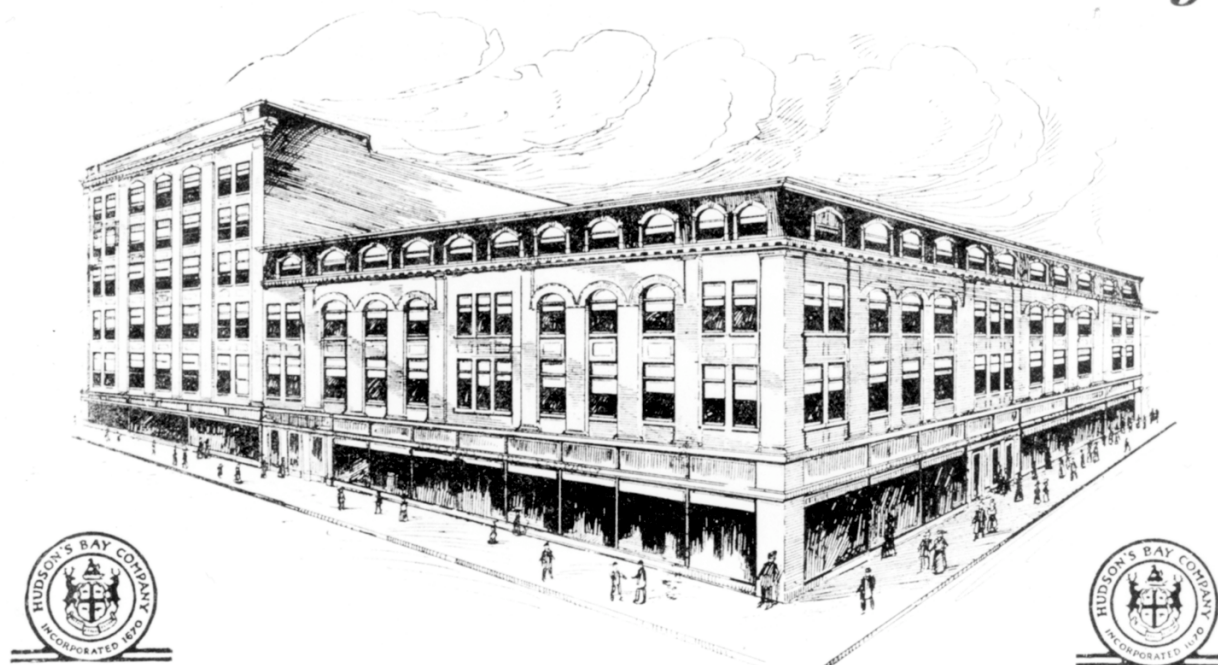
HBC land sales records indicate that much of this subdivided land on the Rossdale flats was sold on 12 April 1882 to Walker Stuart and Co. and the Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Co. Limited. Land speculators who felt the CPR would run through Edmonton were disappointed, and when the railway stopped in Strathcona, south of the river, they allowed their purchases to lapse. Most of the subdivided property on the flats reverted to the HBC.

Richard Hardisty ordered the construction of a new warehouse on the flats in 1881-1882, to allow ready access to river traffic. “[As] there is scarcely room for a good warehouse at the spot the Steamer lands, at present, I will build it on the flats below the Fort which will be more convenient for discharging cargo. I will have it ready for next season's use,” Hardisty reported. (This appears to be the warehouse located near the river on the Aldous 1882 survey.) The eastern part of this site appears to be located beneath 105 Street/Rossdale Road where it exits the 105th Street Bridge, according to the Commonwealth 2004 report.

The warehouse was the last major construction undertaken by the HBC below the fort site. An assessment of the other buildings in 1889 concluded that the existing warehouses were of no value, except to store freight when the steamboats were running. “In view of the prospect of a Railway to the town, on the completion of which the whole trade would be changed, no expenditure beyond that needed to keep up the necessary buildings is recommended.”

In 1882 the Hudson's Bay Company began to build a new retail store in the centre of the townsite, at the corner of 103rd Street and Jasper Avenue. "This marked the beginning of its withdrawal from the Fort Edmonton site," the Commonwealth report concludes, "and an inkling of the diminishing economic value of Rosedale."

The Rejuvenated Home of "The Bay"



Edmonton's Greatest Department Store

[CAPTION: City of Edmonton Archives EA-267-340 The Hudson's Bay Company opened an larger retain outlet in 1913, just before construction of its stables in Ross Flats.]

Bridges also transformed the flats. The construction of the Low Level Bridge did not signal the end of cross-river traffic at the upper ferry site. The service continued to be used until the completion of the High Level (1913) and

105th Street (1915) bridges. When the Edmonton District Railway Company (EDRC) proposed in 1895 that a “low level” bridge should be a combined rail and traffic crossing, Edmonton was quick to endorse its proposal, looking to speed the coming of a railway connection and enhancing its commercial competition with Strathcona. The EDRC received a charter “for the purposes of constructing a railway connecting the towns of North and South Edmonton” in 1896. The railway proposed locating a temporary station and freight shed on the flats. The station grounds, as proposed, occupied six blocks of property bounded by 107th Street in the west, 104th Street on the east, Saskatchewan (97th) Avenue on the north, and running down to the river between 107th Street and 105th Street.

The Edmonton District Railway was renamed the Edmonton Yukon and Pacific Railway (EY&P) in 1899; the Canadian Northern Railway acquired the charter in 1901. Work on laying track began in 1901, with the first stretch connecting Rosedale and Strathcona via the Low Level Bridge completed the following year. The EYP tracks had been laid at a diagonal across the flats by the end of 1905, and then up the riverbank in front of Fort Edmonton, extending north to the Canadian Northern (later Canadian National) yards on 104th Avenue. The line opened officially in 1908 and the Rosedale station was removed.

Plans for the construction of a spur line from the south of 97 Avenue and 104 Street, then down 104 Street to the powerhouse, also were approved by the Board of Railway

Commissioners in 1908. The decision to build the spur line was made by Edmonton City Council in May 1908, when it decided to use 30-foot, 60-pound rails purchased that year for the new Edmonton Radial Railway track. Heavy new equipment was installed at the municipal powerhouse that summer, and a rail connection was needed to transport it. Significant savings in the cost of transporting coal to the powerhouse was the main reason for this decision. The contract was awarded in mid-June, after grading was completed, and by 20 July 1908 it was complete. A spur line also ran east to the river from just west of the corner of 98^t Avenue and 102 Street, with a section house at the northwest corner of 98th Avenue and 102ⁿ Street.

