AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPES OF MANITOBA

BY

ALLAN J. BEECH

A Practicum Report
Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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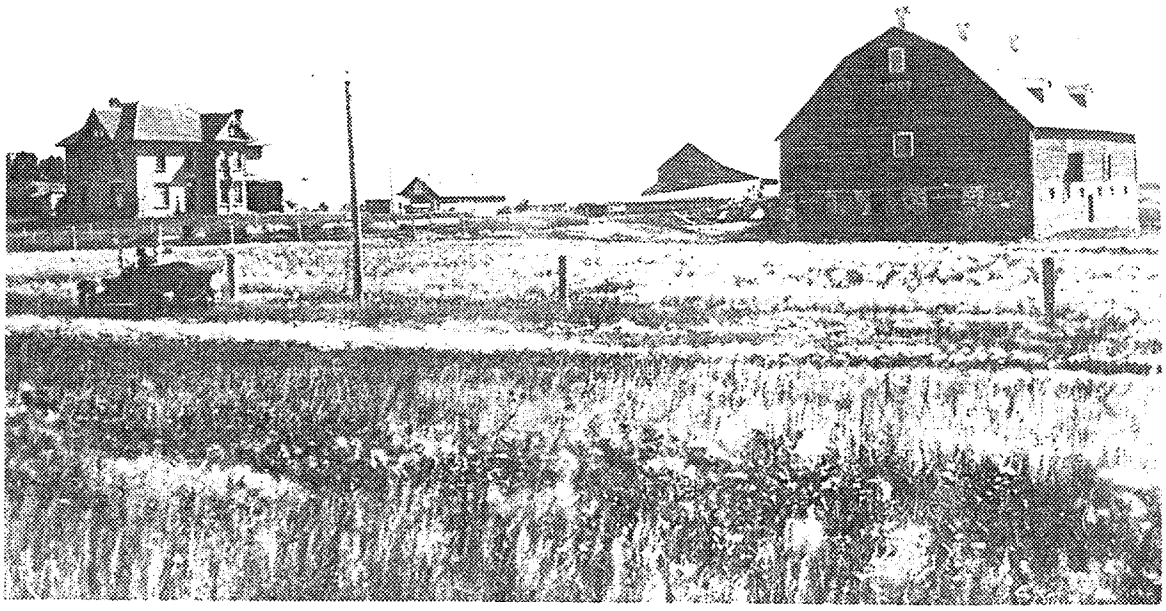

Shaver Farm, Killarney 1916. (Manitoba Provincial Archives, Jessop Collection #148)

ABSTRACT

This practicum report discusses the selection and preparation of material for a series of panels interpreting historic landscapes in Manitoba. The panels introduce and define historic landscapes, and present a sample of Manitoba sites to demonstrate the breadth of our patrimony. Human activities are considered as processes which modify landscapes, over time, in characteristic ways. The variety of evidence that may identify or be associated with a historic landscape is introduced. Arguments are presented to explain the significant contribution historic landscapes make to our heritage resources, and to encourage individual pursuit and enjoyment of landscape appraisal. A selection of historic landscapes are explored more fully to clearly demonstrate their nature to a lay public.

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction and Definition

The study of historic landscapes is rapidly emerging as a special field within the discipline of landscape architecture. Much of this interest is related to the general trend among historians and administrators of heritage resources, to document and interpret broader themes. Preservation activity in the past tended to focus on examples of high style design - the legacy of a wealthy and cultured minority, or to high visibility sites with obvious links to a heroic past - fortifications established in defence of sovereignty and commercial enterprise, such as the fur trade in Canada's interior. A more balanced record of heritage resources is considered necessary to reflect the "achievements and lifestyle of our ancestors" (Environment Canada Parks, 1982). Efforts are being made in particular, to research and recognize social and industrial aspects of our history.

Landscape has become important both in a supportive role and in its own right. The establishment of period, historical environments in association with heritage artifacts, greatly enhances the interpretation and perception of 'the way things were' in such sites. More importantly though, wherever people live, work, travel or play, they use and leave an impression of their activities on the land. These imprints are tangible records of peoples activities and are worthy of our attention as heritage resources themselves.

Lack of a common heritage vocabulary amongst landscape practitioners has contributed to a late entry and integration with the preservation field. The American Society of Landscape Architects, through its Committee on Historic Preservation, has put on a substantial effort to promote the development and use of a standardized glossary. Based on their efforts three broad categories of landscape can be recognized in Canada. These are the natural, designed and cultural landscapes.

