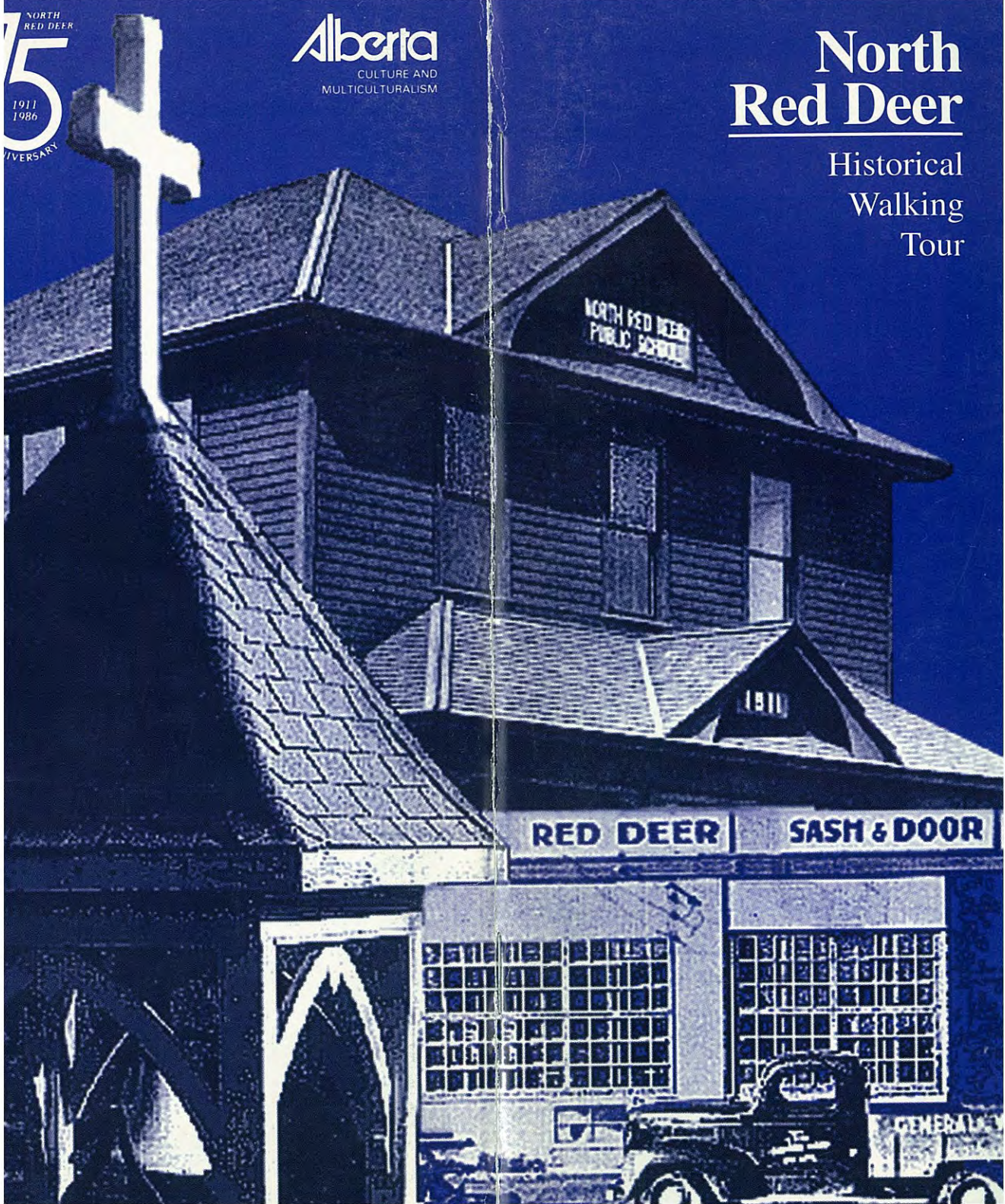


75
1911
1986
ANNIVERSARY

Alberta
CULTURE AND
MULTICULTURALISM

North Red Deer

Historical
Walking
Tour



North Red Deer

Historical
Walking
Tour



North Red Deer

Historical Walking Tour

The Native people were the first to walk the area that is now known as North Red Deer. They hunted, camped and fished along the “Waskasoo Seepee” (Red Deer River) while travelling the old Wolf Trail that crossed the river at the “Ridge Under the Water” (known as “The Crossing” near Fort Normandeau). The banks and flood plains of the Red Deer River provided an ideal environment for wildlife, and also offered protection from the elements and, sometimes, the enemy.

Over thousands of years, little changed. Fires and floods occasionally scoured the land, only to be quickly healed by new growth of native grasses, shrubs and trees. Parts of the Highland Green escarpment and the river valley still reflect this ancient natural legacy.

European explorers and traders first reached the Red Deer area in the early 1700s, but it was not until settlers started to arrive in the 1880s that truly far-reaching changes came about. After 1890, when Leonard Gaetz “donated” 640 acres of his choice homestead land to the CPR, houses and businesses began to spring up in what was to become the new townsite of Red Deer. This represented a permanent shift in population from the earlier settlement which had developed at “The Crossing”.

II The Red Deer River helped North Red Deer maintain its identity as a community separate from the larger town of Red Deer on the south bank. Although it was only incorporated as a Village in 1911, just two years before Red Deer was granted City status, North Red Deer remained independent until 1947, when it was finally integrated into the City of Red Deer. Even after amalgamation, North Red Deer retained its strong sense of identity and character.

Situated on the river flats below the North Hill, North Red Deer was an ideal location for industrial growth. George A. Bawtinheimer established his sawmill in 1905, giving the new community credibility, as well as stability. The Great West Lumber Company bought him out in 1906, then expanded its operations, employing at times up to 500 men locally in the mill and in lumber camps. With the addition in 1908 of the Roman Catholic Mission, and in 1910 of the Freytag Tannery, the social and economic base of the community was further diversified.

