

**The Hydropathic Hot Springs and Bretton Hall Sanitarium Hotels**  
An Archaeological and Historical Review of Early Tourist Facilities in Banff

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The Hydropathic Hot Springs Hotel and the Bretton Hall Sanitarium Hotel both served Banff's health and recreation seeking tourists from the late 19th-century through the early decades of the 20th-century. This report concerns archaeological collections from these two sites in Banff National Park, investigated by Parks Canada archaeologists between 1986 and 1996. Both collections are presently housed in Parks Canada's Western Canada Service Centre in Calgary, Alberta.

### **Banff as a Health-Seeker's Destination**

Businesses such as the Hot Springs and Sanitarium hotels attracted guests by providing services related to the hot springs active near Banff townsite. In his 1915 observations on the Rocky Mountains Park, written while a resident of the Brett Hospital, H.C. Stovel recounts that

Banff has been known as a health resort for many years. Away back in the 80's, the knowledge was gained, that the mineral waters, found in the district were of curative value (Stovel 1915: np).

Stovel also describes a common story that illustrates the perceived therapeutic properties of Banff's mineral waters:

In the days of long ago, the use of the water, for medicinal purposes was available in a large hole on Mt. Sulphur. To reach this, there was flight after flight of steps. The railing of the steps was made of rustic wood, and to this railing, were attached crutches brought to the place by those ailing, and after each individual had received benefit, the article was cast aside. Immediately it was seized upon and made do duty as an advertisement. Each crutch was tacked up at the side of the steps and the name of the individual, date of cure, & etc placed on it (Stovel 1915: np).

By late in the nineteenth-century, Banff was a busy commercial and tourist community.

Eleanor G. Luxton writes that

by 1887 there were 650 permanent residents in the park, about 300 of whom were at Anthracite, over 300 in the Banff townsite, and the rest at the old station... in the townsite were the Brett Sanitarium Hotel on the south side of the river and the Moulton Park Hotel on the north side, and two hotels and one bath house at the Hot Springs. In town, there were boarding houses, two saloons, nine stores, two drugstores, two blacksmith shops, two churches and two post offices, one at Old Banff (Luxton 1975: 64).

The well known Banff Springs Hotel opened on the first day of June, 1888 (ibid.), amid a number of similar, though less opulent establishments that had helped to build the town's reputation as a tourist destination. As of 1915, Stovel lists 8 hotels operating in the vicinity of the Banff Townsite: the Alberta, Alpine, Banff Springs, Grandview Villa, King Edward, Mount Royal, Hot Springs, and Sanitarium (1915: np). The remainder of this report focuses on the latter two establishments.

## **Hot Springs Hotel**

### **History**

The property occupied by the Hot Springs Hotel, Villa Lot #67, was first owned by George Whitman and J.H. McNulty in 1886. The following year, Thomas McCaughey and Francis Beattie acquired the lot and opened the Beattie Hotel, which operated until it was destroyed by fire on February 5, 1898 (Lothian 1979:23).

Reportedly built from parts of an older hotel building from Kenora (Rimrock: 1), Beattie's hotel met guests' bathing needs with two tubs and a plunge fed with water from the Hot Springs (Luxton 1975: 64). There was also a dining room, office, bar, sitting room, and six guest rooms on the upper floor (Rimrock: 1). Although an 1890 regulation stated that "no bar room or saloon shall be permitted" in the park (Taylor 1978: 45), in 1894 a competing hotelier filed a complaint with the Minister about the Hot Springs Hotel (Beattie Hotel), accusing the latter of selling liquor without a license (Lothian 1979: 23).

A guest register from the Beattie Hotel, used between October 1893 - 1903, shows that guests at this time were largely drawn from the surrounding region. Many reported residing in Anthracite, Canmore, and Calgary, while fewer indicated coming from locations such as Regina, Winnipeg, Nova Scotia, and Vancouver. Although rare, out of country visitors came from New York and England (Beattie Family Fonds, M409, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies).

The property remained vacant following the Beattie Hotel fire until 1904. In January of 1905, new property owners John and Robert Thomson opened the Hot Springs Hotel. The facility was renamed the Hydropathic Hot Springs Hotel in 1911, after the lease was transferred to Bevan Ashton. Under Ashton's management, the Hot Springs Hotel advertised itself as a "Mecca for those seeking benefit by hot sulphur bathing" (L.A. Taylor 1978: n.p.). The hotel

housed 45 beds, as well as a radio, phonograph and piano for the guests' entertainment (Rimrock: 2). As of 1915, the minimum cost for a room at the Hot Springs Hotel was \$2.00 (Taylor 1978: 58).

H.C. Stovel, a long term resident of the Brett Hospital in Banff, provides 1915 account of the services and attractions of the Hot Springs Hotel. He writes that

Hot Springs Hotel, is away up Sulphur mountain, next to what is known as the upper hot springs, and is run the year round. Being close to the Government baths, many put up at the Hot Springs hotel, so that they can enjoy the benefits of the sulphur water. Rates \$2.00 per day and up (Stovel 1915: np).

After 1940, The Upper Hot Springs Hotel underwent various renovations under the ownership of Bevan Ashton's son-in-law, John Jaeggi. A set of five lot plans with known dates between 1949 and 1960 show that most major renovations to the plan of the building occurred prior to 1949. Removal of a small cabin to the east of the building occurred at some point between 1949 and 1953, after which it is shown on the map in Lot 68 to the west of the original hotel building. The Rimrock Hotel, adjacent to the original hotel structure and still operating today, was built in 1962 by new owner John Prowluk (Rimrock: 2).



Figure 1: Section of 1949 blueprint showing the location of the Hot Springs Hotel.

## Archaeological Investigation of the Hot Springs Hotel (1109R)

In 1986, Parks Canada Archaeologist Ian Sumpter investigated the old Hot Springs Hotel and its associated dump to evaluate the impact of planned expansions to the Rimrock Hotel (Sumpter 1987: 23). The old Hot Springs Hotel building, then serving as a staff quarters, was the oldest original hotel building in Banff (Lothian 1979: 23) and later destroyed in the Rimrock developments.

