A Selected Western Canada
Historical Resources Bibliography to 1985
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Introduction

The bibliography was compiled from careful library and institutional searches. Accumulated titles were sent to various federal, provincial and municipal jurisdictions, academic institutions and foundations with a request for correction and additions. These included: Parks Canada in Ottawa, Winnipeg (Prairie Region) and Calgary (Western Region); Manitoba (Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation); Saskatchewan (Department of Culture and Recreation); Alberta (Historic Sites Service); and British Columbia (Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services. The municipalities approached were those known to have an interest in heritage: Winnipeg, Brandon, Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Victoria, Vancouver and Nelson. Agencies contacted were Heritage Canada Foundation in Ottawa, Heritage Mainstreet Projects in Nelson and Moose Jaw, and the Old Strathcona Foundation in Edmonton. Various academics at the universities of Calgary and Alberta were also contacted.

Historical Report Assessment

Research Reports make up the bulk of both published and unpublished materials. Parks Canada has produced the greatest quantity although not always the best quality reports. Most are readily available at libraries and some are available for purchase.

The Manuscript Report Series, “a reference collection of unedited, unpublished research reports produced in printed form in limited numbers” (Parks Canada, 1983 Bibliography, A-1), are not for sale but are deposited in provincial archives. In 1982 the Manuscript Report Series was discontinued and since then unedited, unpublished research reports are produced in the Microfiche Report Series/Rapports sur microfiches. This will now guarantee the unavailability of the material except to the mechanically inclined, those with excellent eyesight, and the extremely diligent. A subject index of Manuscript Report numbers 1-341 appears in C.J. Taylor’s “Parks Canada Manuscript Report Series,” Archivaria 12 (Summer 1981): 65-119 (1983 Bibliography, A-2). These reports are prepared in support of Parks Canada’s various preservation programs.

Parks Canada’s more than eighty Research Bulletins, short papers describing current research projects, are now also only available on microfiche. Numbers 1-20 of Parks Canada’s Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History are for sale while supplies last. History and Archaeology/Histoire et archeologie has been discontinued. The new series replacing these two is called Studies in
Archaeology, Architecture and History and is an unnumbered “umbrella” series for Parks Canada research monographs. All references to material relating to western Canada to be found in these sources are listed in this bibliography. Provincial publications, primarily Occasional Papers, are less complex in nature but nevertheless many are excellent studies and well worth consulting.

Parks Canada’s publications generally are site specific, commissioned to ensure accurate planning for restoration and interpretation. In that sense they represent, often by default, the only such material on many aspects of western Canada’s built heritage. Unfortunately the historical reports (as distinct from technical planning or restoration material) are not always leaders in western Canadian historiography, although the material by Philip Goldring, Carol Judd and Greg Thomas on the fur trade is outstanding. Much of Parks Canada’s work is ethnocentric and contains little on prehistory; certainly nothing is offered from the Native perspective. The material on Riel and Batoche is extremely variable. The Proulx reports are inadequate summaries of existing information. Gosman’s report is an almost successful attempt to reinterpret Métis social structures in the 1860s, but his documentation is inadequate. Diane Payment’s work on Batoche shows exciting promise of exacting detail, although the interpretation is somewhat traditional.

The various reports on the Motherwell homestead show the gradual evolution and improvement in scholarship that can occur when an agency is prepared to devote the necessary time to research. Lyle Dick’s work shows every prospect in the next few years of providing leadership in that area of research. Sarah Carter’s “A Material History of the Motherwell Home” is the only such analytical report on a western Canadian house. Its methodology is well worth examination. Ms. Carter has noted that:

The material culture history of the Canadian West and the use of artifacts as a source of ideas for the interpretation of our history remains a new frontier of scholarship. The variety of nationalities and cultures that settled the West and the patterns of settlement would make a comprehensive material culture history a very complex undertaking. Each of the groups of settlers that came to the west are likely to have transferred traits of the material culture of their origin in the form of their actual effects or in the continuation or reapplication of former practices. The physical and social environment of the Canadian West may have required departures from traditional customs and techniques, but adjustments varied from group to group as responses were based on vastly different cultural traditions, not to mention variations in financial resources. The study of material culture transfer requires detailed examination of each antecedent form, of the compatibility of the traditions of each group to the environment of the West, and a study of the prior skills, funds and resources available to each group. (P. 86)

The various studies on the national parks are perhaps the most critical to an understanding of heritage preservation, because they reveal so much about the environmental preservation movement of which heritage is an often forgotten
part. Manuscript Report 239 documents the disintegration of Prince Albert National Park and the preservation ideal. Two studies, 378 and 264, relate to Grey Owl the man. Number 378 focusses on the growth of the conservation movement in Canada, but also contains an unfortunate psychoanalysis of Grey Owl which is not supported by sufficient evidence. When combined with Pottyondi and Loveridge’s work on Grasslands and Wood Buffalo National Park and Gainer’s on Banff, however, a solid perspective can be gained.