[Vanterpool p. 24]

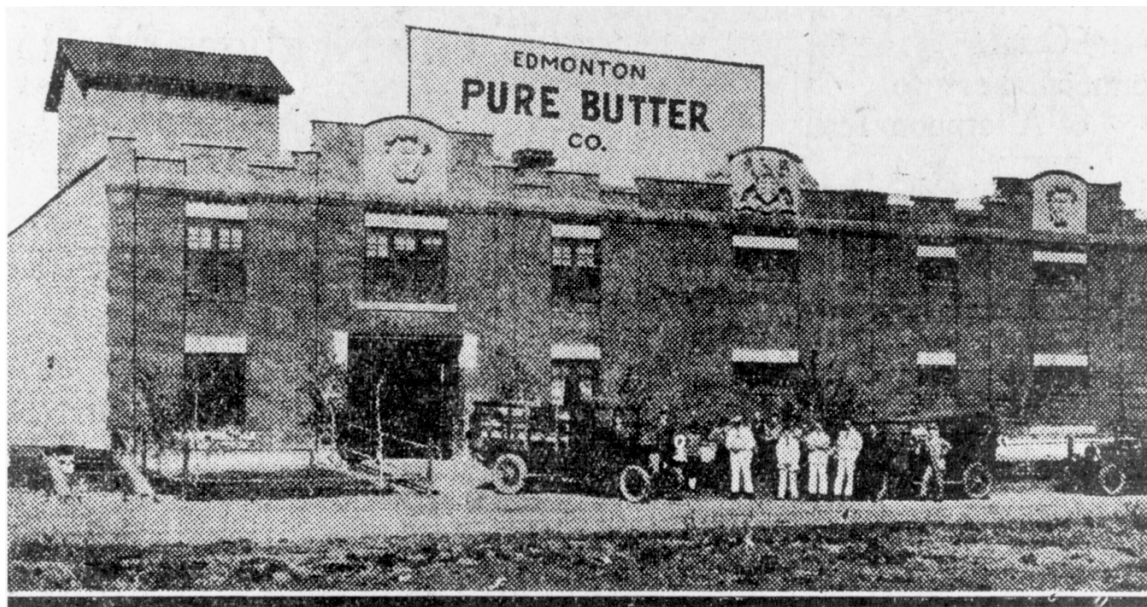
The railway altered the character of development in Rosedale by attracting industries such as the Dowling Grist Mill and the Edmonton Brewing and Malting Company outside the HBC Reserve. These industries were damaged extensively during the flood of June 1915, which scoured the flats. Many businesses and industries never recovered from this wartime disaster. EYP continued to operate until 1954, when the tracks were removed

The Edmonton Pure Butter Co. Ltd.

The Edmonton Pure Butter Co. Ltd. occupied 9722 - 102 Street from 1924 until 1928. J.P. Donald was the company vice-president, and C.E. Christensen managed the operation. Christensen established the Edmonton Pure Butter Company in 1924, leasing the Hudson's Bay Company stable and commencing business on 17 May. By 1925 EPB had a payroll of \$20,000, although it experienced some initial problems. In arch 1925 the company was fined \$40 and costs for "selling eggs which contained a large percentage of under grades. The firm was also charged with a further contravention of the regulations through failing to display in a prominent place a card setting forth the class and grades of eggs as defined by the Canadian standards." ["Orient Big Market For Edmonton Pure Butter," *Edmonton Bulletin*, 10 May 1926; *The Lethbridge Daily Herald*, 9 March 1925] Edmonton Pure Butter operated at this address for the five years of its existence, until the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool (NADP) purchased the company in 1928, just at a time that NADP was getting organized. The United Farmers of Alberta provincial government guaranteed a bank loan at this time, allowing NADP to acquired the plant and equipment from the Edmonton Pure Butter Company. This was the first creamery purchased by the Alberta Dairy Pool. The deal was completed and signed on 18 May 1928, and the board of directors of the Alberta Co-operative Dairy Producers, Ltd. stated that it was confident that "the Alberta Dairy Pool is actually in

business on its own behalf, and that the pool has in its service men both skilled in modern creamery methods and trained in cooperative principles”On 19 May 1928, NADP Limited commenced operations with Christensen continuing as plant manager. He would hold this position until 1945, when R. Stanley succeeded him.

[Bob Snyder, *Dairies of Edmonton 1905-1955, Milk Delivery in Edmonton*, [Edmonton]: np, February 2005. p. 13; “Alberta Dairy Pool Buys Its First Creamery,” *The Lethbridge Herald*, 19 May 1928]



The home of the Edmonton Pure Butter Company

[PHOTO: CEA EA-267-142. Edmonton Pure Butter Company staff in front of the main, east entrance in 1924.]

The plant was regarded as an example of the most modern type of operation. Large electric-powered receiving churns were capable of producing a thousand

“golden bricks” of butter daily. The *Edmonton Bulletin* singled out the refrigeration rooms, storage in “a special ice house outside,” and gas-fired hot water and steam supply, “so the entire building is kept free from dirt and dust,” for special praise. In 1925 over 750,000 pounds of butter were produced. In July 1925 the Edmonton Pure Butter Company won the provincial championship for Alberta at the Calgary fair, winning the third prize in overall taste. In 1926 it won second prize in the Alberta section for the Motherwell Prize at the Regina Fair.

[“Orient Big Market For Edmonton Pure Butter,” *Edmonton Bulletin*, 10 May 1926; *Manitoba Free Press*, 7 July 1925; *Manitoba Free Press*, 29 July 1926]

By May 1926 EPB claimed to have purchase agencies in almost all “cream centres” north of Red Deer, and estimated that it would pay out up to \$200,000 in cheques to dairy farmers by the end of the year. EPB also purchased eggs and poultry in season at this time. Its trucks met trains to transport cream and other produce to the plant every day.

In the spring of 1925 Edmonton Pure Butter began to ship thousands of pounds of butter into the north, on one week alone sending out a shipment of 25,000 pounds. Northern shipments were increased in following years.

By 1926 the Edmonton Pure Butter Company was being widely marketed.

Ploughing the waters of northern rivers and of western ocean routes, boats have carried to natives far within the

Arctic circle and to natives of the still farther Orient, and Edmonton product which has won fame half way round the world.

Japanese, Chinese, Eskimo and Siccani tongues have pronounced this product delicious in their own terms. British, Canadian, American and other nationalities of our own land have declared their satisfaction with equal gusto. Expert judges at the exhibitions across Canada have voted the opinion of these many races above reproach and showered silverware and ribbons on the makers of this product to officially proclaim it the best in the West.

*["Orient Big Market For Edmonton Pure Butter,"
Edmonton Bulletin, 10 May 1926.]*

Chris E. Christensen lived in Edmonton from 1916 until his death in California on 21 May 1945. He is very closely associated with the Ortona site. Christensen was born in c1879 in Glaesbog, Denmark, and after graduating from the Royal Danish Agricultural and Dairy College in 1907 he spent several years with important co-operative creameries in Denmark. In 1910 Christensen emigrated to Great Britain and managed a creamery there for one year. His obituary indicates that he began his business career with Beatrice Creamery Company in 1911. Snyder indicates that he went to the United States, where he managed the McGinnes Creamery Company in O'Neill, Nebraska from 1911 to 1915. While in Nebraska he apparently undertook experimental work and research that would later prove beneficial to the dairy industry in Edmonton. In 1916 Christensen moved to Alberta and

joined the staff of Edmonton City Dairy as its chief butter maker, where he introduced two significant changes in creamery practice: the high temperature pasteurization of cream, and neutralization of cream to a predetermined standard before churning. He also was a part-time instructor in dairying at the University of Alberta before setting up the Edmonton Pure Butter Company. He remained with ECD until the butter operation was sold in 1924. While with ECD its butter won shields presented by Hon. W.R. Motherwell at the Regina Exhibitions. Edmonton Pure Butter won the second shield offered by Motherwell at the 1925 Regina Exhibition. In the same year EPB also won the Alberta Cup for the sweepstakes in butter entries at the provincial industrial exhibitions.