Sumpter located an historic dump feature “35m northwest of the hotel at the base of the structure’s rear slope, 40m west of the Hot Springs Pool spillway” (Sumpter 1986: 24), with an estimated area of 22m (E-W) x 20m (N-S) x 1.5m deep. A small collection of artifacts made at this time was intended to provide a

selective surface collection of a representible assemblage sample for the purpose of dating the historic deposits and for inclusion into the Archaeological Research Service Unit’s regional reference collection (1987: 25)

The former goal was accomplished by estimating ceramic dates between the 1880's and 1920's, and bottle related dates between 1875 and 1945. Artifact contributions to the reference collection were not made until 1999.

Following a 1992 site visit, Langemann reports collecting a small number of ceramics with makers’ marks and observing household metal items, commercial packaging tins, and structural glass. Of observed faunal remains she notes that “butchered faunal remains were suggestive of quantity cooking; large joints were present, and not small chops.” (1992: 27) Langemann’s report suggests an extension of the known size of the dump feature to 30m (E-W) x 50m (N-S) x 2.0m deep (1992: 27).

Unlawful collection of artifacts is presently the greatest threat to the site’s integrity. Parks maintenance personnel capped the dump with earth in 1992, although many of the materials are still exposed.

## **Artifacts Recovered from 1109R**

### *Faunal Materials*

Six specimens collected from the exposed dump area include a right mandible from a juvenile suid, a right horse metatarsal, medium mammal proximal rib fragments, and part of a bovine thoracic vertebra with a saw mark in the proximal end of the vertebral process.

## *Ceramic Table and Toiletry Wares*

### Undecorated Wares

The ceramic assemblage from the Hot Springs Hotel dump includes 21 plain, heavy whiteware vessels of Ironstone and White Earthenware. The following vessel types are present in the collection:

<b>Vessel Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
Saucer	3
Shallow Bowl	4
Soup Bowl	3
Luncheon Plate	2
Small Oval Plate	2
Tureen	2
Large Serving Bowl	2
Sugar Bowl	1
Dipper	1
Cylindrical Canister	1

**Table 1: Undecorated vessel types from 1109R.**

### Transfer Printed Wares

Seventeen artifacts comprise the collection of decorated white earthenware from 1109R. A single dark blue geometric pattern present on an incomplete oval serving platter is very interesting, as it bears a manufacturer's mark on the base reading "COPELAND / ILIU / ENLAND". While no pattern name beginning with "ILIU" is listed in Lynne Sussman's 1979 survey of Spode/Copeland patterns, the pattern is identified as "Ilium", pictured in Jennifer Hamilton's 1985 analysis of ceramics from York Factory NHS (105).



**Figure 2: Ilium pattern recovered from both 1109R and 1873R**

Four of the transfer-print decorated vessels collected from the dump bear poppy flower and foliage designs, two in green (one chamber pot and one unidentified vessel), one red (chamber pot), and one blue (large vase). Four other floral transfer patterns are present in the collection, one in a green, pink, and blue multicolor print (possibly a soap dish), and three monochrome patterns in green (2) and blue (1).

Two simple gilded edge, mould relief patterns were recovered in collections at the dump, represented by a large cup or bowl and two luncheon plates. Finally, one example of a simple, heavy green and gilt-banded ware is likely part of a basin rim.

#### Dating Ceramic Makers' Marks from 1109R

Twelve identifiable ceramic manufacturers' markings are present on vessels and vessel fragments from the Hot Springs Hotel site. As can be seen in the table below, the periods of manufacture associated with these markings indicates a mean date of dump usage in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Manufacturing Company	Dates of Manufacturing	# of vessels	Reference
Mellor, Taylor & Co.	1880 - 1904	2	Cushion 1980:104
J.G. Meakin	1890 - present	2	Kovel 1986: 11
J.G. Meakin	1912 - present	1	Kovel 1986: 92
Alfred Meakin	1897 - present	1	Kovel 1986: 12
Bishop & Stoniers	1899 - 1936	1	Cushion 1980: 134
Dudson, Wilcox & Till	1902 - 1926	1	Cushion 1980: 136
Johnson Brothers	1897 - 1913	1	
Wood & Son	1890 - 1910	1	Kovel 1986: 97,
Maddock	1896 - present	1	Cushion 1980: 124
Boote	post 1891	1	Kovel 1953: 208
John Maddock & Sons Ltd.	1896 - present	1	Cushion 1980: 124
Grindley	1914 - 1925	1	Cushion 1980: 164

**Table 2: Ceramic Manufacturers' Marks from 1109R**

***Commercial Food Containers from 1109R***

Glass Condiment Containers

The majority of commercial food containers recovered from 1109R are glass bottles from sauces and other condiments. Four salad dressing bottles are present in the collection, including two from “Horton Cato Royal Salad Dressing” (Detroit, Michigan) (see a. below) (base: 75mm, height: 216mm) and two from “E.R. Durkee & Co Salad Dressing”(New York) (see b. and c. Below) (base: 65mm, height: 172mm).



**E.R. DURKEE & CO.  
SALAD DRESSING  
NEW YORK**



b.

**Figure 3: Embossed markings from condiment bottles, 1109R**



The popular “Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce” is represented by two aqua bottles of different sizes, a 183mm high bottle with a 53mm base, and a 225mm high bottle with a 63mm base. Both bottles display the words “WORCHESTERSHIRE SAUCE” embossed over the rounded shoulder, and “LEA & PERRINS” embossed on the side, upward from the base. Both bottles have a three part sauce finish. An embossed base marking on the smaller bottle reads “K / 1994”, while one on the larger reads “A C / B Co / 8766”.

Three colorless bottles contained some type of unidentified preserve produced by “Curtice Bros Co. / Preserves / Rochester N.Y. ”, although the actual original contents are not known. All three of these bottles have a base diameter of 70mm, and the single complete specimen is 258mm high.



**Figure 4: Embossed body marking from preserve bottle, 1109R**

Two colorless bottles with circular base diameters of 68-72mm and heights of 255mm have continuous thread screw finishes, and sloped shapes reminiscent of ketchup bottles. One still includes a ferrous metal screw-cap, while the other has an embossed base marking reading “THETA SNIDER PRESERVE CO. / CINCINATTI. O.” with an “S” enclosed in a diamond in the centre.

Two unmarked sauce bottles with long, narrow necks and slender bodies likely contained liquid condiments. One is circular in plan with a 62mm diameter, 223mm height, and three-part finish. The second has a 60mm x 38mm chamfered rectangular plan and a 197mm height, with a one part finish.

#### Other Food Glass

One narrow, circular, wide-mouth bottle is shaped to hold some type of pickle or chutney. Its base diameter is 45mm, with a vessel height of 165mm. The manganese-tinted body shows mould seams indicative of Owens machine manufacture.