Provincial history reports pale at least in volume when compared to those of Parks Canada. Saskatchewan has published Francois’ House: An Early Fur Trade Post on the Saskatchewan River and Holy Trinity Church—Stanley Mission. The latter was to have been the start of their history series but has since been, perhaps fortunately, discontinued. The vast majority of Saskatchewan brochures have been withdrawn because of historical inaccuracies and will be rewritten and published in smaller, one-page format.

Alberta has published five Occasional Papers with approximately twelve more press ready. Douglas Babcock’s A Gentleman of Strathcona: Alexander Cameron Rutherford is an important study of Alberta’s first premier but is of uneven quality. Jane McCracken’s The Overlord of the Little Prairie: Charles Plavin relates the life of an unknown Latvian farmer’s fortunes in the west and has a good section on Latvian vernacular architecture. Also by the same author is Stephen G. Stephansson: The Poet of the Rocky Mountains which relates the life of a major Alberta-Icelandic poet who held minority views on war and politics within Alberta. Ms. McCracken has successfully placed her study in the context of recent immigration literature. Two other publications are Les Hurt’s A History of Writing-on-Stone N.W.M.P. Post and John Lehr’s Ukrainian Vernacular Architecture in Alberta. The latter is a particularly important work in the field of vernacular architecture and gives a good account of cultural changes in housing, although it is now being perceived as a valuable device rather than as the definitive piece it first appeared to be. Presumably more ethnic studies will be published from the wealth of Ukrainian materials uncovered in the development of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.

The vast majority of reports by the western provinces remain unpublished. Most are available in various government departmental libraries. In Alberta a partial list of unpublished reports is available through Gayety Knight’s in-house “Bibliography of Historic Sites Services: Reports and Manuals” (1980). No update has yet been compiled. Unfortunately the bibliography is arranged by author, not title and subject. Lacking annotation, it is of questionable use. British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have numerous unpublished reports incorporated in their main library lists, all of which are stored in their respective branch libraries.

Archaeological Assessments

Archaeological Reports contained within the Parks Canada Manuscript Series are of varying quality. All tend to be site specific. Two studies which
must be pointed out are Reports 275 and 276. Both of these relate to the
Motherwell homestead and provided raw data for the structural historian
writing on the Motherwell Home and land base. Number 275 provides addi-
tional material for a material culture study of the Motherwell Home. Number
276, also on the Motherwell site, contains interpretation alternatives based on
artifact and landscape analysis. The report was structured for use by other
branches of Parks Canada and is designed to promote discussion. This report is
augmented with photos and schematic drawings which complement the histori-
cal accounts of the Motherwell site. (The various Motherwell studies reveal the
complex interdisciplinary demands of heritage preservation and are best con-
sulted as a complete unit.) Report 341, a British Columbia study, is unique in
that it attempts to test historical and oral evidence with archaeological rather
than documentary investigation.

Archaeological literature dealing with western Canada is contained in
various government publications, academic theses and journals and newsletters
written by provincial archaeologists. Lynne Sussman’s “The Ceramics of
Lower Fort Garry: Operations 1 to 31” in History and Archaeology
Monographs 24, and her other study, “A Directory of the British Commercial
Suppliers who Provided Goods and Services to York Factory and Red River,
1821-53,” are worthwhile examples of historical archaeology. The Mercury
Series is the principal publication series put out by the Museum of Man and
Civilization. There are over one hundred reports, and a bibliography of titles
appears on the back cover of most of their texts.

Each of the provinces produces papers as well. British Columbia has a
Technical Archaeological Report Series and a museum publication. Alberta’s
Occasional Papers are printed by the Archaeological Survey and the Provincial
Museum. Saskatchewan’s Pastlog Series, its Research Council (SRC) Reports,
and publications of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History contain much
that is worthwhile. Manitoba produces learned as well as popular papers in
archaeology.