[Snyder, *op. cit.*; "Christensen Dies in California,"
[Edmonton Bulletin], 22 May 1945.]

Christensen remained manager with NADP from 1928 until his retirement in 1945, after which he took a trip to the Pacific coast before retiring to California. (Russell Stanley replaced him as NADP manager in 1945.) Christensen's extensive experience is credited with playing "an important part in making the formative years of the NADP the success they became."

[*Northern Alberta Dairy Pool 50th Anniversary*, cited in Snyder, pp. 13, 26-28.]

The volume of butterfat manufactured by Pure Butter increased by the end of 1928 to such an extent that larger premises were required with more efficient equipment. In

1929 the first unit of a new plant was constructed at 10531 – 102 Street in Edmonton.

A further addition to the new plant was made in late 1929 to make provision for the fluid milk department. The latest of fluid milk equipment was installed and on 1 January 1930 the first NADP milk delivery wagon went into service. NADP expanded after 1930 with a sales branch being opened in Vancouver to distribute butter directly to stores throughout British Columbia. In 1932 the Wetaskiwin Dairy Pool was acquired; in 1935 NADP went into the cheddar cheese business with the purchase of the Thorsby Cheese Factory; in 1936 the Sedgewick Creamery was added to the cooperative; a new plant was built in Andrew in 1938 and a creamery was purchased in Edgerton. Then in January 1944 creameries in Wetaskiwin, Camrose, Daysland, Hay Lakes, Leduc, and Millet were purchased from Burns and Company, as well as cheese factories at Bawlf and Round Hill. (Millet was a combined creamery and cheese factory.) In November 1944 the remaining Burns and Company plants in northern Alberta were acquired.

[“Northern Alberta Dairy Pool 50th Anniversary,” cited in Snyder, *op. cit.*]

Alberta Poultry Pool Limited

The Alberta Poultry Pool Ltd., with its head office located in Camrose, Alberta, was incorporated under The Co-operative Marketing Act, on 19 June 1929. By May 1935

the company was inactive, and apparently considering going into liquidation, although it retained a full slate of officers and directors. In May 1935 Ralston S. Johnson, a farmer near Stettler, Alberta, was president; J.H. Badger, Camrose, was secretary-treasurer and manager; Mrs. Edward Kehoe, Camrose; B.C. Gilpin, Viking; C.O. Pool, Beaverlodge; William Burns, Three Hills; J. McKnight Hughes, Flatbush; and R.S. Johnson, Stettler, were directors. An audited balance sheet that July showed three \$100 shares with a deficit account of \$12,916.09, consisting of creditors' accounts with Canadian Poultry Sales Ltd. and the Alberta Egg and Poultry Marketing Service. Ralston Johnson submitted the Instrument of Dissolution on 7 August 1936. In addition to Burns, Hughes, Johnson, Pool, and Kehoe, the last, ten-member board of directors included: L.B. Hart, Carbon; Joseph Standish, Midnapore; J.R. Love, Edmonton; James W. Turney, Namao and J.E. Cook, Conjuring Creek. The Alberta Treasury Board directed on 31 August [1936] that the indebtedness of the struggling little pool (\$3,487.68) be written off. Dissolution of the Alberta Poultry Pool Limited was announced by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies on 11 September 1936.

[Alberta Corporate Registry, Co-Operative File 74, Registrar of Companies to Odell and Russell, Barristers, Wetaskiwin, 1 May 1935; 15 May 1935; Alberta Poultry Pool Limited Balance Sheet, 15 July 1935; Ralston S. Johnson, Statement, 7 August 1936; Instrument of

Dissolution 7 August 1936; Copy of Treasury Minute No. 1080, 31 August [1936]]

National Trade Schools Ltd. (NTS)

1928-c.1944

National Trade Schools Ltd. was incorporated on 8 June 1928. Some uncertainly surrounds its establishment and early organization, as a result of either careless or evasive reporting. Its goals are quite clear however. The company Memorandum of Association indicates that it was established “for the purpose of teaching all kinds of trades and occupations and more particularly but so as not to restrict the generality of the foregoing to establish schools for the teaching of” a broad range of trades. These included: “auto repairing and construction, tractor and gas engineering, automotive electricity, receiving radio, Master Mechanic [certification], welding, electric refrigerating engineering, battery, auctioneering, electric light plant course, electrical house wiring, general superintendent and contractor’s course, industrial electrical, home study in auto mechanics, bricklaying, plastering, tile setting, steam engineering, barbering (James Sooge was a barber), ladies’ hairdressing and beauty culture, diesel engineering and mechanics.” The Memorandum was signed by Earl M. Gilroy, indicated as manager, living at 10226-101 Street (the office address), Mrs. Alma M. Gilroy, his wife and a “housewife,” living at 10235-113

Street, and James Sogge, a barber, also listed at 10226-101 Street. Earl Gilroy owned 50 shares, Alma Gilroy 20 shares, and Sogge 20 shares at this time. It should be noted that these addresses, names, and other information are unreliable, and may include addresses of convenience for registration and reporting under the Alberta Companies Act, 1929, Section 117. The following was appended to the 1929 Annual Report: "...we beg to advise that the Report to 31st. December 1928 sent in recently is the correct one, the one you received 18th. January evidently having been made up too much in a hurry before we had got our accounts in shape and in it we think had given as one of the directors A.A. [sic] Gilroy, who is Secretary, instead of J. Babuik [sic], and in the List of Shareholders had F. Bohn down for 100 shares, whereas he didn't take them...." At any rate it seems clear that the principals were a small group consisting of Earl Gilroy, Alma Gilroy, James Sogge, Fred Bohn and Joe Babiuk. CHECK HENDERSONS FOR ADDRESSES]

[Alberta, Corporate Registry, File 7680, National Trade Schools Ltd. Records, E. Trowbridge, Registrar of Companies, 8 June 1928; Memorandum of Association of "National Trades Schools, Limited," 7 June 1928; Annual Report, 31 December 1929.]

The first meeting of National Trade Schools Ltd. was held on 29 June 1928, chaired by E.M Gilroy. The organization of the company was established at this meeting, with all motions moved by James Sogge and

seconded by Mrs. A.M. Gilroy. E.M. Gilroy was chosen as company president, and the fiscal year was established as extending from 29 June to the following 29 June. James Gogge was chosen as first Vice President, Assistant to the President, and treasurer for the coming year (this time moved by the Gilroys.) Mrs. Gilroy would serve as Second Vice President, although her actual role seems to have been as secretary. Peter Haydarak and Fred Bohme [sic] were chosen as branch managers and managing directors. Capital stock for NTS was \$25,000. As of 29 June 1928 Peter Haydarak owned 50 \$10 shares; Fred Bohme 100; Mrs. A.M. Gilroy 10; James Sogge 420, P.M. Gilroy 720, a total of 1360 shares, of the total 2,500 available.

