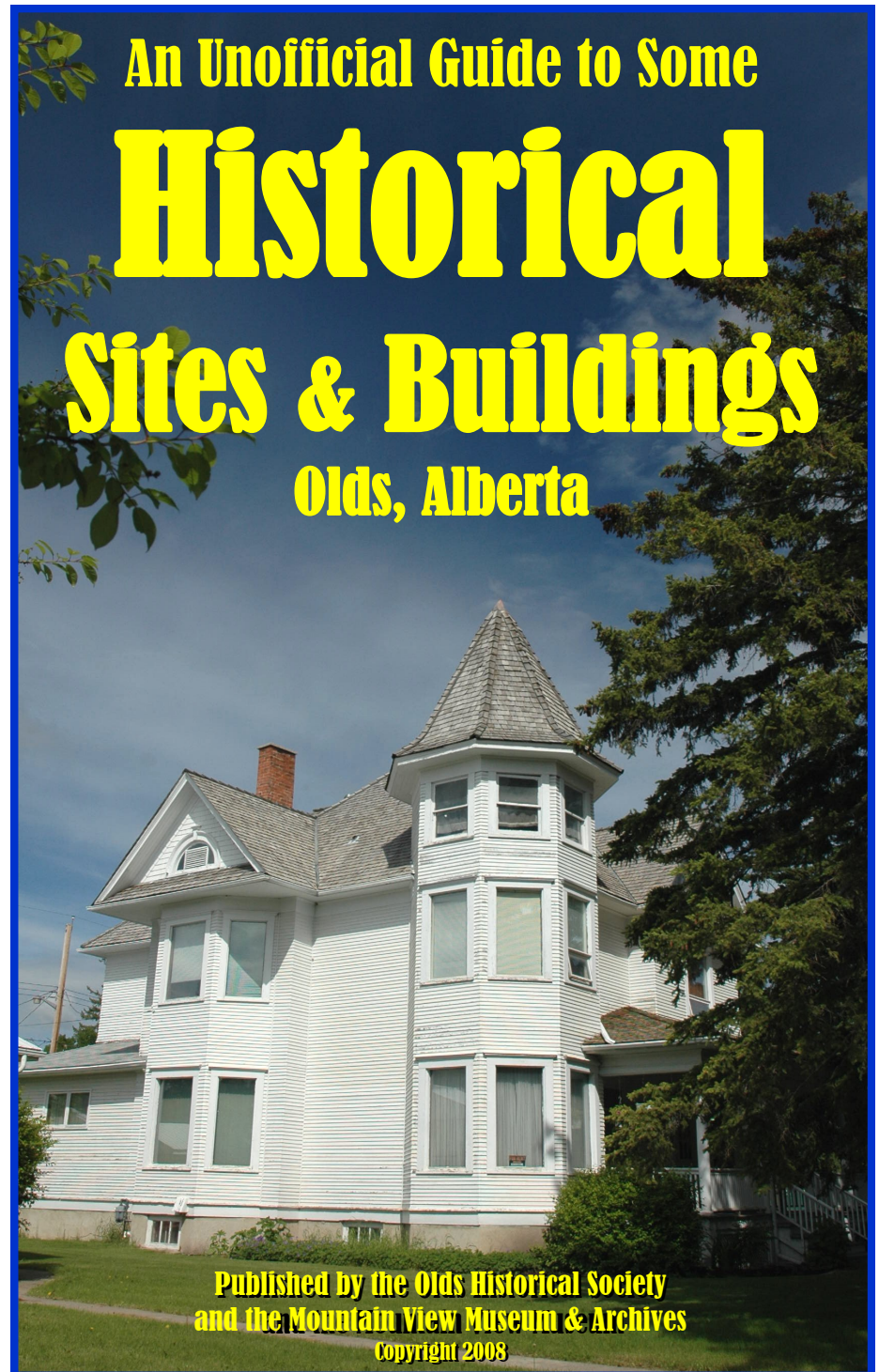




Mountain View Museum has received the **Recognized Museum** designation from the Alberta Museums Association. The museum earned this designation after demonstrating their continued commitment to meeting or exceeding standards of museum practice.





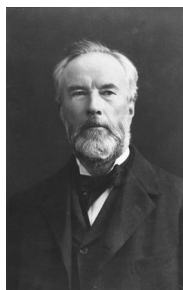
The Hamlet of Olds 1893, less than two years after the arrival of the railroad.

