

ENJOY A DRIVE AROUND PICTURESQUE, HISTORIC Canadian, Texas

CANADIAN OCCUPIES A TRULY UNIQUE PLACE in the history of the Texas Panhandle. It was one of the first settlements in the area and quickly became known as a center of prosperity and gracious living. It continues to be that today. The old Baptist Academy established Canadian as a center of education for the children of the pioneer families.

The main line of the Santa Fe Railroad brought early industry to the area and established Canadian as a shipping point for sending cattle to the stockyards of Kansas City and Chicago. Canadian was even the site of one of the famed Harvey Houses, which served the train passengers between San Francisco and Chicago.

Cattle ranching and the Santa Fe have been the historical basis for the thriving prosperity of Hemphill County, but this has also been a lively town for bankers, lawyers and long-established business firms. Especially important lately has been the bustling activity of the oil and gas industry. Canadian is in the heart of the Anadarko Basin.

The map directs visitors on an easily followed historical and scenic tour of Canadian. The homes are all private homes, but you are welcome to take pictures of the exteriors. It would take a very thick book to tell of all the fine people who have lived here through the years and of the colorful chapters in their lives.

In the 1908 yearbook of the Canadian Baptist Academy there is a paragraph which says a lot that is still true of Canadian: “The founders of the Academy could not have chosen a happier location for study, recreation and morals. The elevation is 2,300 feet, which insures a light atmosphere and freedom from oppressive heat and malaria, so helpful to mental work. The location of Canadian affords a scenery of river and mountains unsurpassed in the Panhandle....The community is cultured, and the country is rapidly settling with a high class of citizens. Such conditions Canadian enjoys, such benefits she offers.”

The numbered paragraphs below are your key to the tour map. Be sure to explore Main Street and all its unique businesses. Also, don't miss the Historic Walking Bridge and beautiful Lake Marvin Drive, both on the north edge of town.

The Tour

1. Santa Fe Depot Area – The red depot and the Harvey house were here at the foot of Main Street. They were demolished several years ago, but recently, Bartlett Lumber Co. remodeled its facade to harken back to the days of the depot.

2. City Hall and Auditorium.

3. Moody Building – This was the first fire-proof hotel in the Panhandle, built in 1910. It has been remodeled and now houses Abraham Trading and the Cattle Exchange steakhouse.

4. Canadian Visitors' Center. Completed in the fall of 2006, the Visitors' Center was funded in part through a \$2.4 million federal transportation enhancement grant awarded to Canadian in February of 2002, and was the first of a two-phase project which concluded with the Main Streetscape beautification in summer of 2009.

5. Hemphill County Courthouse – Built in 1909.

6. W.C.T.U. Building – Organized in 1902, ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union transformed Canadian from a wild frontier town into a sedate community of homes and churches. In 2010, it underwent an extensive restoration and repair project co-funded by Hemphill County and the Canadian Independent School District in a historic partnership agreement. This is the only locally-owned W.C.T.U. Building in the United States and was built in 1911. See the Historical Marker.

7. Ed Brainard Home – Built in 1888, this home was expanded several times, until 1916, when it took its present form.

8. Eddie Meek Home – Originally built by John Jones in 1906, this home has been extensively remodeled and a beautiful pool area added on the south side.

9. Ed Culver Home – Built in 1917 by the Stone family. It is known for its beautiful oak woodwork.

10. Dell Krehbiel Home – Built by Vas Stickley in 1911. Notice the hitching posts. The antique features have been preserved in the renovation of this home.

11. Old Hospital – This was the hospital from 1915 until 1949. Many a baby was born here in the “fish pond room.” Owned by Chris and Rosemary Koetting.

12. Dr. and Mrs. Tony Cook Home – This was originally the home of Will Isaacs and his wife, Mary Brainard Isaacs, who was the first school teacher in town.

13. Catholic Church Belltower – This 60 foot belltower houses a 50 bell carillon which plays hymns at various times

each day. The windows in this church were made by the president of the Stained Glass Artist Association and the wood carvings were done in Italy. In the winter of 2009-10, the old parish hall was demolished, and construction of a new hall with additional classroom space began, funded in part by decades of sales from Jamaicas and Mexican dinners.

14. Kenneth Thrasher Home – Built in 1916 by Sam Isaacs.

15. Mark and Amanda Poe Home – Built in 1910 by the Shaller family. It is especially well-proportioned and beautifully maintained.

16. Y.M.C.A. – This facility was completed in 1985 and greatly contributes to community life. The City swimming pool and skate park are across the street.

17. Carol Reid Home – Built in 1912 by the Parsell family, this home is unique for its fine turret and cupola.

18. B.M. Baker School – This is one of the grade schools. Notice the monument to the old school with its statues of children playing and reading.

19. Abraham Homeplace – Was built in 1902 and its earliest use was as the girl's dormitory for the Baptist Academy. After the academy closed in 1912, the old wooden house went through a series of owners and a great deterioration. Nahim and Alia Abraham bought it in 1938 and remodeled it in the style of their native Lebanon. It is now owned by Salem and Ruth Ann Abraham.

20. Edward Abraham Memorial Home – This was built in 1962, through generous donations by hundreds of people in this area. This fifty-seven bed convalescent home is a non-profit institution. Inside, there is an especially fine hand-carved, mother-of-pearl icon in the chapel and several tapestries and wood mosaics in the lobby. These were all hand-made in Lebanon.

21. This is a new area of town. You will see many fine new homes as well as the Wildcat Stadium and Canadian Elementary School.

22. Hemphill County Hospital.

23. Canadian Middle School – This imposing, Spanish Gothic structure was built in 1939 on the site of the long-demolished Canadian Baptist Academy. Following an extensive restoration project in 2008-09, funded by voter-approved school bonds, the auditorium was renamed The Texas Crown Performance Hall in 2010 and began hosting touring performances and concerts.

24. The Citadelle Art Foundation – Built in 1910 as the First Baptist Church. Dr. and Mrs. Malouf Abraham, Jr. bought the building on New Year's Day, 1977. It was an abandoned, unwanted building but they recycled it as a home for their family, recently transformed into a world-renowned art museum.

25. Hoover Home – Built in 1910 by Judge H.E. Hoover, one of the founders of the Baptist Academy.

26. Terry Brown Home – Built in 1914 by J.F. Johnson.

27. Pat Crouch Home – The original part of this house was built in 1890 by J.A. Chambers. It has been expanded many times.

28. Presbyterian Church – It was on this corner that Canadian's first church was built in 1889. It was a small, white frame church, largely financed by the by the C.H. Presbyterian National Missions Board. The bell hanging in this tower was in the steeple of the old church and has been calling people to worship since 1890. See the historical marker.

29. Hill Crest – Built by Tom Jones in 1919, this fine home with its tall columns is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture. Extensively remodeled in 2009, this is now the home of Malouf and Therese Abraham.



The Map