

Driving tour of HISTORIC CATALOGUE HOUSES

Catalogue House No. 1

Prairie Bells Bed & Breakfast
416 - 2nd Street West, Oyen
Open for viewing
BY APPOINTMENT 403-664-2355



This house began life on a farm south of town but in 1956 was bought by the Catholic church and moved to Oyen to be used as a convent, then a teacherage.

Eatons' Plan 666 called for a single dormer, but this house was built with four roof dormers rather than one so that there was room in the attic for three bedrooms and an additional bathroom. The house was moved to its present location in 1985 by a local doctor and became a bed & breakfast in 1997.



Drive-By House No. 2

Eatons featured this house as the Model Home No. 666 in their 1917-18 Plan Book but it was renamed "The Eastbourne". Earlier versions had a gable roof. The plan called for the first floor of the four bedroom house to be sided with fir and the second floor with shingles. The kitchen included a pantry and convenient access to the icebox at the back door. It's similar to the Prairie Bells B & B in Oyen.



Drive-by House No 5

This home...and the barn...were built from plans and materials that were advertised in Eatons' 1917-18 Fall and Winter Plan Book. It was called Modern Home No. 660 but was renamed "The Ealing" in the 1919 catalogue.

It was one of eight two story house designs offered by Eatons. The foot print was 20' x 33' and included a kitchen, pantry, parlour and dining room on the first floor and three bedrooms plus a bathroom on the second floor. The triple window arrangement was offered in the earlier catalogues, but the 1919 version only showed two windows.

At the time, the materials - including lumber, shingles, hardware, doors and windows - cost \$1138. Freight charges (by rail to the CP Railway station in Empress) were extra.

Both the house and the barn were built by the pioneer ancestors of the McNeil family...who still live in the home and farm the land. The original receipts for the structures are family treasures.



Drive-By House No. 3

The son of the homesteader who built this house in 1917 lives in a nursing home in Calgary. He says it was ordered from a catalogue and the materials were shipped to the CPR station in Empress then hauled by horse and wagon to the farm. Homeowners or carpenters often adjusted the plans and this may be a modified version of a United Grain Growers catalogue home.

Drive-by House No. 4

Besides marketing to families, Alladin Homes provided staff housing for large Canadian companies. The sweeping lines of the deep verandah, it's battlement railings and square columns must have impressed villagers in 1920 when the Bank of Commerce constructed this home for its manager. "The Grange" is typical of 1 1/2 story homes featured in the Alladin House catalogue at the time. The design called for four bedrooms and a balcony on the second floor.



"The Grange" 1920

What's Else?



**Acadia Valley
Prairie Elevator**
10 am - 5pm
Open 7 days a week

Come see what
went on in a real
working elevator!

Shop for local crafts
and have a light
lunch in our Tea
Room.

Oyen Pioneer Museum
9 -12 am 1- 5 pm
Monday to Saturday

A furnished pioneer's house, similar to
the catalogue homes on this tour is
open to the public.

Galleries

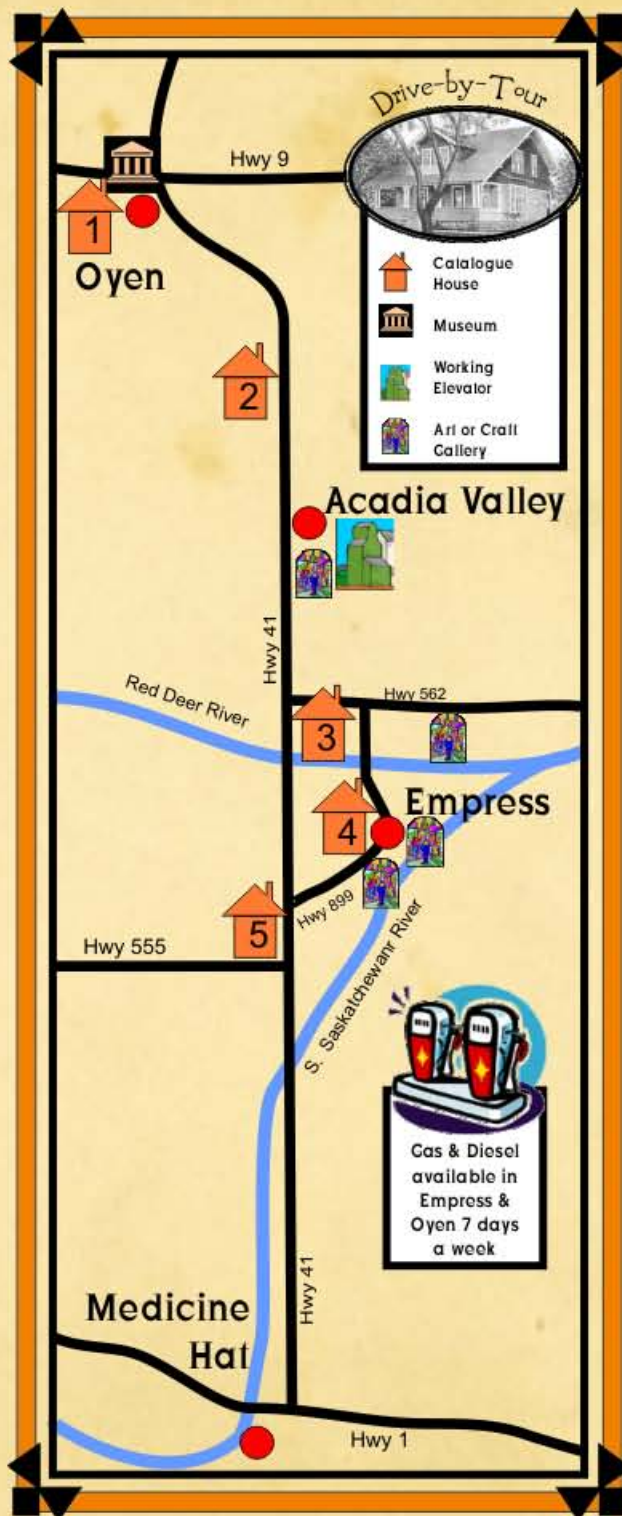
Amazing
galleries
and craft
shops in
Empress!



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Gallery and Restaurant
6 am - 9 pm Open 7 days a week

Knarls 'Knots
Artisan Furniture & Cappuccino Bar
10 am - 5 pm Wednesday to Sunday

Sagebrush Studios
Gallery of Fine Art and Pottery
Best by appointment
Phone 403-565-2039



Driving tour of HISTORIC CATALOGUE HOUSES



**A self guided drive-by tour
of five pioneer's catalogue homes**

In the early part of the twentieth century,
good crops and good prices brought
prosperity to western Canadian farms.
Families were eager to replace their
shacks and sod houses with "real
homes" and catalogue operations like
Eatons provided the plans, lumber,
hardware...even the glazing...and
delivered the house kit to the nearest
railway station.

Except for the Prairie Bells B & B and
the Pioneer Museum house in Oyen, the
houses are not open for viewing, but
take an hour or two and drive by some
of the houses and drop into the galleries
and museums along the way.

**A Pioneer Museum - A Grain Elevator
Galleries & Craft Shops**