

SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION OR
COMMENTS, PLEASE COME TO THE
VISITORS CENTRE OPEN
MONDAY - SATURDAY 9:00AM - 6:00PM
OR CALL (306) 662-4005.



www.OldCOWTOWN.ca

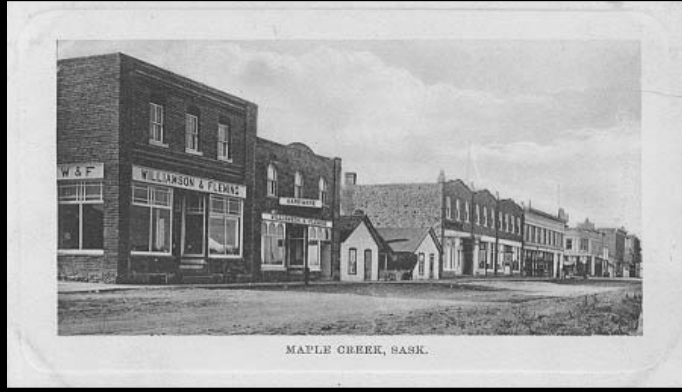
PHOTOS COURTESY OF
S.W. SASK. OLDTIMERS' MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

TOWN OF MAPLE CREEK HERITAGE



A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF
DOWNTOWN MAPLE CREEK AND
A DRIVING TOUR OF OTHER
HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND HOUSES

HISTORY



In the fall of 1882 construction of Canada's First transcontinental railway halted for the winter just to the east of the present day town site, where a number of crew workers set up a wintering camp. In the spring of 1883 buildings and businesses sprung up and Maple Creek was born. The town grew quickly and by 1886, it was decided that the "village" was big enough to warrant an "overseer". Mr. J.J. English was elected to this position. In 1903, Maple Creek was incorporated as a town, and Mr. J. Dixon was elected its first Mayor. In 1907, the Mayor and Councillors decided to proceed with a gravity-fed water system for the town. Water was piped into the community from springs located SE of Maple Creek. Most of Maple Creek's present water supply still comes from that main source. Circa 1910, Maple Creek had power for only a few hours each night.

TOWN TOUR

MAPLE STREET

305 Maple Street was built in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Herringer raised a family of eight children in this house.

307 Maple Street was built in 1910. Mr. A. A. Meneley owned the house but rented it out to Art and Helma Myers for 17.50 per month.



TOWN TOUR

CYPRESS STREET

305 Cypress Street was built in 1925 for Dr. John A. Stewart. Dr. Stewart was a dentist in Maple Creek for 40 years.

301 Cypress Street was built in 1909 for Mr. and Mrs. Chevalier. Mr. Chevalier came to Maple Creek to open a branch store for Hawthorne's Men's Wear.

208 Cypress Street was built in 1886, making this house the oldest in Maple Creek. It was built for Mrs. Huttan a local dressmaker. The bay window facing the street was likely built to provide extra light for Mrs. Huttan who may have used the space as a workroom for her sewing business.



HISTORY CONTINUED

A sewage system was installed in the community in 1913. During 1913, there was a large increase in population. It was reported that approximately 600 train cars of settlers' effects were unloaded at the Maple Creek Station. The town also had its own electric light system and a flourmill in the early years.

For hundreds of years the Cypress Hills were used as a wintering ground for the plains Indians. The hills were also important because they provided firewood, wild game, and lodgepole pine, which are excellent for tipi poles and travois for both dogs and horses. No native group ever monopolized the hills and so it was a winter home to many groups such as Cree, Assiniboine, Blackfoot, Gros Ventre and others.

Fort Walsh played a large role in the development of Maple Creek. The Fort was built in 1875, with the Town of Fort Walsh soon following. During its day, the town was the largest centre between Winnipeg and Vancouver. However, when Fort Walsh was abandoned in 1883 the town's people abandoned the town as well. The NWMP moved to new barracks just outside of Maple Creek, which operated until 1920. The town's people flocked to the railhead in Maple Creek and Medicine Hat to continue their businesses.

In 1993, Maple Creek was awarded the title of "Friendliest Town in Saskatchewan". This award believed to be given to the town because the community holds many pioneer virtues such as neighbor helping neighbor, honesty, hard work, and the value of a handshake to make a deal.

