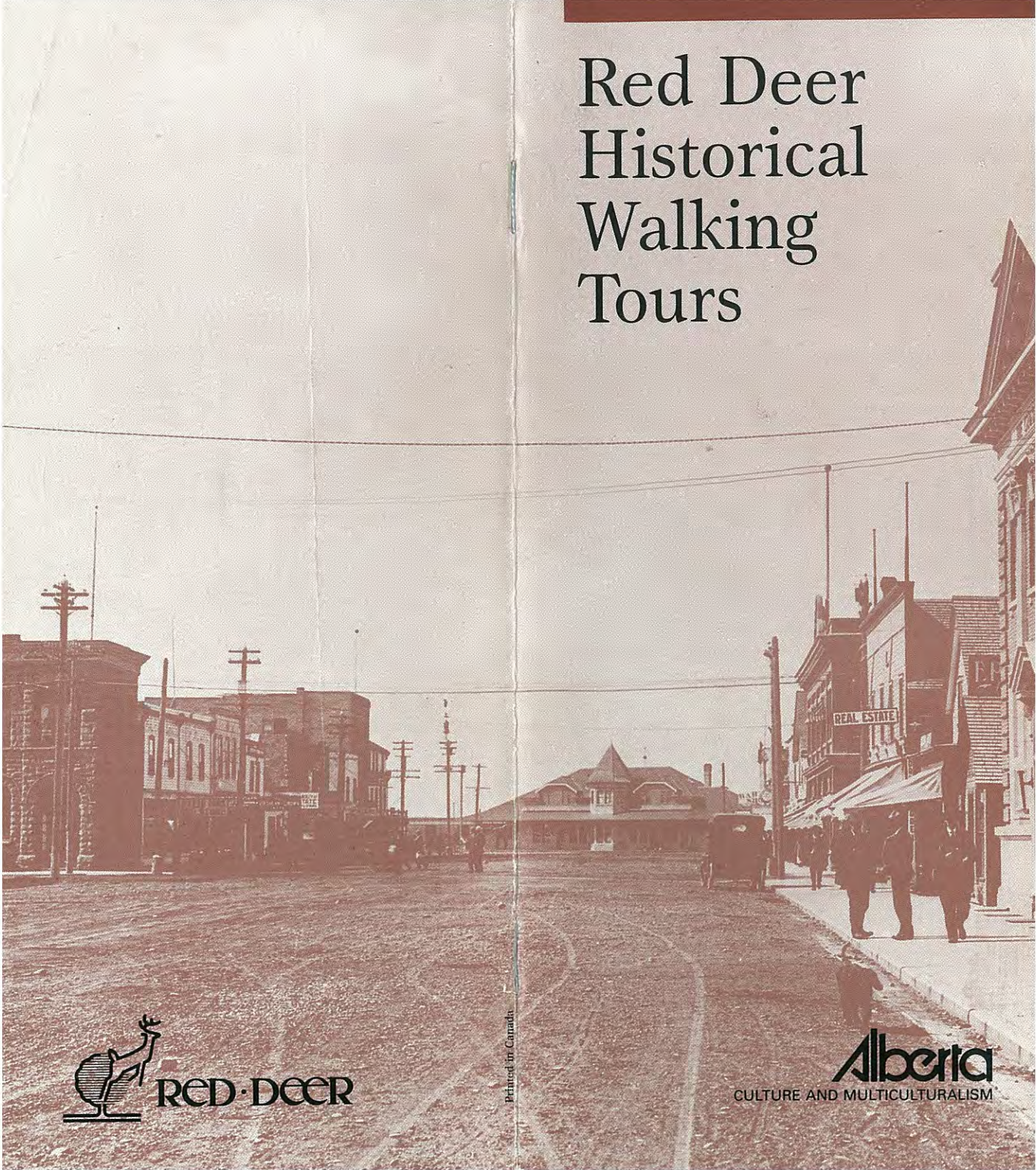


Red Deer Historical Walking Tours



RED · DEER

Printed in Canada

Alberta

CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM

Red Deer Historical Walking Tours



- Tour I - Downtown**
- Tour II - Gaetz Park**
- Tour III - Parkvale**



Ross Street, looking west, c. 1945.

The Red Deer Historical Walking Tour is comprised of three “mini-tours”, each dealing with a specific aspect of Red Deer’s early development.

General information concerning each walk is contained in the introduction which precedes it. A map, showing the routes of the tours, is located at the back of the brochure. An architectural glossary is also provided for easy reference.

Introduction

The three walking tours represent a cross-section of Red Deer's history, generally prior to 1914. The numerous buildings and sites along the tours illustrate various elements of the community's colourful past - its pioneers, early architectural trends and aspects of the frontier society and economy. In addition to revealing the unique character of local development south of the Red Deer River, the walking tours promote an awareness of broader themes in the history of Alberta.

According to archaeologists, native people occupied land in the Central Alberta region for more than ten thousand years prior to the arrival of the first European explorers. The advance of the fur trade from eastern Canada in the 1700s brought immense changes to the native cultures. By the early 1870s, when Metis buffalo hunters had established seasonal settlements along the Red Deer River, the way of life of the native people was in decline. Addison McPherson was the first European to reside in the district. In 1872, he built a seasonal trapper's log cabin at a natural ford on the Red Deer River, about five kilometres south-west of the present city.

Permanent settlement commenced at the same crossing in the summer of 1882. In the following two years, the Dominion Government dispatched Thomas Kain and M.J. Charbonneau to survey land in Central Alberta. With the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway as far as Calgary in 1883 and the start of the Leeson and Scott stagecoach service between Calgary and Edmonton in 1884, access to the area improved. However, the anticipated rush of settlers did not immediately materialize. The availability of agricultural land in the United States and a general decline in the world economy limited migration to the Canadian west for another five years. Consequently, only a small group of settlers had arrived in the Red Deer district by 1884.

Among them was the Reverend Leonard Gaetz, his wife and family of ten children. A Methodist minister from London, Ontario, the Rev. Gaetz heard of the agricultural potential of the Red Deer Valley from his friend, John T. Moore, managing director for the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company. Suffering from ill health, Rev. Gaetz decided to travel west and homesteaded on land approximately five kilometres east of the settlement at Red Deer Crossing.

Rev. Gaetz exerted tremendous influence on the early community's development. An ardent promoter of the district's agricultural resources, he approached the Federal Government in 1886 to request support for railway expansion into Central Alberta. His hopes were realized in 1889, when the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company was incorporated to link these prairie centres. By the summer of 1890, railway construction was underway. Gaetz persuaded the C. and E. Railway Company to cross the river on his property in return for a donation of a half interest in 1200 acres of land for the townsite. This negotiation resulted in the relocation of the Red Deer townsite from the Crossing to its present site in 1891. Only the North West Mounted Police post at Fort Normandeau and the Indian Industrial School remained at the original location.

In spite of the disruption caused by the move, community development proceeded steadily. Between 1891 and 1914, Red Deer grew from a rugged frontier hamlet into a progressive young city. Agriculture and the lure of free homestead land initially prompted settlement in the region during the 1890s. In addition, provisions and services demanded by both incoming settlers and railway construction crews created attractive opportunities for enterprising businessmen. By the early 1900s, Red Deer had a well-established commercial

sector that included retail and wholesale businesses, agricultural processing industries and small manufacturing companies. Business growth accelerated under boom conditions. Population growth in the district, expanding markets for construction materials, agricultural produce, fuel, household effects, farm implements and a variety of other goods and services all reinforced local economic development. Construction of the Canadian Northern Railway to Nordegg and the Alberta Central Railway to Rocky Mountain House in 1914 contributed to Red Deer's ascendant position.

This rise to regional economic prominence paralleled increases in the local population. In 1894, when the first municipal government was formed, there were over 50 people in the village. Seven years later, Red Deer was incorporated as a town with 323 residents. By 1913, the year Red Deer achieved city status, the population had soared to nearly 2,800. Social and institutional changes accompanied the influx of people. The pressures of this urban growth further necessitated the construction of residences, educational facilities, government buildings, and basic community services. By 1914, the economy of western Canada was in decline, but Red Deer was firmly established as a young city, and at the end of its formative era.

I. Downtown Tour

This section of the Red Deer Historical Walking Tour addresses the early development of the City's downtown core. The tour covers the area between the Red Deer & District Museum and the C.P.R. station, from 45 to 54 Street. It is 3.9 kilometres in length and requires approximately 1.75 hours to complete. The tour begins with Heritage Square.

I-1

Heritage Square

4525 - 47 A Avenue

Heritage Square was developed in 1988 as part of the commemoration of Red Deer's 75th Anniversary as a city. It comprises a collection of five structures, including the Stevenson-Hall Block, the Presbyterian Church Steeple, the Aspelund Loft Hus, the Gaetz Library and a replica of Red Deer's first school. Two of the structures are represented here.



Stevenson-Hall Block, 1930s.

Stevenson-Hall Block

The Stevenson-Hall Block was built in 1891 to house the grocery business of Messrs. Stevenson and Hall. Over the years, it found alternate uses, serving as a law office, bank, land agency, tailor shop and gas station. It was also the site of Red Deer's early Board of Trade and Village Council meetings.

