

Landmarks

Pembina-Manitou Significant Heritage Buildings

The Pembina-Manitou Special Places project was inaugurated in 2010-11, with the first major component being a comprehensive and detailed inventory of 64 buildings and sites in the Town of Manitou and the Rural Municipality of Pembina (please note that since that time, through municipal amalgamation, these two municipal governments have now joined, as the Municipality of Pembina). Through rigorous analysis and assessment processes suggested to us by the province's Historic Resources Branch, we have identified a handful of buildings that most effectively define and illustrate key aspects of our history and heritage. The following list of buildings and sites constitutes the Pembina-Manitou Tourism and Heritage Committee's recommendations and reminders to the Town of Manitou about those places that have claims for heritage significance.

- Manitou Town Hall and Opera House
- War Memorial
- St. Andrew's United Church
- St. John the Baptist Anglican Church

- Log House
- Fullerton House
- Small House
- Scott House
- Bethune Block
- Gunn and Nichol Block

As noted, the development of this short list of significant sites was the result of careful and studied deliberations using standard heritage evaluation criteria, processes and scoring regimes. This work was carried out by the Pembina-Manitou Tourism and Heritage Committee with assistance from staff of the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism. We are grateful to the branch for their generous support and patient attention in this particular endeavour.

As a collection, these 10 buildings and structures define many aspects and themes from Manitou's past, and do so through places that are at once significant, but also interesting and

attractive. These are places that the people of Manitou can look to with pride. These buildings remind us of past glories, but also suggest an enduring sense of community, and are a beacon for its future. These buildings are presented on following pages with an accompanying Heritage Value Statement that elucidates that building's key heritage attributes.

The Pembina-Manitou Tourism and Heritage Committee also has ensured that certain notable sites in the former R.M. of Pembina were part of this initiative, and have therefore identified three churches that also merit status as Significant Heritage Sites, and are featured with accompanying Heritage Value Statements:

- St. Mary's Anglican Church (Kaleida area)
- Calvin United Church (Darlingford)
- Pembina Crossing Church (Pembina Crossing)

There are four buildings in the R.M. of Pembina that have already been designated (two by the Province and two by the municipality) and these are also included in this survey, with accompanying Heritage Value Statements:

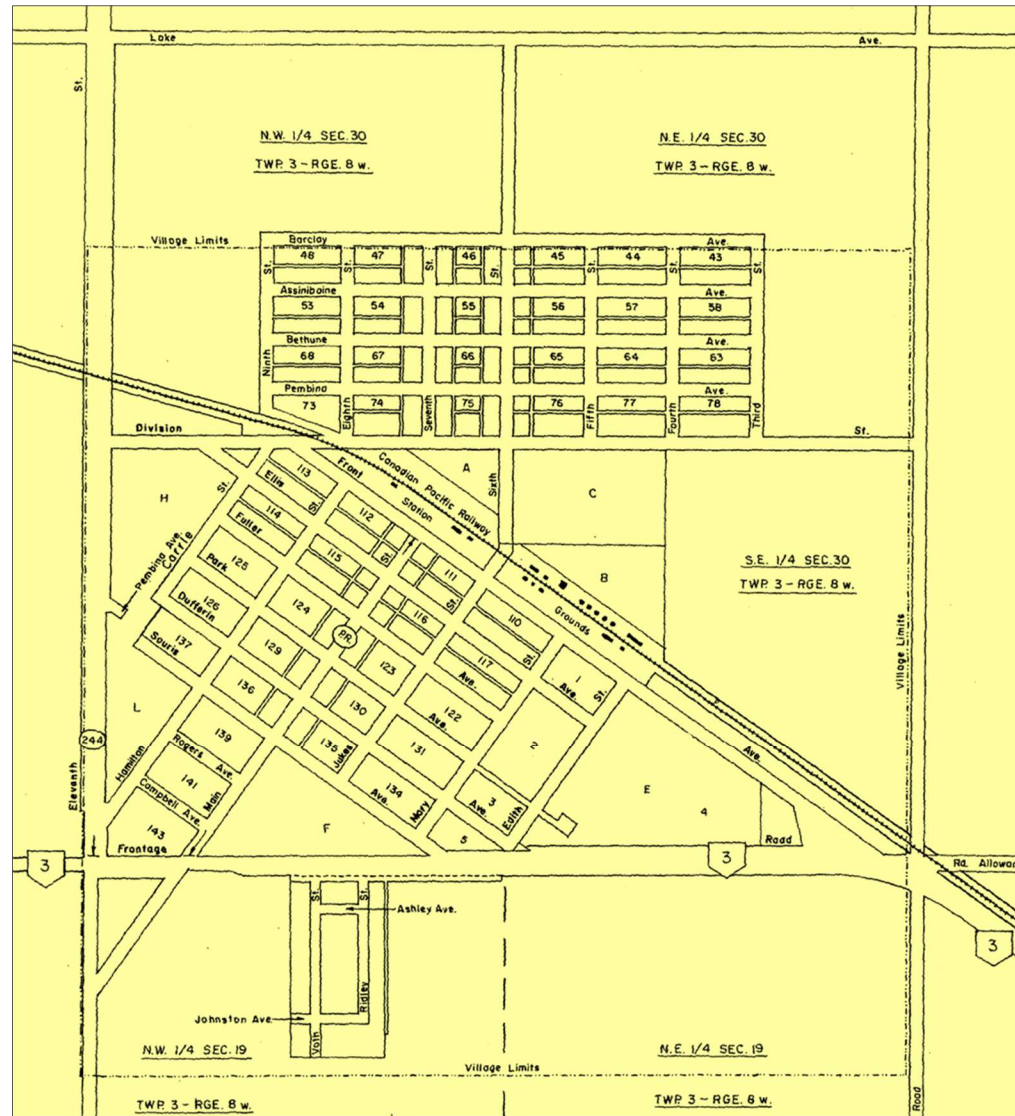
- La Riviere Station (Archibald Museum Site)
- Mowbray School (Mowbray area)
- Darlingford Memorial (Darlingford)
- Darlingford School (Darlingford)