ECONOMY

Maple Creek's primary industry has always been agriculture. The vast grasslands around the base of the Cypress Hills were ideal for grazing, and attracted cattle ranchers as early as the 1880's. The first shipment of cattle from western Canada was loaded on the rails at Maple Creek in 1884. The large concrete in-land grain terminal across the CPR tracks sits on the location of the original Maple Creek stockyards. This grain terminal replaced a number of standard plan wooden grain elevators that once lined the railway tracks. The first shipment of wheat from Maple Creek was also made in 1884 and consisted of 650 bushels. In addition to cattle and grain, large herds of sheep were brought into the area in 1889. Given its strong agricultural roots, Maple Creek has a long standing rodeo tradition. Throughout the summer months visitors can attend the Cowtown Pro-Rodeo, the Maple Creek Ranch Rodeo, and the Murraydale Stampede & Picnic (which started in 1909 and is believed to

be one of the oldest continually run rodeos in Canada!).



TOWN TOUR

HARDER STREET

304 Harder Street was built in 1909 for R.G. Williamson. He was a partner in the Williamson and Fleming store on Pacific Ave. In 1913, Edward Fearon, a Maple Creek hotel manager, bought the house.

315 Harder Street was circa 1905 for Mr. and Mrs. Tom Grice and family. Mr. Grice was a bricklayer and found employment in the local brick factory. Later it was bought by the Bank of Montreal to be rented to the managers of the Maple Creek branch.

319 Harder Street was built circa 1910 for Mr. Authur Burnett, a lawyer. He and his wife ran a law practice in Maple Creek.

401 Harder Street was built in 1912 for Ben and Jennie Cheeseman for a total cost of \$2,170.00.



TOWN TOUR

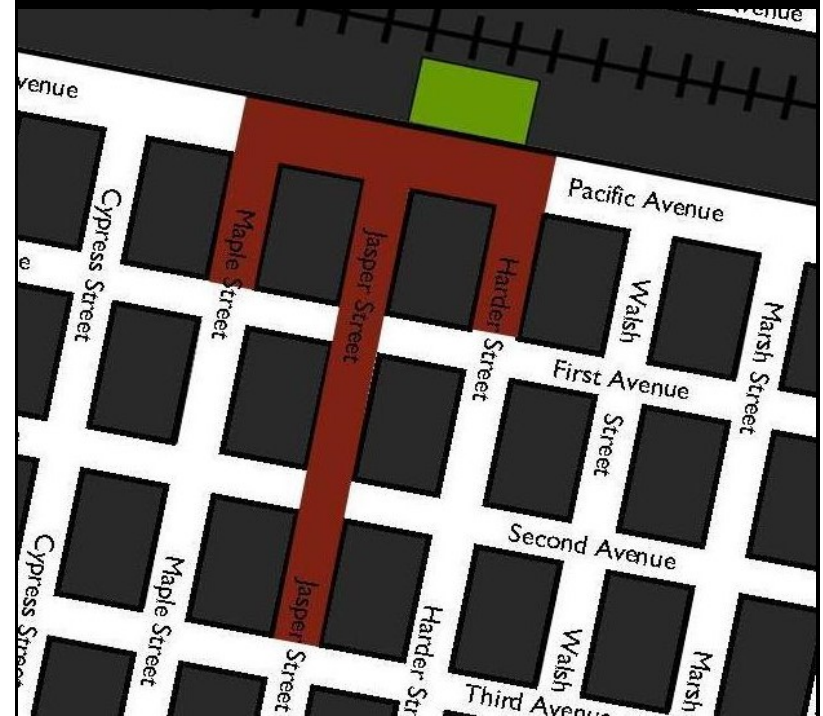
WALSH STREET

207 Walsh Street was built circa 1914 for Mrs. Rachael Biron. Mrs. Biron used this house to care for women during childbirth. After she sold the house, it was turned into suites and is known as the Arctic Block.



Maple Creek Parade

DOWNTOWN TOUR



Public washrooms are available in the Visitor Centre

If you have any questions/comments about the walking tour please do not hesitate to go to the Maple Creek Visitor Centre

Start in front of the Visitor Centre and continue down Jasper Street on the left side (east side)...

W.R. ORR BUILDING



VISITOR CENTRE

Built in 1910 to house the Union Bank of Canada, the building later housed the Royal Bank & the Bank of Montreal.

When the Bank of Montreal vacated the building circa 1952, the law firm of Burnett & Orr converted the building to serve as law offices.