Two large, aqua, octagonal preserve jars were collected. This style has a maximum base width of 83mm, and a height of 168mm. The jars are wide-mouthed with a one-part band finish and a short neck. One bears an embossed base mark reading “C.S. & Co<sup>LD</sup>”, and the other has “K. B. L<sup>TD</sup>” on its base.

One bottle bearing the embossed name “LAURENTIA” is of a style that may be interpreted as a milk bottle, although references for the embossed name have not yet been found. The bottle is manganese tinted, showing the scars of Owens machine manufacture. Its base diameter is 85mm, and its height is 194 mm.

### Food Cans

A single example of a commercial tin can, originally containing marmalade, was collected from the 1109R dump site. The manufacturing company advertised on the printed tin is “James Robertson & Sons”, and the label is adorned with fruit and pictures of two of the company’s factories. The tin has a diameter of 130mm and height of 121mm, and took a lever-lid.

### Ceramic Food Containers

One stoneware crock lid likely remains from a container of pickles or other preserves. The shallow cone-shaped lid is made of a greyish-tan stoneware body with brown glaze inside and out, and has a diameter of 110mm. A peak in the centre of the top of the lid is scored in an X pattern, likely to guide wires used to secure the lid to a vessel. An embossed marking around the top of the lid reads “N<sup>o</sup> 4 / THE WEIR. PAT MARCH 1892 APRIL 18 - 1901”.

### Glass Beverage Containers


Non-Alcoholic beverages are represented by two torpedo-shaped soda water bottles collected from the Hot Springs Hotel dump site (1109R). Both are aqua colored with straight sides and rounded bases, and a maximum diameter of 56mm. Both are missing their neck and finish portions.

The remaining beverage bottles found can be attributed primarily to liquor, although this identification is based primarily on bottle style and manufacture rather than product labels.

Beer bottles are prevalent in the collection, with eleven specimens representing at least

five identifiable glass manufacturing companies (see table X). Standard beer bottles include mould-blown two piece (n=8) vessels in brown and aqua. Of those that retain finishes, five are crown style, and two possibly represent a Lightning closure. Three other bottles that are tentatively identified as beer bottles were produced in a dip mould with olive green glass. Dimensions include base diameters 60-65mm and heights 235-250mm. Two-part liquor style finishes are present on these bottles.

Glass container manufacturers' marking dates available from the Hot Springs Hotel specimens suggest a mean date of dump usage in the first two decades of the 20th-century.

Manufacturing Company	Marking	Dates of	Number of	Reference
John Lumb & Co, Ltd.	J. L. & Co Ld	1905 - 1937	2	Toulouse 1972: 281
Adolphus Busch		1904-1907	2	Toulouse 1972: 26
Massilon Bottle and Glass Co.	M.B.&G Co	1900-1913	1	Toulouse 1972: 348
Nutal & Co.	N & Co	1872 - 1913	2	Toulouse 1972: 380
Wooster Glass Co.	Wooster	1900 - 1904	1	Toulouse 1972: 543

**Table 3: Beer bottle manufacturers' marks from 1109R**

Other liquor bottles included in the Hydropathic Hot Springs dump collection include three wine style bottles, distinguished by green color, basal kickup, and champagne style finish. Two sizes of wine bottle were collected. The first includes basal diameters of 60-62mm and heights of 240-250mm. The larger size is represented by a bottle with a base diameter of 75mm and height of 305mm.

Five pint-flasks are also present in the collection, only one of which bears a marking: "D.DAVIAS" is embossed on the base of a tapered, aqua flask. Finishes found on these flasks include four two-part, ledged-bore stopper finishes (present on the marked specimen), and one continuous thread screw top with a cork lined white metal cap. The company indicated by this marking has not yet been identified in historical records. All flasks are round-cornered and oval in cross section. Flask sizes include base dimensions of 75-90mm x 30-37mm, and heights of 180-210mm.

Finally, one rounded-square, 70mm x 70mm, aqua case bottle base was collected from site 1109R. It displays the name of the company and contents, Walker's Kilmarnock Whisky, in an embossed base marking.



**Figure 5: Whiskey bottle base marking, 1109R**

### ***Personal Care Product Containers***

Container glass related to personal functions includes medicinal and toiletry product bottles. Six containers from the Hydropathic Hot Springs Hotel dump belong to this category.

#### Medicine

Only one bottle from this collection advertises a specific medical product: a circular, brown bottle has the words “JOHNSON’S FLUID BEEF” embossed around the rounded shoulder. It’s base diameter is 68mm. Graduated ounce measurements are embossed on a 3oz colorless medicine bottle, with “NATIONAL / 1098A / OVAL” embossed on the base. It’s base measures 43mm x 22mm, and its height is 122mm. Three other colorless prescription bottles bear no markings at all, and have dimensions within the following range: height: 130-170mm, base: 43-60mm x 24-37mm.

#### Toiletry

A colorless Vaseline jar, with a continuous thread finish and blue-painted metal cap, was collected from 1109R. Seams around the neck and extending up the sides of the finish, suggest that this jar was machine-made. The jar has a base diameter of 61mm, and a height (with lid) of 85mm.



**Figure 6: Embossed body marking from ointment jar, 1109R**

### ***Unidentified Containers***

Five glass and one stoneware artifact represent containers whose original contents and function are not known. One small, colorless, square cross-sectioned bottle recovered from the dump site is ambiguous as to function; as it may have originally contained toiletry, medicinal, or food products all in equal likelihood. Similarly ambiguous is an aqua, chamfered-square bottle base with no markings, 58mm x 58mm. A simple aqua glass stopper and a colorless set-in jar lid offer few clues to the original product held beneath.

More information may be available regarding a colourless, octagonal bottle body and base with an embossed marking on one facet reading “The J.B. Williams Co. / Glastonbury CT. USA”. No information regarding this company has been found yet.

Finally, a grey bodied stoneware pouring spout with an angled, sloped shoulder, has a brown glaze on the outer surface and a matte beige slip on the inner.

### **Discussion**

Limited interpretation is possible regarding the objects from the Hot Springs Hotel dump site. Both the impacted nature of the site, and the nature of collection strategy prevent any quantitative generalizations about the material culture of the early hotel. As well, the styles of ceramic pattern, markings noting origin of manufacture, and commercial product packaging remains are unremarkable in terms of late 19th and early 20th century sites. On a basic level, Sumpter states that the “material culture items and dates are considered to be consistent with the use of the site by historic hotels”. Indeed this seems to be the case, as the predominance of preserved food and beverage containers indicates the domestic function of the building.