Early view of Manitou

Map of Manitou

This basic street map of Manitou can be co-ordinated to locate sites noted on following pages, which are identified with street addresses.



Manitou Town Hall and Opera House

Main Street



The Manitou Town Hall and Opera House, a splendid Arts-and-Crafts-influenced facility designed by Winnipeg architect Charles S. Bridgman, recalls a period when for many small communities an opera house was a necessary component of the town hall. Built in 1930, after Manitou's first town hall and opera house burned, the structure's residential design blended well with the environment and originally combined a number of functions, including municipal offices, council chambers, a jail and main-floor auditorium. The intact auditorium interior, with a partially sloped floor, custom-built stage and exceptional acoustics, continues to make the facility an important social and performance venue that serves the community and much of southwestern Manitoba well.

War Memorial

Main Street



The Manitou War Memorial is an exceptional example of the kind of affecting tributes that small Manitoba towns put up after World War I to honour those who gave their lives during that conflict. Manitou's memorial is an especially fine example of the type, topped with a sculptural figure of a soldier at ease, staring forever into the distance. Erected in 1921, the frontispiece lists the names of battles, including Ypres, The Somme, Lens, Hill 70. And the three sides grimly identify the scores of young men from Manitou and the R.M. of Pembina who never came home. Flanking black tablets feature the names of those who lost their lives in World War II. Marked by an elegant wrought iron fence, the memorial is a major feature on Manitou's prime thoroughfare.

St. Andrews United Church

Hamilton and Fuller



St. Andrew's United Church (originally Presbyterian and built in 1901) is one of province's most dynamic symbols of the Protestant faith carried out in a small town. With its distinctive corner tower, tiered and tapered and culminating in a filigreed cross, the building is a masterwork by Winnipeg architect and contractor James McDiarmid. With its fanciful but controlled main facades and wealth of materials—brick, stone, wooden shingles, glass, iron—the church is one of the most exuberant and elegant physical expressions of Victorian-era faithfulness. And the Akron-style auditorium plan likewise creates an impressive space within. The generous dimensions, rich woodwork, elaborate details and large coloured windows engage congregants in a meaningful spiritual realm.

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church

Hamilton Street



St. John the Baptist Anglican, from 1904, is more conventional in its basic form and more reserved than nearby St. Andrew's United Church, Manitou's other major historic church. But St. John's impressive claims are still apparent, starting with the distinctive tower which curves at its apex to support a small and delicate spire. Even the lowly foundation is remarkable, with no expense spared in the construction of a lovingly crafted fieldstone substructure. The foundation not only extends from the basic rectangular form upon which a building would normally sit to include juts-outs that provide structural support for the wall buttresses, but also rises nearly four feet above grade to present a remarkable contrast with the tall brick walls above. Inside, the traditional Anglican nave, focused through its length on the altar, is a stirring reminder of the building's spiritual purpose.