Mr. Burnett was Maple Creek's first lawyer, starting his practice here in 1903. He was joined by Mr. Orr in 1949. At the time of Mr. Orr's death in 2005 the firm is believed to have been one of the oldest continually operated rural law practices in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Orr's family donated the building and its contents to the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Museum & Archive. As a result, today the building still features numerous pieces original to the Union Bank as well as the Burnett & Orr Law Office.

TOWN TOUR

313 Marsh Street was built in 1910 and moved into town from Robsart Saskatchewan.

311 Marsh Street was built in 1911 for the Harry Quick family. Mr. Quick managed the Light Power and Milling Company's hardware and furniture store.

309 Marsh Street was built in 1911 for Mr. John Redmond. Mr. Redmond arrived in Maple Creek as a member of the NWMP. He was also mayor from 1914-1916.

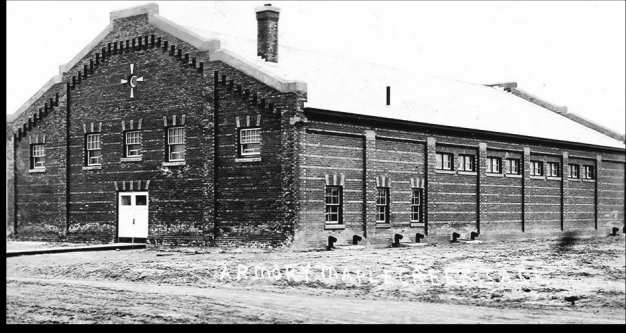
303 Marsh Street was built in 1906 for Mr. A. A. Meneley. Mr. Meneley was the first police officer of Maple Creek, as well as a mayor between 1910-1913.

220 Marsh Street was built in 1912 for the flour mill manager, Mr. Reed.

218 Marsh Street was built in 1912 for the power plant manager, Mr. Johnny Martin.



TOWN TOUR



Marsh Street - referred to as "Millionaires Avenue"

Armoury building was built in 1914 for a price of \$14,000. Mayor Meneley brought up the idea of a drill hall to Colonel Steele for the government. The colonel provided the go ahead for the drill hall but also wanted an armory built too. On April 14, 1914, a ball was held to mark its opening. The Dominion of Canada sold the armoury to the Town of Maple Creek on June 17, 1966.

401 Marsh Street was built in 1909 for Mr. & Mrs. Charles Blair. The house only cost \$720 to build.

319 Marsh Street was built in 1913 for the Mr. Johnny Flemming Family. Mr. Flemming partnered with Horace Greeley bought the Commercial hotel. Mr. Flemming was also a partner in the light Power and Milling Company.

315 Marsh Street was built in 1912 for Mr. & Mrs. Ed Small. Mr. Small had many interests in the area; the most noted is 57 years as a fireman for the Maple Creek fire brigade.

100 BLOCK JASPER STREET (EAST SIDE)



HILL COUNTRY CLOTHING

This building was constructed before the W.R. Orr Building next door, and as a result its upper floor is only accessible by a shared stairway inside the Orr Building. The building originally housed a tack and harness shop. There is a photo inside showing the interior of the building during this period. The building later housed the Tommy Winterton clothing store (which was later known as Watson's).

BC CAFÉ

Housing the community's oldest continually operated Chinese café, the building retains a great deal of its original charm. The exterior was recently rehabilitated with support from the Main Street Saskatchewan Program.

LUXITO AND CO.

This is the oldest surviving building on the east side of the 100 block. Originally the building featured a pitched roof façade; however, this was later changed to a false-front design.

REX CAFÉ



DAILY GRIND / SIMPLE PLEASURES

The Rex Café started out in the Simple Pleasures building and later moved into the larger Daily Grind building when it was later constructed. The Simple Pleasures building has in living memory been used as a barber-shop. The original barber chair was donated to the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Museum and is on display at the museum's C.M. Glascock Building. The facades of both buildings were recently rehabilitated with support from the Main Street Saskatchewan Program.

TOWN TOUR

JASPER STREET

402 Jasper Street was built in 1909 for G.W. Quick. Mr. Quick was a rancher, storeowner and a partner in the Light Power and Milling Company.