The site’s materials are most useful for reference and illustrative purposes. Eighteen

artifacts from 1109R were added to the Parks Canada archaeological reference collection in the spring of 1999, all of which represent artifact types or manufacturers not previously present in the collection. Further, the potential for public display of some of these artifacts is excellent, due to the good condition of many specimens.

### **Present Concerns At 1109R**

As of May 1999, the dump site is generally well concealed beneath the capping fill and vegetation. A few artifacts are still visible, although not enough to draw the attention of local collectors who do not already know the site's whereabouts. There was some evidence of recent collection activity on a small scale, as some artifacts had been visibly unearthed and moved, however it does not appear that the site's integrity is in immediate danger.



**Figure 7: Photo of exposed cultural materials at 1109R, taken May 12, 1999**

## Bretton Hall Sanitarium Hotel (1886-1933)

### History

Dr. R.G. Brett was employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway as a physician on their construction line, and was later funded by the same company to open two hotels in Banff: The Brett Sanitarium and the Grand View Villa (Luxton 1975: 71).

Brett opened a bath house at the Cave and Basin hot springs, and the GrandView Villa in 1886. The same year, he obtained the rights to a 5 acre site on Villa Lots 1-5, Rg. 7, on which to construct a hotel and hospital complex. The facility was constructed on these lots in 1887, accompanied by a large residence and a pavilion for live entertainment (Lothian 1979: 23). Taylor (1978: 45) reports that completion of the hotel occurred in 1888. Hot water from the springs was piped through 8000ft of pipe insulated by boxes of moss, arriving in the hotel baths at a temperature of 110F (Luxton 1975: 62, Taylor 1978: 38). Guests could choose from ten tubs and two plunges in a bath house detached from the main building (Luxton 1975: 64). Luxton reports that by 1904, expansions had taken this hotel to three times its original size (1975: 90).

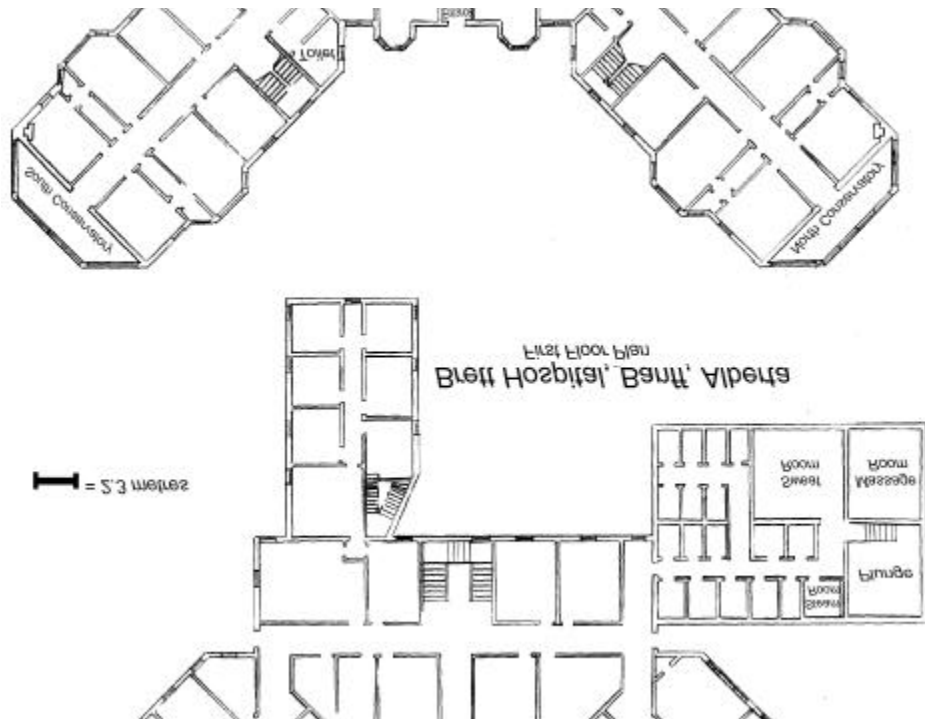


Figure 8: The location of Bretton Hall and the Brett Hospital according to a 1922 fire insurance map

Brett soon expanded his medical operations by building a hospital across Spray Avenue from the hotel complex. Stovel notes that

Nearby the Sanitarium Hotel, is the Brett Hospital, which is conducted privately. It is a handsome, two storey red brick structure, built in crescent shape, a broad stairway in the centre, leading up to the offices. The institution is really, an outgrowth of the Sanitarium. The Hospital is well equipped with modern operating and surgical rooms, and has a staff of skilful nurses (Stovel 1915: np).

This hospital is the only one of Brett’s buildings for which plans are still available. The size and scale of the structure is evident in the sketch below, copied from a 1912 plan of the



building’s heating system (Whyte Museum Archives: )

**Figure 9: 1912 Brett Hospital building plan showing first floor layout.**

After the Mineral Springs Hospital was built across the street from the Banff Sanitarium in 1910, Brett converted the entire Sanitarium into a hotel. The hotel’s advertisements claimed it to be “elegantly fitted out and equipped with every modern appointment calculated to bring comfort and pleasure to the tourist or invalid...”, while the nearby ‘private hospital’ also “affords



accommodation for all classes of invalids.” (Taylor 1978: n.p.). The 1915 minimum room rate at this facility was \$3.00 a day (Taylor 1978: 58). Stovel’s observation of this facility is that

The Sanitarium hotel, is a four storey, large fram (sic) structure standing in a nice grove of trees, just beyond the south end of Banff Ave, across the Bow River bridge. It is open for business in the summer months, and caters largely, to the tourist trade (Stovel 1915: np).

The Sanitarium Hotel was gutted by fire in 1933, and the park administration building has occupied the lot since the completion of its construction in 1936. The entertainment pavilion stood until 1939.