Beginning in about 1907, North Red Deer experienced a mini land boom. No doubt spurred on by the selection of Red Deer as a CPR divisional point in that year, land speculation was driven by optimism for the future growth and economic development of North Red Deer. In August 1909, Bawtinheimer and Sons ran an advertisement in the *Red Deer Advocate* that asked potential investors "Are your Eyes On the Prospects Ahead?" Several businessmen in Red Deer certainly had their eyes on the possibility of profits in real estate. Halley Hamilton Gaetz, G.W. Greene, G.H. Bawtinheimer, and Frederick L. Ray, among others, bought up large tracts of land, subdivided them, and sold off the lots. Problems in the real estate market began to emerge throughout Alberta by 1913,

and the onset of WWI put an additional damper on the optimistic outlook of earlier years. North Red Deer, in common with most communities throughout the province, did not regain the sense of unbounded optimism, or the rapid growth of the century's first decade, until after World War II.

The residents of North Red Deer demonstrated their independence by working toward incorporation as a village. By 1911, they had succeeded, and elected their first council, which immediately spent \$1,500 to improve the condition of the roads and wooden sidewalks – something the local improvement district previously responsible for the community had apparently badly neglected.

Early commercial development in North Red Deer centred on the provision of basic services – a general store was built in 1908, and Bawtinheimer's Butcher Shop followed in 1911. Community buildings such as the Cottage School (1911) and the Village Hall (1914) followed close on the heels of incorporation. By 1913, village residents included two blacksmiths, a dressmaker, a butter-maker, a painter and two teamsters.

The design and construction of most residences was modest. Some homes of greater architectural interest were built, including a few large four-square, two-storey houses, typical of the period. A good example can be seen on the Boulevard (58th Street). Wood frame construction was standard, although a few sandstone and brick houses were built with local products.

Although many of the earliest and grandest homes are now gone, the North Red Deer Walking Tour should enhance an understanding of and appreciation for the historical development and character of the community, from the early 1900s until World War II. North Red Deer, though it has long

IV since become a part of the City of Red Deer, has a rich history distinct from the larger community. The North Red Deer Walking Tour invites you to walk back through time and be, for a few moments, part of its past.

A map showing the location of the sites on this tour and the route on which it is laid out can be found in the centre of this booklet. The tour takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete. In addition to the map, directions are found throughout the text.

Please note that historic names are used for as many of the buildings as possible, and that these do not often correspond to the present name or that of its occupant. Many of the sites on this tour are privately owned and should only be viewed from the road.



The Rad Residence (left rear) with (l-r) Keith Brown, Williams girls, Brown's cow, Bob and George Kerr, in c. 1942. (RDDA)

1. The Old Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge



View, c. 1911, of the CPR (background) and traffic bridges from the south bank of the Red Deer River, looking northwest. (RDDA)

The present bridge was built in 1908 to replace an earlier wooden bridge constructed on the same site by the Calgary and Edmonton Railway in February, 1891. In July 1891, the C & E Railway was able to begin passenger service from Red Deer to Edmonton. The Canadian Pacific Railway initially leased the use of the track and bridge from the C & E; however, when Red Deer was designated as a divisional point in 1907, plans were laid to construct a steel bridge, among other new facilities.

Two cement piers and an abutment were built in the spring of 1907. Then, in April 1908, the *Red Deer Advocate* noted that the material for the new steel superstructure was beginning to arrive. Work was expected to commence in June and be completed in August. The bridge, erected at a cost of \$85,000, had only two spans of steel rather than the three wooden spans of its predecessor. Each span is 175 feet long. Unlike the traffic bridge that was located to the east of it, the

CPR bridge has stood the test of floods and time more successfully. It remained in use for freight until 1990. The bridge has always been used by the community of North Red Deer to cross the river on foot. In 1991 the Red Deer Rail Bridge Committee of the Northside Community Association and the Normandeau Cultural and Natural History Society ensured the preservation of the bridge. It provides a permanent right of way across the river and a link to the trails of the park system on both sides of the river.

From the end of the Old CPR Bridge, looking north, the apartment building at the corner to the west of 52nd Avenue and 58th Street was the site of the Village Hall. It was the nerve centre of the Village as it not only served as the office of the secretary-treasurer and council chamber, but also as a church and dance hall.

From the middle of the Old CPR bridge, looking downstream to the east, the cement abutments of the old traffic bridge are clearly visible. The bridge was built in 1909. It had two steel spans. It was replaced by the present bridge in 1947.

Turn east (right) onto 58th Street.

5114 – 58 Street

2. Greene/Kent Residence



The Greene/Kent house as it appeared in 1992. (ACM)

This two storey, frame built four-square house is the only remaining example of the several large houses constructed on the rectangular lots along the Boulevard (58th Street). It was constructed c. 1912. The house has an imposing facade created by a low pitched pyramidal roof and a veranda that runs the full width of the house on both floors. The upper storey balcony has the original balustrade in place. The veranda is supported by four doric columns. There have been some alterations to the original building, including the replacement of cedar shingles with asphalt and the wooden siding with vinyl siding. Large sliding windows have been added on the upper storey, and a bay window on the east side of the house.

John Greene, teamster, and his wife Catherine were probably the first occupants of this house, on property acquired from land speculator Fred Anquetil. The rectangular, hipped roof stable on the north-west corner of the property undoubtedly housed Greene's team of horses. Anquetil may have built the house before selling the property in September 1912. The \$400 mortgage on the property was

assumed by Catherine Greene. The name Percy Kent, probably a co-investor, appears on the 1912 property title along with Greene's.