The wood frame structure is a good example of prairie pioneer architecture, with a type of boomtown front, used to disguise the actual roof shape and increase the apparent size of the building. As the oldest surviving building in Red Deer, it is an enduring reminder of the town's modest beginnings.

Gaetz Library

The Gaetz Library is the only remaining portion of the retirement home built by the Reverend Leonard Gaetz. Arriving in the Red Deer area in 1884 with his wife and ten children, Rev. Gaetz was the first to homestead what is now downtown Red Deer. In 1901, Rev. Gaetz moved back to Red Deer from Brandon, Manitoba, and built Woodlea Cottage on 56 Street. In response to his wife's failing health, Rev. Gaetz constructed the library annex, where he could work and meet with friends without disturbing Mrs. Gaetz.



Woodlea Cottage, circa 1905.

The Downtown Tour continues north past the Red Deer & District Museum.

The Parkvale Tour leaves Heritage Square by way of the east exit.



View of Downtown, 1912.

I-2

Railway Relocation

Following abandonment of its troublesome bridge across the Red Deer River in the spring of 1941, the Canadian Northern Railway found that maintaining its station on Ross Street became increasingly impractical. By 1959, the C.N.R. decided to move its yards from the south side of the river, opening up two hectares of land on the south and eastern edges of the downtown core for potential redevelopment.

The Recreation Centre, the Red Deer & District Museum and the Golden Circle have all been constructed on this vacated land. The large open spaces here are in obvious contrast to the concentrated development evident in the remainder of the Downtown Tour. Commercial, judicial, manufacturing, religious and residential buildings, most of which were constructed between 1891 and 1913, are represented.

Red Deer Armoury

4905 - 49 Street

The Armoury was built as the regimental headquarters for the 35th Central Alberta Horse. The controversial placement of this building, which included a rifle range and seating for up to 300 men, was a breach of the "City Beautiful" concept plan for Red Deer's civic centre, and came about as the direct result of effective provincial electioneering.

When Red Deer's M.L.A. and leader of the provincial Conservative Party, Edward Michener, found himself in a close contest with his Liberal opponent during the 1913 provincial election, he convinced his friends and allies in the federal government to announce the construction of an armoury and lavish new post office building for Red Deer.

Mr. Michener narrowly won the election and the Armoury was ceremoniously opened on January 1, 1914. The post office project was abandoned and the large excavation prepared for it was eventually filled by the Dominion Government in 1922.



View of Red Deer Armoury from City Hall Park, 1950.

The Red Deer Armoury diverges from other armoury designs common to Western Canada in its reduced scale. However, the twin square towers with battlements, the rib-like buttresses along the side walls and a gable parapet above the front entrance reflect the fortress-like design of the building. Constructed of solid brick, the Armoury used locally quarried sandstone for both its foundation and detailing.

Snell Residence Site

4915 - 48 Avenue

Charles H. Snell was born in England and emigrated to Canada in 1906 to homestead with his brother. In 1912, he moved to Red Deer where he later worked as a rodman with the Dominion Lands Survey. Following completion of his surveying studies in 1923, he was awarded the Alberta and Dominion Land Surveyor Certificates and established his own surveying firm.



Illustration of Snell Residence by Linda Key, 1982.

In addition to his affiliation with the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association, Mr. Snell was both a member and president of the Alberta Natural History Society. He is remembered locally for his long-standing support of the Red Deer Public Library. Instrumental in its creation, he served on the Library Board for thirty-five years. Mr. Snell's contributions to the city of Red Deer were commemorated in 1967, with the naming of the Snell Gallery in the Red Deer Centennial Public Library.

Charles Snell purchased the home on this site in 1929. Serving as both his residence and office, the two storey brick veneer structure was completed with a covered front porch, bevelled glass windows and fish-scale shingles on the gable ends.

The house was demolished on December 19, 1985. A commemorative plaque and bench, set in bricks salvaged from his home, honour this pioneer surveyor and community builder.

Gaetz Memorial United Church 4758 Ross Street

The Ontario influence in the Red Deer district was a guarantee that the Methodist Church would play an important role in the religious life of the community.

In the mid-1880s, Red Deer's first Methodist services were conducted in the homes of settlers throughout Central Alberta, and in the log school-house now reproduced in Heritage Square. By the early 1890s, it became apparent that a permanent structure was necessary and, through organized work bees, the first church in Red Deer was constructed. By 1910, an even larger structure was required, and the Leonard Gaetz Memorial Methodist Church was officially opened and dedicated. The church served the Methodist congregation until the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925. The beautiful brick structure, crafted by master bricklayer, Julius McIntosh, was destroyed by fire in 1955 and the present Gaetz Memorial United Church was dedicated on October 4, 1956.

While the pointed roof and stained glass windows are derived from Gothic styling, the church is typical of a "beauty in materials" type of architecture which evolved in the 1950s. Based on the premise that buildings should be honest, clean and crisp, this plain architectural style called for the elimination of pretense in design.



Gaetz Memorial United Church, 1911.

City Hall Park Ross Street

The land for this park was acquired by the Town of Red Deer in 1902. Based on the 1913 civic centre plan by local architect, C.A. Julian Sharman, the park was first landscaped in 1914. Mr. Sharman's design followed the "City Beautiful" movement, fashionable in North America prior to World War I. The concept of grandiose public buildings, clustered geometrically in spacious, park-like centres had already been addressed in Edmonton by the Minnesota firm of Nicholas and Morrell, and in Calgary by British planner, Thomas H. Mawson. Interrupted by recession and war, Red Deer's Post Office, Court House and City Hall are the only structures in place from Mr. Sharman's original plan.



City Hall Park, 1950.

The present park was designed in the early 1950s by Hugh Gilchrist, Parks Superintendent. The geometrically arranged flower beds and pathways radiating outward from a central core contribute to the picturesque appeal of the park. In the northeast corner of City Hall Park stands the Royal Canadian Air Force Monument, erected in 1967 to honour all airmen who lost their lives during World War II.

Old Red Deer Court House

4836 Ross Street



Red Deer Court House, 1968.

Judicial proceedings were first heard in Central Alberta at Fort Normandeau, the local headquarters of the North West Mounted Police. In 1903, the Dominion Government erected a Court House and Land Titles Office in Red Deer to serve this district of the North West Territories. In 1907, two years after Alberta became a province and a new provincial judicial system was implemented, the Government of Alberta purchased a site for a new court house.

However, pressing needs for public works elsewhere in the province, combined with the economic recession of 1913 and the outbreak of World War I in 1914, forced postponement of the Red Deer project until the late 1920s. During the interim, the Provincial Government leased other facilities for court sessions, including the Gaetz Manufacturing Building, just north of the present structure.

The Red Deer Court House was officially opened on March 6, 1931. Visually an impressive building, it was the last in Alberta to be designed with classically inspired details. It is a steel frame structure, covered with red Flemish bond brick and completed with a terra cotta tiled roof. Tyndall limestone is used in the ionic columns, window trim and entablature. The provincial coat-of-arms forms a relief on the curved pediment.

The Court House was one successfully implemented aspect of C.A. Julian Sharman's 1913 plan.



Detailing of Red Deer Court House, 1968.

In recognition of its historic and architectural significance, the Red Deer Court House was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1986, and now serves as a Community Arts Centre.



Court House under construction, 1930.

Continue north for one block on 49 Avenue.

Gaetz Manufacturing Company Building

4840 - 51 Street

Constructed in 1910, the Gaetz Manufacturing Company Building was one of Red Deer's earliest manufacturing facilities. The Company, comprised of H.H. Gaetz, L.M. Gaetz, H. Meeres, E.M. Kane and J.A. Beresford, initially manufactured garments and overalls. By 1912, the Company expanded into the dry goods wholesale business, but was ultimately unsuccessful. Between 1916 and 1930, the building was leased by the Provincial Government for use as temporary court facilities. The first court session in Canada with women jury members was heard in this building in 1922.



Gaetz Manufacturing Company Building, 1912.

The structure was one of the more functional designs of architect, C.A. Julian Sharman. Built by Hugh Clarke, the two-storey brick building was a "reduced" version of the six to eight-storey warehouse buildings found in Calgary and Edmonton at this time. While the original pressed metal cornice is gone, the brick belt courses, which emphasize the lintels and sills of the windows, remain. The painted signage at the top of the building was an advertising style used in an era of no night lighting.

The tour returns to Ross Street and continues west.

Cenotaph

Ross Street and 4900 Block

The Cenotaph was erected in memory of the men and women of Central Alberta who served during the First World War. With the outbreak of war in 1914, thousands of newly-arrived settlers in western Canada enlisted in the armed forces to defend the cause of the British Empire and the Dominion of Canada. Casualties were generally high among Canadian troops, and of the more than 800 citizens from the Red Deer district who served overseas, 114 did not return from the European battlefields.

The Cenotaph was commissioned in 1921 after sufficient funds were obtained through public donations. Major Frank Norbury, an architectural sculptor at the University of Alberta, carved the figure of the soldier in Tyndall stone. Local architect, C.A. Julian Sharman, designed the pedestal. On September 15, 1922 the monument was formally unveiled by Lord Byng of Vimy, the Governor General of Canada. Names of local soldiers killed in action during World War II have since been added to scrolls inside the monument.