[Alberta, Corporate Registry, File 7680, National Trade Schools Ltd. Records, First Meeting of the National trade Schools Ltd., 29 June 1928.]

By the end of the year Joseph Babiuk, of Calgary, also was listed as a director. By 1929 his address was reported as being the same as that for James Sogge – 10226-101 Street - the business office.

Earl and Alma Gilroy had operated a business in Calgary and Edmonton before they organized NTS in Edmonton in 1928. On 29 June 1928 these principals had entered into a verbal contract with the new company under which they took shares in NTS for their interests in the former company, or any other interests in NTS. The

schedule of equipment appended to a statement in 1930, indicates that NTS was essentially a auto shop in 1928, and includes an inventory of oil barrels, a grease pump, air compressor, tire and tube accessories and tools, a well equipped lathe setup, and various electrical fixtures and bench supplies. In addition the school had a 15-30 Plowman tractor, a Dodge car, a McLaughlin motor, Merkel motorcycle, Maxwell, Dodge and McLaughlin transmissions, Ford cylinder heads, radiators, crank shafts, cam shafts, and fly wheels.

[Alberta, Corporate Registry, File 7680, National Trade Schools Ltd. Records, Memorandum of Verbal Contracts Made Between National Trade School Limited and Earl. M. Gilroy, Alma M. Gilroy, James Sooge, and Joseph Babiuk," 14 June 1930.]

James Sooge and Joe Babiuk ceased to be directors on 17 June 1930. The company was reorganized as a private company by a special resolution on 8 December 1930, in the control of Earl and Alma Gilroy. The company seems to have languished as the depression continued, with no Annual Reports filed until 1934 when Emil Priebe, Mary M. Priebe and Nick Todoruk, of 10017-102 Avenue, are reported as company directors on the Annual Report. Mike Shewciw replaced the Priebees as director in 1935. No directors are listed on the significantly sparse Annual Report for 1936, while only Nick Todoruk remains in 1937, with William O. Parlee, barrister, the only addition during 1937 through 1944, when NTS seems to have faded out of the picture. NTS office moved to the Parlee

office at 301 Canadian Bank of Commerce Building when Parlee became involved. Parlee was listed as Secretary after 1938, and as away on active service on the 1942-1944 reports. James Scott, an accountant, whose address was also at the Parlee/NTS office address, became a director during 1940, perhaps in anticipation of Parlee's departure for war service. Fred T. Porada (11712-78 Street) was named director in 1944. At this time Todoruk owned 700 shares, as did Porada. Parlee retained three shares, while Scott held 17. E.R. Hughes, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, reported in September 1948, that he had reasonable cause to believe that National Trade Schools was no longer active, and that November NTS was struck off the Register and notice of this action published in the *Alberta Gazette* in January 1949.

[Alberta, Corporate Registry, File 7680, National Trade Schools Ltd. Records, Certificate 9 December 1930; Register of Directors 21 June 1930; Annual Reports 1930-1944]

Youth Training School, Boy's Department

1938

Helen Ferris, a columnist for the *Edmonton Bulletin*, reported a "youth rehabilitation scheme" located within the "large bright rooms of the Hudson's Bay Company's old warehouse" in January 1938. Ferris reported that the rooms were "humming with activity these lengthening winter days as some 90 boys –

approximately 50 from the city and 40 from the country – between the ages of 18 and 30, are bending industriously over home-made tables and work-benches.” The class at the Boy’s Department of the Youth Training Centre was instructed in carpentry, metal work, radio and telegraphy. It was hoped to later add leather craft. Radio parts and sets had been assembled at the school, with a lathe, circular saw, scroll saw and grinder, carpenters and machinists tools; the government had purchased some of these, but some were on loan from the instructors.

The function of this trades class was “to lay the foundation for the apprenticeship of young people in their chosen occupations, acquainting them with the equipment used in these occupations and giving them practice in its use.” Instructors established “what each boy is fitted for and what he wants to be,” Ferris wrote. “Then they try to place him in a suitable position for further training in shop, office, garage, etc, where he earns a small wage.”

“The government provides the boys with board and rooms, boarding them out privately, and giving them a helpful home environment,” she added. “They carry their lunches, and those who are at a distance of two miles or more from their boarding-houses are allowed one car [streetcar] ticket a day. If the distance is less than two miles they walk.”

The record of every trainee is carefully considered when the time comes to establish him in industry. The employer

himself selects the workers he needs from applicants recommended by the placement officers. In his situation each boy must do an honest job or he will be fired just as he would in commercial life.

The employer is paid a small "premium" by the government for the training received by the boy under him.

William Cornill, formerly with the federal Employment Department, was supervising the project for the Edmonton Civic Employment Office. Cornill was assisted by Charles Francis, an English-trained carpenter, and Dr. J.E. Horning, an Edmonton teacher and ornithologist. The entire "youth rehabilitation scheme" was administered by the federal government with the provincial governments. In the Edmonton district applications were made to the federal Employment Office in the Qu'Appelle Building or to other branches located in Edmonton. J.H. Ross, the principal of Western Canada High School in Calgary administered the urban part of the program in Alberta, while Donald Cameron, Acting Director of the Department of Extension, University of Alberta, administered the rural part of the program. Rural parts of the program such as poultry, dairy, and fur farming were omitted from the city curriculum, like that taught at the old HBC Stables building.

[Helen Ferris "Youth Rehabilitation Scheme," *Edmonton Bulletin*, 17 January 1938]

Commercial Cartage Ltd.

Commercial Cartage of Calgary was reincorporated as Commercial Cartage Ltd. in December 1955. Charles and Walter Frank Yeates, the owners, agreed to the use of the original name on 21 December 1955. Under the new Memorandum of Association (22 December 1955) Commercial Cartage Ltd. , now a limited liability company, stated that it would continue operating out of its Calgary head office, and would carry on its business as common carriers, that is, using its leased fleet for “general hauling and motor trucking for hire....” The Certificate of Incorporation for Commercial Cartage Ltd. was issued on 23 December 1955. Commercial Cartage Company had been around for some time, subcontracting the excavation for the Calgary Public Building (205 8th Avenue SE) during January 1930. The company had to pour a 12-foot concrete slab to check a very heavy flow of water that began as soon as the excavation commenced. The company also held made contracts with Calgary Power in 1932.

[Alberta Corporate Registry, File 19179, Commercial Cartage Ltd., Memo to Registrar of Companies, 21 December 1955; Memorandum of Association 22 December 1955; Articles of Association 21 December 1955; Notice of Directors 29 December 1955; Certificate of Incorporation 23 December 1955.; Calgary Public

Library website, Calgary Public Building; Glenbow Archives M1546-198. In 1955 Charles Yeates lived at 108 Crescent Road, Calgary; Walter Yeates lived at 1623-5th Street NW, Calgary. Robert D. Freeze, the company solicitor (of Freeze, Harradence and Kerr, 302-305 Foothills Building, Calgary), held one share, while Robert D. Kerr, also a solicitor in the same office, residing at 35 Highwood Place, Calgary, also held one share.]