Natural or indigenous landscapes have been minimally affected by human activity. Canada is fortunate to have vast areas of such land under its jurisdiction. They are a vital part of our heritage resources. Indeed, it is part of our National and Provincial Park Systems' mandates to preserve examples representative of all biogeographic regions. These landscapes generally lie outside the scope of historic landscape inventories, but are useful as benchmarks against which modifications can be gauged.

Designed landscapes were purposefully planned to accommodate specific needs or activities. Planning was conducted by someone whose vocation was based on such activity. Though they occur at many scales, designed landscapes account for only a small part of the modified environment.

Cultural landscapes are those which have evolved from habitual patterns of use. They reflect the beliefs, technologies and lifestyles of the people who used them and are by far the most prevalent type of landscape.

The distinction between designed and cultural landscapes is not always great and together they form the pool from which most historic landscapes may be nominated. To wit, if a site contributes to our understanding of people, events or periods in the record of human use of landscape, it may be considered a historic landscape. Further definition can be given with a set of historic landscape criteria:

1) a site contributes to our understanding of past people, events or periods

because

2) the landscape has been modified by people, either by design or through evolving use, and characteristics representative of that use have survived to the present day with some integrity

or

3) the landscape provides an actual setting in which we can reach a greater appreciation of a historic event or activity - the location is the same , and our sense of the place close to what it would have been, at the time of the historic focus

It is important to clarify, that the landscape itself makes a contribution to our appreciation of the past.

1.1 Historic Landscape Recognition in Manitoba

Work on historic landscapes in Manitoba is relatively advanced compared to progress in other provinces. Enabling, or protective, legislation in the form of the 1986 - Heritage Resources Act is in place and landscape representatives were able to participate in its formulation. Under this Act and the revised Planning Act [which would include provisions for establishing conservation districts], designated sites should be well cared for. There has also been productive work towards establishing inventory and designation procedures. A small, historic landscapes working group has been struck, drawing representation from the University of Manitoba's Department of Landscape Architecture faculty, the Manitoba Association of Landscape Architects, and staff from Manitoba's Historic Resources Branch. One of the accomplishments of this group, has been the inclusion of landscape questions on the province's historic architecture survey form.

In a way however, this is symptomatic of the problems faced in trying to get historic landscapes under the heritage resources umbrella. The official inventory document for recording landscape information is a one page addendum to an architectural resources tool. Cultural landscapes or large scale projects are not easily accommodated by this circumstance and may be overlooked entirely unless building artifacts are associated with the site. Field work is also executed for the Historic Resources Branch by archaeological survey teams. In the past, examination and interpretation of surficial remains alone has not been perceived to be part of an archaeologist's mandate. Landscape needs fall between these two teams; architecture and archaeology. The desirability of integrating activities at the Historic Resources Branch has been recognized in their own discussion papers. Until this can be achieved, landscape resources will not receive adequate recognition.

Compounding these problems, is the nature of landscapes themselves. A landscape is neither static nor a discrete object. It may be best thought of as "a network of dynamic processes" (Howett, 1987). While historic landscapes do contain hard, architectonic elements, they also feature living material which is especially subject to the vagaries of time, the elements, and human activity - change is a fundamental part of landscape character. In addition, historic landscapes must function as contemporary environments and as such can never be faithfully accurate to what was. The controlled environment of a preserved historic site, still requires parking areas, interpretive media and other visitor

service facilities. More typically, cultural landscapes, such as historic districts, involve areas in which many people continue to live and work. Such parts of our heritage cannot be frozen. This is just the way things are and should be accepted as part of the richness of landscape - it forms a continuous record unlike 'object' type heritage artifacts. What we preserve, adapt or eliminate will say something about our lives and times to future generations.

The Manitoba historic landscapes working group has made headway in several areas. A set of definitions and categories tailored to cover the range of landscape activities and uses in the province's history have been drafted. Guidelines on visual evaluation were also produced to accompany the inventory sheet adopted by the Historic Resources Branch. The other major area of endeavor has been awareness development - in particular "sensitizing governmental process to the existence and significance" (Buggey, 1987) of historic landscapes. The work undertaken for this practicum has as its goal, extending such awareness to a broader segment of Manitoba's citizenry.