Percy Kent was a military man, and one of the most energetic of North Red Deer's early citizens. Born in England around 1870, he served in India and Malta. When he was refused as unfit for service in the Boer War in South Africa in 1901, he then came to Canada, finally ending up in North Red Deer. In 1908 he was in the excavating business, as a contractor for wells, cellars and fences. He then turned to house painting, and by 1912 was advertising as the sole agent for the Empire Wallpaper Co. In 1913, Kent was elected councillor for North Red Deer. He served as Reeve from 1913 to 1915, and in 1916 he was appointed Justice of the Peace. He enlisted in the 242nd Battalion in 1916, later transferred to the Forestry Corps, and returned safely to North Red Deer in 1919. John Greene had died in 1917. His widow Catherine, and Percy Kent were married in 1920, when presumably Percy Kent moved into her large house. Kent resumed his public profile in both sports and politics. He was active on cricket, curling and football teams in Red Deer. In 1931 he was elected Reeve of North Red Deer once again. Percy Kent continued to run his painting and decorating business until 1947. He died in 1949.

Continue along 58th Street, turn north (left) onto 51st Avenue.

5818 & 5820 – 51 Avenue

3. Bawtinheimer/ Duplex Building



Carter Bros. truck parked in front of Red Deer Sash & Door, c. 1950. (RDDA)

This modest commercial brick building caused some interest when it was constructed during the summer of 1911 by Bawtinheimer & Sons to house their second butcher shop in the Red Deer area to cater to the residents of North Red Deer. In February 1912, Bawtinheimer sold the store as a going concern to Oliver Langevin, who in turn sold it to Frank Michener in April that year. Michener then bought out the entire meat market side of Bawtinheimer & Sons' business. The building itself was purchased in June 1912 by John Herbert of Pine Lake, presumably as rental property for commercial enterprises. By 1945 the building had been acquired by James Livesay, who operated a wood working business with his brother. The property was bought in 1948 by Ed and Geoff Carter and became the home of Red Deer Sash and Door, which manufactured windows, doors, shelves, cupboards, and store fixtures, as well as doing general woodwork repairs. The building has most recently housed two separate residential units.

This building's long rectangular shape, with a shed roof hidden by parapets to make the building look larger, is typical of early commercial properties. It was constructed as two units. A 1912 advertisement mentioned that one of them was equipped with refrigeration. Each unit has a stepped recessed doorway, located at the opposite ends of the front facade. There was also a rear entry door on the west unit. An addition on the north-east corner of the building provided residential quarters for Ed Carter and his family. Although the building is clearly recognizable from historic photographs, some changes have taken place over the years. The original brick exterior has been covered by stucco, and the original windows have been removed. It is likely that the multi-pane fixed sash windows with numerous mullions and transoms which can be seen in the photograph above were an improvement added some time after construction, and were intended to illustrate the skills of one of the woodworking businesses in the building. These were in turn removed in favour of the large single pane fixed windows in place today.

Continue north on 51st Avenue.

4. Gable Front Houses



Built c. 1912, these gable front houses were photographed in 1992. (RDDA)

These two North Red Deer houses are typical examples of the many gable-front houses built on narrow lots as rapid urban expansion took place in Alberta's cities. Built prior to 1913, they are simple rather than highly styled examples of the gable-front plan which, by putting the main entrance on the narrow side of a long and narrow house, allowed for a greater number of houses to face onto the street. This allowed land to be divided into smaller pieces, which, while it made for higher profits in land speculation, also made it possible for people with only a little money to buy some land. Both houses have shed roofed lean-to additions. The original cedar shingles and wood siding have been replaced by asphalt sheeting patterned to imitate other exterior finishes.

Jules Moret, a harness maker, purchased both lots in 1909, and then sold them to Eugene Moret and Jean Depalme in May 1911. It is likely that both houses were built by Moret, who by 1912 alone held the title to the lot on which number 5824 stands. Moret

undoubtedly lived in this house as the 1913 *Red Deer Directory* gives his address as Pine Street (51st Avenue). He and Depalme sold the other lot in August 1914. One month later, Morel, a French reservist, left his new home in North Red Deer for his native France, where World War I had started in the first week of August.

Turn west (left) onto 59th Street. At 54th Avenue turn north (right).

5913 – 54 Avenue

5. Cub Hall



From 1943 until the end of WWII the Cub Hall was the site of several dances per week. (RDDA)

The Cub Hall played a brief but important role in the social life of North Deer during the Second World War. In 1943, Willard Trimble, who ran a radio repair and sign-painting shop on the Boulevard (58th Street), turned an unfinished building on the site into a dance hall. It became a popular R & R venue with the armed forces stationed in Red Deer. Trimble had his own orchestra, the Kings of Rhythm, which played at the dances which were held there several times a week until the end of the war. The building has changed little, except the flat roofed entry porch originally had double

doors. The ribbon of four multi-paned fixed windows in the photograph above has been replaced by a similar set in the present gable porch entrance.

Continue along 54th Avenue. At the traffic lights turn east (right) on to 60th Street as far as the pedestrian crossing opposite 53rd Avenue.

6004 – 53 Avenue

6. Moreau Residence

The photograph below shows this house at the bottom of what is commonly referred to as Convent Hill, as it appeared around 1910. The entry to the house was on the gable end that faced the street. A solid brick chimney emerged from the ridge of the low pitched roof that was clad with cedar shingles. The shed roofed porch that extends south from the west end of the house is typical of additions made to such houses.

The property belonged to Halley Hamilton Gaetz in 1908, who speculated extensively in lots in North Red Deer. In 1909, the property was bought by Arthur Robilliard, who probably built the house. In 1911, the house was purchased by Gaston Jaspar. Jaspar, however, was killed in action in November 1914 in Europe. Emile Moreau and his family lived in the house for several decades after 1923. Moreau, who came from Quebec to Red Deer around 1910, served as a trustee of the Separate School District.



