

Chapter 11 - Drop Me a Line - 01 00 23



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 00 23

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, 3rd Avenue at 25th Street

GPS: 49d 43m 34.9s -113d 24m 19.8s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: ELKS Lodge

Travel Directions:

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Elks Lodge, now the “Fort Macleod and District Community Hall,” is on the NE corner of Archie Maclean (3rd) Avenue and Jerry Potts Boulevard (25th Street). If you find the Laundry Apartment first, face it and turn left. See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

The building no longer has its distinctive brown cornice and the ELKS sign is gone, but it is unmistakable.

Fort Macleod’s savvy Economic Development Commission, and its helpful chief executive Gordon MacIvor, went all out to make this town attractive to the BBM production team. Was it worth their trouble? Apparently so. On the morning we were there, a busload of tourists from Japan were busy snapping photos of the former Elks Lodge and the nearby stairs. See:

<http://www.fortmacleod.com>

Besides its connection to *Brokeback Mountain*, Fort Macleod is notable for being the birthplace of Joni Mitchell. See:

<http://www.jonimitchell.com>

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 March 2015

Chapter 11 - Drop Me a Line - 01 00 28



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 00 28

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, 3rd Avenue near 25th Street

GPS: 49d 43m 33.24s -113d 24m 20.82s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Laundry Apartment

Travel Directions:

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Laundry Apartment, which is also the site of The Source (Photo Plus), is on the SE corner of Archie Maclean (3rd) Avenue and Jerry Potts Boulevard (25th Street). If you find the Elks Lodge first, face it and turn right. See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

A *Brokeback* icon, the Laundry Apartment now proudly bears a “2004 *Brokeback* Filming Location” plaque. The “Entrance in Front” sign, which Ennis so routinely ignored, covers an inconvenient window.

Oh, the laundry? The steam vent, the steam, and the hot water heater were all props; the business downstairs is an electronics and photo store. Friendly Harley Brown, who, with his wife Cindy, owns the building and runs the business, enjoys recalling the summer of 2004 when his property was “*Brokeback* Central.”

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 March 2015

Chapter 11 - Drop Me a Line - 01 01 00



DVD capture



Contributed photo *

DVD Time Code = 01 01 00

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, 3rd Avenue near 25th Street

GPS: 49d 43m 33.24s -113d 24m 20.82s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Laundry Apartment Kitchen

Travel Directions:

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See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

Those who embrace Alma's symbolic connection to water are well versed in the "three sinks": The Lonesome Ranch (anticipation), the Laundry Apartment (deception), and Monroe's House (retribution).

Darryl Solly, the film's locations manager, tells us that they spotted the Laundry Apartment early on in their search for filming locations. Its tenant was skeptical of the entire proposal to make her austere apartment center stage for some of the most important scenes of a major motion picture.

"Everything she asked for, she got. She was taken care of," says Solly, artfully avoiding mention of dollar amounts.

Important:

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Quotation:

"You know somebody name a Jack?"

Picture of surrounding area:



Revised 17 November 2013

Chapter 11 - Drop Me a Line - 01 01 34



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 01 34

Location: Rockyford, AB, Main Street at 1st Avenue

GPS: 51d 14m 0.78s -113d 8m 28.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Post Office

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The Riverton Post Office building is on Main Street at 1st Avenue. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

Remarks:

It was here, on simple postcards, that Ennis wrote "You bet" and later read the word "DECEASED." Though the neighboring brick structure has been demolished, the Riverton Post Office stands and reminds us of the power small words have to change lives.

Look over your shoulder and see JT's Bar, and to the left of it, the exterior of the Childress Dance Hall. And by all means, don't leave town without seeing the site that was both the Electra and Childress Rodeo Grounds. It is two blocks away, near "Lureen and Jack's Parking Spot."

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 March 2015

Chapter 11 - Drop Me a Line - 01 01 52



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 01 52

Location: Rockyford, AB, Main Street at 1st Avenue

GPS: 51d 14m 0.48s -113d 8m 24.18s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: JT's Bar

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. JT's Bar, now "The Pub on Main" (previously Dun Rovens Pub) is on Main Street at 1st Avenue, opposite the Riverton Post Office building. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

Remarks:

It was once a mute witness to motion picture history in the making. Today, the owners of the edifice known around the world as "JT's Bar" sell prepared sandwiches, beer, and sodas under the far less recognizable name, "The Pub on Main." Its owners are plainly in need of customers who, like its former namesake did, "drink a lot."

Look next door and see the exterior of the Childress Dance Hall. The street to your left leads to the Electra and Childress Rodeo grounds, approximately two blocks away.

Important:

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Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 March 2015

Chapter 11 - Drop Me a Line - 01 02 07



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 02 07

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, 3rd Avenue near 25th Street

GPS: 49d 43m 33.24s -113d 24m 20.82s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Apartment View

Travel Directions:

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See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

The empty lot in front of the Laundry Apartment looks even emptier without Jack's red truck. Residents of the building begrudgingly tolerate the hoards that march up their steps to see what Alma saw. Please be respectful of their privacy. A poster in the parking area incorporates some photos of the 2004 filming activity. A complete set of these great pictures can be found in **Albums**; look for Harley Brown Laundry Apartment Pre-Production Photos.

To the right is a reconstruction of the 1874 North-West Mounted Police fort that is the town's namesake. To the left is a well-maintained historic downtown, its crown jewel being one of western Canada's oldest vaudeville houses, The Empress Theatre. For more information, see:

<http://www.empresstheatre.ab.ca>

Still operational and lovingly restored, The Empress has recently hosted the likes of Buffy Sainte Marie and Judy Collins. In January 2006 it screened *Brokeback Mountain* in a premiere gala that had townspeople lined up around the block to get in (even with tickets a whopping \$15). The enthusiastic turnout was all the more interesting considering that the area's provincial and federal politicians have consistently voted against all forms of gay and lesbian equality. See:

<http://www.fortmacleod.com/>

Finally, approximately 18 km northwest from Fort Macleod is the UN Heritage Site “Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump.” See:

<http://www.head-smashed-in.com/>

This is the remarkable location where, for more than 5,000 years (!), aboriginal peoples chased buffalo off of a cliff and developed sophisticated systems of harvesting their meat, hides, and bones.

Important:

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Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 March 2015

Chapter 11 - Drop Me a Line - 01 03 42



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 03 42

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, 3rd Avenue near 25th Street

GPS: 49d 43m 33.24s -113d 24m 20.82s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: The Stairwell

Travel Directions:

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See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

The steps! There is a great deal of logistic confusion over the steps. Examine the photos of the laundry apartment here and you will see that the building has two sets of steps. The steps that lead to Apartment 1 are the ones that Ennis and Jack found so handy. They are not the same steps that lead to Apartments 2 and 3. (To make matters even more complicated, Apartment 3 became the film's Apartment 2. Of course, before they became the subject of worldwide *Brokeback* attention, the apartments had no numbers at all!)

Is there a tabloid editor alive who could refuse a candid shot of Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger kissing? One of the producers' biggest concerns surrounding the filming of the stairwell scene was privacy. Keep in mind that the details of the story were not widely known when this scene was shot and that the apartment is next to a busy public street.

We are told that Ledger, Gyllenhaal, and Williams arrived and departed the set in PT Cruisers equipped with tinted windows. Note in the photographs that the sloped "pony" wall next to the steps was modified to further shield the smooching area from public view.

Important:

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Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 March 2015