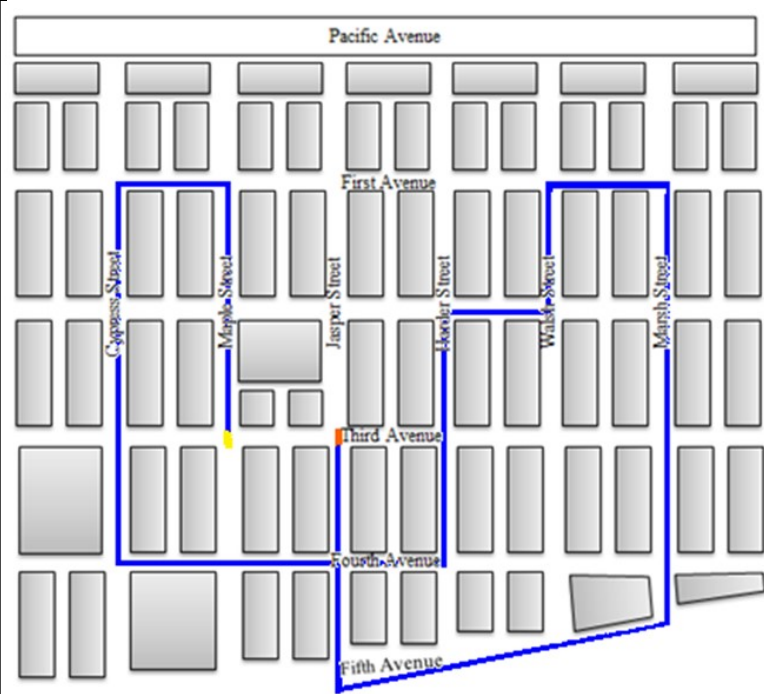
405 Jasper Street was built circa 1909 for Mr. David Paterson and family. Mr. Paterson was part of the NWMP and when he retired from the police force, he came to town and built this house.

417 Jasper Street prior to 1909 Mr. R. P. Campbell had this house built. The original house is the two-storey portion and a kitchen was later added to the west side.

5TH AVENUE

409 5th Ave. was built during World War One. The Jimmy Bennet family lived here until 1922. Since then it has had many owners.

TOWN TOUR



Start at the orange spot on the map and end at the yellow spot on the map ...

Mr. John Laing Gold built many of the houses in town during the early 20th Century. During World War One, George Newbury also built a number of houses.

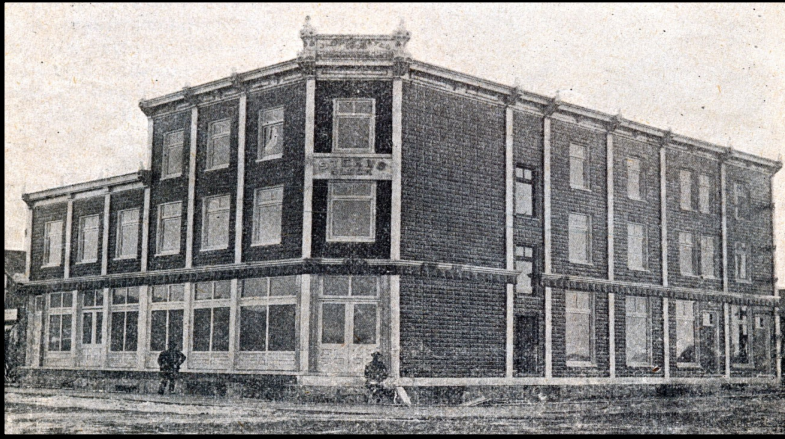
GRAND THEATRE



NOVA OPTICAL

This building was constructed by the Sterns Bros. in 1911 as the Grand Theatre. Over the years the theatre housed performances, variety shows, Christmas parties, New Years balls, public meetings, banquets, silent films, and much more. In its prime, the theatre had over 600 seats and had an event going on almost every night. The Grand Theatre was later known as the Cowtown Cinema, which operated into the 1980's. The space was later converted to a carpet store and then later to the offices of Nova Optical. The theatre's original ornate pressed tin ceilings is still inside just above the modern drop ceiling tiles.

JASPER HOTEL



JASPER HOTEL

James Stearns came to Maple Creek in the late 1880's. After pursuing interests in wagon sales and ranching, he built the Jasper Hotel in 1903. He later added the Grand Theatre in 1911. The Jasper Hotel was one of the four hotels that served Maple Creek in the early 20th century, the others being; the Commercial, the Maple Leaf, & the Hotel Cypress. The façade of the building was originally pressed tin (in a sandstone pattern) laid between vertical pilasters that ran up to the decorative capitals and finials that were part of the building's cornice (which can still be seen at the top of the building today). The business was later operated by James' son Charles and his wife Margaret.