The Moreau House is in the foreground, far left. On the right, at the top of Convent Hill, is the Priests' House, part of the Roman Catholic Mission (c. 1912). (RDDA)

53rd Avenue

7. Convent Hill

The official street name of this hill was originally Maple Avenue, but it has always been known as Convent Hill. Note the plank walk that leads from what was then Olive Street (60th Street) in the photograph above. The Convent Hill was steep, especially at the top, and was always difficult to maintain in good condition. In 1914, the curve in the road, clearly visible mid-way up the hill, was built to reduce the steep grade. Emile Hermary, councillor for North Red Deer, who owned a farm and nursery north of the convent on the top of the hill, was appointed to oversee the work. In recent years the Convent Hill road has been closed to vehicular traffic, and it is sometimes in poor condition during wet weather.

If you are energetic and have suitable footwear, the view that the road affords of Red Deer is well worth the climb to site #8 and #9. This area is not on a direct route to the rest of the tour, so you will have to retrace your steps down the hill. If you do not wish to walk up the

hill, go back along 60th Street, to site #10 on the tour, otherwise continue to site #8.

6018 – 53 Avenue

8. Dowd Residence



The Dowd Residence in the 1960s. (RDDA)

The design of this interesting little house is derived from the International Style. It is a frame structure, with a flat roof and simple horizontal lines, which imitate concrete construction typical of this style. It also has a uniform finish, with no ornamentation and the windows are flush with the walls, which gives the building a very modern “machine-like” feel. It was not possible to build the house with the horizontal bands of connected windows characteristic of the International Style because the studs in the walls create spaces between the window frames. However, the window on the south-west is situated very close to the corner to give the effect of windows wrapping around the corner, another feature typical of International Style houses. A parapet and columns hide the shed roof on the attached carport on the north side. There are pent eaves over the entry door and several windows, which imitate the cantilevered steel and concrete awnings so often found on International Style houses.

The Dowd Residence is an example of design derived from a style originating in Europe and brought to North America, where it was executed in local materials, and scaled down to meet the needs of its occupants. The International Style of architecture was symbolic of optimism for the future, since it paralleled the new streamlined designs found in the industrial technology that Alberta adopted with enthusiasm after the Second World War. The house was built in 1947 for Richard and Elsie Dowd. Interestingly, Dowd was a radio technician who opened Dowd's Radio in the Central Block in Red Deer for service and sales in 1945.

As you turn east (right) onto 61st Street at the top of the hill, note St. Joseph's Convent on the south side. None of the original buildings remain. Only the convent bell tower, situated on the grounds to the west of the present convent building, serves as a reminder of the original mission. The convent was demolished in 1978.

9. The Mission On The North Hill



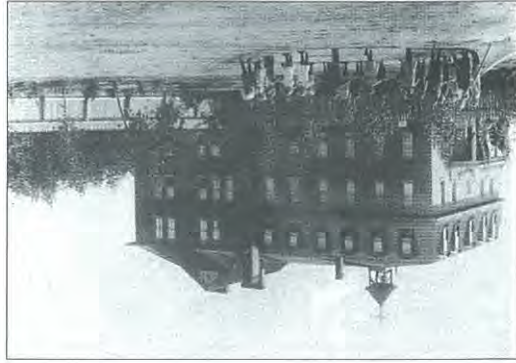
Aerial view of North Red Deer, showing the Mission at the top. (RDDA)



The original Convent (1908) is at left, the New Wing (1912) at right. (RDDA)

The mission was founded by the priests of Sainte Marie from Tinchebray, France. They first settled at Innisfail in 1904, but it became obvious that Red Deer was expanding faster and would be the hub of the central Alberta mission. Land was therefore purchased from George Bawtinheimer & Sons in July 1907. Father Voisin, on the instructions of Bishop Legal, then went to France in search of a teaching order to establish a convent boarding school. The *Red Deer Advocate* noted on his return in 1908 that he had "also arranged with a number of families from different parts of France to come to out in the Spring." A strong French immigrant community was thus established in North Red Deer around the mission.

During the summer of 1908, two buildings were constructed on the hill, a presbytery for the priests located just east of the road near the top of the hill, and further east, a convent for the Roman Catholic order of the Daughters of Wisdom, who were expected to arrive from France in the fall. When the six sisters arrived in October, they moved into the building, despite an unfinished basement and third floor. By Christmas 1909, the third floor was completed to make two large dormitories for



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Aerial view of North Red Deer, showing the Mission at the top. (RDDA)

9. The Mission On The North Hill



The belfry is all that remains of the Convent. (HCH)

the thirty six children from the surrounding area who were boarders at the beginning of 1910.

The presbytery and the convent were three storey brick structures. The bricks came from the Piper Brick Co. in Red Deer. A French influence was clearly evident in the mansard roof design of both buildings. The photograph of the convent above reveals a simple mansard roof uninterrupted except for the shallow multiple gable dormer windows. The double sash windows on each storey were crowned with ornamental segmental arches. An open entry porch with columns supported a balcony from the second floor on the east facade. During the summer of 1912 a new wing, a large three storey structure designed by local architect A.D. Turnbull, was added on the west side of the building for additional classroom space. Later additions included a glassed-in gallery on the north side of the convent building.

The mission site also contained several other buildings and features. The Sacred Heart Church (later known as Our Lady of Sorrows) was built down the hill, to the south-west of the convent, in 1909. It served the catholic population of North Red Deer until 1924, when the priests left Red Deer for new mission work in Saskatchewan. In 1932 a parishioner and local farmer, Emile Hermary, built a grotto on the site with cement from the basement of the demolished church. It too has been demolished to make way for the present convent building. In 1914 the priests built Sainte Marie Apostolic College, a two storey school that provided education for boys who intended to continue to the priesthood. In 1925 it was renamed the Montfort School by the Daughters of Wisdom who purchased the property. The building was demolished in 1965, ten years after the present school on the north side of 61st Avenue was built.

Turn around, and go down the Convent Hill.