1.2 Objectives - Awareness Development

Structures to designate and protect historic landscapes now exist in the province of Manitoba. Though a methodology to inventory environments or landscapes has not been adequately resolved, progress will come with experience and regular review. My concern is that there is poorly developed awareness about the potential inherent in recognizing such resources. Few nominations under the Heritage Resource Legislation will be forthcoming if the possibilities are not understood. At a more fundamental level, widespread commemoration or protection of landscapes by jurisdiction is neither a realistic nor a desirable goal. Rather, the public should be encouraged and motivated to appreciate what landscapes can 'tell' them at a personal level. We need a hint or some suggestion of the character and activities of the past - a palette with which the imagination can bring to life how past generations lived. Readily visible use of the land has a short history in our region, two centuries perhaps vs. twenty in Europe where generation after generation of people have done the same things in the same places and have adapted inherited landscapes slowly. In western Canada there is still something of a pioneering attitude towards nature and the land, and contemporary technology provides powerful tools to effect rapid and

extensive change. What do we want to save for future generations? Preserved environments can give a compelling but distorted sense of history. Fragments however are essential as reminders of what it is to be human. **The goal of this practicum work then, is to promote popular interest in and understanding of historic landscapes in Manitoba.**

1.3 Methodology

The principal component of the practicum is a series of six interpretive display panels which will be available to institutions and organizations for events related to the fields of heritage resources and landscape. There are three introductory panels which discuss the concept of historic landscapes and their place in Manitoba's heritage. To establish a sense of their variety, a large number of annotated illustrations are included. The three remaining panels focus on specific examples of historic landscapes. The panel series is not intended to be comprehensive and should be considered prototypical in nature.

Preparation for the panels began with a review of literature on the application of heritage philosophy to landscape issues. A second line of inquiry focused on regionally specific literature to gain familiarity with the course of human activity in the area now comprising Manitoba. The research included an evaluation of thematic structures developed to organize this regional history. Integration of material from the literature review is discussed more fully in Chapter Two - Panel Development. Individuals involved in the documentation and promotion of cultural heritage in the province were consulted to determine the current status of inventories and documentation of historic landscapes in Manitoba, and awareness of heritage resources in government and public domains. An outline of issues to be addressed, and a list of historic landscape examples were then drafted.

A series of field trips were made in southwest Manitoba to establish a better personal sense of the cultural landscapes in the area, and to document the region photographically. This area has a particularly rich history of human occupation, and had not previously been travelled by the author. Section roads were cruised with *The Ghost Towns of Manitoba* (Mulligan and Ryder, 1985) in hand, rail lines followed, and agricultural settlements, like the Mennonite villages in the West Reserve, were visited.

Preliminary concepts and material were presented in a slide illustrated lecture at the Manitoba History Conference, May 12, 1988 and repeated as a guest lecture to the Manitoba Historical Society. A transcript of the lecture is held by Manitoba Historical Society / Archives and Special Collections, University of Manitoba Libraries under the title "Historic Landscapes in the Province of Manitoba", *Proceedings 1st Manitoba History Conference*. An invitation to discuss the topic in a pre-recorded interview for radio broadcast was also accepted and a studio recording was made in May of 1988. This was part of a series, called "Feature File," a public service project of the University of Manitoba. Programs are distributed to rural Manitoba radio stations for broadcast.

These early opportunities to present the content of an awareness development program were useful in a number of respects. Foremost, they contributed to the overall goal of public education. Through these meetings, genuine interest was shown in the topic, and people supported the merits of a travelling interpretive display. The commitment to present publicly also forced a review of the scope and level of material to be brought forward. The original outline for the panels included using a systematic structure to illustrate the variety of historic landscape types. This would have been similar to the thematic tool developed for the Historic Resources Branch. It became apparent however, that such an approach would take too long to explain, is potentially self limiting, and an operational version for landscapes has yet to be resolved. The content of the introductory panels was revised as a result. The focus was now on encouraging people to look for, and to evaluate, the historic aspect in any landscape. Further discussion of the evolution in panel content is found in Chapter Two.

With the objectives of the panels clarified, a more detailed phase of research was initiated. The focused panel topics (Assiniboine Park, Mennonite Village Settlements and Mound Building), were chosen to illustrate variety in activity, culture and period. There was strong consensus as to their significant place in Manitoba's heritage and reliable documentation was available , although not widely disseminated. Editing for the large number of examples used in the introductory panels was not so clear-cut or objective. The images and their annotations were to augment the main text; to actually show where people lived, worked and played, for example. Variety as defined above, was still a factor. Because so little work has been done on this subject in Manitoba however, there was no

certainty of finding good quality illustrations. Archive catalogues were of limited value because the clearest depictions of a historic landscape / scene may often be found in quite unrelated files. (Cross-referencing cannot hope to pick up on all specialized interests). Extensive browsing of photo archives was found to be necessary, guided loosely by the list of historic landscape examples, and enough general knowledge of Manitoba history to recognize a gift when it was serendipitously encountered.