On 2 April 1956 the Yeates brothers agreed to sell the assets and good will of their company to the new company for \$50,303.50. Commercial Cartage Ltd. was registered with its office at 131, 2nd Avenue West, Calgary, on 22 February 1956. Jack Soliway and Norman C. Keglovic, Calgary real estate salesmen, were appointed to the Board of Directors on 20 April 1957, replacing the Yeates brothers, and apparently completing the company transition. Keglovic would serve as Secretary-Treasurer. The head office address in 1957 also moved to 46th Avenue and 6th Street SE, Calgary.

[Alberta Corporate Registry, Agreement 2 April 1956; Notice of Registered Office under The Companies Act, R.S.A. 1942 Section 76, stamped 22 February 1956; Annual Report 31 December 1957. Jack Soliway lived at

2024 Briar Crescent, Calgary and Norman Keglovic at 2006, 35th Avenue SW, Calgary in 1957.]

The 1958 Annual Report indicates that Norman Keglovic, now living at 614 Meadowview Place, was company manager, while Bernard Nathan Laven, Calgary barrister and solicitor, had joined the board on 20 September 1958. Soliway also left the board on this day. The registered office for the company moved to 521 8th Avenue West, Calgary, during October 1958. The board consisted of Keglovic and Laven until 1963, when Walter James Finnie, a trucker, and Sylvia Audrey Finnie, both of 7415 7th Street SW, Calgary, took over the board, and its registered office moved to 230 Lougheed Building, Calgary on 5 December 1963. (The office moved to 512 Lougheed Building by January 1970.) The old board of directors stood down on 1 December 1963; the Fannies had been appointed on 5 December. Walter Finnie operated Finnie Hauling Contractors Ltd. (head office 605 4th Avenue NE, Calgary). The Fannies constituted the board after this; the company name was changed to Finnie Storage and Distribution Ltd. at the shareholders' meeting on 2 June 1972, and was registered on 12 June. The Fannies moved to 316 Meridian Road SE, Calgary during 1973. On 27 November 1975 the Finnie companies (Finnie Storage and Distribution Ltd.; Finnie Hauling Contractors Ltd.; Finnie Crane Service Ltd.; Finnie Pipe Stringing Ltd.) agreed to have Finnie Hauling Contractors Ltd. renamed

Finnie Holdings Ltd. and Finnie Storage and Distribution Ltd. taking on the old Finnie Hauling and Storage Ltd. name. Finnie Storage and Distribution became Finnie Hauling and Storage Ltd. on 24 November 1975, and was certified as such on 1 December 1975. Finnie Hauling and Storage head office moved to 600 Scotia Centre (700 2nd Street SW, Calgary) during June 1976. In 1978 the Finnies moved to Chestermere, Alberta, and in 1982 to Crossfield, Alberta. They retained control of the company, however. Head office moved again, to 3450 First Canadian Centre, 350 7th Avenue SW, Calgary, in March 1985, and again in February 1989 to 850 Highstreet House, 933 17th Avenue SW. By 1992 Larry P. Finnie and Jamie J. Finnie had joined the board, assuming greater control over the company.

[Alberta Corporate Registry, Annual Report, 31 December 1958; Annual Report, 31 December 1963; Annual Report 31 December 1964; Annual Report, 31 December 1972; Annual Report, Finnie Storage and Distributors Ltd., December 1973; Annual Report 1976. Laven lived at 850 Rideau Road, Calgary, in 1958.]

The Ortona Gymnastics Club

The Edmonton Society for Gymnastics-Fitness (Gym-Fit), known as the Ortona Gymnastics Club after 7

November 1980, was incorporated on 10 December 1976. Its stated goals were to “provide an organized program of gymnastics for all ages and abilities, [to] implant in the participants of the program the qualities of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, respect for authority, and a confidence in their own abilities, [and to] provide a worthwhile challenge through competitive gymnastics for those aspiring to higher levels of gymnastics.” After changing its name and becoming established in the Ortona site, the club amended its goals to strengthen its commitment to physical fitness as well as gymnastics. The club also widened its aspirations, to “promote and develop the amateur sport of gymnastics on an international and national scale through provision of a viable centre and facilities required to train coaches and gymnasts of national caliber.”

[Alberta Corporate Registry, File 50009771, The Edmonton Society for Gymnastics-Fitness (Gym-Fit), Certificate of Incorporation, 10 December 1976; The Societies Act Application 5 December 1976; Certificate, 7 November 1980; Notice of Special Resolution, 8 January 1981.]

Gym-Fit operated out of various schools, until moving into the Ortona Armouries in 1979. The building had been used by the Commonwealth Games organization

during 1977 and 1978. Under John Herb, who joined the Club in 1976, and became its head coach five years later, the Ortona Club groomed Allan Reddon to qualify for the 1984 Olympics. (Arthur Reddon, an agrologist, and his wife Midge were very active in the club from the beginning. Art Reddon would later serve as club president.) Laura Mann appears to have been the first president, Jack Jette the first vice-president, Marvin Smith treasurer, and Reddon secretary. Bert Vanden Biggelaar and Anne Hamilton were the only board members in 1978. Gordon Osborne was the first head coach. At its height it would operate as many as thirteen satellite clubs out of its Ortona Armouries site.

[Alberta Corporate Registry, File 50009771, The Edmonton Society for Gymnastics-Fitness (Gym-Fit), Annual Report 1977; "Edmonton, 200 Years Building Together, Ortona celebrates 19 years of gymnastics history," *Edmonton Examiner*, 30 June 1995.]

John Herb became head coach of the Ortona Gymnastics Club on 1 June 1981. Herb was born in Budapest in 1934, and obtained a physical education and master sports diploma in 1956, the year of the Hungarian Revolution. He competed on the Hungarian Olympic gymnastics teams in 1952 and 1956. Only after a crippling injury did he cease competition and take up coaching. Although he coached the Hungarian team for

the 1968 Olympics, he did not attend that event. He and his wife Gabriella left Hungary in 1969. "I love my country. I love the history," Herb said, "but I hate the Communist system." He defected while attending a gymnastics competition in Vienna as a coach, accompanied by his wife, who was judging at the same competition. They had to leave their son Richard behind with his grandparents, who were harassed because of the defection. Richard was reunited with the family three years later. The Herbs first lived in Montreal, then in Vancouver, and after 1972 in Victoria, where he discovered and coached Philip Dellesalle, who came first overall in most competitions at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton. After taking over a club in Australia, the Herbs returned to Canada, where he began his time working with the Ortona Club in 1976. John competed with the Canadian national team from 1973 to 1978.

[Marty Knack, "Ortona Club is gym-dandy!" Edmonton Journal, 18 June 1981; "Driving force in gym, John Herb dead at 54," Edmonton Journal, 24 November 1988.]

The Ortona Gymnastics Club sent four competitors to the national championships in Halifax as part of the Alberta team in 1982. Reeve Martin, the provincial champion, Tony Smith, the provincial junior champ, and Dave Dyre, the provincial rings champ, were coached by Herb, while Lisa Grieve represented the senior girls.

["Ortona gymnasts in national tourney," *Edmonton Journal*, 22 April 1982.]