5604 – 60 Street

10. O'Bryant/Metcalf Residence

This solid looking one and a half storey house sits on property purchased by G.H. Bawtinheimer and G.W. Greene in June 1913 for speculation. These two lots were bought in August 1913 by Samuel O'Bryant, a carpenter. O'Bryant undoubtedly built the house, displaying a craftsman's flair in the Queen Anne Style, with a pent roof beneath each gable to create a pediment at the end of each of the high pitch cross-gabled roofs.

The photograph below taken during the 1930s while the house was lived in by Harlin Metcalf and family, shows a new brick



Chimney under construction at the O'Bryant/Metcalf Residence in 1932. (Price Family)

chimney being built. Since then the house has undergone some changes. The open back veranda has been removed and replaced by a hipped roof porch. The cedar shingles have been replaced with asphalt, and the house is now covered by stucco. The lines of the gables are accentuated by wooden bands in imitation of Tudor Revival Style half-timbering. The house has also been turned around on the lot; it originally faced 56th Avenue. It was most likely raised on its present cement basement at that time.

Continue along 60th Street to next intersection.

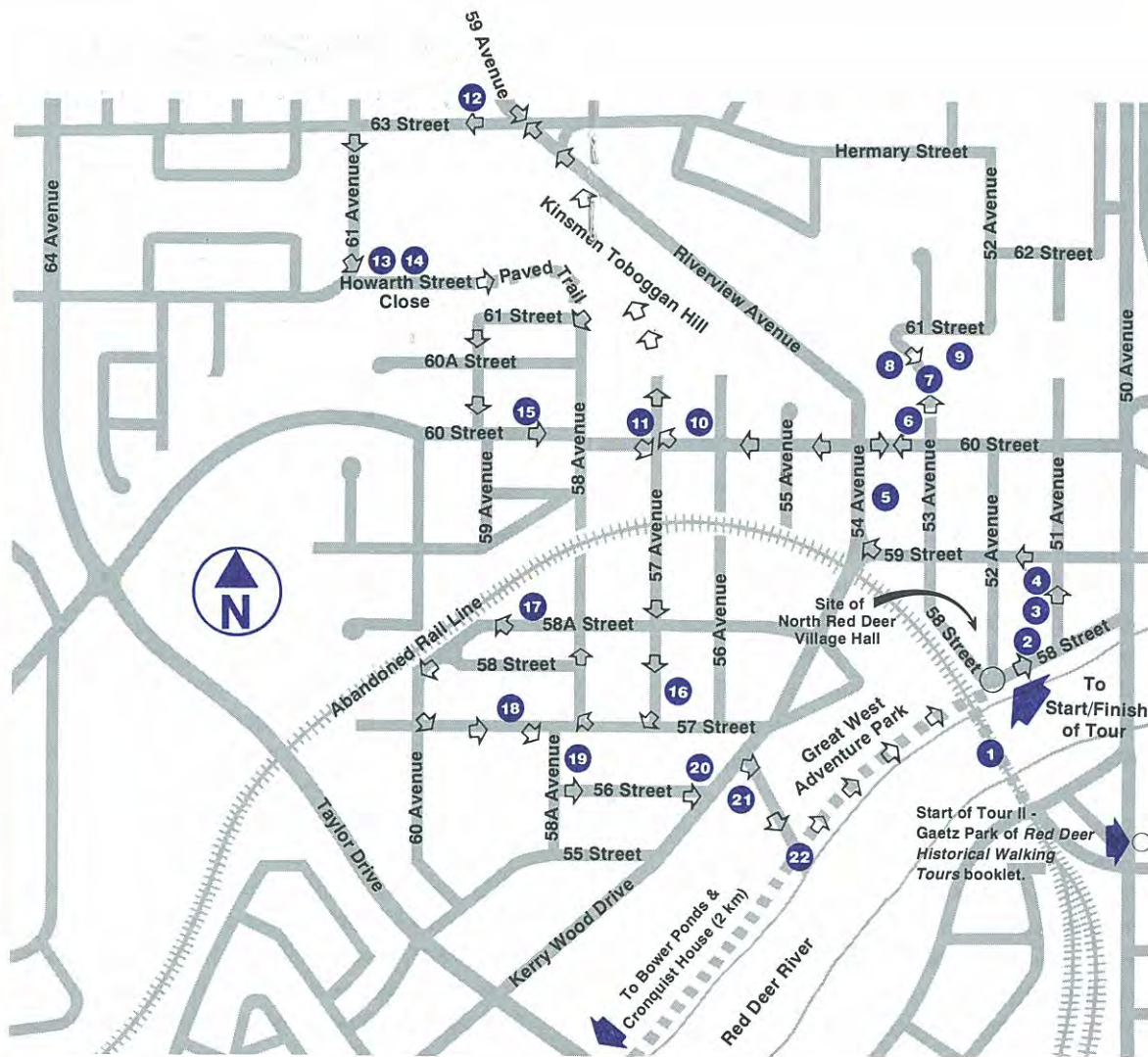
11. North Red Deer Cottage School



The North Red Deer Cottage School soon after construction, 1911. (RDDA)

The North Red Deer Cottage School was built in 1911, and officially opened in February 1912 with thirty two pupils in the care of Miss Wideen. The two room, two storey bungalow design is typical of several cottage schools built by the Department of Education in Alberta at this time. The North Red Deer school was soon followed by its twin, the South Red Deer Cottage School, built the next year to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. The standard plans issued by the Department of Education were slightly modified by architect C.A. Julian Sharman who oversaw the building of both schools by the firm of Baird & Mackenzie.

Safety and sanitary improvements to the school came slowly. The fire escape from the second story on the north facade was only installed after the signing of a parents' petition in 1929. The school board approved electricity for the school in 1931, but it was not hooked up until 1936. In 1953 the school was connected to water and sewer lines.