LIGHT & POWER MILLING COMPANY



Go across the street...

NAPA BUILDING

This building was built in 1905 and owned by the Maple Creek Light Power and Milling Company. The building was used to sell furniture and hardware. The building was made of false sandstone brick, which is different from many of the buildings in town.

Down the back alley past the liquor store will bring you back to the Visitor Centre

WILLIAMSON & FLEMING



SALVATION ARMY THRIFT SHOP

The right portion is the oldest building downtown, being built in the 1890's. This location was originally built as Jean Claustre's store. Mr. Claustre worked with the NWMP and when they abandoned the fort, Jean moved his pool hall business into town. He reopened his pool hall and also opened a dry goods store. In 1903, Mr. Williamson bought the building and partnered with Mr. Fleming. They knocked down the original building and built a two story brick building. This building was called the Williamson and Fleming Store, which sold hardware and dry goods.

W.F. LAWRENCE BRICK PLANT



BROKEN SPOKE FINE ART GALLERY

This building was originally part of the W. F. Lawrence Brick Plant. The building originally sat two blocks away on Cypress Street near where the Seniors' Centre is today (see photo above). However, it was moved to its current location sometime in the early 1920's using a team of horses. The building was designated a Municipal Heritage Property on Jan. 13th, 2015, and is undergoing façade rehabilitation with support from the Main Street Saskatchewan Program. The building's interior features the original tin ceilings and fir floors.

LIVERY STABLE



CYPRESS MOTORS

This location speaks to Maple Creek's transportation history. The location of the present-day car lot was originally the location of Scotty Gow's Livery Stable. People doing business in town would board their horses at the livery stable for the duration of their stay. As automobiles became more prevalent, a part of the livery stable was used for automobile related business (as can be seen in the photo above). The livery business eventually was converted into an automobile dealership and service station.

MERCHANT BANK OF CANADA



The right side of this building has held a variety of different businesses. The left side of the building held Maple Creek's first bank, the Merchant Bank of Canada. The second floor of the building was used as the masonic lodge room.



BEESLEES LTD.



STAR CAFE

This building was built circa 1898. Most memorably, the building was known as Beasley's Ltd, starting in 1926. From 1941 to 1978 it was called Beasley's Duel Service Groceria because the owner J. O. Beasley served in both the first and the second world wars. It was a small grocery store for many years, then it became the Star Café, a Chinese restaurant. In 2007, it became the fine dining establishment it is today. It has many original features such as the walls and the ceiling. The bar is also an interesting piece, as it is a replica of the original Commercial Hotel bar.

OLDTIMERS' MUSEUM



1935 LOG MUSEUM

In 1926 the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Association was formed as a result of concerns that the frontier era of the Cypress Hills was starting to fade from memory. The group started collecting mementos & photos from this period, and soon needed a building in which to house their growing collection. Using logs harvested in the Cypress Hills the group constructed in 1935 a one room log building to serve as a museum. The construction materials and architectural style of the museum building paid homage to the simple log structures that were common in the Cypress Hills area during the late 19th century.

C.M. GLASCOCK BUILDING



C.M. GLASCOCK BUILDING:

Constructed in phases between 1909 & 1930, this former automobile dealership building is mix of architectural styles. Originally constructed as a Ford garage, it was later converted to a Chevrolet garage in 1926. Over the years it has been known as the Maple Creek Garage, Paterson's Garage, Blythman's Garage, and Maple Creek Motors.

It operated for 100 years as a garage before being donated by Mr. C.M. Glascock to the S.W. Sask. Old-timers' Museum. Today it houses temporary museum exhibits, an art gallery, and public programming space.

HOTEL CYPRESS



CYPRESS CREDIT UNION

The Hotel Cypress was built in 1902 and it was an example of turn of the century architecture in Maple Creek. The façade was covered with ornate pressed metal siding and cast iron replica columns. Together with the Parsons Block they served as a gateway to Maple Creek and the Cypress Hills from the perspective of those arriving across the street at the Maple Creek CPR station. It was the only known structure of its kind remaining in the province when it was demolished. The hotel was designated as a historic site by the municipality in 1981 and the owner planned to restore it but it was too expensive so the designation was repealed in 1987 and the building was demolished in 1992.