In 1983 the club was in some jeopardy. On 1 April that year the Ortona Armouries and the separate drill hall were turned over to the City of Edmonton by the federal government as part of a complex property exchange. Until this time, the Ortona Club was paying a monthly rental of \$1800 for the drill hall, utilities included. Sam Harbison, the club president at the time, reported that Greg Bodnar, the city leasing officer, had notified the club that its rent would be raised to \$3600. Harbison petitioned city council to extend the lease for one dollar annually, and would undertake to pay the utilities. At the time the club had 472 active gymnasts starting with three-year-olds, and extending to members in their thirties.

The Ortona Club was very active in these years, with 68 gymnasts aged ten to eighteen at competitive levels, with members like Lisa Grieve, Shae Lee Strifler and Stephen Latham winning A level gold medals in Alberta and Western Canada competition during the spring of 1983. By 1984 Stephen Latham, twelve years old, was training every day for up to four hours, in preparation for what the club hoped would take him to the 1988 Olympics. Latham, who started training at the age of seven, by this time had won all-round at the Western Canadian championships in 1983, the Manitoba open championship that same year, as well as two Alberta

championships. He won the Alberta Tyro Class competition in 1984, with four gold medals. He then went on, undefeated, to take five golds at the Western Canadian Gymnastics Championships in Winnipeg in May 1984. [Shirley Hunter, "Club hopes city's willing to bend a bit," *Edmonton Journal*, 21 May 1983; Heather LaRoi, "Young gymnast chasing a golden dream," *Edmonton Journal*, 7 April 1984; "Five medals for gymnast," *Edmonton Journal*, 8 May 1984.]

Also, by 1984 John and Gabriella Herb were training an eager cadre of young gymnasts, some as young as two years, who were introduced to floor exercise, balance beams, rings, trampoline and the uneven bars at the elementary level. [Heather LaRoi, "Kiddie gymnastics a springboard to a more flexible life," *Edmonton Journal*, 30 January 1984.]

The Ortona Club began negotiations with the People's Republic of China gymnastics officials, and the Canadian immigration and labour departments in June 1985, hoping to attract Ming and Feng-Hua Qiu as coaches to enhance their international competitive aspirations. Ming had been a coach with the Chinese team at the World University Games in Edmonton in 1983. He had been coaching for two decades in Guangzhou, and was happy to reunite with his brother Xu-Ming in Edmonton. By this time, John Herb claimed the Ortona as the largest

gymnastics club in Canada, with 1300 members. “We will use a combination of Chinese and Canadian techniques,” Herb reported. “We have to put together routines to beat the champions.” Part of the plan was to have the Chinese coaches groom Stephen Latham for greater things. [*Edmonton Journal*, 9 May 1986.]

Work commenced on a new club facility in November 1987, while title to the land was obtained in December. Questions raised by City Council delayed construction at the new site and led the contractor to withdraw. While a new contractor was located, the added demands of winter construction led to cost overruns. Work was virtually completed by the end of March 1988, despite the many setbacks. The Ortona Gymnastics Club moved out of its namesake venue, and into its new facility at 8755-50 Avenue during 1988. Premier Donald R. Getty officially opened the new facility on 30 June 1988, with many dignitaries present for the event. This facility, characterized by its air-supported “bubble roof” providing a column-free interior of 22,500 square feet, would be shared by the Dynamo Weight-lifting Club. John Herb died of a heart attack in November 1988. The year 1988 marked a terminal point for the Ortona Club’s relationship with the Rossdale site. [Alberta Corporate Registry, File 160389, Society Annual Return, 1988; Gary Logie, “Club ‘bubbling’ over, Ortona Gymnastic Club set to raise roof,” *Edmonton Examiner*, 28 February 1988; *Edmonton Journal*, 24 November 1988.]

Ortona Gallery

Michael Caskenette, Director of the Ortona Gallery, curated a populist art exhibition rescued from garbage cans, or donated free to charities like the Salvation Army. These included large oil paintings, acrylic portraits, watercolour landscapes, and other “garbage art” rescued by Caskenette over a period of time. At first these turned up in his search for discarded frames, but rather than throw out the art itself, he kept some of his favourites. “I kept each and every one of these pieces,” he said, “because there’s been something in them that spoke to me.” While some might discount much of the material as kitsch, Caskenette saw “the effort that goes into each piece. Every one of these has a story, and the effort that went into these is no different than the effort that goes into any piece of art.” [Jeff Craig, “Trash collector, One artist’s gold is another man’s garbage – literally,” *Edmonton Journal*, 12 March 1997]

Marlena Wyman, painter and printmaker, held her premiere exhibition of “Skin Deep,” featuring new paintings in her series, in the Ortona Gallery, on 13 February 1995. This exhibition ran until 5 March. [CEA, Announcement, Ortona File.]

The Changing Rossdale Neighbourhood

At the turn of the 20th Century “Rossdale was a living community with a significant resident population.” The Town of Edmonton census of 1899 listed 135 people living at the coal mines and “Ross’ Flat.” The Fire Insurance Plan (1907) shows most of the residential development east of 106 Street; the Fire Insurance Plan (1913) indicates some further residential development, with the area west of 104 Street still largely bush. The HBC Stables occupied an open area after construction in 1914. In 1899 the HBC responded to poor land sales in the flats by converting its subdivided properties to acreages, but following 1913 the lots bounded by 101 Street and 104 Street, and by 96 Avenue and 98 Avenue, were placed on the market once again. This led to some further development before the market decline during 1913, the First World War breaking out in 1914, and the flood of 1915, all conspired to suppress most additional development on the Rossdale flats for some time. In June 1913 the HBC Land Commissioner reported that the residential area located east of 101 Street as “being built up with a very inferior class of buildings. The people are mainly labourers, mill hands and artisans, who have located there because the property was central and prices relatively low.” Some of the properties sold in 1913 and 1914 would not be connected to the sewer system until 1923.

[Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited (Harold Kalman, Project Manager, Heritage Resource Planner, Meg Stanley, Senior Historian, Clint Evans, Historian, Brian Ronaghan, Senior Archaeologist,

Golder Associates, Guy Cross, Geophysicist, Golder Associates), *Rossdale Historical Land Use Study*, for City of Edmonton Planning and Development Department, February 2004, pp. 131-134]

Rossdale had 765 residents in 1915, but following the flood that year, it took until 1925 to reach a population of 840. By 1945 some 1,364 residents lived in Rossdale.

[*Ibid.*, pp. 140-141]

Edmonton Zoning By-law No. 26 (1933), Edmonton's first, saw most of Rossdale declared parkland or two-or-more family housing. Following the Second World War many vacant lots were developed, and small apartments began to be constructed as infill.

INDENT

This pattern of slowly-increasing densification did not impress the authors of Edmonton's Urban Renewal Study who, in 1963, found much of the housing stock in Rossdale was in poor condition and recommended that the area be cleared for parks and parkways. Although this study was not adopted as policy, Joseph Ryan, who wrote his M.A. thesis on the effect of planning regulations in Rossdale, believes that the recommendation, in conjunction with the traffic and park land studies..., negatively affected the level of investment in the neighbourhood. This resulted in what Ryan calls 'planning blight.' Especially important, in the context of residential development..., was the City's acquisition of properties to facilitate road development. This, in conjunction with the Provinces property

acquisition...along 106 Street, resulted in the loss of homes. In 1978 Council adopted, as official policy, plans to consolidate all privately-owned property in the river valley, eliminating the valley communities. This plan faced considerable opposition and was reversed in 1983.