From its site at the centre of Ross Street, the sculpted figure of the soldier faces west toward the train station, symbolizing the yearning of Canadian soldiers to return home from the battle-torn fields of France. This memorial remains as a proud and grateful tribute to Red Deer's war dead.



Unveiling of Cenotaph, September 1922.

Greene Block

5001 Ross Street

The Greene Block was constructed in 1901 for George Greene, who came to Red Deer from Ontario in 1891 to establish a law practice. Following the Town's incorporation in 1901, Mr. Greene became legal counsel to Red Deer administrators. He served in this capacity until 1916, when he moved to Medicine Hat to accept an appointment as a District Court Judge.

The Greene Block was one of Red Deer's most distinctive business structures. Initially, it provided space for Mr. Greene's law firm, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and the Town Council Chambers. Over the years, the real estate and insurance firm of Latimer and Botterill, the fire and life insurance firm of John Malcolm and Company and A.B. Mitchell Jewellers operated from offices in this structure.



Greene Block with Stevenson-Hall Block in background, 1906.

The Greene Block is derived from the Romanesque Revival style, a commercial building form popular in western Canada between 1880 and 1910. Typical characteristics include round-arched windows, rugged masonry work and a classically-inspired cornice at the roof level. The Greene Block is constructed of sandstone from the Moore quarry. It replaced the Stevenson-Hall Block which was initially moved further south along Gaetz Avenue and ultimately relocated to Heritage Square in 1988.

Brumpton's Store

5003 Ross Street

Brumpton's store is the City's oldest building on its original site and has been associated with retail merchandising since its construction close to a century ago. It consists of two separate wood frame structures which have since been concealed by a new facade. The eastern portion of the building was erected in 1892 while the smaller, western portion was constructed between 1899 and 1903.



Brumpton Block when occupied by Desmarchais Plumbing, 1908.

Robert C. Brumpton arrived in Red Deer from Ontario in 1892 and built this to serve as his general store. In common with other prairie centres, entrepreneurs played a significant role in the promotion of both the local and regional economy.

As one of the first merchants in town following completion of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, Mr. Brumpton's influence in this frontier community soon became apparent. He was a member of both the local Board of Trade and the Public School Board and was elected to the first municipal council following Red Deer's incorporation as a town in 1901. An energetic businessman, Mr. Brumpton held financial interests in other general stores, local real estate and the Red Deer Brick Company.

The tour heads north on Gaetz Avenue.

Hamilton Block

5211 Gaetz Avenue

The Hamilton Block was built in 1913 as revenue property for Clarence Hamilton. The main floor was originally occupied by the Wilson and Teasdale Butcher Shop, while the second storey rooms were rented out as living accommodation.

Directly south stands a smaller building which served as the Hamilton and Sons Bakery. In 1916, Mr. Hamilton entered into partnership with Thomas A. Wiltshire who, in 1921, assumed full ownership of the company under the name, The Red Deer Bakery. Famous throughout central Alberta, the bakery and adjoining ice cream parlor were among the most popular and successful businesses in Red Deer.

The long, narrow styling of the Hamilton Block is a standard commercial design for this period. With limited frontage, all the architectural detailing is concentrated on the facade. The large date stone, cornice, name plate and modillions embellish the building front, while the sides remain unadorned. In addition, two qualities of brick are used in the construction of the block, with the better quality reserved for the facade.

On the north wall can be seen advertising for "The Red Deer Bakery" and "Purity Flour", painted directly on the building during an era when sign painting was a trade. These features can best be viewed from the C.A.D.P. Condensery.



Mr. Clarence Hamilton inside bakery, 1914.

St. Luke's Anglican Church

4931 - 54 Street

St. Luke's is the oldest church building in Red Deer. Constructed of local sandstone which is distinctively grey in colour, the church is patterned after the Gothic Revival style of architecture. It features a square bell tower with battlements, a steeply pitched gable roof and pointed arch windows with simple, intersecting tracery work. The tall, narrow lancet windows and the trinity windows on the north side complete the detailing. A cross-shaped finial was originally set atop the main gable.



St. Luke's Anglican Church, 1911.

Construction of the church began in 1899 on land donated by Stephen Wilson. While Edmonton architects, Edminston and Johnson, prepared the basic design for the church, they were ably assisted throughout the planning and construction phases by the rector, Reverend Joshua Hinchliffe, who was also a trained architect. Despite periodic shortages of building materials, St. Luke's was completed in 1906 and became a vital part of the young community of Red Deer. The church stands as an enduring reminder of the contributions of both Reverend Hinchliffe and his early parishioners to the development of this important religious institution.

In 1977, St. Luke's Anglican Church was designated a Registered Historic Resource by the Government of Alberta in recognition of its historic and architectural significance.

Central Alberta Dairy Pool Condensery

Gaetz Avenue and 5400 Block

Development of a local dairy industry began in 1893 with the formation of the Red Deer Dairy Association. Over the years, a number of attempts were made to establish successful creamery operations and, by 1912, a new plant was constructed in Red Deer by A.H. Trimble. It was soon taken over by the newly formed Laurentia Milk Company which pioneered the production of homogenized milk and cream.

In 1924, the Central Alberta Dairy Pool was organized by the United Farmers of Alberta at Alix. The Pool expanded rapidly over the next decade and, in 1936, a milk condensery was built in Red Deer. Premier William Aberhart officiated at the September opening of the facility, indicating its importance to the province. Since the late 1930s, milk products from the plant have been marketed under the "Alpha" name, replacing the original "Alpine" label.

For years, the Alpha Dairy plant has been a familiar landmark in Red Deer. The original Central Alberta Dairy Pool condensery is still visible at the centre of the complex, although dominated by the additions built in 1942 and 1953. The combined structures attest to the long-standing and significant role the dairy industry has played in the Red Deer district.



*C.A.D.P. Condensery, Official Opening,
September 1936.*

Canadian Pacific Railway Station Ross Street and 51 Avenue

The arrival of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway in the winter of 1890 brought a host of changes to the fledgling frontier community of Red Deer. The most obvious of these was the physical relocation of the settlement from "the Crossing" to the present site, five kilometres east. Lands north of Calgary were opened up for large-scale settlement. With its strategic location halfway between Calgary and Edmonton, Red Deer became the focal point for the distribution of supplies and services to new settlers. Businesses sprang up to meet the material needs of the burgeoning population. In 1907, Red Deer was designated the divisional point of the Canadian Pacific Railway.



C.P.R. Station, 1912.

In 1891, a small wood frame station was constructed on this site. When it became apparent that a more substantial facility was needed to accommodate the growing population, the original was moved directly south to make way for the present structure. Designed by a Winnipeg-based C.P.R. architect and erected under the watchful eye of a Winnipeg general contractor, the building was completed in 1910, at a cost of \$34,050.00.

An impressive building, the Red Deer Station features a central polygonal tower with a conical roof. The projecting eaves of the long, low roofline are supported by large brackets. Sandstone lintels and sills complete the window detailing.

Adjacent to the station was a large park, laid out by the C.P.R. in 1905. A water fountain, donated by Edward Michener, formed the focal point of the landscaping. The park served as a rest place for both travellers and local residents until its removal in 1960.

The C.P.R. station has long been a dominant landmark at the west end of Ross Street.

Following completion of the Calgary-Edmonton Railway in 1891, increasing numbers of settlers, salesmen and speculators arrived in Central Alberta. In response to this surge in traffic, a number of hotels sprang up adjacent to the C.P.R. Station.



View of C.P.R. Park and adjacent hotels, 1912.

Alberta Hotel/Buffalo Hotel 5031 Ross Street

The Alberta Hotel, Red Deer's first, was erected on this site in 1891. In 1912, a three-storey brick addition was constructed on the east side. Then, in 1939, the original portion of the Alberta Hotel was demolished and replaced with the present Buffalo Hotel. The 1912 addition remains.

The Buffalo Hotel serves as a fine example of the Art Moderne style of architecture popular in the 1930s and 1940s. Characterized by rounded corners, smooth walls and geometric detailing, it was considered a very "up-to-the-minute" architectural style. The use of glass blocks and black ceramic tile break the otherwise plain stucco finish. The revolving neon sign is one of the few remaining in both the City and the Province.



Alberta Hotel, 1894.



Buffalo Hotel, 1939.

Arlington Hotel

4905 - 51 Avenue

The Arlington Hotel was erected in 1899 by Thomas P. Ellis on the site of the former Queen's Hotel, and remained under continuous family ownership until 1969.

The hotel was known throughout Alberta for its atmosphere of comfort and decorum. Consequently, many notable banquets were held here. Following Alberta's declaration as a province in 1905, the matter of placement of the capital came under consideration, and Red Deer made a bid for the honour. In April 1906, members of the Legislature were invited to visit Red Deer to view the proposed sites, and were treated to a lavish banquet at the Arlington. The speech-making lasted until 4:45 a.m. and while it was felt that Red Deer was well situated, the site beautiful and the banquet enjoyable, Edmonton was chosen as the capital.

The proportions and massing of the original hotel are reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts revival movement in England and suggest the appearance of an English country inn.

