

# OFF THE HIGHWAY

You will find a very different Cranbrook with an interesting history and surviving heritage buildings and other landmarks in three distinct areas.

## I. THE DOWNTOWN CORE

Although there have been many changes in the downtown since the railway arrived, Baker St. with its trees and surviving older buildings add greatly to the overall character of the central core of the city. Churches, stores, hotels, government buildings, parks, and some homes converted to businesses also enrich this area.

\* The downtown serves a specific niche market with a unique character relying on personalized service. It is distinct, but complementary to the large service stores and malls along the highway. It also has a rich mixture of cultural activities and services that no other area has. The Downtown Business Association (DBA) is a group working to maintain and improve the vitality of the area, and can be contacted at the Chamber Office at 250-426-5914.

## II. THE BAKER HILL RESIDENTIAL HERITAGE AREA

\* This area is named after Col. James Baker, the founder of the City, who had built his home on the eastern part of a hilled area to the south and east of the downtown. The home and the immediate lands surrounding it now make up "Baker Park". This early residential neighbourhood was surveyed in 1897, and today is the largest and most distinct heritage area in the city, with many styles of early residential architecture and mature landscaping.

\* Baker Hill is still a vital area without highways or commercial development in it, and contains a healthy mix of families, singles, middle aged, and some elderly. Some of the larger older buildings were converted many years ago from single residential to multiple units, but many have been restored, others are in process & others are waiting.

\* The "Baker Hill Residential Heritage Area Association" can be contacted through the City of Cranbrook or the Museum. This is now a protected heritage area with certain exterior development guidelines that are intended to maintain the flavour and character of a by-gone era for future generations to enjoy.

\* **"BAKER HILL HERITAGE "BED & BREAKFASTS"** - A current list of the Baker Hill B&B's can be obtained at the Museum (250-489-3918) or Chamber (426-5914).

## III. THE RAILWAY HERITAGE AREA (SEE DETAILS ON REVERSE OF MAP)

\* This area contains several surviving original buildings and landscapes of the early Canadian Pacific Railway infrastructure dating from 1898. It also provides a unique context for the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel, which is the premier public attraction in this area.

#1-15 lists heritage structures in this area which are shown on the back of this map. The tours of downtown & the Baker Hill area start below at #16.

THE LISTINGS FROM 16 - 96 ARE TO BE READ IN VERTICAL COLUMNS LEFT TO RIGHT

16 HIGHWAY ARCH (1930's) - replication 2010 the King-9th Ave Connector at HWY 3/95



This beautiful real-stone faced arch gracefully spans the entrance from the Highway into the downtown near Baker St. It is a slightly wider replica of one of the two 1903's arches that originally spanned the highway at the SW and NE city limits. They were demolished by the Province in the late 1950's to allow the widening of Arterial Highway #3 through Cranbrook. (See also #86 & 87)

BAKER STREET (views to left & right of 9th)

17 IMPERIAL BANK BUILDING 1909

800 Baker Street (this building to right of intersection)



A very good example of commercial Edwardian architecture, with fine brick, sandstone trim, and heavy top cornice. It was reconditioned and restored for commercial use in the early 1980's. A new rear addition in the late 1990's was designed to harmonize with the old. It is the major downtown heritage building visible from the highway.

Commercial Heritage Award 1981

18 "CRANBROOK ED" (1926) - sculpture 2008 (this sculpture to right of intersection by Imperial Bldg)

This small metal sculpture is located beside the Imperial Building at the west end of Baker St. overlooking the former site of the Railway Museum. It commemorates the story of the elephants which escaped from the Sels-Floto Circus in 1926, with some them running down the railway tracks and engineers being advised to be on the lookout. Cranbrook Ed & Myrtle were later found, but did not survive.

19 FINX MERCANTILE BUILDING 1906

909 Baker Street (to left of 9th Ave intersection)

This was Cranbrook's first large department store and still stands out on Baker Street in commercial use.

Commercial Heritage Award 2001

20 THE RAWORTH BLDG (By 1912)

915 Baker Street (to left of 9th Ave intersection)

1986 Commercial Heritage Award

21 THE CLOCK TOWER (1983)

In Clock Tower Square (to left of 9th Ave intersection)

Replicated by the Rotary Club in 1983, this clock tower is an exact replica of the old Post Office Tower built in 1912, but demolished in 1971. The original tower stood

across Baker Street at the corner of 10th Avenue, where it was a well-known landmark. It's destruction kindled a strong spirit of preservation in the community, resulting in the City Heritage Report of 1975.

The clock, however, was preserved and re-incorporated into the new tower. The Square was built when Cranbrook Street was re-routed onto 10th Ave. in 1982.

\*Special 1989 Recognition Award replicated heritage.

22 SPIRIT TREE sculpture 2008 in the Clock Tower Square

Created by artist Paul Reimer of Cranbrook, this beautiful 25' high metal sculpture is located beside the Clock Tower. It's design symbolizes the diversity of the community through its many "roads" which break into a myriad of branches, many containing stainless steel balls that reflect the viewer and the surroundings.