Construction began on the Calgary & Edmonton Railway in July of 1890. The line proceeded north from Calgary with a siding built approximately every ten miles. When construction reached the 6th Siding a section foreman, David Shannon, arrived in an open hand car and applied for rights to a section of land which gave him the distinction of being the first settler in this area.

The C & E Railway system was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway a month after completion. The 6th Siding was designed for a railway station and C.P.R. officials had to select a name for the station. They suggested "Shannon" after David Shannon, however, he declined the honour.

The next selection for a station name was that of "Olds", after Mr. George Olds, the C.P.R. Traffic Manager for the area when the line was being built.

Even before George Olds retired from the CPR he lived in Olds for a time and operated an enterprise where he handled mail in the front of the building and a general store in the rear.



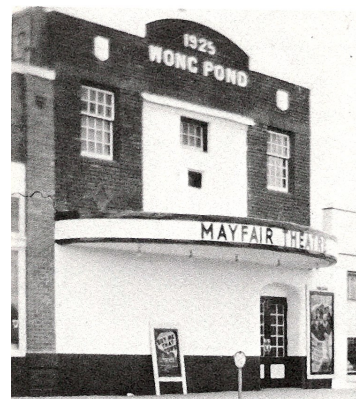
By 1894, the population of this hamlet reached one hundred. In 1900, Olds was incorporated as a village of the North West Territories. The hamlet increased in the number of businesses and in social amenities; including a library, a public meeting room, and a brass band. Five years later on September 1, 1905 the Town of Olds came into being, the same date of the creation of the Province of Alberta.

Former N.W.M.P. Constable William (Billy) Dean was elected the first Mayor of the Town of Olds. He had been sent to Olds in 1894 to replace the original officer. Dean organized the first Olds band (the first band between Edmonton and Calgary) and also started a dance orchestra.



Olds received telephone service in the fall of 1903 and the first electric plant began operation in 1915, putting out power from sunset to midnight and Monday mornings for those with electric washing machines. Natural gas was first supplied to the town in 1956, and this sped progress and development in the area.

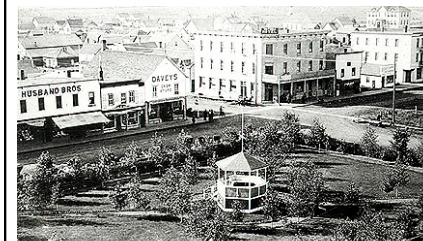
21) Mayfair Theatre - 1925 4910-50th Ave.



The first motion pictures in Olds were shown in 1909 above the furniture store owned by Robert Hainstock. Norton Hainstock "operated the projector" and Rheo Gilmore "cranked the machine".

Frank Shackleton built the Opera House in 1912 and movies were shown there until 1919 when William Sharp of Didsbury showed movies in Pokotilo's Hall.

In 1925 Wong Pond purchased the land next to his restaurant, the Public Lunch, where the Campbell & Reeves Auctioneer and Real Estate was located. He erected a pool hall, barbershop and the Mayfair Theatre. Subsequent owners have continually upgraded the theatre to show the best "first run" movies.



Olds Recreation Park c1900

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this publication. Any errors or omission are the sole responsibility of the Olds Historical Society.

Anyone with additional information or historic photographs about these or other historic places in Olds are encouraged to contact the Olds Historical Society at:

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Olds Brass Band 1897

19) Public Lunch - 1900
4916 50th Ave.



In 1898, Wong Yet came from China to what was to be the Town of Olds and in 1900 began operation of the Star Laundry. The business flourished and expanded in 1903 with the opening of a restaurant initiated by his son, Wong Pond. A fire destroyed that business and for a year they ran a hotel in Didsbury but returned to Olds and in 1918 the family founded the Public Lunch.

In 1922 the Wong's son, Frank, arrived and with his help the family built the Mayfair Theatre and the Pool Hall. Frank Wong retired in 1972. The restaurant remained in the family for many years and today still bears the name although it is no longer operated by the same family.

20) Gebert House - 1906
5114 52nd St.



This small house of concrete brick with the decorative border is one of the few houses on this block that survived both Arena fires across the street in 1959 and 1978.

Carl Gebert and family arrived in Olds from Missouri, USA in 1903 and built this house in 1906. The concrete bricks were either made in Cochrane and transported to Olds by rail, or made at a brick plant on the old "Y" road on the west side of town.

