Fort Macleod
History & Heritage
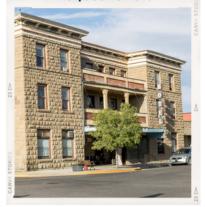
History buffs rejoice! Fort Macleod is a veritable treasure trove of history just waiting to be explored.

Building Architecture: *Notable Buildings in Fort Macloed*

The Queen's Hotel

This hotel was once one of the finest hotels in western Canada, and today is a prominent example of turn of the century masonry. The hotel was first built as a wooden building in 1903, before being demolished and rebuilt in its current sandstone form. This was the first building in Fort Macleod to be made of sandstone, highlighting its financial and social importance in the community.

Holy Cross Catholic Church

The church showcases the Prairie Gothic architectural style. The most distinctive element is the prominent tower supporting a louvered belfry and spire with the cross. The Holy Cross Catholic Church was the head of the Catholic Churches in Southern Alberta and the centre of missionary activity when first established in Fort Macleod in the 1880s.

McNeil Residence

Built in 1904, the McNeill Residence is one of the community's most attractive historic properties. It is valued for its association with the emergence of Fort Macleod's professional class in the early 20th century when a period of steady growth for the town and its early pioneers and entrepreneurs saw their wealth grow.

Fort Macleod Main Street: *Alberta's first Provincial Historic Area and the street has many stories to tell.*

1. Empress Theatre

Built in 1912. Holds the title of oldest operating theatre in Alberta.

2. Courthouse

Built in 1904, it is the oldest courthouse in Alberta.

3. Grier Block

Built in 1900, the Grier Block was the first and largest commercial building in Fort Macleod housing multiple businesses. It is Fort Macleod's oldest brick building, and is clad with the largest, and possibly the only, façade of pressed tin in southern Alberta.

4. Telephone Exchange Building

The telephone revolutionized communication, and its arrival in Fort Macleod in 1938 signaled its growth and importance in the southern prairies.

5. Union Bank

One of Fort Macleod's oldest surviving buildings and dates to 1900.