Commercial Heritage Award 1988

41 ROTARY PARK BAND SHELL & SPIRIT SQUARE 2008 - 2 blocks 10th Ave.

23 1998 RAILWAY CENTENNIAL MURAL 2 - Armstrong Ave S (at corner of Baker)

2002 Residential Heritage Award

24 THE NOBLE HOME 1903

33 Armstrong Avenue (9th)

Originally sheathed in wooden clapboard, this home was bricked over in 1924, and today is used for business use.

Comm. Heritage Award 1991

25 106 Armstrong Avenue (9th Ave S)

1994 Commercial Heritage Award

26 224 Armstrong Avenue (9th Ave S)

2005 Residential Heritage Award

27 234 Armstrong Avenue - (9th Ave S)

2002 Residential Heritage Award

28 327 Armstrong Avenue (9th Ave S)

2010 Residential Heritage Award

NORBURY AVENUE (10th AVE S)

29 THE "WHITE" RESIDENCE Before 1904

913 - 4th Street South

This house stands imposingly at the south end of the 4-block long 10th Avenue (Norbury Avenue). It is placed strategically looking downhill to the downtown area. Notable are the very large Maple trees of unusual size for this dry climate.

1982 Residential Heritage Award

30 The Dave Kay House

921 - 4th Street South

This house is the 2nd to east of the White House above.

1993 Residential Heritage Award

31 327 Norbury Avenue (10th Ave S)

2004 Residential Heritage Award

32 THE TOWER HOUSE 1910

324 Norbury Avenue (10th Ave S)

One of Cranbrook's outstanding residential landmarks - noted for its 3-storey tower, ornate woodwork and brick construction. It was restored from an apartment block to a single-family dwelling. Beautiful landscaping.

Residential Heritage Award 1981

A DESIGNATED HERITAGE BLDG.

33 321 Norbury Avenue (10th Ave S)

1999 Residential Heritage Award

34 307 Norbury Avenue (10th Ave S)

1992 Residential Heritage Award

35 Site of the former Catholic School (1913) and High School (1928)

308 Norbury Ave. (10th Ave S)

Commercial Heritage Award 1979 (Church) Commercial Heritage Award 1990 (Manse)

36 232 Norbury Avenue (10th Ave S)

1994 Residential Heritage Award

37 THE TIFFIN RESIDENCE Before 1911

225 Norbury Avenue (10th Ave S)

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40 CITY HALL 1911

40 Norbury Avenue (10th Ave S)

N11 serving as, the City Hall, this building was constructed of "Cranbrook Brick". The original spire and balcony were removed years ago. An addition was built in the 1940's and again in the mid-70's, but the original structure survives almost intact. Plans could someday see a "lightweight" version of the tower added for effect.

Commercial Heritage Award 1978

A DESIGNATED HERITAGE BLDG.

45 Corner of 10th Ave and Baker St.

Site of FORMER POST OFFICE 1912-1967 (clock tower replicated from this building) See #21

This home is notable for its originality and uniquely-shaped arched veranda, the only such example in Cranbrook.

Residential Heritage Award 1978

ments in the Clock Tower square across Baker St. from the north end of 10th Ave.

42 ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 1927

43 St. Mary's MANSE 41 Norbury Avenue (10th Ave S)

A large dance studio, and an upper floor drama studio seating 90 persons for productions by the Cranbrook Community Theatre - custodians of the building. An harmonious addition was built in the 1990's on the side facing the RCMP station to enclose the exit stairs - duplicating the opposite side of the building. City owned.

Commercial Heritage Award 1982

A DESIGNATED HERITAGE BLDG.

48 THE FIRE HALL 1929

27 Fenwick Avenue (11th Ave S)

A large home that has had considerable work done to both the interior and exterior. It served as the Royal Canadian Mountain Police Barracks at one point in its history.

Residential Heritage Award 2003

49 THE PATMORE HOME By 1914

401 Fenwick Avenue (11th Ave S)

When built, this home was on the southern limits of the city. It is noted for some detailed decorative trim over the windows and doors and paired columns on the veranda.

GARDEN AVENUE (12th AVE S)

50 THE PATSON HOME 1912

305 Garden Avenue (12th Ave S)

Notable is its beautiful yard with tall trees and the long sloping back roof as well as the columned porch.

Commercial Heritage Award 1995

55 THE MILES HOME 1914

301 Garden Avenue (12th Ave S)

Finished just as World War I was beginning, this is the last large residence built in the pre-World War I era.

Residential Heritage Award 1989

280 Fenwick Avenue (11th Ave S)

225 Fenwick Avenue (11th Ave S)

214 Fenwick Avenue (11th Ave S)

21 Fenwick Avenue (11th Ave S)

Note the symbol in the front porch gable. This home has also had much work done on both the interior and exterior. As of 2011, it is still the home of "Manwoman", a well-known Cranbrook artist.

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