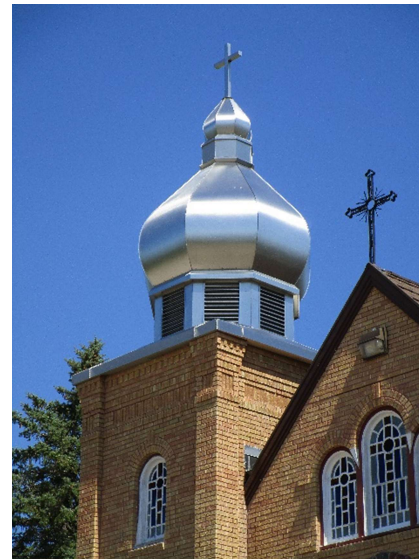


# LANDMARKS



**Significant Heritage Buildings of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements**



## **A Project of the St. Clements Heritage Committee**

The St. Clements Heritage Committee would like to acknowledge the support of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage in the development of this initiative, through a grant from the Heritage Grants Program, and through ongoing guidance and support of the Historic Resources Branch.

2018

On the cover, left to right: St. Peter's Dynevor Anglican Church, Bunn House and Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the Holy Trinity.

# Landmarks

## Significant Heritage Buildings of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements

**T**he **St. Clements Heritage Committee** has been working for several years on developing inventories of buildings and sites that may have heritage significance to the municipality. The first of these inventories was undertaken in 1992, and upgraded in 1996. Both of these initiatives relied on a major survey project undertaken by the Province's Historic Resources Branch (HRB) in 1982. Hundreds of buildings and sites have been explored through these three projects.

The Committee has at this time moved along to a key goal defined by the development of comprehensive inventory projects: through rigorous analysis and assessment processes suggested to us by the HRB, we have identified a handful of buildings that most effectively define and illustrate key aspects of our history and heritage.

The following list of 21 buildings constitutes the St. Clements Heritage Committee's recommendations and reminders to the community about those places that have major claims for local heritage significance. Each building listed opposite is also presented on the following pages, with an accompanying Heritage Value Statement that elucidates that building's key heritage attributes.

These 21 buildings are more effectively grouped according to their locale, a more helpful approach to appreciate concentrations of sites of heritage significance.

### **East Selkirk and Area**

St. Clements Municipal Office  
St. Peter's Dynevor Anglican Church  
East Selkirk Ukrainian Catholic Church  
St. Stanislaus Kostka (Polish) Catholic Church  
Bunn House  
Stewart Farm Site

### **Lockport and Area**

Lockport Inn  
Sonia's Stand  
Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the Holy Trinity  
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
Cox House

### **Libau and Area**

Manitoba Pool Grain Elevator  
Libau Lutheran Church  
Domke Blacksmith Shop  
Libau East School  
Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church

### **Poplar Park Area**

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity  
St. James Anglican Church  
Sheffield School  
Chuhie Farm Site

As a collection, these 21 buildings define many aspects and themes from the municipality's past, and do so through places that are at once significant, but also interesting and attractive. These are places that the people of the municipality can look to with pride. These places remind us of past glories, but also suggest an enduring sense of community, and are a beacon for its future.

Please note this kind of analysis-assessment-short list project has already been undertaken for the Village of Grand Marais (2014), and so the 11 buildings and sites on that list are not featured here. Please consult the Heritage Committee for that list.

The examples presented on the following pages highlight places in the municipality that recall key themes from our past. We have an especially strong legacy of churches, and of the powerful connections to major faith groups: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic, Ukrainian Greek Orthodox and Lutheran. The 10 churches included on the list describe the architectural qualities that help delineate each faith group via the very designs, materials and especially the details that are so evocative and meaningful.

Another important building type that has representation on the list is schools. And while we have lost many of the 35 schools (most of them one-room facilities) there are still three extant buildings, two of which—Sheffield and Libau East—completely reflect the kinds of forms and materials used on these kinds of buildings. The third extant school, at Libau West, has been dramatically altered, and so its physical quality does not present as a potential heritage site.