A good deal of archival information regarding the operation of the Sanitarium Hotel is available at the Glenbow Archives in Calgary, Alberta. An account book of R.G. Brett’s (M131, File#2) contains receipts from purchases of furnishings, liquor, and services related to the hotel. An inventory of holdings in each room of the hotel (M131, File #1) describes furnishings, tableware, and personal care items within the hotel, as well as the equipment in the bottling works. Most interesting, perhaps, is a 1920s vintage air photo showing all the standing structures associated with the hospital and hotel at this time (see Figure 10)



**Figure 10: 1920's air photo of Banff townsite showing Brett's hotel and hospital**

### **Archaeological Investigation of the Sanitarium Hotel (1873R)**

Parks Canada Archaeologist Gwyn Langemann and Banff NP Cultural Resource Management Warden Don Mickle visited the archaeological site associated with Bretton Hall in July of 1996. Remains were located on the southwest side of the existing administration building, where excavations for a bus parking lot had disturbed the ground.

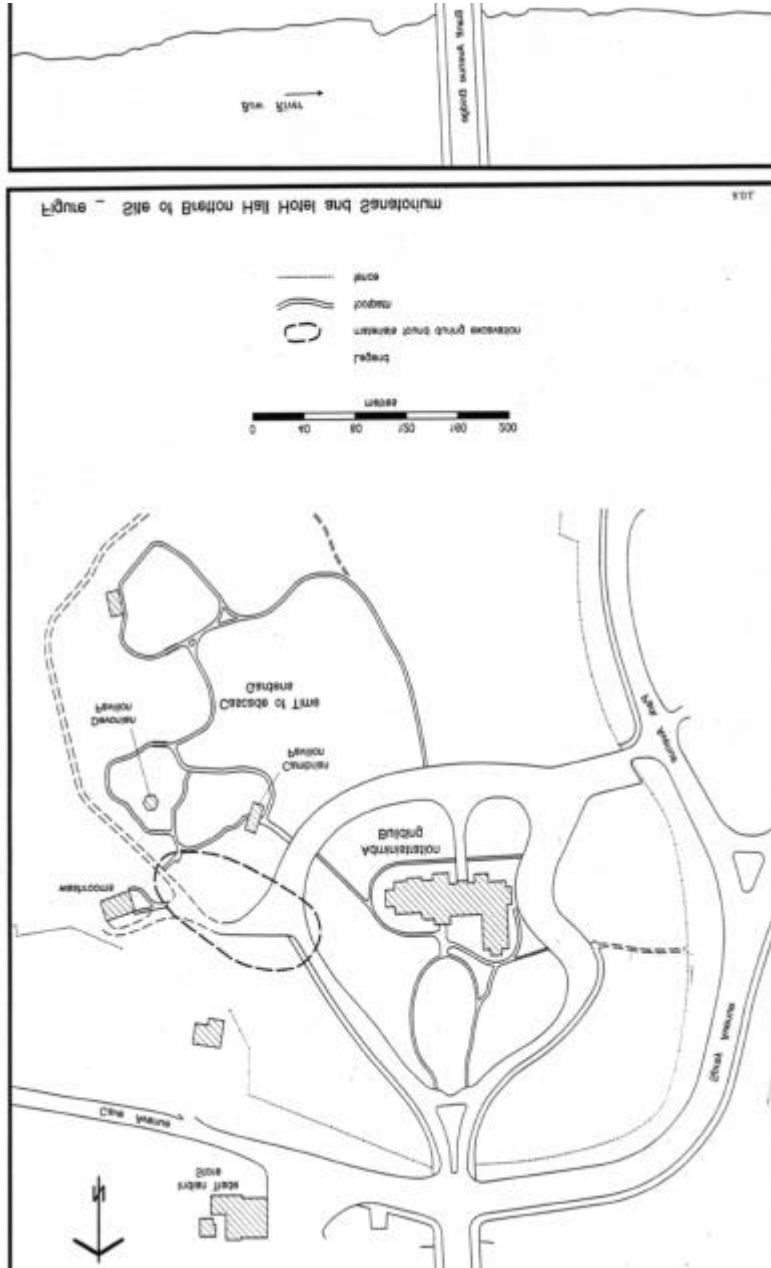


Figure 11: Location of 1873R and present Administration Building



**Figure 12: This combination of the 1920's air photo and the 1999 1873R site map** shows the relative locations of the building remains associated with the Sanitarium Hotel and the present Administration Building and gardens. Dark colored blocks represent the locations of buildings present in the air photo, while lighter blocks are the extant Parks structures. The following buildings have been identified thus far:

- a)Sanitarium Hotel; b)Administration Building; c)Trading Post; l)Brett residence; r)Brett Hospital.

## **Artifacts Recovered from 1873R1A1**

### ***Ceramic Table and Toiletry Wares***

The archaeological collection from the Sanitarium Hotel site includes both porcelain and white earthenware vessel fragments displaying a variety of decorative patterns.

Porcelain vessels fragments represent five small vessels, one of which is a bowl or teacup, while the others are unidentifiable as to form. Unidentified painted, gilt, and mould relief patterns are present on four of these fragments. One fragment, part of a small vessel rim, bears part of the black printed (transfer or stamp) Canadian-Pacific name between two double-outlined concentric circles.

White earthenware with underglaze transfer designs are more common than porcelain in the collection from the Sanitarium Hotel site. Eight separate transfer printed patterns were identified on a total of ten fragments. The only pattern repeated on more than one vessel or fragment is Copeland's "Ilium", present on three sherds from at least two vessels, a teacup and saucer. The Canadian-Pacific Railway monogram design in green was found on one rim sherd from a saucer. Transfer patterns on other fragments include unidentified geometric and floral designs in green, pink, black and brown.

The most interesting patterned sherds found in the collection from the Sanitarium Hotel include rim fragments from the hotel's custom patterned tableware. Three fragments display the remains of a logo reading "SANITARIUM HOTEL / BANFF" encircled by a belt-like decorative oval. A wide band circles the vessel rim.



**Figure 13: Ceramic sherds advertising the Bretton Hall Sanitarium Hotel in Banff, 1873R**

One white ware teacup body and rim fragment is decorated with a mould-relief wheat pattern. Not enough of the vessel remains to identify which variation of this common motif this vessel represents.

Unmarked white sherds make up a large proportion of the ceramic table and toilet ware

collection from this site. The following table lists these fragments.