_B.C. Studies_ publishes numerous articles on British Columbia archaeology.
Knut Fladmark’s articles, “Preliminary Report on the Archaeology of the
Queen Charlotte Islands: 1969 Field Season,” _B.C. Studies_ 6-7 (Fall/Winter
48 (Winter 1980/81): 11-20, and Roy L. Carlson’s article “Archaeology in
British Columbia,” _B.C. Studies_ 6-7 (Fall/Winter 1970): 7-17 are useful. The
_Midden_ should also be consulted as an initial source.

Alberta’s _Archaeology in Alberta_ (various years), in its Occasional Papers
provides a bibliography of reports and sites’ permits issued in each year. For
earlier Alberta archaeology see the now out-of-date Wormington and Forbis
publication, _An Introduction to Archaeology in Alberta_ (1965). Other
worthwhile studies are _Boulder Outline Effigy_ on medicine wheels and _Writing-
on-Stone_ for petroglyphs. Some significant Alberta sites researched to date are

Significant Saskatchewan sites are the Gowen Site, reported on by Ernest Walker, the Mortlach Site and the Ox Bow dam Site. The Saskatchewan Archaeology Society’s On the Trek of Ancient Hunters, edited by Ian Dyck and Henry Epp, provides a good overview of Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Archaeology Newsletter 52, nos. 4 and 5 (1977) contain an annotated bibliography of the newsletter from 1900 to 1975, by Dennis C. Joyes. The newsletter has been superseded by Saskatchewan Archaeology: A Journal of the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society. Gary Adam’s “Fur Trade Archaeology in Western Canada: A Critical Evaluation and Bibliography” is a good general coverage of that subject.


Architectural Report Assessment

The bulk of architectural studies rely for information on the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings. Ann Falkner’s “The Canadian Inventory of Historic Building,” printed in a 1973 issue of Canadian Geographical Journal, outlines its organization and format. Some of the inventories have been researched and edited into a report format.

Four studies (285, 288, 306 and 310) document the early court houses of western Canada in Manitoba, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. These studies contain plans (reduced in size) and photos, but are uneven in their analysis. The Saskatchewan study contains a short historical introduction and concludes that Saskatchewan architecture is more eclectic and individualistic than that of Alberta and Manitoba. The British Columbia study contains plans and photos but no analysis.

Several studies are focussed on western Canadian cities. Number 389 is a seven-volume series on early buildings in Winnipeg. Volume 1 contains a thirty-two-page summary introduction, photos and plans, but no analysis.
Volumes 2-7, while building specific, are in fact only compilations of photos. Number 356 provides a similar listing for Victoria. Number 405 is also little more than a listing of raw data on Vancouver. Number 385 reports on selected buildings in Saskatoon. The Edmonton study, 357, provided a forty-four-page narrative and a photo inventory to assist the federal inventory in selecting buildings in Edmonton. It needs to be supplemented by more analytical architectural reports compiled by Alberta’s Historic Sites Service.

Provincial and city architectural reports are limited in number but can provide insight. The City of Winnipeg Building Committee has published the larger study, Monuments to Finance: Three Winnipeg Banks 1980, but the most popular architectural format has been the walking tours which have been produced by numerous cities across western Canada. Those on Brandon, Red Deer, Winnipeg’s Point Douglas, Lethbridge and Calgary are examples of successful ones which combine both history and architecture. The best volume on western Canada is Trevor Boddy’s Modern Architecture in Alberta, published by the Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina. His substantial manuscript on “Modern Architecture in Alberta since 1930,” on deposit with Alberta’s Historic Sites Service, and Bryan Melnyk’s analysis of early Calgary architecture (his Master’s thesis for the University of Calgary) are well worth consultation as well.

British Columbia has published few real architectural reports but has produced several excellent general works related to Restoration Technology in its Technical Papers Series. These include “Guidelines for Storefronts of Heritage Buildings” and “Manual for the Preparation of ‘as found’ Drawings.” Alberta for its part has produced “Restoration Guidelines for Alberta,” an adaptation of the United States Department of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Preservation.

Planning Report Assessment

All jurisdictions (federal, provincial, municipal and foundations) were requested to submit a list of their planning reports and to identify their best planning document. Most jurisdictions were reluctant to submit a “best” plan and a few suggested that their “best” planning documents lay in the future. Perhaps the state of the art is reflected in this attitude. Aside from the difficulties of obtaining the titles of what may be considered in-house documents, most of these, at least in the case of municipalities, are readily available for a fee from the offices of planning departments. Unfortunately they are not gathered together in any one repository. Federal and provincial documents related to heritage planning may in fact be more difficult to obtain since many are “confidential” and/or unavailable for loan. Nevertheless, sufficient documents have been made public to allow some comment.