LEGEND

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The Old CPR Bridge (1908) | 12. North Hill Store (c. 1943) |
| 2. Greene/Kent Residence (c. 1912) | 13. Fallow/Farnell Residence (1911) |
| 3. Bawtinheimer/Duplex Building (c. 1912) | 14. Meredith Residence (1911) |
| 4. Gable Front Houses (c. 1912) | 15. Wheeler Residence (c. 1911) |
| 5. Cub Hall (c. 1943) | 16. Centre Gable House (c. 1914) |
| 6. Moreau Residence (1909) | 17. Gaskell Residence (c. 1919) |
| 7. Convent Hill | 18. Rad Residence (c. 1910) |
| 8. Dowd Residence (1947) | 19. Reed/Bowerman House (c. 1905) |
| 9. The Mission on the North Hill (begun 1908) | 20. Freytag Tannery Site |
| 10. O'Bryant/Metcalf Residence (c. 1913) | 21. Great West Lumber Company Site (begun 1906) |
| 11. North Red Deer Cottage School (1911) | 22. Millpond Site |

Cottage schools in Alberta, such as this one in North Red Deer, were designed to be temporary facilities that could be easily converted at a later date for residential use. As the *Red Deer Advocate* noted in 1911, “as soon as the population requires it, a larger more permanent building will be built and the present building be sold for a dwelling house.” This was not, however, to be its fate, as a new building was not erected until 1954, and the old school remained in use for overflow classrooms until 1966.

The present restored appearance of the school is the result of the initiative of the North Red Deer 75th Anniversary Committee of the Northside Community Association and the North Cottage School Revitalization Committee of Red Deer Public School Board. Completed in 1989, the project included the recladding of the building with wood siding and the replication of the original full porch that originally ran the full width of the front facade.

Turn onto north (right) on to 57th Avenue, and continue to the end. Follow the grassy Kinsmen Toboggan Hill that begins just west of the picnic table. At the top of the hill you will pass Rivercrest Manor on your left as you arrive on Riverview Avenue as it turns into 59th Avenue.

12. North Hill Store



The North Hill Store under construction in c. 1943. (RDDA)

When the North Hill store was built in c. 1943 by Philip Seibel, it was surrounded by fields at the top of the hill. The one and a half storey frame structure with its stepped parapet roof was typical of small country stores in design, incorporating retail and living space under the same roof. The store has changed hands many times, and sold groceries, hardware and clothing, as well as gas, over the years.

The building has undergone some changes. The south-east corner is a later addition that sits flush with what was originally a porch on the south side. Note that the original detailing on the porch gable remains. The main facade has been modified with a large boomtown front to give a more imposing appearance. The building nevertheless continues to serve as a corner store and a landmark on a busy corner of North Red Deer.

Go back along 59th Avenue to 63rd Street, and turn west (right) onto 63rd Street. Note the small square house with pyramidal roof, almost hidden by trees, on the corner of 63rd

20 *Street and 61st Avenue. It is very similar to #15 on the tour. Turn south (left) onto 61st Avenue. Turn east (left) onto Howarth Street Close at the brow of the hill.*

13. Fallow/Farnell Residence (1911)

12 Howarth Street Close

13. Fallow/Farnell Residence



The Fallow/Farnell Residence c. 1920s. (GAI)

This impressive two and a half storey residence was built by H.A. McKenzie for John Gavin Fallow, who moved into the house in April 1911. Fallow, who had extensive experience in the lumber business in the Gaspé region of Quebec, came to Red Deer in 1910 to be superintendent of the Great West Lumber Company. He chose the magnificent setting of McGregor's Hill, as it was then known, to build a house for his large family. His two married daughters Margaret, and her husband William Farnell, and Annie, with her husband Miles Willett, also moved west. John Fallow did not live to enjoy his house for long. He died from a heart attack on October 17th 1912, and his wife Janet died several months later. Margaret and William Farnell took up residence in the house a number of years later.

The *Red Deer Advocate* described the Fallow house in 1911 as "a very spacious and

imposing residence, containing eleven rooms, with veranda, balcony, and modern finishing." The house is a frame structure clad with brick veneer and stucco. Flat wall surfaces are ornamented by the use of brick on the lower storey and stucco embellished by vertical wood bands on the upper storey, in imitation of Tudor Revival Style half-timbering. The hipped roof has overhanging eaves with modillions and dentils. This pattern is repeated under the roof of the hipped dormer window that gives a commanding view to the west, and on the cornice of the flat roof of the veranda. The dentils extend as a continuous course around the house reinforcing the visual break from brick to stucco. The veranda is supported by four turned wood columns and two brick pillars at each end. Note the bay window on the ground floor and the segmented brick arches over the ground floor and basement windows. The Fallow house illustrates the variety of stylistic effects which can result when classical and Tudor Revival Style elements are combined.

21

14. Meredith Residence (1911)

4 Howarth Street Close

14. Meredith Residence



The Meredith Residence, n.d. (RDDA)

This house was also built in 1911, one of three houses that the *Red Deer Advocate* reported as completed on the crest of the hill in October, 1911. It was owned by Joseph J. Meredith, a bookkeeper. Like the Fallow residence to the west of it, the house sat on a large lot. The barn is visible at the rear of the property in the photograph above. The house is a frame two storey structure with a hipped roof. The original lean-to on the north side of the house has been removed and a larger hip roofed addition built. Although the house now has stucco covering the original clapboard, asphalt instead of cedar shingles on the roof, and with new windows and shutters, the original lines of the house are still visible. The veranda remains unchanged except for the addition of a balcony from the second floor over the gable on the south-east entry corner of the veranda.

Start down the paved trail at the end of the Close, following the right curve of the hill. Turn west (right) onto 61st Street. You will get a good view of the Howarth Street Close houses as you turn the corner south onto 59th Avenue. At 60th Street turn east (left).