Mr. Gebert and family moved to the State of Florida, USA after he purchased land in the Everglades about 1910 or 1911.

1) A.G.T. Building -1920
5038 - 50th St.



Commercial telephone service came to Olds in the fall of 1903 when the Bell Telephone Company opened a long distance line from Calgary to Edmonton.

On April 1, 1908 Alberta Government Telephones bought out Bell's interest in all of Alberta. George H. Cloakey was the first agent for Alberta Government Telephones in Olds and the telephone exchange, in his residence just east of here, was operated by Mrs. Cloakey.

A new AGT office and telephone exchange building was opened in 1920 at 5038 - 50th Street to replace the Cloakey's exchange, operating until 1978 when a newer exchange building replaced it a block to the north.

In 1982 renovations to the vacant 1920 AGT building allowed the Olds Historical Society to move the Mountain View Museum historical collection here from a one room operation at the Olds Recreation Centre.

2) Battle of Olds - 1907
51st St. & 50th Ave.



In 1904 the Canadian Pacific Railway gave the Town of Olds permission to construct a much needed second crossing of the railway tracks running through the town. Three years later the CPR made several attempts to close the crossing, over the objections of the townsfolk.

The conflict came to a head on June 3rd, 1907 when a train carrying fifty workmen, several CPR detectives, and twelve armed Mounted Police confronted more than four hundred people gathered at the crossing.

The ensuing battle, which involved axe handles and shovels, started while Mayor Billy Dean and CPR Superintendent Niblock were "negotiating" over lunch at a nearby hotel. Olds lost the battle after the arrest of several of its citizens, along with most of the town councilmen, and when Inspector Duffus of the Mounted Police read the Riot Act, threatening to give the order to shoot.

3) St. John's
Anglican Church - 1902
4821 50th St.



The Parish of St. John's Olds was recognized as a congregation on March 21, 1894 by the Calgary Diocese.

Records begin in 1901 when the Rev. H. M. Lang-Ford held monthly services at Olds and Bowden. Rev. Rawlings Alfred Robinson was appointed first Incumbent of the Parish of Olds on April 20, 1902, and St. John's Church was opened November 23, 1902.

Renovations and the addition of a hall on the south side have done little to change the original character of this church.

4) Craig's Dry Goods - 1900
5102 50th St.



The Craig family business was established in Olds in 1898 by W. M. Craig from Quebec. The original location was in the block north of here and in 1900 moved to this building, constructed by R. W. Logan. "Logan's Hall" was above the store for several years.

The business flourished and an additional 1500 square feet of space was added on the south side within a few years. Three brothers, known by their initials, R. L., S. J., and C. G. came west to join W. M. Craig in the family business. They were all known for their impressive homes along 50th Street in the block east of the United Church.

17) Craig Houses 1903 - 1928
4706/4718/4726/4730/4738
- 50th St.



W. M. Craig arrived in Olds in 1898 and established the town's oldest running business, which celebrated its 100th birthday in 1998.

In 1902, S. J. Craig moved onto the Lone Star Ranch, and he later moved into town. His wife was a founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Olds. His daughter, Marion, was a nurse who used their home as a nurses' residence.

C. G. Craig came to Olds in 1907 to enter a partnership with his brother, W. M. Craig, and his son arrived a year later to work in the growing family business.

These brothers, originally from a family of Quebec merchants, were all outstanding figures in the early community and are all known for their impressive homes along 50th Street.

18) L. L. Hartman House - 1913
4801 49th St.



The house was purchased by about 1913 by Mr. Lot L. Hartman when he retired from his dairy farm in Ontario. He moved to Olds with his wife and daughter (Laura) to be near his son, Dr. C. C. Hartman.

Lot Hartman served as Mayor of Olds from 1922-24. During this period he established the town's first park (now Centennial Park) and planted the spruce trees on its borders.

After the deaths of her parents, Miss Laura Hartman continued to live in the house until she died in 1966. There were no exterior changes to the house until about 1970, when the original metal siding was replaced with stucco.

15) Hartman
House / Office - 1902
4830 50th St.



Dr. C.C. Hartman bought this house in 1911 from Robert Hainstock and used it as an office and residence for over fifty years. One of the first physicians to settle in Olds (1910), Dr. Hartman ran his medical practice a total of fifty-six years. The east side of the house was his office.