The Batoche Historic Sites Management Plan, 1982 is an excellent state of the art document insofar as the heritage planning process of site development is
concerned. It is especially strong in incorporating public input. A British Columbia Heritage Branch plan, Nelson: A Proposal for Urban Heritage Conservation, has received wide distribution. This 233-page document deserves considerable attention because of its ambitious and open approach:

Nelson’s spectrum of heritage resources is so diverse and extensive that the range of methods necessary to conserve its multiple heritage assets would provide the basis for solving a number of similar urban heritage conservation problems elsewhere. They would include an entire town, a district within a town, or merely individual structures. (P. 5)

The extent and diversity of Nelson’s heritage resources allowed an approach which has been applied elsewhere in British Columbia and in western Canada. To the urban city planner, Nelson will appear a textbook plan. For instance, it attempts to make its own distinction between “preservation” and “conservation” in the third chapter:

In terms of old buildings, the first calls for faithful restoration and implies the role of a museum, whereas the second requires renovation and relates to adapted and functional new use. One becomes a monument to the past; the other continues to live. (P. 10)

The Nelson plan also aims to provide a model both for the use of the heritage conservation movement and the private sector which, it notes, owns 90 percent of the sites in Nelson. At the same time it tries to place itself into the larger perspective of the conservation movement (Chapter 3). Chapters 5 and 6 outline an historical inventory of buildings broken up into commercial, industrial and residential categories, leading the planners to suggest that:

Nelson’s most valuable assets are all of those features which make it a good place to be—mild climate, an abundance of recreational and cultural opportunities, and a pleasant urban environment (created, in part, by the heritage “character” of the community). With proper enhancement and promotion these features can be developed as positive economic resources, attracting income to Nelson through additional tourism, convention trade, retirement, and by reinforcing Nelson’s role as a regional trade and service centre. A key element in such a development strategy would be an effective heritage conservation program. (P. 212)

One of Alberta’s planning documents which should be given serious consideration is the “Fort Macleod Heritage Area Plan” completed by Professor Jamieson of the University of Calgary. The several major developments in Alberta—at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, Frank Slide, Fort McMurray and Leitch Collieries—each represent unique planning approaches, especially in the area of interpretation and the integration of resources into their communities. The Master Plan for the Preservation of Heritage in Alberta is the only effort at a provincial level to
ensure rational and complete integrated decision making with regard to historic resource preservation. While not without fault it is worth reading.

Municipal planning documents tend only to reflect the newness of heritage planning as an adjunct to city and town planning. For example, Saskatoon has an advisory committee but no comprehensive heritage planning documents have yet emerged. As might be expected, many smaller centres have no heritage plans as such. However, three do have heritage Mainstreet Projects and basic plans have been funded by the Heritage Canada Foundation for Moose Jaw, Nelson and Fort Macleod. In Alberta several of the regional planning commissions are beginning to include heritage components in their documents and some, like Lethbridge and Red Deer, have urban park plans with extensive heritage resource assessments.

Vancouver is in the process of making heritage planning a part of its planning structure, reflecting a surprising irony. Vancouver was perceived as a leader in the field, although the Gastown Plans were actually initiated by private interests. Yet Vancouver is only now taking steps to ensure that heritage is comprehensively accounted for in its standard planning approach. Forthcoming publications reflect this new awareness. A Heritage Inventory is being compiled with provincial government aid. It will provide the basis for conservation methods and techniques such as heritage designation, bylaw relaxations, transfer of developmental potential, property tax exemptions or reductions, grants, façade easements, property acquisition and revolving funds.

The city of Victoria document *This Old Town: City of Victoria Central Area Heritage Conservation Report, 1975* (revised in 1977 and 1983) is also useful. While not a planning document, but rather an effort which attempts to foster public awareness and support for heritage buildings, it is a good reflection of the fact that most heritage preservation relies not on law or good planning but good propaganda. The Capital Regional District in Victoria has published a similar two-volume document entitled *Our Heritage*.

In effect Regina has utilized a similar approach in its *Heritage Regina, Walking Tours* (1982). The sixty-three-page document divides Regina into neighbourhoods, listing sites by address, giving an historical resumé, and describing architectural features worth noting.