15. Wheeler Residence



The Wheeler Residence, photographed in 1992. (ACM)

This small square frame house with a steeply pitched hip roof was probably built by Charles Schuneman who acquired title to the lot in 1911. Schuneman had come west from Stratford, Ontario, and in 1906 settled just south of Eckville. It is not clear whether he ever lived in the house, as his obituary noted that he farmed until his death in 1943. The house has been lived in by two of North Red Deer's Council members, W.M. Roberts and George Wheeler. Roberts served as Councillor in 1924 and 1925, and then as Reeve from 1926 to February 1931. From 1939 the house was the home of George Wheeler, who purchased the property in 1944. Wheeler, a mechanic, served as Village Councillor for North Red Deer from 1939 to 1944.

The size of this modest house is typical of many early houses in North Red Deer. It has several stylistic details, including the gable dormer with plain bargeboard and a decorative finial, a boxed overhanging eave, and a gabled entry porch. The original wooden siding and cedar shingles, as on many other houses, has been replaced by asphalt covering.

Continue on 60th Street, turn south (right) onto 57th Avenue, and continue over the abandoned railway line.

5713 – 57 Avenue

16. Centre Gable House



The Centre Gable House as it appeared in 1992. (ACM)

This house was probably built around 1914, and apart from the recent shed roofed extension at the rear, probably appears much as it did when it was first constructed. Set back on the lot, the house has symmetrical lines offset by an asymmetrical window configuration. The centred gable gives light and space to the attic half storey. The wall surface, clad with bevelled siding, continues into the gables giving the house the appearance of greater height. All three gables have wide returned eaves. An enclosed, well proportioned porch is situated off to one side on the main facade.

The house appears to have been built as speculative rental property in the growing village of North Red Deer by Robert Pearson, Methodist minister, and Horace Meeres, the Red Deer Fire Chief, who acquired the property jointly in 1914.

Continue to the end of 57th Avenue, and turn west (right) onto 57th Street. Turn north (right) on 58th Avenue. At the 58A Street intersection turn west (left).

5830 – 58A Street

17. Gaskell Residence



The Gaskell Residence in 1939. (RDDA)

This house was most likely built between 1918 and 1920. Wilber Sever Metcalf, who purchased the property in December 1919, was a farmer. He served as Councillor for North Red Deer from 1921 to 1922. The house was apparently his town house. In 1921 his son Harlin and family moved into the house. Harlin Metcalf was an avid gardener, and possibly developed the large garden, part of which can be seen in the photograph above taken in 1939. By that time, the house had become the home of Clare Gaskell, principal of the North Red Deer School from 1928 to 1939.

In 1939 the original one and a half story gable roofed house had a large shed-roofed lean-to extension on the north end of the house. A hip roofed enclosed porch ran the full length of the east side of the house, and on the south end was a frame and glass greenhouse. The

garden had a large well kept lawn, paths, hedges and beds of flowers.

If you look closely, you can see that the original outline of the house and window configuration are visible beneath the stucco modernization carried out in 1957.

Continue along the curve of 58A Street. Turn east (left) onto 57th Street.

5822 – 57 Street

18. Rad Residence



The Rad Residence, 1930. (RDDA)

The tall and narrow proportions of this two storey rectangular house are unusual in Alberta. The gables on the steep pitched roof have returned eaves. The hipped-roofed porch, with a gable over the entry, has been enclosed, and the original siding replaced by a stucco covering. The gable ends as well as the gable on the porch roof have several decorative courses of shingles including a fishscale

pattern. The house for many years was set off by a small white picket fence that enclosed the property.

The house may have built as early as 1905, but it most likely was built in 1910 when the lot was acquired by Jean-Baptiste Durand. This would account for a \$950 property value increase when he sold it the following year. The purchaser was a Reverend A. Huon of Cherance, Sarthe, in France. In 1924, this lot, along with many others, passed to the Village of North Red Deer for nonpayment of taxes, and was not re-sold until 1932. The trees in front of the house were planted in 1936, when Gordon Rad and family lived in the house.

Continue along 57th Street, turn south (right) onto 58A Avenue.

5603 – 58A Avenue

19. Reed/Bowerman House



The Reed/Bowerman House as it appeared in 1992. (ACM)

This house, situated on the north-east corner of 58A Avenue and 56th Street, is a good example of how a simple small house has been expanded over the years to meet the needs of its occupants. The original building, a one and

a half storey structure capped with a gable roof, may have been built as early as 1905. The roof line under the gable on the west end (front) suggests that an addition with a plain shed roof was later further developed to form a closed in gable-roofed porch with windows. Note the decorative exposed rafter ends above the window, as well as the pent eave over the board and batten door. The porch extends on the north end to wrap around the corner of the house as an L-shaped addition. There is also a large addition with a shallow shed roof on the east end (rear) of the house, and a shed dormer on the north side of the main roof. The original siding and shingles have been replaced.

Land Titles records indicate that the holder of the first title to this land was Frederick L. Ray in 1894. Over the almost 100 years since that original title, the ownership of this parcel has changed hands over twenty times. Apart from the Village of North Red Deer, which at various periods held the title for a total of about twenty years, the major owners have been Hannah W. Reed from 1911 to 1921, and Ernest and Mary Bowerman from 1946 to 1970. No information is available on Hannah Reed, except that before becoming Mrs. Reed, her name was Lindholm, and she lived at Burnt Lake. The Bowerman family came to Red Deer in 1913-14. Ernest Bowerman worked at the Great West Lumber Co. sawmill. Over the years the family moved several times within the central Alberta area, finally settling in North Red Deer in 1926.

Turn east (left) onto 56th Street and continue along it to the corner of Kerry Wood Drive.

Industrial North Red Deer

20. Freytag Tannery Site



The Freytag Tannery Site in 1992. (HCH)

The Freytag Tannery was built in 1910 on the east corner of Forest (56th) Street and Burnt Lake Road, now Kerry Wood Drive, on what is today a playground area. The company was set up by two of Red Deer's most enterprising entrepreneurs, G.W. Greene and G.H. Bawtinheimer. The managing director was Mr. Victor B. Freytag, a Polish immigrant trained in Vienna, who had worked in a number of the principal tanneries of the U.S. and Canada.