One panel (Assiniboine Park) was selected as a prototype, and completed early to test layout and technical details. The number and dimensions of columns, font selection and the proportion of printed text to graphic material was resolved. Thereafter, texts for the panels were prepared by outlining critical points and writing to the space available. The amount of information presented is more than is usually found on public, interpretive plaques. Because of the large number of illustrations, the panels invite a certain amount of scanning and jumping to an interesting looking bit, hopefully sustaining the reader's attention. Critical information is in large print; interesting but less critical information was relegated to figure annotations, capable of standing on its own. These pieces contribute to the complete story, but the important messages are not lost if some of the annotations are skipped.

CHAPTER 2
PANEL DEVELOPMENT

2.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the processes of selecting and packaging appropriate material for presentation to the targeted audience. As a first step, an extensive literature review was undertaken in two general areas. These were: preservation philosophy and history of settlement / landscape modification in Manitoba. Selected titles from this review are listed in the attached bibliography. Works in preservation philosophy represent contemporary international attitudes about heritage issues and these were reviewed with an eye to consensus on fundamentals. Issues necessary to developing awareness among lay individuals were extracted to form the framework for the panel series. Works in the history of settlement / landscape modification in Manitoba category served to guide the selection of representative historic landscape types for the province and as resource material for specific examples of historic landscapes in Manitoba. This area of research also included reviews of thematic structures which have been developed to organize and identify regional heritage issues and sites.

2.1 Series Content

To be effective, a stand alone presentation must engage a viewer and introduce the material in a manner conducive to sustaining interest. The style in which this was approached is discussed under the "Format" heading. The content, or editing of material, is the first priority. The issues and concepts being presented will be new to most people. It is likely and indeed desirable that many will recognize some of the subjects - specific places or ones similar to illustrated types - it is the way in which these subjects are being described that is novel. Some of the labels or vocabulary related to the material will also be familiar but poorly understood. Indeed, public notions of what constitutes "landscape" and "heritage preservation" may involve gross misconceptions.

The text must define as early as possible what constitutes "landscape" and, in the context of this series, what are "historic landscapes"? The literature on heritage issues does not currently demonstrate a common vocabulary and a discussion of the variations in interpretation is well beyond the scope of this series. It is more important to provide a simple and clear viewpoint and be consistent throughout the presentation. As the material is regionally specific - the Province of Manitoba - and an introduction of regional programs and statutes forms a part of the series, definitions should be in accord with the province's work in this area.

Historic landscapes have value whatever their legal status. The series should discuss the value of heritage resources to society and the individual. Why are historic landscapes important to know about, to recognize and to conserve? Everyone should be encouraged to pursue and enjoy "reading" the landscape on their own. Our strongest connections are to places with which we and our families have direct personal association. Recognition of such places can stir strong emotional feelings, help explain who we are and where we came from. Some places will have this significance for many people - a collective value. Such values in a changing and pluralistic society will never be entirely shared however. Through ignorance, economic or political actions the very qualities of a "place" to which we respond and which make it special, can be irrevocably damaged or lost. Preservation is not an imperative for all things old, nor is it the banner of an hysterical, obstructive minority. In cases which warrant intervention, places of outstanding or unique significance can be placed under protective jurisdiction. Provincial Heritage Resource Legislation exists to protect sites for all our benefit. Designation is insurance against too rapid and poorly planned change.

People should be made aware of the existing heritage resource legislation and encouraged to correspond with representatives of provincial and federal heritage organizations for more information, or to forward nomination possibilities. Ultimately, living with a better understanding of our environment and encouraging others to appreciate these values is a more important long term goal.

The other major issues to address in fulfilling the objectives of the panel series are: how to recognize historic landscapes and how to evaluate the quality of the surviving landscape? A great deal of energy has been spent by protagonists of heritage resources on 'catalogue development' for their subject matter. Just as there is no consensus on heritage vocabulary, ideas about what qualifies as a historic landscape / garden / site are continually evolving. An introduction to locally appropriate "thematic structures" is warranted in this report, as they are useful tools to organize examples for possible interpretation, and facilitate good housekeeping on the part of provincial heritage resource administrators. In a way, wrestling with category structure as a component of presentation for this practicum demonstrated that a simpler, more fundamental methodology would be best for answering the 'how' questions to a lay public.

