

# Landmarks

## Significant Heritage Buildings of The Pas

**T**he Pas Special Places project was inaugurated in 2009-10, with the first major component being a comprehensive and detailed inventory of 79 buildings and sites. 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 15 buildings constitutes the Sam Waller Museum Building Subcommittee's recommendations and reminders to the community about those places that have major claims for heritage significance.

- Courthouse & Community Building
- Provincial Building
- Christ Church Anglican
- Roman Catholic Cathedral
- Charlebois Chapel
- The Pas Railway Building
- The Pas Post Office
- Northern Mail Building

- Lido Theatre
- Bank of Commerce
- Bancroft House
- Finger House
- Doroshenko House
- Dion House
- Pashby House

Each building is presented on the following pages, with an accompanying Heritage Value Statement that elucidates their key heritage attributes. This kind of short, sharp list will enable the community to focus attention and resources when it undertakes future heritage endeavours, be they a walking tour, community website, school projects, plaquing programs and even designations.

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 Sam Waller Museum Building Subcommittee with assistance from staff of

the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection. We are grateful to the branch for their generous support and patient attention in this endeavour.



Archival view of The Pas, ca. 1910, courtesy The Pas Regional Library.

As a collection, these 15 buildings define many aspects and themes from The Pas's past, and does so through places that are at once significant, but also interesting and attractive. These are places that the people of The Pas can look to with pride.

The selections reveal some important qualities that help make The Pas a distinct community in terms of its architectural legacy. Spiritual life is expressed in three important churches, two good examples of pioneer building traditions and the third, the Roman Catholic Cathedral, a major example of Romanesque Revival design. Our Courthouse, Post Office and Provincial Building recall the activities of government in The Pas, and via three completely different architectural traditions – one the familiar historic Classical Revival, of fine red brick, another in the Art Deco tradition and the third a Mid-century Modernist block of glass, brick and steel. The old Canadian National Railway Station is a major landmark, recalling a critical aspect of our development. Three commercial buildings—the Northern Mail Building, Lido Theatre and Bank of Commerce—are important reminders of the power and prestige accorded The Pas as a major commercial centre in the near-North. The five houses noted here reflect the kinds of styles, features and details that defined the residential stock of The Pas in earlier times, and are also important reminders of the ambitions of individual homeowners and of the skills of local craftsmen.

## Courthouse & Community Building

Corner Highway 10 and Third Street West



### Heritage Value Statement

The Court House and Community Building at The Pas (1916-17), northern Manitoba's oldest standing brick building, is an impressive example of a Neo-Classical-style public facility designed to accommodate several provincial, municipal and community functions in a developing frontier town. Solid, substantial and stately, albeit modestly adorned, the structure, built soon after Manitoba's boundary was extended to the sixtieth parallel of latitude, expresses both its era's optimism over prospects for the "New North" and the provincial government's commitment to the town's future as a regional centre. The building was planned by G.N. Taylor, the first architect in The Pas, to hold a jail, courtroom, justice, land registry and town offices, and, unlike other Manitoba court houses, a public assembly hall that for many years was a focal point for local events and groups. Altered over time as needs changed, the functional facility, now housing the Sam Waller Museum, retains considerable exterior integrity along with significant interior features, and is a notable local landmark.

## The Pas Post Office

161 Fischer Avenue



### Heritage Value Statement

The Pas Post Office (1932) is the primary site associated with postal delivery in The Pas, and a landmark in the town centre. The building is a fine example in brick and stone of Depression-era government architecture in a pared-down Art Deco-influenced neo-Gothic style. The parapet features tower-like projections that emphasize the public service areas of the building, and provide architectural impact to the prominent corner on which the building stands. Stone detailing introduces further visual interest and emphasizes the entrances, with the building's title in French over one door and English over the other.

## Provincial Building

Corner Ross and Third Street West



### Heritage Value Statement

The Pas Provincial Building (1958-59; second floor 1969-70) was the Province's first administrative headquarters for the North, built at a time when that area was becoming a focus for greater provincial interest and activity. The building, designed by the Winnipeg firm of Moody and Moore, is a good early example, in a northern urban centre, of the kind of Modernist buildings characteristic of the 1950s. With its minimalist approach, flat roofline and straight edges with brick wall surfaces and window bands with aluminum framing and panelling, and with its façade recessed behind the extended side walls to emphasize its non-load-bearing nature, the building is a fine expression of the Mid-century Modernist aesthetic.

