

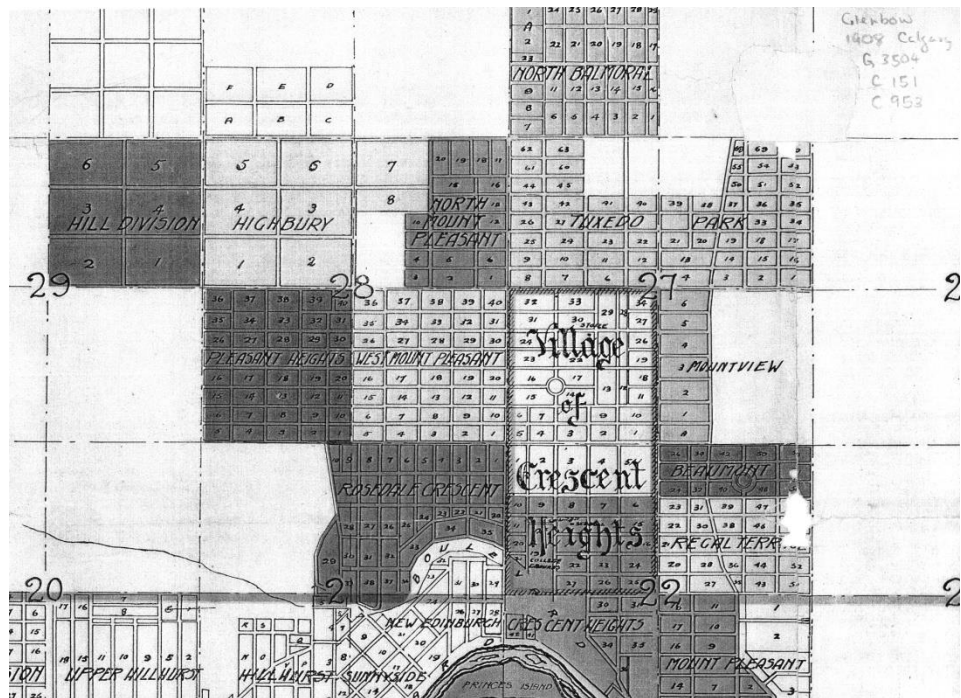
The Village of Crescent Heights

Although Crescent Heights was indeed once a village, it was never in the same league for independence as Bowness (1911-1964) or Forest Lawn (1935-1961). It was bordered on the south by 8th Avenue North, and on the north by 24th Avenue North. 16th Avenue was the section line- and main business road- that bisected the village. The eastern village boundary was 1st Street NE, with 4th Street NW on the west side. The village south of 16th Avenue had been subdivided by A.J. McArthur, whose brick and sandstone mansion once occupied the site of what is now the north parking lot for the LDS Church. In 1907, the city had annexed a

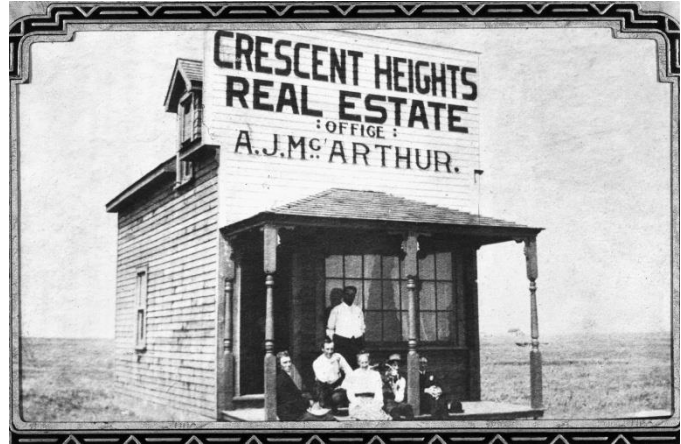
section of the North Hill up to 8th Avenue North. Perhaps to gain some collective bargaining power, local residents met and decided to form a village the same year. Village status was sanctioned by the province, to be effective May 1,

1908. Village council's short tenure was marked by the construction of a firehall in 1909 and a two-storey frame public school the same year. Within a year or two of becoming a village however, villagers began to petition the city for annexation, no doubt due to the impossible task of providing the same municipal services as the city of Calgary, but with a much smaller tax base. Annexation was approved by the province in late 1910, with an effective date of January 1, 1911.

Page down for a bit more on A.J. (Archibald) McArthur, known by some as the "father" of Crescent Heights.



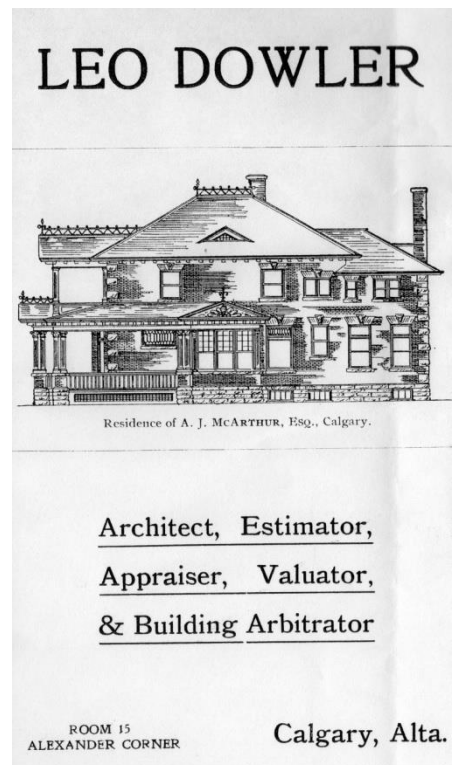
A.J. McArthur was a wealthy rancher, entrepreneur and landowner who had subdivided the south part of Crescent Heights in 1906, prior to it becoming a village. His real estate office once stood atop the North Hill, in plain sight of the city across the Bow River to the south. Prominent architect Leo



Dowler designed the McArthur residence (credit: Glenbow NA-2922-5) and his conceptual view appears below. Although McArthur was elected MLA, he suffered an equestrian accident in 1911, and passed away soon after from complications. His wife Catherine was then left to deal with a complex estate burdened with illiquid real estate assets, as well as the responsibility for raising their two young sons. Two nearby parks were originally McArthur property: Crescent Park to the west, and Rotary Park east of Centre Street.



photo credit- McArthur family



1906 Henderson's Directory