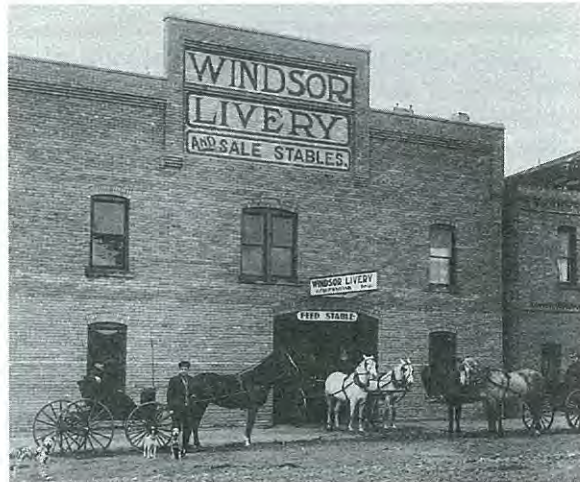


Arlington Hotel, 1907.

Windsor Hotel and Livery

4822 - 51 Avenue

The brick structure now housing the Windsor Hotel was built in 1899 for use as a mercantile block. Its intended use was never realized and it operated for the next four years as a public facility known as Nelson's Hall. In 1903, the building was extensively renovated and became the Royal Hotel. The name was later changed to the present one, the Windsor.



Windsor Livery, 1911.

The Windsor Livery was constructed in conjunction with the hotel on what was then known as Holt Avenue. Livery services assumed particular importance during this period when the saddle horse and horse-drawn buggy were still the primary means of transportation. It wasn't unusual for a settler to arrive in Red Deer by train and seek out convenient accommodation for the night, before hiring a horse and wagon and a land guide to take him to his new homestead.

Proceed east on 49 Street.

Palace Livery

5007 - 49 Street

The Palace Livery was built in 1912, at a time when fodder and shelter for horses were still important services for both incoming farmers and town residents. Originally owned by A. Iverson, the livery was sold in 1913 to the Reid Brothers, who operated it until they assumed ownership of the Windsor Livery in 1915. The livery was subsequently purchased by A. Clutterbuck and, in 1916, by Parcher and Sons who were operators of a draying business. It is believed that they were the last tenants to stable horses in the building.

Constructed of brick, the Palace Livery is unique in its use of two separate styles of boomtown front. Visible from the alley is the word, "Livery", painted on the gable end of the building. The large wooden beam used to support the loading winch for raising hay bales is still intact, and recalls the building's original function.



Palace Livery, 1989.

Parsons' Residence

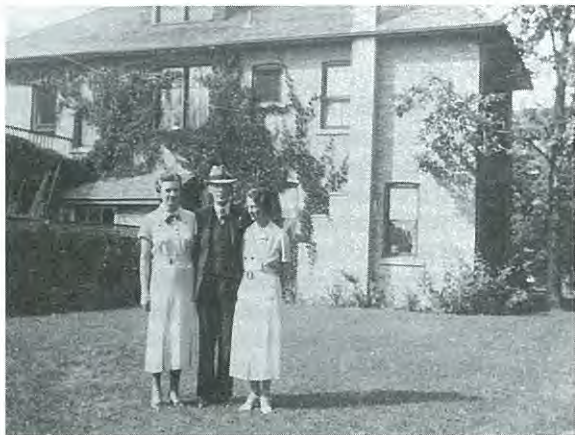
48 - 49 Street

In 1903, Dr. Richard Parsons left Ontario to assume the medical practice of Drs. J.J. and Etta Denovan in Red Deer. For several years, he was one of very few doctors in the district. His duties expanded in 1906, with his appointment to the position of District Surgeon for all CPR employees between Calgary and Edmonton. In 1909, Dr. Parsons purchased the first motor car in Red Deer. Prior to that, a saddle horse and horse-drawn buggy were his sole means of visiting patients scattered across a vast territory stretching from the Rocky Mountains in the west to Delburne in the east. In 1916, Dr. Parsons enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps and served overseas for two years before returning to his practice in Red Deer.

During his forty-one year medical career, Dr. Parsons gained recognition as a distinguished physician in Alberta. In addition to his surgical skill and ardent support of local and rural hospital development, Dr. Parsons was active on the Council of the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons. A member for twenty years, he was elected Council President for two years.



Dr. Richard Parsons with Buggy, 1903.



Dr. and Mrs. Parsons with daughter, Ella, in backyard of house, c. 1930.

Dr. Parsons purchased this residence from real estate entrepreneur, Edward Michener, in 1905. Built two years earlier for Thomas Goard of the Red Deer Music Company, the house was designed by C.A. Julian Sharman and constructed by master bricklayer, Julius McIntosh. In 1912, an addition was made to the home and it served as both an office and family residence. This two-storey brick structure has a classical motif, with hipped roofs, segmentally arched windows and tall chimney stacks. The large porch is supported by doric columns and features dentils below the cornice.

All four of Dr. Parsons' children were born in this house. His two sons, Richard MacGregor and William Bull, also pursued careers in medicine and helped to maintain the high standard of medical service established by their father.

The tour heads south on 48 Avenue.

Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene

4801 - 48 Street

This structure is Red Deer's oldest wooden church. Functional in design, the one-storey frame building is virtually devoid of ornamentation and pretense.

Originally located at the foot of Michener Hill on property donated by George Sheline, the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene was constructed during the fall of 1912 and officially dedicated on January 5, 1913. When it became apparent that a more central location would be desirable, the Trustee Board of the church purchased the property on this corner and the building was moved here in 1920.



Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene at the foot of Michener Hill, 1915.

By 1927, the building not only was used for regular church services, but provided extra classroom space for the newly-formed Alberta School of Evangelism.

The recommendation to build a provincial Bible Institute resulted from the historic 1927 Assembly in Calgary. The decision to locate it in Red Deer was based on a number of considerations. The city was located on the mainline of the railway between Calgary and Edmonton and was a central point for the church to spread both north and south. It was a very scenic location in the heart of the Parkland of Alberta. As well, it was believed that Red Deer would grow into a thriving city and that the church centre might grow with it.

South Red Deer Cottage School 49 Avenue and 45 Street

Red Deer's earliest citizens viewed public education as a priority in community development. In 1887, the first school between Calgary and Edmonton was erected at the Crossing. In 1894, a permanent two-room brick building was constructed in the new townsite of Red Deer. By the turn of the century, this structure did not meet classroom needs and an eight-room school was erected in 1907. With the peak of the immigration boom between 1910 and 1913, classroom space once again proved to be inadequate and the Red Deer Protestant Public School Board decided to build two identical cottage schools, one on either side of the river.

Constructed in 1911, the low-cost, wood-frame buildings were much like the temporary, pre-war cottage schools erected in Calgary and Edmonton. C.A. Julian Sharman adapted the simple, two-storey design to meet local requirements and the firm of Baird and Mackenzie was awarded the construction contract. The facade featured two doors: a central one to the main floor classroom, and a second providing access to the stairway which led to the second floor. A roofed porch ran the full length of the front.



North Red Deer Cottage School, 1912. Contemporary twin of South Red Deer Cottage School.

The walking tour returns to the Red Deer and District Museum.

II. Gaetz Park Tour

This portion of the Red Deer Historical Walking Tour winds through two pleasant residential areas before looping back along the south bank of the Red Deer River. The walk is 2.8 kilometres in length and takes about one hour to complete. The tour begins with the homestead site of the Reverend Leonard Gaetz.

II-1

Gaetz Homestead Site Gaetz Avenue & 5500 Block

Reverend Leonard Gaetz arrived at the Red Deer Crossing in 1884, accompanied by his wife and family of ten children. Originally from Nova Scotia, Reverend Gaetz established his family home, "Bellevue", at this site on the south bank of the Red Deer River. When the Calgary and Edmonton Railway line was completed in 1891, the Gaetz farmland to the south became the location of the new townsite of Red Deer. In 1895, Reverend



Reverend Leonard Gaetz Home, 1912.

Gaetz left Red Deer to rejoin the ministry of the Methodist Church at Brandon, Manitoba. After receiving an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Wesley College in Winnipeg, he returned once again to Red Deer and spent his retirement years at Woodlea Cottage until his death in 1907.

LaFrance Residence

4922 - 55 Street

Joseph G. LaFrance came west with the Merchants Bank in 1909 and, following his marriage to Lillian Smith, a granddaughter of Red Deer founder Leonard Gaetz, lived in Acme, Ponoka and the United States, before returning to Red Deer in the mid-1920s. The couple purchased this home in 1929.



LaFrance Residence, early 1970s.

Built by local contractor, C.T. Eline around 1912, the house displays a combination of two fashionable early twentieth century residential styles, Bungalow and Queen Anne. The popularity of Bungalow style houses along the western U.S. coast between 1900 and 1920 had a significant impact on western Canadian residential architecture.

Characteristically, two broad gables face onto the street, the lower front porch gable echoed by the gable roof that covers the body of the building. Departing from the simple, compact shape of the bungalow, the builder incorporated elements from the stylish and already well-established Queen Anne style, including the polygonal, two-storey corner turret, the bay window, the prominent brick chimney and half-timber work in the porch gable. The result is an impressive reminder of the era of prosperity and growth in Red Deer and Western Canada before World War I.