## Charlebois Chapel

42 First Street West



### Heritage Value Statement

The first Roman Catholic church in the North, Charlebois Chapel (1897) is an inspiring symbol of the resolve and perseverance that propelled early Roman Catholic missionary activity in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The chapel became a base from which Ovide Charlebois, Oblate missionary and later vicar apostolic of Keewatin and titular bishop of Berenice, undertook pioneering outreach among the region's Aboriginal peoples, dedicating his life to addressing their spiritual, medical and educational needs. His modest chapel is a true product of the North, built with his own labour using logs floated down the Saskatchewan River from Cumberland House and glass and shingles brought from Prince Albert. Succeeded by a new facility in 1918, the restored chapel, the second oldest structure in The Pas, is an enduring link to the work of a beloved bishop.

## Christ Church Anglican and Cemetery

2 Saskatchewan Crescent

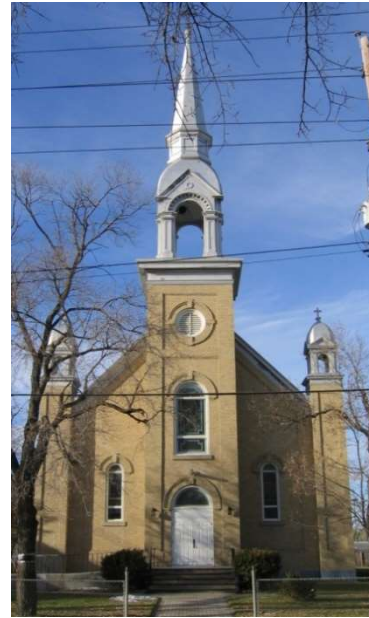


### Heritage Value Statement

The oldest extant building in The Pas, Christ Church is an important connection to the town's pre-modern history and to the roots of the Anglican Church in Manitoba's north. Christ Church Anglican (1896) is a modest frame church in the Gothic Revival style, with an open belfry, frame buttresses and an articulated apse. The spare interior features stained glass windows and hand-carved pews, railing, pulpit, baptismal font, prayer desk and tablets that came from the original church. Most of this woodwork was carved by Robert McKie and James McLaren, carpenters with the Richardson Relief Party overwintering en route to the arctic in search of the Sir John Franklin expedition. The original church was built in 1846 under the direction of the Reverend James Hunter and of Henry Budd, who was later ordained as North America's first Aboriginal Church of England clergyman, and who translated Anglican prayer books and scripture into Cree. He is buried in the churchyard.

## Roman Catholic Cathedral

42 First Street West



### Heritage Value Statement

Valued for its striking architecture, with its spire making it a landmark, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cathedral (1922) is also important as the mother church of the vast northern archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart is a substantial basilica-plan brick church in the Quebec Style, with elegant brick details, a central tower and spire, two side towers on the liturgical west front and a beautiful barrel-vaulted interior in the Baroque style with painted decoration. The building has a high level of physical integrity, inside and out. Bishop Ovide Charlebois, founding bishop of the archdiocese, is buried here.

## The Pas Railway Building

329 Hazelwood Avenue



### Heritage Value Statement

The Pas Canadian National Railway Station (1928), rare in its use of multi-coloured brick, is an important physical reminder of the crucial rôle of the railway in the development of northern Manitoba. Its hipped roof, with dormers centred on both long sides, and its deep eaves with plain but elegant brackets, make it a typical example of the so-called Second Class railway stations built in many centres by the Canadian National Railway, many of which do not survive. The example in The Pas is in good condition and still in use as a station for VIA Rail. It has been designated under Canada's Railway Stations Protections Act.

## Northern Mail Building

114 Third Street



### Heritage Value Statement

The Northern Mail building (1928-29) was the home of the community's primary newspaper from 1928 to 1964. It is one of the few substantial commercial buildings still extant from this period of rapid growth in The Pas, which saw the town develop as an important centre of distribution for the North. Dark-painted cornerboards and trim provide visual interest to what would otherwise be an unornamented commercial building, and the pedimented parapet gives gravitas to the building and its tenant.