His care of some families extended across five generations, and over the years he used every means, from aircraft to snowshoes, to reach his patients in and around Olds.

Before town water service, the Hartman house had running water, thanks to water in a storage tank in the attic pumped there by a Collie dog that ran in a large wheel mounted over the backyard well. An addition was put on the back of the second storey in the early 1930's and the west verandah became a glassed-in porch at that time.

16) Hunter House - 1901
4801 49th Ave.



Mr. Brown, owner of a Lumber Yard in Olds, built this house as a personal residence for Mr. Wolf in 1901. It was sold to W. Hunter in 1907, who lived in it until 1946 and then sold it to United Grain Growers Company for use as the elevator manager's house.

United Grain Growers Company sold the house to Vern and Laverne Ortwein in 1955 who lived there until 1969.

Mancroft EBA Consultants now operate out of this house.

5) Elevator Row 1909 - 2003
49th Ave. & 48th St. to 52nd St.



The first grain elevator in Olds was built about 1903 and operated by the Alberta Pacific Elevator Co. Ltd. Many others followed until 1930 when there were as many as nine separate companies operating along "Elevator Row" on the east side of the tracks between 48th and 52nd Street. From the early days when farmers delivered their grain by horse drawn wagon or sled, taking most of the winter, to the large multi-ton diesel trucks, the grain companies and their Grain Managers worked to often move more than one million bushels in a year.

Names such as Pioneer Grain, Independent Grain, Federal Grain, National, Alberta Wheat Pool, Midland and Pacific, and United Grain Growers appeared on the side of these prominent wooden "prairie sentinels". Fires, age, amalgamations and a changing economy slowly reduced their numbers until the last one was torn down in 2003.

6) Brown House - 1910
4809 49th Ave.



This is the first house in Olds to be designated a Registered Historic Resource. The "Brown House" was built around 1903 by Mr. Henry Brown. With its stone fence and stone gateposts, it is easily recognizable.

Mrs. Henry Brown, known as "Brownie", was a storekeeper and milliner (making ladies hats) and for many years kept a rooming-house for respectable young ladies. She kept a strict 10 pm curfew and all gentlemen visitors were ejected at that time.

Throughout the years it has been a family residence and, following the years as a young ladies' rooming house, after 1913, a girls' dormitory for the Olds College until 1925. Boys boarded here in later years and ate down the street at the "Davis House" (4830 - 49th Street).

- 7) Shackleton House - 1898
5403 49th Ave.



Fred Shackleton acquired this property in 1901 from Ida Mary Silverthorn. In 1900 he established an insurance business in Olds that still bears his name beyond 2007. He served several terms as Town Councilor and three times as Mayor of Olds.

In 1928 the house was totally rebuilt in the Victorian style with bricks brought by horse and buggy from Medicine Hat. Fred and his wife, Florence (Silverthorn) raised seven children here up to 1952.

Besides being a residence, this house was once the Sherwood Home for the Aged and has also served as a doctor's office and a boarding house. In 1988 it was purchased by Bill and Miriam March who restored the Victorian home and opened it as a Bed and Breakfast. It has since been sold a few times and used as a private residence and in 2000, after further restoration to interior woodwork and period paint, as a law office.

- 8) The Canadian Bank of
Commerce - 1910
5106 50th Ave.



Constructed about 1910, the original building housed the Canadian Bank of Commerce with living quarters on the second floor. After the Bank of Commerce closed its Olds branch, the building was used for various purposes including the Post Office.

The building housed the Olds Library in the 1980s and the Handicraft Guild used the rooms above. During the 1990s it was renovated and used as a book store, later to be connected to the Olds Value Drug store at the south east corner and converted to a photography store.

- 13) CPR Station & Park - 1891
50th Street & 50th Ave.



The Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company's line was completed in 1891 and the Canadian Pacific Railway took over its operation. The C.P.R. built a station here, at the 6th siding north of Calgary, and named it after George Olds, a Traffic manager with the C.P.R. The bandstand and Park were completed soon after that.

In 1898 Billy Dean, former Royal North West Mounted Police officer, baritone horn player, and later first Mayor of Olds, started the Olds Brass Band which played from the park's bandstand, at local celebrations and at band contests in Calgary and Edmonton for many years.