W.B. Galbraith Residence

4914 - 55 Street

“Oiseau Bungalow” was constructed in the summer of 1911 as a residence for Mr. W. Breden Galbraith, local agent for the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company. While choosing to live in the Old Rosedale area himself, Mr. Galbraith also built four cottages in the Parkvale district for investment purposes.



W.B. Galbraith Residence, 1912.

In keeping with the social graces of the time, Mrs. Galbraith held an elaborate reception in her new home. As reported in *The Red Deer Advocate*, “Mrs. W. Breden Galbraith received, for the first time since her coming to Red Deer, in her beautiful, new residence, “Oiseau Bungalow”the house exterior and interior were very much admired, the mantels, window seats, cozy corners, etc., giving added charm to the hospitality of the hostess and host, and bringing forth many compliments for Mr. Galbraith, who had designed the pretty home, himself.”

The tour crosses the intersection of 55 Street and 49 Avenue.

Bawtinheimer Residence

5419 - 49 Avenue

George Bawtinheimer left Ontario in 1891 to homestead in Central Alberta. After farming for ten years, he established himself in business in Red Deer with his three sons. In order to produce their own lumber, the Bawtinheimers built a sawmill in North Red Deer in 1903. However, after a June flood swept most of their logs downstream, they sold the mill to the Great West Lumber Company, which soon emerged as one of Red Deer's major industries.



Bawtinheimer Residence, far right, 1910.

Following their misfortune with the sawmill, the Bawtinheimers opened a flour and feed business. They also acquired 100 acres of land in North Red Deer, which they later subdivided and sold. Later still, the family opened a harness shop and meat markets in North Red Deer and Sylvan Lake.

While participating in local politics as a town councillor, George Bawtinheimer was instrumental in the development of the Village of North Red Deer as a distinct municipality.

Mr. Bawtinheimer arranged for the construction of this two-and-a-half storey Cube style residence in 1906. Details on his brick veneer home include a bellcast roof over the front porch and gable dormers in the upper half-storey.

Sacred Heart Church

55 Street & 48 A Avenue

Followers of the Roman Catholic faith did not have a church in Red Deer until 1905, when Father Voisin and a few parishioners built a small wood frame church in the southern part of the town. In 1906, it was blessed by Bishop Legal and dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

Following the establishment of the mission on the North Hill in 1908, it became apparent that most of the Catholic population was living north of the river. Consequently, it was decided to replace the church in the southern part of the town with a larger one on the hill. Completed in 1909, its name was changed to "Our Lady of Sorrows Church" in 1918, when Bishop Legal decided that there were too many Sacred Heart Churches in the diocese. By 1925, this no longer appeared to be a concern when a new Sacred Heart Church was constructed on this site. It was replaced in 1958 by the present structure.

Even as late as the 1950s, church designers found valid models in early Christian architectural styles. Here, the main structure reflects early Christian basilican church designs while the separate bell tower is reminiscent of early northern Italian church architecture. The old Rectory and grotto still stand on the east side of the property.



Sacred Heart Church and Rectory, c. 1950.

As you proceed north, note the row of Edwardian homes along 55 Street. These houses are one of the last residential remnants of Red Deer's original townsite.

56 Street Residences

4700 Block

During Red Deer's formative years, 56 Street was known locally as "Son-in-Law Avenue", since several children of the Reverend Leonard and Mrs. Caroline Gaetz lived on the street. Rev. Gaetz owned a great deal of land on the south side of the river, where he had originally homesteaded. When he moved back to Red Deer from Brandon, Manitoba in 1901, he had a parcel subdivided, and built his retirement home, Woodlea Cottage, on what was then known as Sixth Street North. The library portion of Woodlea Cottage now stands in Heritage Square. (see I-1). Other lots were given to his children as wedding gifts. In total, three daughters and three sons resided on 56 Street.

In the following years, lots were sold to aspiring professionals and entrepreneurs and, to this day, 56 Street remains one of Red Deer's most pleasant residential areas.

Raymond Gaetz Residence

4763 - 56 Street

Raymond Leonard Gaetz was the eldest of the Reverend Leonard and Mrs. Gaetz's children. He and his family arrived in the Red Deer area on his eighteenth birthday - April 8, 1884. For several years, Raymond managed the Red Deer Crossing post office and general store which was owned by his father. In 1896, he entered the general merchandising business with his cousin and brother-in-law, George Wilbert Smith. The partnership lasted twenty years, and later included a hardware business and the construction of two commercial blocks.

Gaetz's later commercial ventures included the Western General Electric Company, the Red Deer Elevator Company and the Laurentia Milk Company.

Raymond Gaetz contributed greatly to civic and community affairs. Elected as the first president of the local Board of Trade and the town's first mayor in 1901, he continued for twenty-five years to serve as both a member and Chairman of the Public School Board. Further involvement with the local hospital board, Boy Scouts, Choral Society, Presbyterian Ladies College Board, and Methodist Church indicate his outstanding commitment to Red Deer's development.



Raymond Gaetz Residence, 1911.

This two-and-a-half storey residence was constructed for Raymond Gaetz in 1903. It is a massive design, with a cross-gable roof and round corner turret. Originally, it featured a verandah, supported by Doric columns, which emphasized the front entrance. The diamond-pane detailing on the upper west window is still intact.

Clarke Residence

4757 - 56 Street

Born in Ontario in 1868, Hugh Clarke came west to Red Deer in 1901. As a master carpenter, builder and later, contractor, he worked on many of Red Deer's early buildings and larger residences, including the Red Deer Co-operative Creamery, Red Deer's first covered ice rink, the C.N.R. Station and the F.W. Galbraith and F.S. Simpson residences.



Clarke Residence, c. 1910.

In 1903, he married Gertrude Gaetz, the third daughter of the Reverend Leonard and Mrs. Gaetz, and took up residence on what is now 56 Street. One year later, he was appointed overseer of the construction of Red Deer's first court house and in 1907, was appointed manager of the Staples & Company lumber yard. He served in England for three years during the First World War and in 1930 he was appointed City Building Inspector.

The Clarke residence is a good example of the Gothic Cottage style. The slender, vertical proportions and highly-pitched roof reflect a Victorian influence. Of special interest is the sunburst pattern in the fretwork.

Bank Manager's Residence/Manse

4742 - 56 Street

This residence was built in 1906 by the Canadian Bank of Commerce for its Red Deer bank managers. Originally occupied by D.M. Sanson, and then W.L. Gibson, it was home to Francis C. Whitehouse from 1913 to 1920. Mr. Whitehouse was active in the community as Director of the Agricultural Society, a member of the Board of Trade, President of the Alberta Natural History Society and a founding member of the Red Deer Public Library Board.

The house was purchased in the 1920s by Gaetz United Church and used as a minister's manse until 1945, when it was sold for the sum of \$2,502.46.

This one-and-a-half storey cottage is distinguished by the three front gable dormers. Originally, a porch extended the full length of the facade. Two symmetrically-placed bay windows complete the detailing.



Bank Manager's Residence, 1907.

Murrin/Routledge Residence

4736 - 56 Street

G. Hugh Murrin, a building products manufacturer originally from Philadelphia, built this home in 1912. Mr. Murrin was head of Cement Builders Ltd., and the inventor of "Kaymur" cement tile and shingles, purported to be the "cement roof covering of the future". It was Mr. Murrin's hope that his new industry would play an important role in the building of greater Red Deer and in establishing the city as a manufacturing centre. Unfortunately, the collapse of the building boom in 1913 forced his departure from Red Deer the following year.

For the next three decades, the house had numerous owners prior to its acquisition by Philip Routledge in 1943. Born in England in 1888, Mr. Routledge came to Red Deer as an employee of the Imperial Bank of Canada.

Mr. Routledge was an ardent sportsman and, in addition to his interest in tennis and hunting, became a key supporter of the Red Deer Golf & Country Club.

This beautiful brick bungalow exemplifies an Arts and Crafts style of architecture. As the name implies, houses of this type were built with artistic attention to craftsmanship. The combination of natural materials and the dominant expanse of roof contribute to the handmade and comfortable appearance of the home.



Routledge Residence, 1948.

The tour turns south to 55 Street and continues east to 45 Avenue.

Willow Tree

55 Street & 47 Avenue

This majestic bayleaf or laurel-leaf willow was planted on this site around 1906 by J.E. Wright, as part of the garden of his home. The house was later purchased by W.E. Lord, a local merchant, and an impressive addition was constructed.

When the Lord Mansion was demolished in the 1970s, the tree was spared and the adjacent apartment building, "The Willows", was named in its honour. With a trunk diameter of 228 centimetres (7.5 ft.) and a spreading crown of 25 metres (82 ft.) at the widest point, this historic specimen is a sentimental favourite of Red Deer residents.



Wright Residence, 1907. Notice Willow Tree behind fence gate.

As you continue east along 55 Street, you will pass two parks honouring early Red Deer Citizens. Stephenson Park, on the south side of the street, was named in 1969 after two brothers, Albert Thorburn Stephenson and William James Stephenson, who were prominent in Red Deer's civic development.

Galbraith Park honours another of Red Deer's city fathers, Francis W. Galbraith. In addition to operating the Red Deer Advocate for nearly thirty years, Mr. Galbraith also participated actively in local affairs, becoming the first mayor of the newly-formed city in 1913. This ten-acre park was formally dedicated in 1963, in conjunction with Red Deer's Fiftieth Anniversary as a city.