<b>Ware Type</b>	<b>Body Part</b>	<b>Number of Fragments</b>	<b>Vessel Type</b>
white earthenware	base	14	unid
porcelain	base	1	unid
white earthenware	body	47	unid
porcelain	body	2	unid
white earthenware	rim	20	unid
porcelain	rim	1	unid
white earthenware	rim	4	cup
white earthenware	base-rim	1	bowl/saucer
white earthenware	base-rim	1	shallow bowl
white earthenware	base-rim	1	small bowl
white earthenware	base-rim	1	teacup
white earthenware	base-rim	1	saucer

**Table 4: Undecorated Ceramic Table and Toilet Ware Fragments from 1873R1A1**

Eight identifiable ceramic manufacturers’ markings are present on vessels from the Sanitarium Hotel collection. The date ranges associated with these markings are not well bounded by terminal dates, however all have production starting dates before or early in the 20th-century (see table below). These early dates, along with the presence of the hotel-specific transfer printed wares, support the association of these remains with the historically known period of operation of Dr. Bretts facilities.

***Other Ceramics***

Two stoneware fragments collected from 1873R represent the lid of a large crock, and the rim of an unidentified yellow-glazed vessel with a moulded decorative design on the exterior surface.

<b>Manufacturing Company</b>	<b>Dates of Manufacture</b>	<b># of Vessels Represented</b>	<b>Reference</b>
John Maddock & Sons	post 1896	1	Cushion 1980: 124
J.G. Meakin	post 1890	1	Kovel 1986: 11
J.G. Meakin	post 1912	3	Kovel 1986: 92
Alfred Meakin	post 1897	2	Kovel 1986: 12
Grindley Hotel Ware	post 1908	1	Kovel 1986: 90
Haviland & Co (France)	1891	1	Kovel 1953: 60
Mellor, Taylor & Co.	1880 - 1904	1	Cushion 1980: 104
Bridgwood & Son	late 19th-century	1	Kovel 1953: 242

**Table 5: Ceramic Manufacturers' Marks from 1873R**

### **Artifacts from 1873R2A1**

#### *Ceramic Table and Toilet Wares*

Two large, transfer printed, ceramic vessels are represented in this collection. One rim sherd from a large white earthenware basin is decorated with a turquoise-blue ribbon pattern. A body fragment from an unidentified large vessel, such as a jug or tureen, has a green floral pattern with lotus-like flowers over a solid background. The majority of ceramics collected from this operation consists of plain white bodied wares, as listed below..

<b>Ware Type</b>	<b>Body Part</b>	<b>Number of Fragments</b>	<b>Vessel Type</b>
white earthenware (mould)	rim and handle	1	pitcher
white earthenware	handle and rim	1	bucket
white earthenware	rim (scalloped)	1	basin
white earthenware	rim	1	basin
white earthenware	rim	1	tea-cup
white earthenware	rim	3	uid
porcelain	base	1	uid
white earthenware	base	1	uid
white earthenware	base footing	1	tureen
white earthenware	body	4	uid
porcelain	handle	1	bucket

**Table 6: Undecorated Ceramic Table and Toilet Ware Fragments from 1873R2A1**

## Other Tableware

A white enamelware cup with black edging is the only non-ceramic tableware from this collection. A pressed glass fragment with a ‘burst’ like geometrical design may be part of a serving dish, or conversely, part of a lamp or piece of furniture.

## ***Commercial Food Packaging***

### Condiment Containers

Three condiment vessels were collected from the Sanitarium Hotel remains. One milk-glass jar can be attributed to “MacLarens Imperial Cheese” based on an embossed base marking. Not surprisingly, a 1909 dinner menu from the Sanitarium Hotel lists MacLaren’s cheese as part of the dessert course (Glenbow Archives).



**Figure 14: Embossed base marking from cheese jar, 1873R**

A square bottle, missing neck and finish, bears the embossed lettering “...AUCE” on one panel. The third container is an unmarked, aqua colored bottle, with mould seams from an Owens machine. Its three part finish and shape are typical of sauce bottles.

### Beverage Containers

Five liquor bottles are represented in the collection of artifacts from 1873R, four from operation 2A1, and one from operation 1A1. The former include one complete, brown, turn moulded whiskey bottle; and two liquor (brandy or whiskey) style finishes, one brown and one colorless. A whiskey flask also from this operation is brown, oval shaped, and displays scars from Owens machine manufacture. Operation 1A1 produced a shoulder-finish portion of a wine style bottle with applied finish (8).



Two beer bottles were recovered from each of operations 2A1 and 1A1. One brown and one aqua Owens machine manufactured bottles with crown finishes were found in operation 2A1. The former is a large (750ml?) container, while the other is a standard ‘beer’ size. A regular, beer style, dark green bottle with Owens machine scars, missing the finish, was found in operation 1A1. The only marked liquor bottle was also found in this operation, an aqua, post-bottom-mould made beer bottle with an applied crown finish bears the embossed base marking of the Adolphus Busch company, used between 1904 and 1907. A fifth bottle, from operation 2A1, is dark olive with an applied crown finish, and may also be a beer bottle.

Unidentified container glass fragments collected at 1873R are listed in the following table.

<b>Body Portion</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Manufacture</b>	<b>Vessel Type</b>	<b># of Fragments</b>
base (marked “L”)	olive	dip	beverage	1
base heel, body	aqua	owens mach.	beer	1
base	mang. tint	machine	small jar	1
base	colorless	machine	uid oval	1
base (marked “...NO...4.../ REG.	aqua	uid	uid circular	1
base	cobalt	uid	uid circular	1
body	aqua	uid	uid	1
body	milk	uid	uid	2
body	colorless	uid	uid flat	1
complete (circle with beveled	colorless	pressed	uid	1

**Table 7: Glass container fragments recovered from 1873R**

### *Unidentified Containers*

One stoneware vessel fragment was also recovered from this operation - the shoulder of an unidentified vessel, with brown glazed exterior and black-speckled interior (39)

### *Personal Artifacts*

A woman’s necklace, made of black-stained metal, was recovered from operation 1A1. A 24" chain holds a heart shaped filigree pendant with an oval shaped mother-of-pearl inset in its centre (145).



**Figure 15: Woman's necklace from 1873R2A1**

***Structural Artifacts from 1873R1A1 and 1873R2A1***

1A1: One 1" square, green glazed ceramic floor tile with remnants of adhesive material on the underside. Aluminum sheeting square, 2cm x 2cm, with rectangular hole punched near centre, unid. function (139). White, glazed porcelain insulator for electrical wires (102)

2A1: Bolt (44): 24cm square headed bolt with domed washer on shank, cotter pin through hole in base. Ferrule (45) for unidentified structure. Screw-in plumbing pipe cap with square lug on top for wrench (43). Hooked mounting plate, with four narrowly spaced hooks (41).