END INDENT

[Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited, *Rossdale Historical Land Use Study*, 2004, p. 145]

The City of Edmonton adopted the Rossdale Area Redevelopment Plan in 1986, when the neighbourhood population was 545 residents. No construction had occurred since 1969, with most wood-frame housing predating 1930, much of it in need of maintenance. Many residents were renters, with some living in the more recent apartment infill, or the single Tower Hill highrise.

[City of Edmonton, Planning and Building Department, Neighbourhood Profile Report, Rossdale Area Redevelopment Plan, 1986]

Rossdale remained something of a working class neighbourhood in 1986, but would change to a more professional residential identity during the following two decades.

David Morgan lived in Rossdale during the early 1970s and early 1980s. He recalls a pleasant working class residential district in those days. The Community

League operated out of the Little Flower School. The Arctic Ice Factory was one of the principal neighbourhood landmarks at the time. David recalls that, “after the seventh inning they let you in free at Ducey.” More artists seemed to live in Rossdale flats in those days and it was more like Riverdale that way, before it all became “high end.” There were “lots of musicians, and it was much more a community than during its “post-gentrification.”

Neighbourhood grocery stores “pulled the neighbourhood together.” He recalls that one such store was run by a couple named Jim and Olga. Jim was a butcher. A second was a Chinese store – Jim Poon, an older man kept a late night store open for milk and other things.

[John David Morgan, Ken Tingley interview, Ortona studio, 7 April 2009]

By 1986 most of the Rossdale population was aged 20 to 44 (63.8%), almost equally distributed between men and women. By 1991 this age group represented 62.4%, and in 1996 this was 50.4%, with a greater percentage of children and young adults below the age of 20. In 1999 the main age group of 20-44 rose to 55.8%, bookended by youth (22%) and those over 44 (approximately 22%). In 2001 the 20-44 group represented 56.6%, with youth declining to 13.1% and those over 44 representing 30.1%. By 2005 the middle group (20-44) accounted for 49.3%, those under 20 14.5%, and those over 44 35.8%. The neighbourhood

remained quite stable, albeit aging slightly, between 1986 and 2005. Most were nonsectarian, declaring “no religion” on the 1991 federal census (42.2%). In 1991 this category accounted for 37%. Listed “ethnic origin” for 1986 was British (27.4%); “other single origins” (14.3%); Ukrainian (14.3%); and French (3.6%).

In 1986 slightly over half of the “occupied private dwellings” in Rossdale had been built before 1946 (125 houses). Another 22.4% had been built between 1946 and 1960 (55 houses); 26.5% between 1961 and 1970; and none after 1971. Another 65 houses were built in Rossdale between 1986 and 1990. This represented about 21% of the dwellings in Rossdale. Between 1991 and 2001 another 175 houses were constructed.

In 1991 single detached houses represented 48.4% of dwellings, while apartments accounted for 42%. In 1996 these figures changed to 51.4% and 31.4% respectively. By 1999 types of dwelling were 40.5% and 41.3% respectively. This trend continued, and in 2001 comparative types were 37.8% and 44.5% respectively. In 2005 the Municipal Census indicates that there were 242 apartment dwelling units in Rossdale, 167 single detached houses, and 46 row house units. A higher percentage of Rossdale residents now lived in apartments or row houses (64.4%), compared with 35.6% living in single detached houses.

In 1986 most houses were rented (83%), but by 1991 42.9% of occupied private dwellings were owned. This

figure rose to 50.7% (1996); 53.4% (1999); and 61.5% (2001).

Average household income in Rossdale was \$23,577 in 1986. This rose to \$44,580 (1991), \$49,730 (1996) and \$82,656 (2001).

A new category of employment in the 2001 federal census indicated that 20 people (3.2%) in Rossdale worked in “arts, entertainment and recreation.”

The Lambert Scott Study 1988-1989

Lambert Scott Architects Ltd. was commissioned by the City of Edmonton River Valley Development Group on 20 October 1988 to carry out an evaluation of the Ortona Armouries building. The study was to provide accurate base drawings of the building, an architectural assessment, structural evaluation, confirmation of floor loading and bearing capacity to support new floors, mechanical assessment, electrical evaluation, and identification of development options for the Ortona Armouries. The study was also to include “architectural and historical references indicating the potential for reuse of the facility or a portion of the facility in terms of establishing a theme for a proposed new development.”

[Lambert Scott Architects Ltd., *Ortona Armoury Building Evaluation*, January 1989, p. 1]

At the time of the study in 1988 -1989 occupants of the Ortona included the City of Edmonton River Valley

Development Group, as well as the National Film Board, which used the building for offices and storage.

Ortona Armouries Artists Community

Michael Caskenette played a key role in leading the transition of the Ortona Armouries from a facility used by artists' organizations to a community of independent artists. He moved into the Ortona Armouries in November 1993. Born in Kitchener, Ontario, he was raised in Ontario and Alberta. After developing restaurants, where he introduced the notion of displaying original art at a fairly early date, he began to develop an interest in the art of photography. David Morgan, a friend, encouraged him to move into the Ortona to use a spare room as a studio. Michael also knew Barry Sawchuk, from his years at Jasper Place High School. With Marlena Wyman, who already had a studio in the Ortona (since 1992), the core group was in place that would lead the Ortona into almost two decades which would transform the character of the building.

[Michael Caskenette, Interview with Ken Tingley, 8 May 2009]

Michael recalls that during the 1990s the Ortona “was pretty empty.” When the National Film Board moved out it left some equipment, and FAVA moved in. The steel band Trincan, the earliest tenant still in the building, was already ensconced on the main floor, as was the Minor Hockey organization office, Sean

Pinchbeck, a noted musician, as well as a working caricaturist, and a construction contractor. On the first floor was Barb Allard, Rick Gustafson and Rainbow Bridge. This mixed bag would form the nucleus of the character of the building. The attractive nature of the Ortona was spread by word of mouth, and over the years tenants played a kind of musical chairs with the available space. Marlena Wyman recalls that “as businesses moved out, artists moved in,” a trend encouraged by Michael Caskenette and David Morgan, with the support of Barry Sawchuk. “If it continued to be used as a commercial building, then commercial interest would always rule over artistic interests,” Michael felt. “There were a number of ways the building could go.... When this occurred to me I thought, this could be a great arts building.” Like others, Michael recalls that “I come from a place where there are old buildings, and I just love old buildings.” This vision would infuse others in the Edmonton arts community, and when George and Ruth Kardy, who developed much of the surround Rossdale area, moved out in 1999, no more businesses were tenants, and the character of the Ortona was established as an artists community in the heart of the river valley.

[Ibid]

The Ortona Armouries Tenants Association (OATA) was incorporated in 1998. Marlena later recalls the impulse behind the move to create OATA:

We decided that we wanted to keep this building as an arts building, and to encourage the City to keep it as an arts building. So we wanted to raise money to help fix the building and we figured if we did some little repairs, and showed that we were interested in stewardship of the building, then the City would look more favourably upon us.