The contract for the one and a half storey rectangular building was let to McKee and McKenzie in December, 1910. The *Red Deer Advocate* noted that the company would make up the hides brought in by farmers into robes, coats, and mitts for their own and their

30 families' use. Operations began in Spring, 1911. The tannery, however, went into liquidation in 1914 after Freytag had been interned on charges of sedition after the outbreak of war.

Cross Kerry Wood Drive, turn northeast, and take the road signed Great West Adventure Park. This will lead you down to the area by the river that was part of the millpond in front of the site of the Great West Lumber Company on the bank above.

21. Great West Lumber Company Site



The Great West Lumber Company mill in 1913. (RDDA)

The Great West Lumber Company was formed in 1906, the result of the amalgamation of two already-existing companies: the Robinson McKenzie Lumber Co., which was named after its owners, and the Atlas Lumber Co. which was bought from its founder, George Bawtinheimer. Apart from Robinson and Mackenzie, the shareholders in the new company were J.A. Steele, and George W. Greene and his law partner, William E. Payne.

The Great West Lumber Company was to be a major source of employment for the nascent community of North Red Deer.

Logs for the mill were cut by crews in the logging camps in the bush west of Sundre. From there they were floated downstream in a log drive. A chain across the river at Red Deer forced the logs into the raceway. The logs were then stored in the millpond until they could be sawed into lumber at the mill. A CPR siding ran west from the main line along Burnt Lake Road behind the sawmill to allow easy loading and dispatch of lumber.

The Great West Lumber Company prospered and major expansions took place in 1911 and 1912. The new machinery, including a 40 inch gang saw, a Wickes stock gang saw, an automatic trimmer with fourteen saws, required improved facilities as well as additional buildings. Production levels peaked in 1912-13, when the capacity of the sawmill reached 180,000 feet per 24 hours. An accident in 1913, however, resulted in reduced production. Then, heavy losses due to very high water levels during the log drive in 1914, further crippled Great West, and the Company finally went out of business in 1916.

The Great West buildings were situated opposite the Freytag Tannery on the bank overlooking the eastern end of the millpond. The building on the far right in the photograph above, constructed on a wooden trestle, is the machine shop. The sawmill runs north to south beside it. Note the jack ladder to take logs from the water up into the mill.

22. Millpond Site



The millpond in the 1930s. (RDDA)

A large flat was dredged out for a millpond, which was dammed at the east end. The log raceway into the pond was cut parallel to the river from the bend near the present Red Deer Golf and Country Club. The present Bower Ponds are part of the western section of the millpond, which stretched along a site parallel to the river. As you turn the corner at the end of the hill off Kerry Wood Drive you are facing the eastern end of the millpond area, now filled in, where the present parking lot and BMX track are.

The map by the river's edge near the picnic shelter will orientate you to the Waskasoo Park system. A ten minute walk (0.5 km) on the trail to the east along the river bank will return you to the Old CPR Bridge where you began the tour.

The trail to the west will take you along the river to the Bower Ponds and to Cronquist House. This is approximately a 30 minute walk (2.0 km). From there you can return by the same trail to the Old CPR Bridge.

If you cross the Old CPR Bridge to the

south side of the river, you are close to the start of Tour II - Gaetz Park, one of three historical walking tours in the Red Deer Historical Walking Tours booklet published jointly by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and the Red Deer Historical Preservation Committee.

Glossary

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

dentils

a series of tooth-like blocks used as decoration below the eaves

doric column

a classical style of column which has a smooth rounded shape with simple ornamentation at the top and bottom

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

mansard roof

a roof having a double slope; the upper slope has a low pitch, while the lower slope is steeply pitched

modillions

ornamental brackets used as decoration below the eaves

mullions

vertical wooden strips separating panes of glass in a window

pent eave

a narrow roof cantilevered out from a smooth wall surface

Queen Anne Style

an architectural style originating in the late 1900s which was characterized by varied rooflines, rich detailing and generally vertical emphasis in proportions

transoms

horizontal wooden strips separating panes of glass in a window

Tudor Revival Style

a style of architecture characterized by half-timbering and low arches on the exterior

Notes

Notes

For Further Information Contact:

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Red Deer & District Archives

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Red Deer Alberta
T4N 5H2
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Historical Tour Series

Historical Walking and Driving Tours are available for the following communities and areas:

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Acknowledgements

This booklet was prepared as a joint project by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, and the North Red Deer 75th Anniversary Committee: Russell and Margaret Caton, Michael Dawe, Shirley Hocken, Harlan Hulleman, and Preston Parks. The assistance of the following is gratefully acknowledged:

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
Northside Community Association
Red Deer City Council
Red Deer & District Archives
Waskasoo Museum Foundation

Judy Armstrong: Cover Design
Dorothy Field: Production Supervision,
Editor
Judy Larmour: Research
Writing
Diana Thomas: Project Coordinator
Pete Weddell: Introduction
Shane Young: Text and Layout
Design

Photo Credits

Photographs from the following sources appear in this publication:

Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism (*ACM*)
The Glenbow-Alberta Institute (*GAI*)
Harlan C. Hulleman (*HCH*)
Red Deer & District Archives (*RDDA*)
Price Family

Further Reading On This Subject

This walking tour booklet provides a good introduction to the history of North Red Deer. *The Little Village that Grew, a History of North Red Deer*, a 600 page book published in 1987 by the North Red Deer 75th Anniversary Committee of the Northside Community Association, provides a wealth of additional information and photographs which will shed further light on the development of this community.

In it is a tour compiled by Terry Barmby and Harlan Hulleman which inspired this walking tour booklet project. Enquire at the Red Deer & District Archives regarding the availability of the book.