Ellis Residence

5343 - 46 Avenue

Thomas P. Ellis came to the Red Deer district with the North West Mounted Police in 1888. Following his discharge from the Force, he was appointed Vice-Principal of the Indian Industrial School at the Crossing. In 1892, Mr. Ellis married Edith Pennington, whose father was proprietor of the recently constructed Queen's Hotel. In 1899, Tom Ellis built a new hotel, the Arlington, on the site of the former Queen's Hotel, and the hotel remained under continuous family ownership for the next seventy years.

Construction on the Ellis residence began in 1907 and was completed in June of 1908 at a cost of \$7,000.00. Unfortunately, Mr. Ellis spent only one year in his beautiful new home. Suffering a serious stroke in 1908, he was left paralysed and passed away in July of 1909. The following year, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, stayed at the Ellis home as a guest.

This Edwardian brick residence is set on a foundation of double brick blocks covered with concrete to give the appearance of sandstone. The Ellis home features a two-storey verandah which wraps around the side, decorative fish-scale shingles in the top half-storey, bevelled glass windows and tall chimney stacks. The residence retains a high degree of original fabric and ornamentation, including the striking wrought-iron fence.



Ellis Residence during Sir Wilfrid Laurier's visit, August 1910.

Moore Residence

5553 - 45 Avenue

The Western General Electric Company, which originated Red Deer's electric power and lighting system, owed much of its growth and development to William Addison Moore. Born in Toronto in 1873, Mr. Moore later graduated from Harvard University with a degree in electrical engineering.



Moore Residence, 1911.

Arriving in Red Deer in 1900, Mr. Moore first established a cattle ranch and then a sandstone quarry before leaving for Chicago in 1901 to gain practical electrical training. Upon his return to Red Deer in 1904, Mr. Moore took charge of the Western Telephone Company, which later merged with Western General Electric. During his management of the merged company, Red Deer became the first municipality in Alberta to have a central agency telephone system, and one of the first to have electric light and power.

Mr. Moore personally undertook the initial development of the Waskasoo subdivision, laying out the two crescents, complete with concrete sidewalks and a street lighting system. In 1906, the family moved into their beautiful new home. Of Queen Anne styling, the wood frame house was embellished with classical details, including the doric columns supporting the second storey verandah and the Palladian windows in the upper half storey. Such was the pride in his home that, for years, Mr. Moore employed a full-time gardener to care for the grounds.

F.W. Galbraith Residence

5810 - 45 Avenue

The Francis W. Galbraith residence is the oldest home in Red Deer owned continuously by one family. Although the original house was completed in September 1906, Mrs. Galbraith did not enjoy the winter of 1906-07 in the comfort of her new home. Having been diagnosed with “evidence of tuberculosis of the lungs”, Mrs. Galbraith slept out-of-doors in a tent during one of the most severe winters in Red Deer’s history.

Mr. Galbraith’s attention was centered around the Red Deer Advocate which he purchased in 1905. As owner and editor, Mr. Galbraith promised to “promote the peace, welfare and prosperity of the people of Red Deer”. In keeping with his principles, Mr. Galbraith not only refused liquor advertisements in his paper, but restricted the number of patent medicine advertisements.



F.W. Galbraith Residence, 1907.

In 1912, Mr. Galbraith was elected to the position of Mayor and when, on March 15, 1913, the application to have Red Deer incorporated as a City was successful, he had the honour of being the first Mayor of The City of Red Deer.

Mr. Galbraith is remembered as “the dean of Alberta weekly newspaper editors”.

Simpson Residence

5820 - 45 Avenue

Born in Nova Scotia in 1873, Francis Stuart Simpson received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Dalhousie University prior to attending Harvard University in 1895.

Arriving in Red Deer in 1903 with his wife and family, Mr. Simpson taught the senior grades in the Red Deer School before forming the real estate and insurance business of Cassels & Simpson. In 1906, he was appointed to the first of a succession of government positions, including Official Auditor, Seed Inspector, Clerk of the Court and Sheriff.

The Simpson residence was built in 1907 by Hugh Clarke. Based on the Four-Square or Cube style, the wood frame house has retained much of its original integrity. Of particular interest are the three dormers, each with a Palladian window in the gable end.



Simpson Residence, 1978.

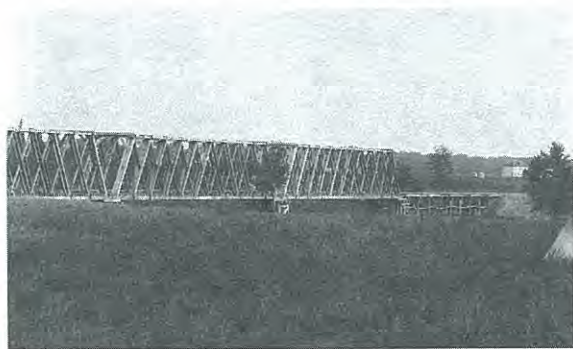
As you proceed west along Waskasoo Crescent, note the solitary Edwardian home with its unique use of Red Deer River cobblestones.

Further along the crescent, which reflects the “City Beautiful” trend of the early 1900s, the tour passes a number of beautifully-kept homes of post-war vintage. The lots, which had been left vacant for three decades following the great economic collapse of 1913, were not developed until the early 1950s.

Red Deer River Bridges

The first bridge to cross the Red Deer River was built in 1891 for the Calgary and Edmonton Railway. It was replaced in 1907 with a steel structure which served the railway until its relocation, over eighty years later.

The traffic bridge which spanned the Red Deer River was subject to a more eventful history. The first wooden bridge was built in 1894 and, by 1899, it was severely damaged by torrential August rains. The following year, the entire structure was destroyed by spring breakup. In 1901, a new bridge was built but it, too, was washed out one year later. The sequence of successive building and then destruction by flood waters and ice prompted the Government of the North West Territories to construct a \$15,000.00 steel replacement in 1903 and another in 1909. In June 1915, torrential rains caused the river to rise to its highest level in recorded history. The severity of the flood was such that a large portion of Waskasoo Crescent was washed away, but the traffic bridge remained intact. Periodic flooding of the Red Deer River continued into the 1940s, when early and relatively quick spring thaws created ice jams in both 1943 and 1947.



First bridge over Red Deer River with Gaetz Homestead in background, 1892.



C.N.R. Bridge, 1937.

The Canadian Northern Railway completed its line to the Brazeau coal fields at Nordegg in 1914, and a spurline into Red Deer was built in 1920. It wasn't long before the company realized that their massive timber bridge was subject to floods and ice damage from the combined forces of the Red Deer River and Waskasoo Creek. By the 1940s, with the line not heavily used and the bridge under continual barrage from the waters, the company finally decided to abandon the line. In March, 1941, the timbers and rails were removed and, within a few weeks, the river ice took out the remnants of the bridge. A few old timbers still remain from this historic Canadian Northern bridge.

The tour follows the South Bank Trail and returns to the Gaetz Homestead Site.

III. Parkvale Tour

The sites forming this section of the Red Deer Historical Walking Tour are located within two residential neighbourhoods and along a portion of the Waskasoo Urban Parks System. The 3.3 kilometre loop requires approximately 1.25 hours to complete. The tour begins with Heritage Square.

III-1

Heritage Square

4525 - 47 A Avenue

Heritage Square was developed in 1988 as part of the commemoration of Red Deer's 75th Anniversary as a city. It comprises a collection of five structures, including the Stevenson-Hall Block, the Presbyterian Church Steeple, the Aspelund Loft Hus, the Gaetz Library and a replica of Red Deer's first school.

(Please refer to I-1).



Presbyterian Church, c. 1910.

III-2

Parkvale District

The Parkvale district is one of Red Deer's oldest residential areas. Edward Michener and Stanley Carscallen, the original partners in the real estate firm of Michener and Carscallen, were instrumental in its development in 1905. Subdivision of the district took place in stages, with the original boundaries being extended in 1907 and then again in 1914.

Over the years, individuals representing a wide range of occupations have resided in this neighbourhood. While some professionals and businessmen built their homes on the north end of the district, Parkvale was generally known as a working class neighbourhood. Parkvale offered affordable accommodation for labourers, railway workers and others who, for a variety of reasons, chose not to make a substantial financial investment in a home.



Parkvale District, c. 1911.

Nachtmann Residence

4630 - 45 Street

This home was built in 1919 for Fred and Anna Nachtmann. The concrete block used in its construction indicates the acceptance by the middle class of imitation stone as a less expensive substitute for sandstone, the “aristocrat” of building materials. Called architectural or “artistic” concrete block, its use spanned a fifty-year period from the 1870s to about 1920. The “rock-face” block used here was the easiest and, therefore, the cheapest form of imitation stone which could be made.



Nachtmann Residence, 1989.

The west side of the house exemplifies a typical rock-face block wall, showing the characteristic duplication of face design. While all the blocks are identical, some have been inverted to create a more varied effect. Another type of block, the tooled-face block, is used in the sill treatment.