Pioneer Log House

Main Street at Highway 3



The Pioneer Log Cabin, built just one year after the settlement of Manitou in 1884, is a rare and important example of early architectural traditions in Manitoba. Constructed of hand-hewn squared logs with neat dovetail corners, the dwelling exhibits the unpretentious material qualities, distinctive proportions and limited fenestration characteristic of late nineteenth-century domestic log structures. Originally located near the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks, the cabin housed the pioneer families of the Brennaghs and Listers. It is now a relocated and restored historic feature at Manitou's main entrance.

Fullerton House

314 Hamilton Street



The Fullerton House is the best remaining local example recalling the typical ambitions of the entrepreneurial class of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, in this case William Fullerton. Fullerton, originally from Montreal, operated the first business in Manitoba City and was the first to move across the track to Manitou. The house, built around 1890, is now a local landmark, with its grand size, distinctive roof form, two-storey bay window and classically-detailed front facade. That all of these qualities have remained intact for more than a century is remarkable. While the interior has naturally been updated over the years, many of the basic qualities that describe the Fullerton family's aspirations are still apparent, from the generous organization of rooms and spaces, to the woodwork and elaborate door hardware.

Motherall House

309 Dufferin Avenue



The Motherall House is the best remaining example in Manitou of the work of Samuel Magee, a major force in the construction industry in south-central Manitoba in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Responsible for the carpentry work on many buildings, Mr. Magee (and his brother Robert and his son Gordon) also undertook scores of residential commissions, and appears to have brought a real design curiosity to his task. Reworking a basic model—of one-and-a-half storey cubic form, distinctive roof and tell-tale dormer windows—Magee created a type that defines nearly a dozen extant Manitou houses. The Motherall House, from about 1900, has survived nearly intact, with its original form, materials and details basically as Mr. Magee had crafted them, making it unique in Manitou. The interior is also mostly intact, with floor plans, materials, features and many details still serving the everyday needs of current occupants.

Scott House

215 Main Street



The Scott House is an excellent example recalling small-house living in Manitou. The building, which was built for Ben Carter in 1908, is a superb example of turn-of-the-century design and craftsmanship. Carried out in brick (likely from local sources), and with elegant Italianate-style roof brackets, the house is an elegant presence on Manitou's main thoroughfare. Inside, the building has been carefully maintained, even as it has been updated for commercial functions, and still original woodwork and details.

Bethune Block

405 Main Street



The Bethune Block is a good local reminder of the primary purpose of small-town Manitoba existence – commerce. Built in 1888 for Harry Bowler, this building has served scores of tenants, from Paterson Implements, Winram and Co., the local post office (1893) and the Bank of Commerce (1923). Typical of its type, carried out in brick, the long southern wall punctuated with windows in the second storey, suggests its basic utilitarian purpose. Inside, the original tin ceiling panels on the main floor are intact, as is some of the woodwork and door hardware. The second floor, which once served as a meeting hall, now bears evidence of its later incarnation for residential use.

Gunn and Nichol Block

Main Street



The Gunn and Nichol Block is a modest but evocative reminder of the kind of commercial establishments whose existence prescribed the very existence of a place like Manitou. With its basic rectilinear form, buff brick facades and intact tin ceilings within, it is a typical example of a type of building that is all too fast disappearing from the Manitoba landscape. Built in 1903, the building has been used as a hardware store and furniture dealer (and as part of that operation, as an undertaking parlour). During World War II the Gunn and Nichol Block also served as the local armoury.

St. Mary and St. Alban's Anglican Church

Kaleida area



St. Mary and St. Alban's Anglican Church is an exquisite example of a small rural church carried out in granite fieldstone. Built in 1892 to the designs of a major Winnipeg architect, Charles Wheeler, the church was constructed by Richard Steward and Harry Bowler, with carpentry assistance from Samuel Magee. The resulting building is refined and sophisticated, not only in its exterior, where stones are expertly placed for effect, but also inside, where rich wooden Gothic Revival details are lit with coloured glass from the Winnipeg firm of Ernest Edgell. The church was dedicated to the memory of the Honourable William Winram, a pioneer who represented the area for 13 years in the Manitoba Legislature beginning in 1878, and who was Speaker of the House for three years.