PARSONS BLOCK



BEL AIR GARDENS

The Parsons Block was constructed in 1903 by businessman Louis Parsons. The building's façade utilized the same pressed tin and ornamental cast iron fixtures as were utilized in the construction of the Hotel Cypress the previous year. The building housed a number of offices and businesses over the years including the Land Titles Office, the Chevalier & Pollock Store, Bowyer Brother's Store, the C. Tidey & Son Store, and numerous others. The building burned down in 1986. At the time 10 people were living upstairs and the ground floor housed Wong's Garden Restaurant, Isabelle Electric Ltd., Jo's Jewellery, Grasslands Home Care & Cypress Billiards.

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH



SAINT MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:

The original Anglican church was built in 1887 at the current location of the Bank of Montreal (photo above). It was later dragged down Jasper Street by a team of horses to the current location of the Anglican Rectory. In 1909, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan Ancient Free and Accepted Masons laid the cornerstone for the current St. Mary's Anglican Church. The church's interior has retained its old English country church charm, and still houses some pews and a cross from the original 1887 church.

Go across the Street (west)....

JASPER CENTRE



JASPER STREET SCHOOL

The Jasper Cultural & Historical Centre operates out of Maple Creek's third public school building. The first school was a log structure on Maple Street.

The second school was a stone building (photo above) that stood approximately where the grassy knoll beside the Jasper Centre is located today. It was a 4 room, 2 storey stone building constructed in 1894.

The red brick Jasper Street School was constructed in two phases. Four rooms were constructed in 1910, and an additional eight rooms were constructed in 1913 making a total of 12 rooms; one for each grade. Once the red brick school was completed, the old stone school was demolished in 1914.

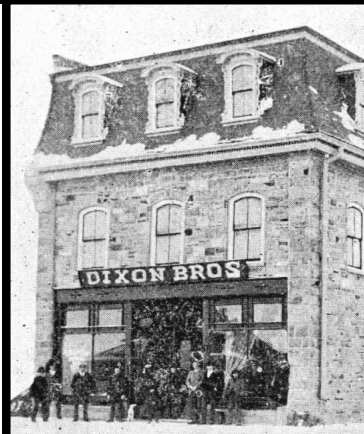
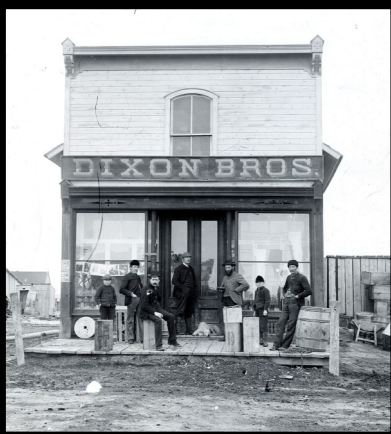
The Jasper Street School closed in Dec. of 1986 and was saved from the wrecking ball by a group of local residents who acquired it for \$10.00. The Jasper Cultural & Historical Centre was officially opened July 1st, 1988.

THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL



The original hotel was built circa 1884 by Mr. Thomas Melfort Raisin. The original hotel was a two storey log structure with wooden siding. Even though there were only 25 rooms, this was the largest hotel in the Northwest Territories. In 1906, the wooden structure was slid back and a 3 storey addition was added. In 1911, the hotel was once again added to. This last addition was the right side of the building where the lobby and dining room are located. The wooden structure was demolished in 1940, but you can still see where its peaked roof was set into the brick at the back of the building. The lobby holds much of its original 1911 character, as well as some original 1884 furniture such as the ornate oak lobby chairs.

THE DIXON BROS. GENERAL STORE



MIDWEST SURVEYS

Although it is said that the Dixon brothers, John & Isaac Chester, were headed for Calgary in the spring of 1883, Maple Creek was the end of the rail line that spring. This was due to the fact that construction of the CPR mainline had halted for the winter of 1882/83 just east of the location that would become Maple Creek. They purchased a one storey log shack that had been used to house the railway workers during the winter. A second storey was later added to the log building they purchased and this structure would serve as their store until a large three storey stone building was constructed in 1890. The gap between the 1883 & 1890 sections of the store was bridged by a third store building erected of sandstone-looking blocks in 1906. In 1903, John Dixon was elected as Maple Creek's first mayor. The Dixon Bros. Store operated until 1959. The building was demolished in 1960.