The narrow lot on which the Nachtmann home was constructed necessitated the rotation of a traditional house plan. What would have been the side of the residence, given a wider lot, became the facade, resulting in what was known as a gable-end house. To distinguish this as the facade, a covered porch and ornamental fish-scale shingles were added.

Parkvale Cottages

46 Street

The three bungalows remaining on 46 Street are typical of workers' homes constructed across the prairies prior to World War I. With an emphasis on practicality rather than ornamentation, these wood frame structures were simple in both design and construction. Like the Nachtmann residence, they were constructed on narrow lots, resulting in their gable end design. These homes form an enduring reminder of the working man's contribution to the development of Red Deer.

One of the cottages, the Telning Residence, at 4520 - 46 Street, was obtained by Lazarus (Larry) Telning in 1913 in exchange for two draft horses. A long-term resident of Red Deer, Mr. Telning worked at a variety of jobs, including a local sawmill, a coal mine, the freight yards, a garage and a cement factory. However, Mr. Telning is best remembered for his thirty-one years of drilling water wells for area residents.



Parkvale Cottages, 1911.

Continue east into Barrett Park.

Barrett, Victory and Coronation Parks

Adjacent to the Parkvale District is Barrett Park, established in honour of Robert Edward Barrett. Born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1904, Ed Barrett came to Red Deer with his parents in 1918. He was the successful proprietor of a meat market and later worked in the real estate business. From 1961 to 1974 he served on City Council, the last nine years as mayor.

A small, triangular-shaped park, known locally as Victory Park, is located further north along Waskasoo Creek. The sculpture which dominates the park was created by artist Dean Eilertson, a native of Edmonton.

The sculpture was one of a series commissioned in 1980 by the Sculpture for Red Deer Committee, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Province of Alberta. Created from metal pipe and painted white, the silhouette sculpture is reminiscent of a Red Deer streetscape around 1905, and serves as a reminder of Red Deer's early days.

Coronation Park commemorates the crowning of King George VI in May 1937. As indicated by the bronze plaque, five spruce trees were planted in the park's southeast corner. In addition, a weeping birch tree, planted for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, and a spruce tree, planted in celebration of her twenty-fifth jubilee in 1978, are found at this location.

As you leave Coronation Park and look up 51 Street to the escarpment, you will note the chocolate brown bungalow-style home overlooking the City. Built in 1964 for the MacGregor Parsons family, this home was one of the earliest professional projects by renowned architect, Douglas Cardinal. Mr. Cardinal's first major commission was St. Mary's Catholic Church off 39 Street and he went on to design several major buildings, including the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Trump Residence

5035 - 45 Avenue

Walter E. Trump came to Red Deer from Ontario in the early 1900s. Together with Frank Tallman, he purchased the hardware business of Postill & Co. in 1905. One year later, he sold his share in the company and started his own painting business. As a result of the economic slump in 1913, Mr. Trump was forced to close his business, and he left Red Deer in 1916 to work for the British American Paint Co.

Completed in 1906, his home on what was then known as Woodlea Crescent, is a simplified Queen Anne style, with a cross-gable roof. The original wood turning on the porch and the combination of fish scale and regular shingles add interest to this home.



Trump Residence, 1978.

The tour continues north on 45 Avenue.

Cornett Residence

5055 - 45 Avenue

Thomas Roy Cornett was a native son of Red Deer, born in 1913. Following local schooling at the public and high school levels, he graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy. He then joined his father, Roy G. Cornett, in the Gaetz-Cornett Drug & Book Co., one of Red Deer's oldest businesses.

Mr. Cornett served in the Calgary Tank Regiment from 1941 until 1945, during which time he spent three years in a German prisoner-of-war camp. Following the war, he returned to the Gaetz-Cornett Drug & Book Co., where he worked until the closing of the store in 1982.

He and his wife, Anne, organized the Red Deer Figure Skating Club and the Red Deer Square Dancing Club. In addition to his many affiliations, Mr. Cornett was a director of the Red Deer Golf & Country Club and the Red Deer Exhibition Board. He served as president of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Council in 1953.

The Cornett home was completed in 1936 and harks back to the earlier Western Canadian tradition of revival styles. In this instance, Tudor Revival details have been applied to the two-storey house and include the upper storey half-timbering, ornamental chimney stacks and broad front gable.



Cornett Residence, 1936.

Mickey the Beaver

Point of Interest Plaque



Doris Forbes with Mickey, 1939.

Mickey was an injured beaver kit found by the Forbes family near their home along Waskasoo Creek in 1939. After being nursed back to health, he was raised as the family pet, developing a special friendship with Doris Forbes, their nine-year old daughter. Being an unusual pet, Mickey attracted a great deal of attention at the local, national and international levels. His life story was published in a book by local author, Kerry Wood. He and Doris were stars on CBC Radio and they took part in a Hollywood film. During his nine years with the Forbes family, Mickey received 20,000 visitors, making him Red Deer's most famous pet.

As you leave Coronation Park, proceed west on 52 Street.

Paradis/Mills Residence

4540 - 52 Street

In the summer of 1910, Arthur Paradis arrived in Red Deer from Quebec and, six months later, entered into partnership with Evan Roberts. Operating as the building and contracting firm of Paradis & Roberts, they soon developed an excellent reputation for both the quality and versatility of their work. In 1911, Mr. Paradis built this home for his new bride, Suzie Slack. Of wood-frame construction, the one and one-half storey residence originally incorporated an open porch. The fish-scale shingles at the upper level are still visible.



Frances Mills in "Grads" Uniform, 1937.

This house has been the home of Frances Mills (Gordon) since 1964. A Red Deer native, Mrs. Mills played centre for the Red Deer High School girls basketball team before going on to play with the world famous Edmonton Grads during their 1936-37 season. The "Grads" hold records which still stand today, including that of one loss out of 225 consecutive games. Although women's basketball was not an official Olympic sport, the team attended the Games in Paris, Los Angeles, Amsterdam and Berlin, winning all 27 exhibition games against top European challengers.

Huestis Residence

5201 - 47 Avenue

It has been suggested that the Reverend Charles Herbert Huestis was "possibly the profoundest thinker and greatest scholar to ever take up residence in Red Deer". Born in New Brunswick in 1863, he went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and later, a Master of Arts Degree from Mount Allison University. In 1901, Rev. Huestis settled in Edmonton and during his six years as both a Methodist Minister and lecturer of philosophy at Alberta College, continued his role of student. In 1906, he was awarded a Master of Arts Degree by McGill University.

Rev. Huestis assumed the position of Pastor of the Red Deer Methodist Church in 1907. His sermons, usually interspersed with quotations from the classics, occasionally aroused criticism from the congregation. Although generally accepted now, his interpretations of the scriptures were often well in advance of his time. In spite of this progressive thinking, Rev. Huestis had the full support of his congregation who quietly paid off the balance owing on these residential lots.



Huestis Residence, 1978.

McIntosh Residence

4631 Ross Street



*Mr. and Mrs. Julius McIntosh with children,
Fred and Ethel, 1908.*

Born in Ontario in 1874, Julius McIntosh, or "Mac", was a fourth generation Canadian whose grandfather and great grandfather were the developers of the McIntosh apple. After learning the bricklaying trade in Ontario at the age of sixteen, Mac came west in 1900 to seek employment. Following stops in several centres, he decided to settle in Red Deer.

Few brick buildings were erected in Red Deer between 1900 and 1917 for which Julius McIntosh did not lay at least some of the bricks. Among other Red Deer landmarks, Mr. McIntosh applied his skill to the Leonard Gaetz Memorial Church and the Armoury building. Mr. McIntosh worked at his trade until 1959, when he had reached the age of 85.

In 1906, the McIntoshes moved into their spacious new home on Ross Street. Built by Mac, the two-and-a-half storey double-brick house is a very Victorian design. Vertically oriented, it uses fish scale shingles and gauged brick around the windows for added interest. The quoins which accent the corners of the house are made of artistic concrete block as are the piers which support the posts of the wrap-around verandah.

Mrs. Jessie Huestis had the distinction of serving on the first jury in Canada to include women jurors. Heard in 1922, the Supreme Court case involved a breach of promise and seduction.

The Huestis home, an attractive one-and-a-half storey bungalow, was constructed in 1912. The first house in this area, it combines a number of architectural elements. The exaggerated curve of the roof suggests a French-Canadian influence. Known as a "bellcast" roof, it extends over the front porch and is supported by classical doric columns. The shingles on the upper front dormer and the mullioned casement windows are typical of a "craftsman" look.

On the southwest corner of 46 Avenue and 51 Street stands a house which follows the International style of architecture. Characterized by a blocky, formal composition, horizontal emphasis and total absence of ornamentation, the residence was constructed in 1947 by A.J. Foster and was the childhood home of former Alberta Attorney General, James L. Foster.

Return to 46 Avenue and proceed south to Ross Street.

Botterill Residence

4637 Ross Street

William J. Botterill, a native of Ontario, settled in Red Deer in 1902 as the local agent and Central Alberta distributor for the Cockshutt Plow Company. He soon joined forces with J.A. Latimer to form Latimer and Botterill, originally a farm machinery business which later turned its interests to real estate and insurance during the boom of 1909-1910. Both firms are still in operation today.