Commercial life in the municipality is described by four buildings on the list, with that collection including a grain elevator, hotel, blacksmith shop and hamburger stand. Four sites recall early farming and residential activity in the community: Cox House, Bunn House, Chuhie Farm Site and Stewart Farm Site. And one final entry, the St. Clements Municipal Office, is an important connection to our

political roots, and an excellent example of Mid-century Modern architecture.

The Heritage Value Statements that have been developed for this project are based on an initiative developed in the early 2000s by Parks Canada in association with all provinces and territories, including Manitoba. The project was called the Historic Places Initiative (HPI), and its goal was to develop a pan-Canadian approach to heritage conservation and communication.

An important aspect of HPI was to develop consistent and reliable approaches that would clarify what makes certain buildings and sites historically significant. The Heritage Value Statement was a key part of that process. HPI documents note that such a statement “seeks to identify what matters and why. It explains why a historic place is important to the community. Naming the heritage values of a place makes it possible to identify the physical qualities that express its values, and also helps determine what aspects of the place need to be conserved.” It goes on: “Heritage value is what makes a historic place significant to a community of people. It is comprised of the many meanings and values that people attach to a place. Traditionally, historic places have been valued mainly for their historical associations and/or architectural importance.”

It is this approach that has been used for the St. Clements project.

We also note a key determining factor that has resulted in this final list of 21 notable buildings: while they must have historical and architectural significance, they must also have high levels of physical integrity – that is, the original building design, form, construction and materials must still be visible and in good condition. High physical integrity ensures that the sites chosen for this “short list” can fully and completely describe all aspects of their heritage value.

## St. Clements Municipal Office



East Selkirk, 1043 Kittson Road  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.13219 / LONG W096.82463

Being the one tangible connection to the history of the community's political life, the St. Clements Municipal Office is a very significant building. Like others of its type, the building has been the focus over the years of key debates and decisions that have affected every member of the municipality. And of course the careers of various political figures in the municipality are most clearly connected to this place. At the same time, the building is also a very good example of Modern architecture. It was built in 1967, when many small communities were looking to the most up-to-date architecture to express their hopes and ambitions. And the St. Clements Municipal Office is a model example, with its boxy form, large glassed entrance, and clear and emphatic use of Tyndallstone for decorative appeal.

## St. Peter's Dynevor Anglican Church



East Selkirk Area, Stone Church Road  
GPS Reading: East 56.7444" N and 96° 50' 23.1828" W

St. Peter's Dynevor Anglican Church was built in 1852-54 under the direction of Archdeacon William Cockran, and through the skill and labour of Aboriginal church-goers. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop David Anderson, who gave the church its name. The church replaced an earlier one built in 1836 a little to the south of the new site. It served the Aboriginal settlement of the same name established here in 1834, the first attempt at an Aboriginal agricultural community in Western Canada. The church is an excellent example of Gothic Revival design carried out in a modest expression of the style, with its tall bell tower and pointed arched windows. Chief Peguis, friend and benefactor to the Selkirk Settlers and defender of Aboriginal land rights, is buried in the churchyard. St. Peter's has been formally designated as a Provincial Heritage Site.

## East Selkirk Ukrainian Catholic Church



East Selkirk, Old Henderson Highway  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.13730 / LONG W096.83505

The architectural pinnacle of traditional Ukrainian ecclesiastical architecture was the so-called “cathedral-style” or Kievan church – with their grand size and impressive appointments. In Manitoba, that tradition was also often linked to the design skills of a renowned priest-architect, Father Philip Ruh (1883-1962). Father Ruh designed more than 40 churches across western Canada, and the one example in St. Clements stands in East Selkirk. The church, from 1951, is typical of the Ruh style, with its cruciform plan, bold use of brick and stucco and majestic façade, here with two towers flanking the main doors, and reaching up even further via tall banya domes punctuated with large crosses.