***Transportation Artifacts***

2A1: Two horseshoes, one standard U-shape (42), one with bar across 'heel' (144) and smaller size.

## **Discussion**

As with the collection from the Hot Springs Hydropathic Hotel, the archaeological materials from the Banff Sanitarium Hotel were collected in a manner inconsistent with use in quantitative analyses. However, the artifacts and historical data are illuminating as to the scale of the business run by R.G. Brett in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. While the assemblage generally suggests a predominance of domestic functions in the vicinity of the site, a sense of pride in identity is displayed by the ceramics bearing the name of the Sanitarium Hotel.

When combined with information from written records and photographs, the material remains from 1873R make an important contribution to our understanding of Banff's development into the tourist mecca it has been throughout this century. For this reason, it is hoped that future developments in the vicinity of the Administration Building and gardens are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the historic nature of the site. An established program of collection and recording should also be followed when dealing with material remains recovered during the regular on-site gardening activities.

## **Present and Future Concerns at 1873R**

The only visible 'structural' remains present on the site of the Banff Sanitarium Hotel are the rows of trees surrounding the area formerly occupied by the Brett residence. These may offer interpretive potential as part of the Administration Building and Cascade Gardens presentations. A small sign noting the history of the site would be appropriate, perhaps to match the others marking Banff Townsite's historic structures.

Cascade Garden maintenance staff report that fragments of glass, ceramic, and metal are frequently found in a flowerbed to the southeast of the Cambrian Pavilion, west of the Devonian Pavilion (see figure). This area seems to be the former location of the service buildings south of the Sanitarium Hotel, and may include domestic garbage from the homes of staff members. This and any other presently exposed areas should be monitored by Cultural Resource Management staff within the park, and a system of recording collection locations established by grounds maintenance staff. Future development, including the excavation of new flower beds, pipelines, or parking areas, should proceed only after consultation with Archaeological Services staff as mitigative excavation may be required.



**Figure 16: Trees marking the former location of the Brett lawn, facing south.**



**Figure 17: Artifacts frequently recovered from flowerbed in foreground**

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**Appendix A:** Selected Room Inventories from Bretton Hall Sanitarium Hotel, R.G. Brett Fonds, Glenbow Archives.

**A.1 Dining Room Inventory**

**1. Room Furnishings**

6	tables
2	servicing tables
7	jardinieres
43	chairs
2	high chairs
2	sideboards
3	brackets
4	curtain poles
5	brackets
5	chairs
3	tables
1	cook table
1	range (cooking)
5	blinds

**2. Linens**

5	pairs curtains
7	table cloths
5	silence cloths
13	small tablecloths
3	bureau cloths
2	pieces carpet

1	door curtain
61	table napkins
2	pairs 'good curtains'

**3. Lighting Devices**

3	Lamps
1	gasoline lamp
1	Lamp
2	gasoline lamps
3	lamp reflectors
4	lamps

**4. Tableware**

8	finger bowls
45	butter chips
17	individual cream pitchers
29	water glasses
25	napkin rings
37	tablespoons
32	dessert spoons
42	teaspoons
20+	sugar spoons
31	plated knives
60+	forks

25	steel knives
8	egg cups
1	soup plate
3	egg cups
94	saucers
37	cups
34	pudding plates
59	side plates
142	dinner plates
31	soup plates
51	individual meat dishes
94	vegetable dishes
4	teaspoons
5	tablespoons
2	forks
3	knives

### 5. Serving Ware

2	celery glasses
5	cake stands
9	vinegar jugs
20	salt + peppers
3	marmalade glasses
3	syrup pitchers
11	saucers for syrup

6	silver sugar bowls
5	nut crackers
6	cruet stands
3	pitchers
6	silver cream pitchers
3	glass sugar bowls
6	mustard pots
1	glass dish
4	serving trays
3	silver trays
3	granite pitcher
5	small pitchers
3	large pitchers
6	brown teapots
2	vinegar bottle
2	syrup jugs
1	milk strainer
1	milk pail
1	milk dish
1	platter
1	small pitcher
6	fruit baskets
30+	assorted platters
5	pairs salt + peppers

1	brown teapot
2	crumb trays
3	crumb brushes

#### 6. Food Preparation

1	chopping bowl
1	bread pan
4	granite dish pans
1	meat block
2	cleavers
16	assorted granite pots
1	meat saw
11	granite pudding dishes
1	ice cream freezer
6	meat pans
3	gem pans
3	small bread pans
7	cake tins
1	copper soup kettle
1	copper water kettle
2	mincing machines
1	meat saw
4	cooking forks
4	meat knives
1	corkscrew
2	can openers

1	grater
2	colanders
1	steamer
10	large cooking spoons
1	egg beater
1	ladle
1	skimmer
11	frying pans
11	pie tins
1	coffee pot
2	coffee mills

#### 7. Miscellaneous Dishes

2	small bowls
2	small dishes
1	dish [?]
2	bowls [?]
2	water bottles
5	bowls
1	large bowl
6	small plates

#### 8. Miscellaneous Categories

1	bell
1	axe
4	toilet pitchers
1	sharpening stone



**A.2 Bedroom #8 Inventory**

**1. Room Furnishings**

1	iron bed spring
1	mattress
1	bureau
1	washstand
1	chair
1	wicker table
1	blind

**2. Linens**

2	double blankets
2	sheets
1	bed spread
2	pillows
2	pillow slips
7	towels
1	carpet
1	curtain

**3. Lighting Devices**

1	lamp
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**3. Toiletries**

1	toilet set
1	pitcher
1	glass

**A.3 Sanitarium Bottling Plant Inventory**

**1. Bottling machinery and supplies**

13	Old syphon heads fairly good / 45 heads altogether
2	Gross syphon washers
1/2	Gross syphon valves
3	Syphon [?]ougs
100	Syphon tubes
2	Bales wrappers
1	Crown cork machine
1	Carbonator pump fitting
1	Syphon filler
1	Under counter filler
1	Refrigerator [?] + coil
1	Washing machine
1	Washing [table]
1	Pasteurizing tub + fittings
6	Bottle racks
1	Small washer w[?]
7	Cushion frames for soda water
1	Gas regulator out of repair
1	Rubber hose attachment for soda
1	Quart measure
1	1/2 gal measure
1	16 oz graduate
1	2 oz graduate

1	Funnel
1	Mask
1	Pr bottling gloves
1	Filter [?]
10	Ft syrup hose
1/2	Gross bottle washers (brushes)
7	Connections block tin
1	Cooling tank
1	Washing tank