## Lido Theatre

220 Edwards Avenue



### Heritage Value Statement

The Lido Theatre (1929-30) is one of very few surviving atmospheric movie theatres in Canada, and almost certainly unique in having remained in the same family, operating without interruption since first opening. The exterior, with its tapestry brick and arched second-floor window surrounds, is an attractive part of the streetscape, but the theatre interior is strikingly dramatic – patrons find themselves in a Spanish courtyard under a starry sky that is a wholly unexpected conclusion to the plainer exterior. An orchestra pit and dressing rooms allowed the theatre to be used for live performances, as was typically the case in that period. The theatre was designed by Max Blankstein, who designed several theatres in Winnipeg including the Uptown (now Academy Bowling Lanes), which was built a year or two later but has lost its atmospheric interior. The heritage character of the Lido has been lovingly maintained over four generations, and the theatre stands as a reminder of a time when going to the movies was a special event.

## Bank of Commerce

162 Fischer Avenue



### Heritage Value Statement

The dignified Bank of Commerce Building (1912), with its broad businesslike Neo-Classical facade, is an excellent Manitoba example of the prefabricated branches opened across the West by the Canadian Bank of Commerce as it competed for clients among a rapidly-growing settler population in the early 1900s. Using a few standardized plans by Darling and Pearson of Toronto, and manufactured building components made by the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Co., the bank could respond quickly and economically to the development of new towns, establishing branches that conveyed a consistent corporate identity and often were the most imposing commercial buildings in their locales. More than 70 such buildings were constructed in western Canada. The facility at The Pas, which retains considerable integrity and is situated in the heart of the business district, is a roomy, high-ceilinged structure with upper-storey residential space that once housed bank clerks. Closed as a bank in 1937, the site has since accommodated office and residential uses, including noted lawyers John Archibald Campbell and D’Arcy Bancroft.

## Bancroft House

343 Larose Avenue



### Heritage Value Statement

The Bancroft House (1921-22) is one of a series of grand houses in the Craftsman style built on Larose Avenue in the 1920s. It has strong connections to the growing northern mining industry through its first owner, George R. Bancroft, who owned the house until the late-1920s, and to the RCMP, which used the building as a detachment and commissioner's residence for a number of years after 1928. The Bancroft House is a two-storey, gable-fronted, frame house with a striking, two-storey glassed-in porch across the front. It has a high degree of physical integrity, and retains its original fireplace, staircase, interior doors and trim, as well as its exterior shingle-cladding and some original windows.

## Finger House

303 First Street East



### Heritage Value Statement

The Finger House (1917) was the residence of Herman Finger, and as such is noted as the primary site associated with the Finger Lumber Company (later The Pas Lumber Company), of which he was the founder in 1910. Finger, who also served as mayor, was instrumental in persuading the government to route the Hudson Bay Railway through The Pas, which crucially connected the town to points south and made it an entrepot for the north. The Finger House is a substantial Four-square style frame building of two storeys and a hipped roof with a central dormer at the front and rear. A porch runs across the front and one side.

## Doroshenko House

55 First Street East



### Heritage Value Statement

The Doroshenko House (1929-30) is the best remaining example of the typical house built for workers at the lumber mill in the neighbourhood known as “Fingerville.” The building is a frame-storey-and-a-half gable-fronted house with a glassed-in porch. Modest but pleasant, such company housing was once a common adjunct to mills and factories. While many Fingerville houses remain, most have been heavily altered. The Doroshenko house has good exterior integrity, and helps to tell the story of an important economic engine in the development of The Pas, and of what life was like for workers at the mill.

## Dion House

Corner Larose Avenue and Third Street West



### Heritage Value Statement

The Dion House (ca. 1930) is an excellent example of the kind of architectural ambitions that could attend the design and construction of some houses in The Pas. With its dramatic roof shape, open verandah and Arts and Crafts details, the building is a notable presence along xxx street. Carefully maintained over the years, the house has impressive levels of physical integrity.

# Pashby House

Larose Avenue



## **Heritage Value Statement**

The Pashby House (ca. 1940) is a small but exuberant design, a reminder that even on a small scale some residents of The Pas were determined to create a home that was efficient, reasonably-priced, but also delightful to look at. With its high complex roof shape, dormer, and many windows, the house certainly achieves that status. The house also boasts excellent levels of physical integrity, recalling the kinds of materials used nearly 100 years ago, and also of the skills of the craftsmen how put the parts together.