

OLD COURT HOUSE

Minimum Documentation

1. Unique f/p/t identifier

2. Jurisdiction

Alberta

3. Name of Historic Place

Old Court House

4. Location of Supporting Documentation

Red Deer and District Archives

Archivist

City of Red Deer

PO Box 5008, 4914 - 48 Avenue

Red Deer, AB T4N 3T4

Files:

Research File MG-250-5(1)

Red Deer Historical Walking Tour, 1983

Red Deer Historical Walking Tours, 1990

Photo Collections

Alberta Community Development

Cultural Facilities and Historical Resources

Old St. Stephen's College

8820 – 112 Street

Edmonton, AB T6G 2P8

File:

Designation File 838

Provincial Heritage Inventory Data Base

The Canadian Court House Before 1930 volume 3, The Western Provinces and Territories prepared for the Historical Sites and Monuments Board by the Canadian Inventory of Historical Buildings, Parks Canada, 1979.

Early Canadian Court Houses, compiled by Margaret Carter, National Historic Sites and Monuments Branch, Parks Canada, Environment Canada, 1983.



Figure 1: Old Court House, 1998

5. Formal Recognition Authority

Local Governments (AB)

6. Statute

Historical Resources Act

Condition or Covenant on the Land - City of Red Deer

7. Formal Recognition Type

Municipal Historic Resource

8. Formal Recognition Date

2001/04/10

9. Owner Notification and Owner Response

Notification: yes

Response type: yes

10. Specific Location of Historic Place

4836 Ross Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 1X4

Lat N 52.26875 / 52 degrees 16 min 9 sec

Long W -113.8113 / -113 degrees 48 min 40 sec

Mandatory Documentation

11. Specific Location

4836 Ross Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 1X4

12. Description of Boundaries

Plan K, Block 28, Lots 1-4.

Excepting thereout:

(a) all mines and minerals.

13. Area of Historic Place

1161 m²

0.116 hectares

0.287 acres

14. Number and Type of Contributing Resources

One building

15. Historic Place Functional Category (original)

Government

16. Historic Place Function Type(s) (original)

Courthouse

17. Description of Historic Place

The Old Court House is located on the northeast corner of Ross Street and 49 Avenue adjacent to Red Deer's downtown civic square. It is a two storey classic revival masonry building constructed in 1931. A 1958 rear addition gives the building an L-shaped footprint.

18. Heritage Value of Historic Place

Historical Value

The historical significance of the Old Court House lies in its link to a new provincial judicial system replacing the Supreme Court of the North West Territories. Originally planned in 1907, the Red Deer Court House was finally constructed in 1931. It is a symbol of renewed optimism in the local economy and in Red Deer's development as a city. The Old Court House is closely associated with the United Farmers of Alberta's government policy to decentralize public buildings outside the major centres of Calgary and Edmonton. The building is associated with Premier Brownlee who opened it in 1931. The Old Court House served as the centre of justice for Red Deer and area, housing both the Provincial Court and the Court of Queen's Bench until 1983. The Old Court House has a memorial association as the location of the 1959 murder conviction of Robert Raymond Cooke, the last person sentenced to be hanged in Alberta.

Architectural Value

The Old Court House is an architectural landmark exemplifying classical revival architecture. It was the last courthouse to be built in this style from a standard Alberta Public Works plan and retains full integrity of design and historic fabric. Its formal, conservative monumentalism was designed to engender public respect for the young province and its judicial system.

19. Character-defining elements

- Form and massing that defines the court house as a landmark building
- Classical revival style elements such as the two Palladian style entries, especially the main entry with two storey Ionic portico surmounted by pediment and balustrade featuring the provincial crest carved in stone

- All exterior architectural elements including the pattern of fenestration, terra cotta tiled roof, Flemish bond red brick walls, and Tyndall limestone.
- All original interior features, finishes, and associated furnishings of the second floor court room (including the vaulted ceiling, judges' chambers and jury room); as well as all of the building corridors, stairways, rotunda, and foyers, including birch windows, doors, casings, and base boards.

20. Photographs/Images

Contemporary Photo

Image Description: Exterior south view of the Old Court House, September 2003

Image Caption: South view of the Old Court House main entry as seen from Ross Street, 2003

Image Copyright: City of Red Deer, 2003

Image Misc/Info. : N/A

Image Type: Exterior Photo



Figure 2: Contemporary Photo, Old Court House

Historical Photo

Image Description: Exterior southwest view of the Old Court House, circa 1935

Image Caption: Southwest view of the Old Court House, circa 1935

Image Copyright: Red Deer and District Archives, PA-90-81-1.

Image-Misc. Info.: N/A

Image Type: Historic Photo



Figure 3: Historic Photo, Old Court House

Historical Photo

Image Description: South view of the Old Court House, from City Hall Park, 1955.

Image Caption: Post card view of the Old Court House from City Hall Park, 1955

Image Copyright: Red Deer and District Archives, gf-86-25-nov-90-1

Image-Misc. Info.: N/A

Image Type: Historic Photo



Figure 4: Historic Photo, Old Court House, view from City Hall Park

Optional Documentation

21. Other name(s)

Red Deer Court House
Old Red Deer Court House

22. Cross-reference to Historical/Archaeological Collection

Archival collection at the Old Court House Professional Centre, 4836 Ross Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 1X4

23. Ownership of Historic Place (category)

Freehold - corporate

24. Historic Place functional category and type(s) (current)

Commerce – Commercial Building

25. Construction date range

1930 to 1931

26. Significant Dates

1907
1931 to 1983
1959

27. Associated event/person/organization/architect/builder

Province of Alberta (architect)

J.P. Desrochers (builder)
Robert Raymond Cooke (person)

28. Theme category
Governing Canada

29. Theme type
Security and Law

30. Web-site link
No