The bandstand was removed some time in the '30s. A memorial Cenotaph was built here in 1938 and was moved to the new Centennial Park in 1967 when the train station was removed and the current building was constructed.

- 14) Herb Samis
House & Garden 1893 - 1955
5120 50th Ave.



Herb Samis arrived from Nebraska in 1893 and started his first garden at C.P.R. Lot #5 that same year. He was 17 years old. His flowers spelled out messages to train passengers: "OLDS DISTRICT NEVER FAILS", "SEE OLDS FIRST". At age 79, he planted his 62nd annual garden in the same plot and his message was "ALBERTA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE 1905 - 55".

In real estate and insurance from the turn of the century until his death in his 81st year, Herb was known for his prowess at baseball and curling. He is remembered for the horseshoe pitch beside his house; the Bantams and pheasants behind it; his experimental patches of grain and corn and for his wealth of information about the town's past. His property at the south end of the business section was a landmark, and Herb himself was such an integral part of the town as to be an institution.

11) Kemp Block - 1928
5008 50th Ave.



The Kemp block was built in 1928 to replace the wood structure, the W.J. Brumpton store, that was destroyed by fire in 1922.

The lower part of the original Kemp building was Thompson's General Store, selling groceries and clothing. The upstairs contained a doctor and a dentist office. At the turn of the century (2000) the lower part was Jensen's Men's Wear, and the upstairs used as private apartments.

The owner of the Kemp block was J. H. (Jack) Kemp who came to Olds in 1905 and started several successful businesses including an International Harvester farm implement dealership and a Ford automobile dealership. Jack also served on the Olds Town Council from 1927 to 1944.

12) Olds College - 1913
4500 50th St.



The Olds School of Agriculture was opened in 1913 on the Alberta Department of Agriculture's Demonstration Farm under the leadership of the Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Duncan Marshall, who farmed north-west of Olds.

In 1970 the name was changed to Olds College and continued to expand providing high quality career education, adult development and services primarily in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, land management, applied business and the environment.

The College has 1200 acres of gardens, demonstration plots, a working farm, two restaurants, book stores/souvenir shop, picnic and barbecue facilities. Expansion continues with the new Community Learning Campus in collaboration with Chinook's Edge School Division, the Town of Olds, Mountain View County and the University of Alberta.

9) Davey Block - 1926
5002 50th Ave.



The original wood frame Davey's Grocery Store, built prior to 1900, burned down in the fire of 1922 which destroyed the whole block except for the concrete and brick building at the south end of the street. This brick building, the Davey Block, was constructed in its place and the Davey's Grocery Store occupied the lower floor of the building for years, and later the Co-operator's Insurance Co. was located here.

The offices upstairs were periodically used by various dentists and other businesses and apartments. The Touchstone Gallery occupied the main floor from about 1990.

10) Eaton Catalogue House -
1914 4722 49th St.



This original catalogue order house was purchased through the T. Eaton Co. Catalogue about 1914. Although selected from a "Plan Book", the buyer could order specific design changes to suit their own tastes. It was shipped to Olds in crates with instructions and enough materials to make it quick and easy to assemble. Built by Mr. Davies and sold to Solicitor and former North-West Mounted Police officer, Absalom Clark Bury.

Mr. A. Clark Bury joined the N.W.M.P. in 1903 and was stationed at Olds for a short time in 1905. He was discharged from the force in 1908, resumed law studies which he had begun in England, admitted to the Bar in 1915 and began practicing in Olds in 1916. His wife, Gertrude, was admitted to the bar in 1921 and practiced with Clark in Olds, Calgary and Red Deer. They lived in Olds until 1950.

Mountain View Museum Historic Tour of Olds

1. A.G.T Building/Museum 1920
2. Battle of Olds—1907
3. St. John's Anglican Church - 1902
4. Craig's Dry Goods - 1900
5. Elevator Row 1902 - 1999
6. Brown House - 1910
7. Shackleton House - 1898
8. Canadian Bank of Commerce - 1910
9. Davey Block - 1926
10. Eaton Catalogue House - 1914
11. Kemp Block - 1928
12. Olds College—1913
13. Olds Station & CPR Park—1891
14. Herb Samis House & Garden 1893-1955
15. Hartman House/Office - 1902
16. Hunter House - 1901
17. Craig Houses 1903 - 1928
18. L.L. Hartman House - 1913
19. Public Lunch - 1900
20. Gebert House - 1906