Zion-Calvin United Church

Darlingford



Zion Calvin United Church (1908) is a well-preserved example of the type of simple wood-frame Gothic Revival church that served growing Manitoba communities as they made their transition from pioneer settlements to established communities. Basically L-shaped in plan, it has a fine bell tower that is a landmark in its small community. Like nearly every Presbyterian church built in rural Manitoba during the early years after the arrival of the railway, it was almost certainly built with the assistance of the Church and Manse Building Fund, established in 1883 by the Reverend James Robertson to bring “visibility and permanence” to the Presbyterian Church in western Canada. The church has a high degree of exterior physical integrity, and many intact interior features.

St. Luke's Anglican Church Pembina Crossing

Pembina Crossing



St. Luke's Anglican Church-Pembina Crossing is the solitary remaining structure recalling the pioneer community of Pembina Crossing. That settlement, formed in the early 1880s, was for a time a bustling commercial centre, situated on the Boundary Commission Trail, an important settlement route leading into western Canada. But like so many places in southern Manitoba, the community succumbed to the final location of a railway line, which bypassed Pembina Crossing. The present 1922 church, which replaced the original building from 1885, which burned, is an excellent example of the kind of small, dignified structures that provided sanctuary for small rural congregations.

La Riviere CPR Station

Archibald Museum Site



The La Rivière Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) Station, Manitoba's only remaining combined station and agent's residence built from the CPR's standard Plan #3 design, is a strong visual link with La Rivière's heritage as a railway centre and with its cultural roots. The minimally adorned structure, composed of a two-storey waiting room/residence and one-storey freight shed, is distinguished by its French-Canadian-influenced mansard roof and pronounced bracketed platform eaves. With its exterior and main floor now carefully restored, the building recalls the role of the railway in the development of communities and the role of train stations in the life of prairie villages. La Rivière was a divisional point with a busy passenger and freight schedule and the railway provided employment for many, as well as vital communication and transportation links.

Mowbray School

Mowbray area



Mowbray School is a highly significant Manitoba building, a rare surviving example in nearly pristine condition recalling the kinds of architectural and site qualities that often defined the experience of attending Manitoba's one-room schools from the late nineteenth century until about the middle of the twentieth century. Its small unadorned form and straightforward construction are typical of the type, and recall the approximately 1,500 little schools that once served the province's rural educational needs, but which have mostly been lost, to fire, demolition, or removal and re-use. Mowbray School's interior is also of great value: carefully preserved by local residents since the facility was closed in 1956, the school serves as a museum piece, complete with typical finishes and furnishings. Finally, the little building's situation, small and isolated on a broad expanse of flatland, visible most effectively from the slopes of the Pembina Valley to the south, recalls the determination and fortitude of those who taught and attended this school over the course of 50 years, and of their descendants, who continue to honour that experience with notable love and care.

Darlingford Memorial and Park

Darlingford



The Darlingford Memorial and Park is a unique form of living remembrance in Manitoba, one that combines a lush public and ceremonial space with a more private, chapel-like building containing tablets with the names of Darlingford-area residents who served in World Wars I and II. The impressive Gothic-inspired brick structure, designed by A.A. Stoughton, the first head of the School of Architecture at the University of Manitoba, is the only free-standing building in the province with the sole function of commemorating war veterans and casualties. Its refined proportions, materials and details, and simple contemplative interior, are complemented by its peaceful, formally arranged environs of walkways, flower beds, lawns and trees, designed and originally maintained by staff from the nearby Dominion Experimental Farm at Morden. The memorial's development, initiated by a land donation from Ferris Bolton, a pioneer area farmer, businessman and politician who lost three sons in World War I, is still marked by an annual community service in July. Now tended by local volunteers, the site continues to serve its function admirably, as relevant today as it was at its inception.

Darlingford Consolidated School

Darlingford



Darlingford Consolidated School provides an important physical connection to early attempts at rural school consolidation in Manitoba. Experimental facilities such as this formed the roots of the process -- substantial buildings established at centralized locations to provide graded classrooms, specialized teaching and an improved curriculum. With its modest classical detailing and simple proportions, the Darlingford school retains its standardized interior layout with a four-classroom plan. Completed in stages, the school began as a one-storey two-classroom facility that grew to a two-storey structure in 1921, accommodating upper grades on the main floor and primary pupils on the second level.