

# Historic Canadian Tour

H.) **Historic Downtown District: *Moody Building***, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Main. Robert Moody, a rancher and banker, completed this 3-story brick structure in 1910, and it became a popular destination for travelers and cattle buyers. Recent renovations returned the building's exterior to its original materials and lines. The Original oak stairway and woodwork remain in the lobby and travelers now enjoy the ambience of the "Cattle Exchange" restaurant. Offices occupy the second and third floors. ***First National Bank***, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Main. The building, designed in 1920 by architect J.C. Berry, now houses Canadian's First National Bank. H. Hamburg and Robert Moody established the Texas Panhandle's first bank here in 1887. Moody and son-in-law, D.J. Young established the Canadian Valley Bank in 1903, which four years later became First National Bank. ***Palace Theatre***, 210 Main. This historic building was originally a vaudeville house, opened by Mr. Frame and Mr. Martin in 1909 named "The Pastime Theatre," which changed to "The Queen" in 1916. In the 1920's silent films were shown and the first "talkie" in 1932, in what has since been called the "Palace Theatre." In 1997, it was completely restored at the direction of architect Killis Almond, known for his work restoring historic theatres. Reopened as a first-run theatre in 1998, the Palace draws crowds from through the region, and has been featured in national travel and historic restoration publications. ***City Drug Soda Fountain***, 224 Main. Built in 1910, this red brick building housed the City Drug on the ground floor, with the Hoover Law offices above. The first floor and exterior were renovated in 2000 using authentic soda fountain equipment, original drug store furnishings, marble counter, etc. and the façade returned to the original appearance. Reopened as the City Drug Soda Fountain, it is a popular gathering place and tourist attraction. ***Hemphill County Tax Appraisal Office***, 223 Main. The original façade has been maintained, and the tiled entry is inlaid with the words "First National Bank, 1907," which the building housed for many years. ***Brainard Bank***, 300 Main. The Amerprise Financial office occupies this 1906 building, which first housed the Brainard Bank. Established by a prominent area ranching family to handle their affairs, the building still has its original vault and exterior. The Brainard Ranch continues to be one of the largest in the Panhandle and is still operated by the family. ***Tipps Apartment Building***, 405 Main. Canadian's first apartment complex, built of red brick, opened in 1927. The interior retains many of the original features, including Murphy bed closets with French doors, phone nooks and arched entries

between rooms. It is still an apartment house with full occupancy, now called "The Main Street Inn and Apartments." ***Hemphill County Courthouse***, 400 Main, Courthouse Square. This is a Historic Texas Courthouse built in 1909 at a cost of \$31,278 by architect R.G. Kirsch Co. and contractor Gilcoat Skinner. The domed courthouse has been well maintained and still serves the County. ***Hemphill County Jail***, 400 Main. Completed in 1890, the jail was the first permanent public building in Hemphill County. Its construction was surrounded by controversy involving fraudulent contracts- a case which came before the Texas Supreme Court in 1889. Through the 1920's, the jail held outlaws from all over the Panhandle, and housed many from the boomtown of Borger during prohibition-era raids. Today the building houses offices for various entities. ***W.C.T.U. Building***, 500 Main. The only building in the United States ever built, owned or maintained by a local Women's Christian Temperance Union chapter. The chapter, formed in 1902, began holding bazaars in 1906 to pay for construction, and the two-story brick structure with a basement was completed in 1911. The Christmas bazaar and turkey dinner, now over a century old tradition and hosted by local volunteers, continues to provide for the Hemphill County Library housed in the building. ***Jones Mansion***, 604 Main. Thomas Stanley Jones, an affluent local rancher, built Canadian's first brick residence in 1909. The classic revival mansion Ionic columns, red brick corner quoins, and renaissance detailing. ***Presbyterian Church Bell Tower***, 6<sup>th</sup> & Purcell. Canadian's first church was a small white frame building constructed in 1889. In 1890, church members took out a bank loan to buy and install the bell. Church suppers, supported by congregations of several faiths, were held to pay off the note.

- 1) ***Brainard House***, 601 E. Kingman. Early-day pioneers, the Ed Brainard family was instrumental in the development of Canadian's distinct culture. This two-story stucco "townhouse" was built in 1888, and according to Texas Historical Commission records was one of 18 gracious historic homes designed to serve as a second home for activities away from the ranch.
- 2) ***John Jones House***, 406 N. 6<sup>th</sup>. Built of blocks made one at a time in the front yard, John Jones' "new" home, built in 1906, is a beautiful example of cast stone construction, a common building material for homes on the prairie. Prospective homeowners-miles from available lumber, brick or stone supplies-often purchased a small block-making form which produced one block at a time.