## St. Stanislaus Kostka (Polish) Catholic Church



East Selkirk, Old Henderson Highway  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.13673 / LONG W096.83569

St. Stanislaus Kostka (Polish) Catholic Church stands as the major local site of the Roman Catholic faith in the municipality. That connection stretches back to 1897, with the arrival in the area of the first Polish immigrants. These proud and deeply religious settlers only were able to build their first church, a log chapel, in 1912. The building was by 1937 far too small for the growing congregation, and the present church was erected, and even enlarged in 1953. The building is a good example of Catholic architectural precepts, with its elegant towered façade and especially the use of round-arched doorways and window openings.

## Bunn House



East Selkirk Area, Bunn Road  
GPS Reading: N 50° 8.435 W 96° 50.520

The Bunn House is a rare pre-1870 example of a cottage built of stone for a prominent Metis family before the territory was annexed to Canada. Erected in 1861-64 by noted stonemason Samuel Taylor using local materials, the house is a simplified expression of the Georgian style employed by the Hudson's Bay Company and its retirees throughout the settlement. Strategically situated on a river lot near an old ferry crossing, the structure housed the family of Thomas Bunn. A well-known lawyer and politician, Bunn devoted much of his life to shaping the development of the Red River Settlement and was an important figure in its pre-Confederation administration and transformation to a Canadian province. He was a member of the provisional government formed during the Red River Rebellion of 1869-70 and subsequently elected to Manitoba's first legislative assembly. The Bunn House has been formally designated as a Provincial Heritage Site.

## Stewart Farm Site



East Selkirk Area, Bunn Road  
GPS Reading: N 50° 8.435 W 96° 50.520

The Stewart Farm Site contains three small barns, which together are important reminders of the significance of farming activity in the municipality. Two of the barns are from the 1930s, and were moved to the site in the late 1950s in anticipation of the construction of the Red River Floodway. These are small market-garden sized buildings, large enough only for a cow or horse and some chickens. But they are typical of the type, with their distinctive gambrel roofs and minimal fenestration. The third barn has greater historical significance, dating to the early 1870s. Likely built for Thomas Bunn, whose fine stone house of 1861-64 stands nearby, the simple gabled roof belies its notable construction heritage – with walls of hewn log, the typical material approach used for buildings of that era.

## Lockport Inn



Lockport, 6960 Henderson Highway  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.08440/ LONG W095.93254

The Lockport Inn is one of the last surviving small hotels that once served small St. Clements communities. Its location in Lockport makes it a landmark, at the northern end of an important east-side concentration of commercial establishments along Henderson Highway. Built ca. 1930 for Nick and Dorothy Paziuk, the Lockport Inn is typical of its type – with its rooms arranged on the top floor and beverage and pool room and other services on the main floor. The building was carried out in a modest expression of the Art Moderne style, with its curved northeast corner and blazing sign at the roofline.

## Sonia's Stand



Lockport, 6960 Henderson Highway  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.08420 / LONG W096.93224

Sonia's Stand is a landmark in Lockport, its colourful and breezy façade making it a highly visible and memorable sight in an area known for summer-time fun and relaxation. Named for its first owner, Sonia's is a modest expression of a popular North American architectural style of the 1950s and 1960s called Googie Architecture. That style, often seen on motels, gas stations and small restaurants, commonly features upswept roofs, geometric shapes, and bold use of glass, steel and neon. But Sonia's bright colours and funky form place it firmly in that stylistic tradition. Established in the 1950s, Sonia's Stand has been a mainstay of Lockport's summer experience for nearly 70 years.

## Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the Holy Trinity



Narol Area, Henderson Highway, South of Hay Road  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.06588 / LONG W096.95196

The Church of the Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the Holy Trinity is an excellent example of the traditions of historic Kievan church architecture carried out in a Canadian Prairie context in 1953. The church is a bold and elegant expression of that tradition. The front façade is especially noteworthy, with its powerful corner towers topped with gleaming onion-shaped domes, and its entrance plane with its niches and window groupings. The church is a landmark in the Narol area of the municipality along Henderson Highway.