[Ibid]

Michael recalls that the need for money to maintain the building led directly to the creation of OATA, and preceded incorporation by a couple of years. He was standing behind the building on the evening of 1 July 1996 with a friend [Tom Bernier, the filmmaker], and noticed that, since the Edmonton Trappers were playing at Renfrew Park, the parking lot was full to overflowing. He observed that if the building could collect \$3.00 for every car, they could generate some money to fund the many small jobs necessary to keep the Ortona a viable structure. He and his friend laughed, but the idea never went away for Michael, who kept thinking about it through 1997. This finally led to a plan to approach the City of Edmonton through Barry Sawchuk. When OATA was incorporated in 1998 it could collect parking fees during baseball games and arts festivals. The Edmonton Folk Festival provided volunteers to man the parking lot.

[Ibid]

OATA members each have one vote. “We’re all of the same mind, with different minds,” Michael says. “Things get a little crazy at times.” FAVA remains the most influential group on OATA, and sometimes some tensions have existed between the requirements of the dominant organization, and those of the individual members of OATA. When the Folk Festival moved out of Ortona, it left its space for FAVA, further increasing its presence in the building.

[*Ibid*]

OATA led the campaign to obtain Municipal Designation as a Historic Resource, while Marlena relocated the cast cement cartouches with the help of Leslie Latta-Guthrie, and oversaw their restoration and reinstallation on the front façade of the Ortona. It has continued to oversee maintenance of the building, with assistance from the City. In 2000 OATA initiated a project to keep the kitchen in good condition. It also obtained federal funding to restore the brick, removing layers of Navy paint, which required careful chemical-based restoration and repointing.

[*Ibid*]

David Morgan, who works from his studio in the Ortona Armouries, joined FAVA in 1989 and began working at FAVA in 1992. He would spend almost 16 years with FAVA as Production Coordinator. He has seen many changes in the Ortona Armouries, Rosedale, and the relationship between the two, over the years. At the

time he joined FAVA David lived in a house across the street from the Ortona. “I walked over to see what was happening in the building....” Rossdale at the time was “low-income housing,” he recalls. Before moving into the house across from the armouries, David lived south of the present freeway, before that freeway was built.

FAVA started out in one little room downstairs in the North Wing before David began working there in 1992. The National Film Board (NFB) also was in the Ortona at the time. David Morgan’s second-floor studio on the east side above the main entrance was then part of the NFB when he first arrived on the scene. His father visited him and indicated that David’s FAVA office had been one he used during the Second World War while training with the RCNVR.

David recalls that some of the tenants in 1992 were the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, Edmonton Minor Hockey Association, and Kardy Development (located in what is now David Morgan’s studio). Kardy was a significant developer in the Rossdale neighbourhood.

David was born Victoria, British Columbia, and moved to Edmonton about high school age, attending Jasper Place High School. His father was born in Edmonton, where he worked for the T. Eaton Co. When his father joined RCNVR, he enlisted at HMCS *Nonsuch*. His father served for the duration. David visited his grandmother in Edmonton during the summers, where he stayed with her, and learned to shoot with the Boy Scouts down in Rossdale in the Ortona Drill Hall in the southwest Ortona

yard. “It was like a giant Quonset hut,” he recalls. “They drilled in there ... and events took place in there. It was kind of a beautiful old building. I worked [there later] during the Edmonton Commonwealth Games. I was with McBain Camera [at the time] and I was doing media supplies for the Commonwealth Games. The headquarters for the Commonwealth Games was in the Drill Hall.” David remembers the Drill Hall as very hot, with a “peculiar smell.” Sea Cadets used the Drill Hall at the time. It was sort of “dark and dingy.” Later “the Gym Club started in the Drill Hall.” FAVA has at times had plans to rebuild a replica Drill Hall on site as a “black box” for performance art, and as a studio. The flagpole foundations remain on their original site near the Drill Hall.

“Ortona has become an arts building,” David feels. While it began with a much smaller representation of artists in it during the 1970s, it gradually evolved into the present artists community. “Every time someone would move out, either an artist would move in or FAVA would say we need more space.” It evolved in this organic way with no set policy to develop this character.

The Ortona Armouries Tenants’ Association (OATA) grew out of this emerging arts community. The OATA vision developed: “Let’s look out for the building beyond our tenancy here.” A sense of ownership became stronger as the resident artists began to contribute to the municipal character from its recognizable centre. Marlena Wyman, for example, worked hard through OATA to have the

cartouches that had been removed restored to the front of the building.

FAVA's growth and the development of an arts community at Ortona was the principal development during the 1980s. It grew organically from the arts community and remains a place where artists work. "The activity in the building goes all the time," David notes. About 300 people are associated with FAVA for example. Also photographers, musicians, and painters haunt the building. Trincan steel band, the oldest continuous tenant, practices Friday night and Sunday afternoon. Still, the building is substantially constructed and remains quite quiet.

Barry *Sawchuk* oversaw much of this development as liaison with the City of Edmonton. *Sawchuk* was responsible for the very good relationship between OATA and the City. In fact, OATA and the City have worked on a million dollar upgrade, signaling the value attributed to the site by Edmonton.

[John David Morgan, Ken Tingley interview, Ortona studio, 7 April 2009]

Conclusion

The Ortona Armouries is a significant part of the most important cultural and historic district in Edmonton. Rosedale was the site of key developments in the history

of Edmonton. The Armouries were part of the history of the Hudson's Bay Company, and played an important role in regional and national military history. Its other uses have touched on commercial developments related directly to their historical context. Finally, it has established its role as a significant part of the arts community of Edmonton during the past two decades.

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Appendix: For Selection of Possible Illustrations

City of Edmonton Archives



EA-10-1132

Edmonton from 107 Street and 97 Avenue, C.1915



EA-160-1354

From Macdonald Hotel Annex, includes HMCS *Nonsuch*,
c.1952



EA-600-655b

Sorting Christmas parcels at HMCS *Nonsuch*'s drill hall, temporarily used by the Edmonton post office, December 22, 1947.



EA-600-897

HMCS *Nonsuch*, Canadian Navy ship celebrates 26th anniversary two boys, Ronald and Danny Zuccer in gun room, March 16, 1948

Glenbow Archives



NA-2251-2

Cree Camp on Ross Flats, Edmonton, Alberta, 1905.



NC-6-1438

Ross flats flood from McDougall Avenue (100 Street),
Edmonton Abler, 1915.



NC-6-11960c

The Hudson's Bay Company, horse-drawn wagon,
Edmonton, Alberta, April 1927.



NC-6-12446

Horse for Hudson's Bay Company, Edmonton, Alberta,
April 1929.



ND-3-2198

Santa Claus on parade float, Edmonton, Alberta, 1923.

Glenbow Archives ND-3-3574



ND-3-3574

Hudson's Bay Company trucks, Edmonton, Alberta, 1927.

*Glenbow Archives ND-3-3576



ND-3-3576

Hudson's Bay Company horse teams, Edmonton, Alberta, 1927.