## 2. Bottling containers and closures

6	Cases G.B. pints [ginger beer]
4	Cases [lemon] sour pints
50	Doz G.B. not packed
1	Case halcyon pints
2	Cases G.B. qts
2	Cases G.A. qts [ginger ale]
512	G.B. qts not packed
65	Doz mixed qts
415	Empty quart bottles
100	[doz] empty quart bottles
115	[doz] splits empty
209	[doz] empty pints
100	Gross halcyon crown stoppers
65	Gross crown stoppers assorted
1	Sample case

40	Barrels cork bottles
1	Box corks

## 3. Soft drink ingredients

1 1/2	Gals muriatic acid
100	# crushed ginger root
3/4	Gallon essence of lemon
2	# fluid ex ginger soluble
1	# permanganate potash
1	# soluble essence champagne cider
4	Pints lime juice
1	Pint alcohol
1	# champagne cider extract
6	# soluble ess of stone ginger beer
2	# soluble ess of Belfast G.A.
1 1/2	# soluble ess of ginger
1	# sarsaparilla extract
3/4	Golden gate red colour
1/2	# liquid [?]
1	Gal strawberry extract
1	Box royal yeast cakes
1/2	# soluble essence of capsicum
18	Oz cream tartar
18	Oz tartaric acid
2 1/2	Oz gum acacia
9	[?] labels

3/4	Gal sugar coloring
30	Gals syrup
1 1/2	Gals tartaric acid solution
1	# salicylic acid
5	Ow[?] dr[?] gas
165	# gas

#### 4. Miscellaneous assets

1/2	Keg small nails
7	Small spanners
2	Heavy spanners
1	Hatchet
1	Hammer
3 1/2	Coal oil barrels
2	Old chairs
1	Set shelving 16 shelves
1	Stencil
1	Set stencil letters
1	Set stencil figures
1	Bone grinder
1	Pr heavy [hinges]
3/4	Bale of hay
	Plumbing
1	Block and tackle
1	Small plate
1	Granite ware funnel

	Shelving +c (Macintosh)
.1	Pair pipe pliers
1	Pair pump plungers + [clamp]
1	Ice box

#### 5. Empty containers

80	Barrel heads
30	New barrel hoops
2	2 gal syrup jars
1	2 gal syrup jar without top
3	5 gal [?]
1	4 gal [?]
6	1 gal syrup jars
50	Empty packing barrels

## Appendix B: Sanitarium Bottling Co.(ca.1910 - ?)

Brett's commercial enterprises extended beyond the operation of a hotel and sanitarium. Mineral water from the springs at Banff was bottled and sold for both beverage and medicinal purposes by the enterprising doctor as "Banff Lithia Water", in a bottling works that shared the lot with the hotel complex. The site of this building has not yet been located, but if found would be a significant resource for learning about early forays into the manufacturing industry in Banff.

Van Kirk (192) states that Dr. Brett first received a permit for his bottling works in 1913. However, a 1910 copy of the Crag and Canyon (100dd) includes an advertisement for "Banff Lithiated Water, Ginger Ale, and Ginger Beer - Bottled from the waters of the famous Banff Hot Springs - Sanitarium Bottling Co." (Taylor 1978: 40).

The mineral water sales business grew quickly, as Stovel writes that

The mineral water from Mt. Sulphur, found in such quantities at Banff, have been furnished to the public in bottled form. There is waht [sic] is known, as the Banff Bottling Works, on Martin Street, and also the Banff Lithia Works at the rear of the Sanitarium (Stovel 1915: np).

Although much historical data remains to be found regarding these businesses, Brett did leave a detailed listing of all materials present in the bottling works as of 1909.



Label from Banff Lithia Water, made by the Sanitarium Bottling Company.



Syphon in Glenbow Museum collections. Etched label on glass reads "BANFF HOT SPRINGS / BANFF ALTA / LITHIA WATER". Impressed mark on metal spout of syphon reads "R.G. BRETT".



Banff mineral water bottles held in the Glenbow museum collections.

**Appendix C:** Artifacts selected for reference collection from Hot Springs Hotel and Banff Sanitarium Hotel Sites.

<b>Catalogue #</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Colour (*)</b>	<b>Description</b>
1109R1A1-55	ceramic toiletry	chamber pot fragment	red	poppy transfer print
1109R1A1-78	ceramic toiletry	chamber pot fragment	green	poppy transfer print
1109R1A1-87	ceramic household	unid vessel fragment	green	poppy transfer print
1109R1A1-88	ceramic household	vase (?) fragment	blue	poppy transfer print
1109R1A1-72	ceramic tableware	platter fragment	blue	Ilium transfer print
1109R1A1-9	bottle	beer	aqua	N&Co (embossed)
1109R1A1-12	bottle	beer	green	JC Co (embossed)
1109R1A1-92	bottle	wine	olive	small turn mould
1109R1A1-15	bottle	beer	olive	dip mould beer
1109R1A1-18	bottle	liquor flask	aqua	D.DAVIAS (embossed)
1109R1A1-23	bottle	beer	brown	WOOSTER (embossed)
1109R1A1-32	bottle	sauce	aqua	small LEA & PERRINS
1109R1A1-43	bottle	condiment	colourless	THETA SNIDER
1109R1A1-36	bottle	condiment	colourless	HORTON CATO
1109R1A1-41	bottle	medicinal	brown	JOHNSON'S FLUID
1109R1A1-40	bottle	milk	manganese	LAURENTIA
1109R1A1-43	jar	ointment	colourless	VASELINE
1109R1A1-54	food can	marmalade	multi	James Roberston & Sons
1873R1A1-88	ceramic tableware	small bowl fragment	blue	Ilium transfer print
1873R1A1-135	ceramic tableware	teacup rim fragment	blue	Ilium transfer print
1873R1A1-86	ceramic tableware	bowl fragment	blue	Ilium transfer print
1873R1A1-5	ceramic tableware	unid body fragment	red	Banff Sanitarium Hotel
1873R1A1-6	ceramic tableware	unid rim fragment	green	Banff Sanitarium Hotel
1873R1A1-9	ceramic tableware	unid rim fragment	green	Banff Sanitarium Hotel
1873R1A1-145	woman's necklace		unid metal	filigree heart pendant with

\*: indicates pattern in case of ceramics, body colour in case of glass, label on food can