In terms of the city of Calgary’s Heritage Planning Program, *The Municipal Heritage Conservation Framework* (1979) and its sequel *The Municipal Heritage Evaluation Reports* (1983) are very important as they establish the structure, procedure and terms of reference for Calgary’s program. Calgary has also established *The Handbook for Evaluating Calgary’s Heritage Resources* (1981), which outlines the system used for evaluating, numerically scoring, and ranking sites with potential historical significance. Based on these inventory forms, more than three hundred evaluations have been established and are readily accessible.
The city of Edmonton has numerous plans with heritage components. The *Old Strathcona Area Redevelopment Plan* was prepared jointly by the city of Edmonton and the Old Strathcona Foundation. As in many other jurisdictions, however, there is some difference between the plan and its implementation. There has been no study yet done on the differences between the rhetoric of the planners and the reality of implementation. No doubt there will be a considerable variance. The Strathcona Foundation also publishes *The Plain Dealer*, a quarterly newspaper which keeps people up to date on developments in the Strathcona area as well as on general heritage issues in the city and on the wider scene.

**Historic Resource Impact Assessment**


These impact assessments when considered as a whole number several thousand. All are on deposit with the provincial departments responsible for archaeology. It is difficult to determine the significance of these reports. They are, it would seem, infrequently used by archaeologists other than those employed by the provinces or by the private professional impact assessment companies. They do not appear to have radically altered archaeological interpretation of the west in any immediate fashion. It may be that their significance is indirect and will have to await the evaluation of future generations.

demolition of the built environment. He asks why this legislation has only been applied to archaeological aspects of the environment.

The main federal impact assessment is still Thomas Berger’s study on the effects of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, which is certain to remain a controversial and much consulted model study for a larger region. The most noteworthy recent impact assessment study is the current Saskatchewan Nipawin Reservoir Heritage Study Series. The initial volume by David Burley, *Nipawin Reservoir Heritage Study Volume 1, Resource Evaluation Impacts and Mitigation* SRC C-805-5-E-82 (1982) is outstanding in quality. The second volume of this twelve-volume series contains the methodology or operations manual of the entire series and is particularly valuable. It is highly regarded because of its “holistic” and “integrated” approach to archaeological research on the Churchill River.

**Restoration Technology Reports**

Restoration technology reports on western Canadian subjects are almost nonexistent. Although it was within Parks Canada’s mandate to publish such reports it has not done so. Canada has no equivalent to the American publication, *A Bibliography on Historical Organization Practices. The Association for Preservation Technology (APT),* a periodical which only incidentally includes Canadian examples, serves as the main forum for Canadian restoration technologists, but has few articles relating to the west.

The Heritage Canada Foundation attempts to fill the gap and has published some general technical papers. It has also collected the articles of Martin Weaver and printed them in a column called “Nuts and Bolts” in its house magazine. Few, however, relate to western Canadian problems. British Columbia has published several technical papers such as *Guidelines for Restoring Brick Masonry, Guidelines for Storefronts of Heritage Buildings and Manual for Preparation of “as found” Drawings,* which are excellent and relevant to that province. Alberta has produced “Restoration Guidelines for Alberta” as its first publication in the field. Another Alberta publication is Eric P. Jokinen’s “Techniques for Heritage Preservation,” commissioned by the City of Edmonton, Real Estate and Housing Department and Alberta Culture, Historic Sites Service. A Restoration Technology Library has been established by the Alberta Association of Architects and Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism but it contains very few western Canadian titles.

**Legal Briefs and Reports**

The literature on legislation and legal cases is limited. Marc Denhez’s material is critical and is the best of the field. His “Legislation: A Report” in *Heritage Canada* (Autumn 1975) presents a comprehensive assessment of Canadian heritage legislation, while “Legislation We Want to See Our
Lawyers," in *Heritage Conservation* (Winter 1977) explains how heritage groups and the legal profession can work together to enhance the prospects for preserving Canada’s heritage. It also contains a summary of court cases, some of which relate to western Canadian cities. Saskatchewan legislation has been the subject of several articles. Denhez’s “Protecting the Built Environment of Saskatchewan” reviews the way in which a variety of legal tools, from international treaties to private contracts, can achieve preservation in Saskatchewan. Bob MacPherson’s “Saskatchewan: The Future of Wheatland Heritage” views the impact heritage legislation on rural areas. MacPherson advocates local action to save heritage buildings and sees rural heritage development as an incentive for tourism and a decided factor in the search for a higher quality of rural life. “Prairie Law” by W.A.S. Sargeant recounts the struggle for legislation by environment interests. “Saskatoon” by Donald Kerr reviews the case of the Standards Trusts Building in Saskatoon and acts of “public vandalism” by municipal agencies.

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