William Botterill exemplified the spirit of true community involvement. He served on Red Deer's Town Council for sixteen years, holding the seat of Mayor in 1909. He was a member of the original executive of the Alberta Real Estate Association and a life member of the Board of Trade, serving on the executive for twenty-five years and holding the position of President on three separate occasions. Mr. Botterill was the founding President of the Red Deer Rotary Club in 1923.

The one-and-one-half storey home was built in 1907 by neighbour, Julius McIntosh. This beautiful brick house is finished with a gambrel roof, modified by the use of returns on the eaves. The intricately worked metal fence is still intact today.



Ella and Lois Botterill in front of family home, 1908.

Continue west to the corner and turn south to 49 Street.

Manning Residence

4641 - 49 Street

The floor plan and perspective for this home appear in *The Radford American Homes*, a book of house plans published by the Radford Architectural Company of Riverside, Illinois, in 1903. The company promised to furnish the public with "complete working plans and specifications at the remarkably low price of only \$5.00 per set". Furthermore, they proudly announced that "every plan is designed by a licensed architect who stands at the head of his profession, in this particular class of work".



Architectural rendering of Manning Residence, 1903.

This architecturally complex Queen Anne style house incorporates classical elements which give it a massive and imposing appearance. One of the first in Parkvale, the residence was built for Marshall James Manning who came west in 1904 with the Merchants Bank. Mr. Manning served as manager of the Red Deer Branch, and later held the position of Bank Inspector for both Alberta and British Columbia.

The Manning name is also connected with the development of the town of Delburne. Prior to the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway and the surveying of the Delburne townsite in 1912, Mr. Manning and his brother-in-law had acquired land on which the townsite was later located.

Payne Residence

4634 - 49 Street



Forbes Payne at family home, 1910.

William Ernest Payne was born and educated in Ontario and, immediately following graduation in Law at Osgoode Hall in 1902, headed west and entered partnership with G.W. Greene. The firm of Greene and Payne quickly established itself as one of the leading legal firms in the province, and Mr. Payne acted in the capacity of solicitor for the City of Red Deer for 41 years. With the appointment of G.W. Greene to the District Court Bench in 1916, William Payne was joined by P.E. Graham in the partnership of Payne and Graham.

Mr. Payne served as a bencher of the Law Society of Alberta for twenty-five years, and was elected president for two terms. In 1921, he was appointed King's Counsel and, as a member of the opposition, represented Red Deer in the Alberta Legislature from 1931 to 1935.

The Payne residence was constructed in 1906. Two additions were subsequently made to the original structure which continued as the family home until Mr. Payne's death in 1943. In the Queen Anne style, the house reflects a classical influence. The upper Palladian windows suggest a very British flavour. The porch, which was not originally enclosed, is supported by doric columns. The use of leaded glass in the front bay window is of special interest.

Pollock Residence

4629 - 46 Street

Raymond M. Pollock, who assumed ownership of the residence in 1939, began his business career in Red Deer as the Imperial Oil agent. Born in Iowa in 1886, he settled in Red Deer in 1935. In addition to his involvement in a number of social organizations, Mr. Pollock was elected to the Red Deer Separate School Board, serving as chairman for several years.

The Pollock residence is representative of a domestic design that made its way into Eastern Canada from the Northeastern United States in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Although a "stripped down" version of the Queen Anne style, the home features a number of typical details, including the segmental arches over the windows, the turned Tuscan columns supporting the covered porch and the fish-scale shingles on the gable dormers. This is characteristic of a style which has been called by different names, including the Four-Square house plan and the Cornbelt Cube.



Pollock Residence, 1982.

The walking tour returns to the Red Deer and District Museum.

Glossary

Art Moderne

a streamlined style of architecture popular in the 1930s and 1940s, characterized by rounded corners, smooth walls and geometric motifs

Arts & Crafts Style

a style of architecture begun in 19th century England which emphasized a return to hand-crafted traditional designs

battlement

a notched parapet

bellcast

eaves which flare outwards in a bell shape

boomtown front

a front on a building which disguises its actual roof shape and increases the building's apparent size. Also known as a false front.

bungalow

often meaning a one-storey house, but also denoting a multi-storey house with a roof sloping towards the front and back, with a large overhang creating a verandah at the front

a vertical mass of wall material built against an exterior wall to give it added strength

capital

the decorative feature at the top of a column or pilaster

column

an upright post, usually cylindrical, used for support or decoration

Cornbelt Cube

a house with generally cubic proportions, usually with a pyramidal roof and classically-inspired detailing

cornice

a horizontal, projecting decorative moulding along the top of a building wall or arch

dentils

a series of tooth-like blocks found below a cornice

Doric

a style of Classical architecture distinguished by sturdy, round columns with simple capitals

dormer

a roofed window projecting from a sloping roof

Edwardian Classical Revival Style

the style of Classical Revival architecture popular during the Edwardian era (about 1900 to 1940)

entablature

a combination of decorative elements which form a wide band at the top of a wall or above a row of columns

facade

the exterior face or front of a building

finial

an ornament which is situated at the top of a roof gable, spire or other architectural feature

fretwork

wooden decorations made by cutting into boards with a band or fret saw

gable

the triangular upper portion of a wall formed by the slopes of a pitched roof; and the triangular hood over a window or door

Gothic Revival Style

a style of architecture based on the building forms of the Middle Ages in Western Europe, often recognized by the use of pointed arches

half-timbering

a method of construction where the spaces of an exposed timber-frame wall are filled in with rubble or brickwork or where the appearance of this construction is achieved by applied surface decoration

Ionic

one of the three orders of Greek architecture characterized by ornamental scrolls on the capitals

lintel

a horizontal beam or stone over a window or door opening that carries the weight of the wall above it

modillion

a small, ornamental bracket found below a cornice

mullioned window

a style of window characterized by slender, vertical dividing bars

Palladian window

a three-part Classical window with an arched central opening and smaller, rectangular side openings

parapet

a low wall along, and projecting above, the edge of a roof

pediment

the triangular end of a low pitched gable or a triangular element resembling it, on the front of the building

pointed arch

an arch that is pointed at the top, often characteristic of Gothic architecture

Queen Anne Style

an eclectic late-Victorian style characterized by varied rooflines, rich detailing, and generally vertical emphasis in proportions

quoin

stones or bricks used to structurally reinforce or decoratively emphasize the outside corners of a building

terra cotta

moulded and fired clay, often used for decorative elements or to clad a building exterior

tracery

a pattern of interlacing ribs in the upper part of a Gothic window

trinity window

a set of three windows which form a unit, representing the union of the three divine persons

Tudor Revival Style

a style of architecture characterized by half-timbering, slightly rounded arches, shallow moldings and extensive panelling

turret

a small tower

For further information contact:

Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism
Historic Sites Service
8820 - 112 Street
EDMONTON, Alberta
T6G 2P8
Telephone: 427-2022

or

The Red Deer & District Museum
4525 - 47A Avenue
P.O. Box 800
RED DEER, Alberta
T4N 5H2
Telephone: 343-6844

or

The Red Deer Tourist and Convention Board
P.O. Box 5008
4914 - 48 Avenue
RED DEER, Alberta
T4N 3T4
Telephone: 342-8279

Credits:

This brochure was jointly prepared by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and the Red Deer Historical Preservation Committee, who wish to acknowledge the research and writing assistance of Lawrie Knight-Steinbach and the Red Deer Historical Walking Tour Sub-Committee: Mr. Craig Curtis, Chairman, Mr. Michael Dawe, Mr. F. Morris Flewwelling and Mr. Charles Meggison.

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Notes

Notes

Red Deer Historical Walking Tours Map

Legend



Tour I - Downtown

1. Heritage Square
2. Railway Relocation
3. Red Deer Armoury
4. Snell Residence Site
5. Gaetz Memorial United Church
6. City Hall Park
7. Old Red Deer Court House
8. Gaetz Manufacturing Company Building
9. Cenotaph
10. Greene Block
11. Brumpton's Store
12. Hamilton Block
13. St. Luke's Anglican Church
14. C.A.D.P. Condensery
15. C.P.R. Station
16. Alberta Hotel/Buffalo Hotel
17. Arlington Hotel
18. Windsor Hotel and Livery
19. Palace Livery
20. Parsons' Residence
21. Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene
22. South Red Deer Cottage School

Tour II - Gaetz Park

1. Gaetz Homestead Site
2. LaFrance Residence
3. W.B. Galbraith Residence
4. Bawtinheimer Residence
5. Sacred Heart Church
6. 56 Street Residences
7. Raymond Gaetz Residence
8. Clarke Residence
9. Bank Manager's Residence/Manse
10. Murrin/Routledge Residence
11. Willow Tree
12. Ellis Residence
13. Moore Residence
14. F.W. Galbraith Residence
15. Simpson Residence
16. Red Deer River Bridges

Tour III - Parkvale

1. Heritage Square
2. Parkvale District
3. Nachtmann Residence
4. Parkvale Cottages
5. Barrett, Victory and Coronation Parks
6. Trump Residence
7. Cornett Residence
8. Mickey the Beaver Residence
9. Paradis/Mills Residence
10. Huestis Residence
11. McIntosh Residence
12. Botterill Residence
13. Manning Residence
14. Payne Residence
15. Pollock Residence