## St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church



Gonor Area, 6594 Henderson Highway  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.07342 / LONG W096.94141

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church is a landmark in the Gonor area along Henderson Highway. The church is an excellent example of the kind of ambitions that small Ukrainian congregations had when it came to their church buildings. St. Nicholas is a major connection to the traditions of the home country, with its large central dome, and then the five smaller decorative domes (called banyas) that punctuate key corner points of the façade and roofline. In keeping with tradition, the many windows and openings feature elegant round-arched top lights. An earlier church was completed in 1904, with this church undertaken in 1945, with construction overseen by master builder Anton Prychun.

## Cox House



Lockport Area, Henderson Highway North of Clarke Road

The Cox House, located on a traditional long narrow lot on the east bank of the Red River, is one of Manitoba's oldest examples of a Red River frame log dwelling on its original foundation. John Cox, a retired Hudson's Bay Company boatman and labourer, used the property as a woodlot from 1836 until 1862 when his son Robert built the first stage of this simple structure. At the time the area was home to a small community of settlers seeking a quieter alternative to the busy Upper Fort Garry settlement to the south and this expanded log cabin is a rare surviving example of the typical housing of that period and place. Red River frame construction, which was used on hundreds of buildings from this period, relied on short squared log sections that were set via tongues horizontally into grooved vertical logs at corners and at select places along wall lengths. The Cox House has been formally designated as a Provincial Heritage Site.

## Manitoba Pool Grain Elevator



Libau, Main Street

GPS Reading: LAT N50.26910 / LONG W096.71681

The towering form of an old grain elevator that rises west of Highway 59, just east of Libau, is a highly visible reminder of the province's grain handling history. Built in the 1930s for Searle Farms, a major farm operation once active just east of East Selkirk, the site is more commonly known as a Manitoba Pool Elevator, given that company's 30-year service (1972 to 2001). The Libau structure is a near-perfect example of its type, with its soaring size, distinctive gable-roofed extension and large annex. It is also one of just a small number of historic grain elevators still standing in this province. In 1911, at the height of grain-elevator activity, there were 707 structures across southern Manitoba; today there are perhaps 50. Now owned by the Greenwald Hutterite Colony, the Libau Elevator is still used and in good shape, a significant reminder of Manitoba's historic economic engine of growth – the grain economy.

## Libau Lutheran Church



Libau, Road 32E North of Road 86N  
GPS Reading: LAT 50.271166 / LONG 96.720178

Libau Lutheran Church stands as the major historic site (dating to ca. 1925) of the Lutheran faith in the municipality (a larger but more modern Lutheran church stands near Thalberg). The Libau Lutheran Church is a typical small-town religious facility, with a simple boxy nave lit with windows on each side, and a basic gabled roof. But the architectural embellishments quickly establish its German-Scandinavian Lutheran roots: the octagonal shaft of the short steeple, the flat-topped windows, and especially the little wave-cresting details at the ends of the roof's bargeboards.

## Domke Blacksmith Shop



Libau, Road 86N at Road 32E  
GPS Reading: LAT 50.269156 / LONG 96.719468

The Domke Blacksmith Shop is one of only a handful of such buildings in Manitoba, a rare surviving link to a time when horses, rather than trucks and automobiles, were the primary source of transportation throughout the province. Such places as this, as well as livery stables, and harness and saddlery shops, were mainstays of every small Manitoba main street until the 1920s, and their gradual loss has meant that only a few such links to our horse-powered heritage remain. Established in the 1940s by Mr. O. Domke, the building is modest and straightforward in terms of its architecture – a suitable approach given that it was the functions and accoutrements within – the anvils and bellows and the production of horseshoes and other customized metal goods, that were the glory of the place.

## Libau East School



Libau Area, Road 35E at P.R. 317  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.26896 / LONG W096.65071

Libau East School No. 1231, one of only three remaining one-room schoolhouses in St. Clements, is a fine example of period trends in schoolhouse design. Erected just to the east of the site of a predecessor that burned twice (the original 1903 school burned in 1906 and its successor succumbed in 1949), this roomy structure, with its well-lit classroom, was typical of a third generation in standardized rural schoolhouse design. Erected in 1952 (and replacing a granary that had been reworked after the 1949 building burned), the sturdy local landmark served scores of local children until consolidation in 1966, and then closure in 1967.

## Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church



Thalberg Area, Road 43E North of Road 93N  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.37223 / LONG W096.46808

With its impressive range of domes and banyas (small domes), and elegant groupings of round-arched windows and openings, the architecture of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church at Thalberg is a powerful reminder of the kind of historic Ukrainian architectural styles that were brought to the municipal context in the early decades of the 20th century by new Ukrainian immigrants. Built ca. 1920, this church is a major expression of those traditions and also of the determination of a local congregation to connect to their cultural roots.

## St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church



Poplar Park Area, Road 90N at Road 34E  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.32834 / LONG W096.67466

Given its exceptional physical integrity—with original wooden construction and facing materials—and intact site context—with the church, bell tower, parish hall and cemetery—St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church at Poplar Park is the best remaining site in the municipality recalling the type of small country church built by Ukrainian pioneers to the area. Put up in 1927, the church is a very fine example of the Bukovynian style, distinguished by its basic gabled form, curved apse, round-arched windows and small banya dome atop the roof. The freestanding bell tower, with its open belfry and pyramidal roof is also remarkable. The parish hall, noted for its distinctive boom-town façade, is a key piece of the site, along with the cemetery to the south, dotted with Ukrainian-style crosses.

## Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity



Poplar Park Area, Road 88N West of Highway 59  
GPS Reading: LAT 50.298785 / LONG 96.691704

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity in the Poplar Park area is a community landmark along Highway 59. The small and distinctive Bukovynian-style church (from 1906 and renovated in 1929), is distinguished by its basic gabled form, curved apse, round-arched windows and small banya dome atop the roof ridge. The large freestanding bell tower, with its open belfry and pyramidal roof is also remarkable. A well-kept cemetery to the west, dotted with Ukrainian-style crosses, completes this important site.

## St. James Anglican Church



Poplar Park Area, Road 32E between Road 89N and 90N  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.32322 / LONG W096.72000

In 1905 Charlie and Caroline Mattson donated an acre of their land for the purpose of building a church and developing a cemetery for the small Anglo-Anglican community around Poplar Park. While construction began almost immediately, it was not until 1910 that St. James Anglican Church was completed. It is interesting to note that the walls of the church, now sheathed with white siding, are in fact of hewn logs. Today, this old church stands as a rare local example of Gothic Revival architecture, the stylistic expression preferred by Anglican and other Protestant faith groups. Key characteristics of the style are on display here: especially the handsome tiered tower with candle-snuff steeple and the fine pointed arched windows.

## Sheffield School



Poplar Park Area, Road 90N East of Road 33E  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.32840 / LONG W096.69504

Sheffield School No. 1976, with its welcoming domestic proportions, is a good example of one of Manitoba's most popular standardized provincial school designs available in the post-World War I period. Erected in 1919, and adapted from a 1912 cottage-style scheme, the school incorporates features that constitute a comfortable well-lit space, such as an obligatory bank of windows along one side of the classroom with transoms for air circulation, cloakrooms lit by side windows and a front storm porch. Built under the supervision of W.J. Gaylead, the facility also featured an indoor chemical toilet, electricity and oil burner. The school was part of the 1966 consolidation into the Lord Selkirk School Division and was closed in 1967.

## Chuhie Farm Site



Poplar Park Area, West of Highway 59 on Road 90N  
GPS Reading: LAT N50.32853 / LONG W096.67248

The Chuhie Farm Site is an excellent example of the kind of small-farm operations that defined much of St. Clements in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. The site was purchased in 1935 by Peter Chuhie, and with his new wife Mary, the Chuhies had farm operations up and running by 1941. The current farm site still contains nearly all of the outbuildings that would have defined a small operation like this one: a large gambrel-roofed barn; a large summer kitchen; several granaries, garages and sheds, a gasoline storage facility, chicken house, pig pen, outhouse and original well pump. The site is a model of organization and efficiency, with the house on the west side of the site, and outbuildings—with their potential smells and noise—neatly organized and situated on the eastern half of the lot. The farm continues in the Chuhie family, thus marking nearly 90 years of service.