HASTIE BLOCK



BARGAIN SHOP

On this site once stood a two story brick building that originally housed the City Bakery and the studio of early Maple Creek photographer G.E. Fleming.

Maple Creek was fortunate to have frontier photographers such as Geraldine Moodie & G.E. Fleming operating in the area. Many of their photographs that document Maple Creek during the 19th & early 20th centuries are preserved by the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Museum & Archive. Their work includes evocative images of members of the Nekaneet band, early ranching scenes, and portraits of early residents.

TOWN HALL



Maple Creek was established in 1883 but was not officially a town until 1903. The original building was a two story building made of wood that was both the fire hall and municipal building all in one. The current town hall was built in 1972 and the original council chairs are located at the Jasper Cultural and Historical Centre. The original bell is located at the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Museum.

GOVERNMENT TELEPHONES



SERVICE FINANCIAL

This building was built in 1920 by Saskatchewan government telephones replacing Maple Creek's own switchboard service. This represents the switch over from private smaller phone services to the provincial telephone system.

Go around the corner to your right on Pacific Avenue...

Look across the street from the R.C.M.P. Station...

SCHOOL HOUSE



ABBOTT REALITY

This was the location of the first schoolhouse in Maple Creek. It was a one-room schoolhouse built in 1887 out of logs. It had room for 25 students but in the first year, there were only 15 students mostly children of Fort Walsh Officers. The building cost \$300 dollars to build and the first teacher was Mrs. George Hastie with a salary of \$400.00 per year. This building has been added to many times, but legend has it that the original log school is located somewhere in the middle of the building.

Look across from SGI (west)...

CENOTAPH



This monument is located beside Town Hall. It was built in 1926 by the Major Walsh Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. It was unveiled by the Lieutenant Governor and dedicated to the war veterans of Maple Creek.

POST OFFICE



This building was built in 1908 as a post office. Although there have been some changes to some of the doors and windows, it still has its original character. You can see the different color of brickwork in the center of the building where the original door would have been.

Lou Fauquier was Maple Creek's first postmaster in 1883. Storeowner, John Dixon, later succeeded him. This building is believed to be the oldest continually operated Post Office building in Saskatchewan.

NORTH WEST MOUNTED



In 1874, under the name North West Mounted Police (NWMP), Fort Walsh was established. In 1904, while the Division sat just outside of Maple Creek to the east of town, his Majesty King Edward VII gave the force distinction of "Royal". Therefore, the NWMP became the Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP). A name change was made yet again in 1920 for the force to become the official police force for Canada. Their name was changed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). In 1924, the division barracks were abandoned and the force was moved into town where it sits today. The first town appointed police officer was Mr. A. Meneley who earned \$10.00 a month.

MAPLE CREEK CREAMERY



CYPRESS MOTOR INN

The Cypress Hills Motor Inn sits where the Maple Creek Creamery was located. Local farmers and ranchers would bring their cream to the creamery. Before electricity, rural people would keep their cream and perishables that needed to be kept cold in lockers at the Creamery and then would come to town when they needed them.

GILLETT BLOCK



COWTOWN KIDS

This building was built in two stages because of its size, and was once known as the Gillett Block. It housed a saddle shop and a hardware store. The second floor of the building was used as the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1923, the building was altered to house the judicial offices, and was where court was held. Original brickwork remains inside the building from the jail cell associated with the courthouse. During WWII, part of the building was used by military as a recreational hall for the Hostess Club. Over the years, the building has housed many different businesses on the main floor and tenants on the second floor.

BEN'S TAILOR SHOP



COUNTRY LANE KITCHENS

This building was built circa 1945 as Ben's Tailor Shop. During the 1970's and 1980's it was a western store. The building has a false front and has been beautifully refinished.

HAIR BARN

This building was built circa 1945. It was built with the same style of building but after Country Lane Kitchens. It was originally a jewellery store but has housed many businesses since then.

HODSON HARDWARE



HOME HARDWARE

R.S. Hodson built the building in 1924 as Hodson's Hardware Company. In 1963, the business became a Link Hardware affiliate. In 1980, the store was renovated and changed to a Home Hardware. This building has always been a hardware store and some of the locals still call it Hodson Hardware.

Go down the back alley and through the motel parking lot...