

# New life for old

## *Proposed site of new Travelodge Hotel development*

By **RON WALTER**

*The Times-Herald*

For several years, the old Grant Hall Hotel has stood empty in the heart of historic downtown Moose Jaw.

The days of deterioration into an eyesore appear over for the facility.

The stage for construction of a \$6 million downtown hotel was set recently when city council wrote off \$1.2 million in tax arrears and demolition costs on the Grant Hall Hotel.

Travelodge Canada sold a hotel franchise with 80-120 rooms, restaurant, and bar on the site of the old Main Street Hotel.

The new hotel will create 80-85 jobs.

The developer pledges to start construction by Sept. 1, 1988.

Regina Lawyer Gordon McKenzie said the franchised hotel will be financed half with equity from a public share offering, half by debt. The share issue could be on sale by February.

Expected minimum share holding is \$150,000.

Travelodge might pump money into the development through its recently-issued \$150 million real estate investment trust.

Travelodge finds the downtown market warrants a hotel, given the success of the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa.

Walkways from the hotel to the spa and City Square Mall are probable.

"I can't speak for the construction team but I think the intent is to preserve some of the unique architecture in the old hotel," said McKenzie.

Plans could also include relocation of the Golden Nugget Casino from the exhibition grounds into the new hotel facility.

Doug Mintenko and Arlen Avery are among current owners of the Grant Hall facility.

Royco Hotels and Resorts of Calgary will manage the hotel.

Travelodge is expected to begin construction in September.

Travelodge's plans are to save the bottom two floors of the old hotel building on the northeast corner of Main and Cordova Streets for a casino operation with a walkway to the east connecting the hotel. The top four floors would be removed and a new roof placed on the area.

The high-ceilinged marble-columned foyer/dining room area would become the casino.

Parking is a combination of underground and above ground stalls.

Mayor Ray Boughen hopes part of the landmark hotel can be kept in any event.

"I suggested they keep it for retail space," said Boughen, "That wasn't accepted or rejected. To be fair, everybody is still trying to bring the casino to the Grant Hall."

# Grant Hall





■ The Grant Hall prior to closing in 1989.