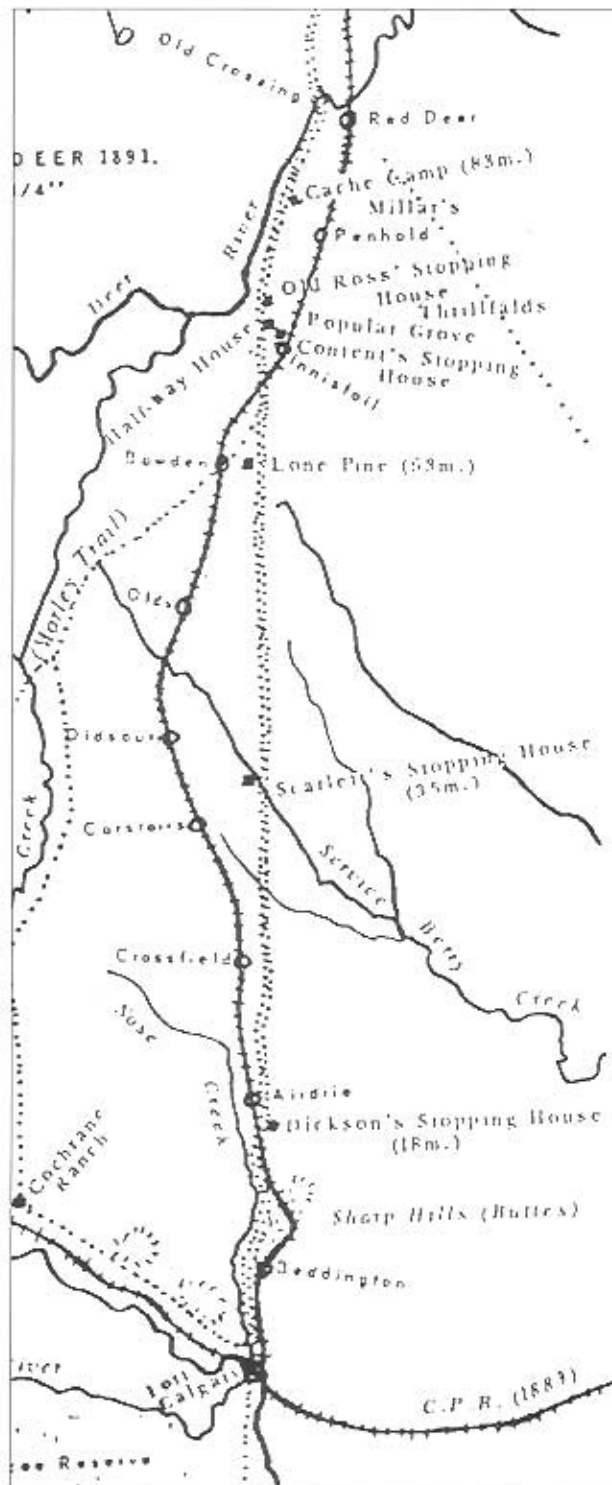


Calgary - Edmonton Trail

The Blackfoot signing of Treaty #7 and the coming of the Palliser Survey opened Central and Southern Alberta to settlement.

A very old trail ran from Fort Calgary to Fort Edmonton. The future Innisfail townsite lay along this trail and became a favorite resting place for freight crews and stage-coach crews. This spot became known as Poplar Grove.



The
"Stopping House"
Trail

Stopping Houses

What finally brought permanent settlement to this district was the building of the "stopping houses". Stretching north from Fort Calgary along the ancient Indian route called "Wolf's Track" and later called the Calgary-Edmonton Trail, were a series of "houses" that provided food and rest to area visitors. One of the first of these stopping houses was built in 1883-1884 just north of Innisfail's present location. This stopping house was built near a former Palliser Survey supply camp and became known as "The Spruces". In these early years, The Spruces provided temporary shelter for many area pioneers.



An early view of the "Spruces." Today the main part of the building is displayed in the Innisfail Historical Village and is the only stopping house from the original C&E trail remaining



"Content's Stopping House" was located near Poplar Grove