- 3) **Stone House**, 414 N. 6<sup>th</sup>. This house was built in 1917 by the Stone family. Designed in the prairie architectural style with bricks transported by wagon from Coffeyville, Kansas, it is an example of what at one time became the standard form home construction here. The home continues to be admired for its original oak woodwork, hand-carved by local craftsman, Vas Stickley.
- 4) **Stickley House**, 620 Santa Fe. Designed by Vas Stickley in 1911, this home is distinguished by original hitching posts at the front and side entrances. The owners have lovingly preserved Stickley's fine craftsmanship, which was a trademark of fine home construction in Canadian for many years.
- 5) **Old Hospital**, 213 N. 7<sup>th</sup>. Canadian's original hospital was constructed in 1917 by local doctor H.C. Caylor with funds donated by public subscription. Now a private residence, the hospital was known for its "fish pond room" where new mothers and their babies were encouraged to enjoy the soothing powers of the view of lawn and water. The value of the small hospital was dramatized when 260 citizens injured in the 1947 Glazier-Higgins tornado were treated there, at the region's only hospital, by Dr. E.H. Morris and his staff. The hospital, always privately owned by a local physician, closed in 1949 when a new public facility opened.
- 6) **Mary B. Isaacs House**, 619 E. Kingman. This was the home of Canadian's first public school teacher, Mary Brainard Isaacs, who began her career here in 1888, with Indians watching through the windows as her students recited. This classic residence served for many years as a boarding house for single teachers, and was the envy of other such establishments of the time as each bedroom had its own lavatory.
- 7) **Sam Isaacs House**, 804 Main. Early-day rancher and banker, Sam Isaacs, built this town home in 1916. The two story red brick structure is a beautifully-maintained private home.
- 8) **Shaller House**, 1022 Main. This is a gem of Victorian architecture built in 1910 by C.H. Shaller. Each cast stone is inset with the family name. The home, with its gracious porches and gables, still has the original second story leaded glass windows.
- 9) **Parsell House**, 904 Cheyenne. Built in 1912, this home was often referred to as Canadian's castle for its whimsical turret and cupola. The third floor of the house was designed to be a ballroom and hosted many early-day "musicals."
- 10) **Canadian Baptist Academy (Abraham Homeplace)**, 712 Cheyenne. Originally the girls' dormitory at Canadian's Baptist Academy, this house sat in grand isolation on acres of open prairie in 1906. Allowed to fall into disrepair, the house was bought in 1938 by Nahim and Alia Abraham who began restoring it. Through four generations of family gatherings, it became known as the "homeplace" for a family which had put down roots and made their fortune in the new country of the Texas Panhandle.
- 11) **Baker School Memorial**, 6<sup>th</sup> & Hillside. When the B.M. Baker School, built in 1921, was demolished 72 years later to make way for the construction of the new Baker Elementary facilities, Dr. Malouf Abraham, Jr. proposed saving two portions of the building. The Baker School Preservation Project strengthened the architectural elements, landscaped the surrounding area and enhanced it with nighttime lighting. Artist Gary Price of Utah sculpted three larger-than-life bronzes of children for the memorial dedicated in 1994.
- 12) **Canadian Middle School**, 404 6<sup>th</sup>. CMS was built in 1939 with funds from the last round of WPA projects. The Spanish Gothic Structure – which became the town's pride and joy as a symbol of its dedication to educational excellence – almost wasn't built, when local voters twice turned down a bond issue to match federal funds.
- 13) **First Baptist Church / The Citadel**, 520 Nelson. "The Citadel" started life in 1910 as the First Baptist Church, and later sheltered the Church of Christ. Eventually abandoned, the building was slated for demolition in 1977, but was reborn as a private home. The old church was transformed with many of its historic features intact, and became "the Panhandle's most talked about home."
- 14) **Hoover House**, 215 S. 5<sup>th</sup>. While the church building went up across the street, prominent local business man, H.E. Hoover, in 1910 set his family up in a true prairie-style two-story home built with red Coffeyville bricks, featuring large covered porches.
- 15) **Johnson House**, 216 S. 5<sup>th</sup>. Local Banker, J.F. Johnson, built his own red brick home in 1910 with a red tile roof and second story veranda. The Texas Historical Commission has cited the house as the most outstanding example of the fine old homes built in this era.
- 16) **Canadian River Historic Wagon Bridge**. After five years of planning and restoration work, the Wagon Bridge was rededicated on July 1, 2000. The original bridge was constructed in 1915 by Canton Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, and removed from service in 1953 after completion of a new bridge. Spanning the once-mighty Canadian River, the 3,255-foot structure was the longest metal truss bridge in the state at that time. The wood planked bridge now offers a trail for walking, bicycling, jogging, bird watching and wildlife viewing.