Two major "thematic structures", developed to organize the history of human activity in the prairie region, were reviewed. The first of these, by Marchak (1986), was specifically directed at "identifying the major themes which were and still are involved in landscape development". This structure is based on a model prepared by R. L. Gentilcore, in 1978, for Parks Canada. The original work had a national scope. Marchak's focus was region specific and he tailored the theme elements to reflect the human history of the prairies. The structure is pyramidal with a basic set of themes, each with their own sub-themes and theme segments. The basic elements of this model are illustrated in Table 1. The structure is compressed when dealing with entry and settlement phases of aboriginal peoples and later European arrivals. As the extent of landscape modification by human activity increases, expanded themes are introduced. Using this structure, Marchak was able to inventory the existing status of recognition and commemoration for historic landscapes in the Prairie Provinces.

The second thematic structure was commissioned by the provincial Historic Resources Branch. Mott and Friesen (1987) drafted a structure following the premise that it should "facilitate both the accumulation and communication of knowledge of Manitoba's past". This scheme uses three primary categories: Economic History; Political History; Social and Cultural History. Each of these has themes, as shown in Table 2., and may be further defined by sub-themes and elements of sub-themes. Entries are assigned to a Chronologic Period and Geographic Region to specifically locate them in time and space.

Table 1. Thematic Structure Described by Marchak: (1986).

THEMES	SUBTHEMES
Native Legacy	1. Post Glacial Entry 2. Post Glacial Settlement 3. Arctic Entry and Settlement 4. Post - Contact Native Settlement
European Entry & Settlement	1. Fur Trade 2. Organizing the Land 3. Group Settlements 4. Delimitation and Defence
Resource Utilization	1. Farming the Land 2. Using the Forest 3. Mining 4. Hunting 5. Resource Conservation
Transport	1. Inland Transportation 2. High Speed Transport 3. Communication
Urbanization	1. Commercial Centres

note - Marchak stopped at 1920...

Table 2. Thematic Structure Described by Mott and Friesen: (1987).

CATEGORIES	THEMES
Economic History	a. Subsistence industries b. Primary industries c. Secondary industries d. Tertiary industries
Political History	a. Institutions of government b. Important government functions, political issues and public affairs c. Important organizations
Social and Cultural History	a. Domestic life b. Religious life c. Teaching and learning d. Art e. Recreation and Celebration f. Suffering and Healing g. Advancing knowledge h. Death

The in-house thematic structure of Historic Resources' is the more comprehensive model, as it combines a generic but complete coverage of human activity in the province with specific referential information. This system facilitates review of archive holdings and new research directions for completeness of the coverage of human history in Manitoba. The Marchak system is more activity oriented and introduces time period only as the basic chronology of the theme headings. Serious overlaps occur at a very basic level of the structures hierarchy. Resource utilization and transport elements, for example, form a part of native legacy. To be fair, duplication will occur in any scheme to categorize. For a landscape practitioner, Marchak's breakdown of human activity is more accessible. Mott and Friesen are historians first and the structure titles they have used are not commonly used by heritage architecture researchers, archaeologists and period landscape architects.

As part of the development work for this practicum, it was necessary to establish a list of historic landscape examples which could be used to illustrate various points to be made in the presentation. Examples were compiled from Provincially designated Historic and Archaeological Sites and National Historic Parks and Sites lists (many of these were included in the Marchak, 1986 inventory); from suggestions made by University of Manitoba Department of Landscape Architecture faculty; and from possibilities which emerged from readings of Manitoba history.

The early versions of this list were organized on the lines of the Marchak thematic structure. Marchak's chronology stops at 1920 however and the growing list included landscapes more contemporary than this. It was also apparent that this work should, if possible, be consistent with the directions being taken by Manitoba's Historic Resources Branch. A revised list (Table 3.) was prepared, which applied the Mott and Friesen "Geographic Region" and "Chronologic Period" appellations.

Table 3. SELECTION LIST FOR HISTORIC LANDSCAPE EXAMPLES

The list is organized by 'Geographic Region' and each entry can be further defined by indicating in which 'Chronologic Period(s)' the landscape appeared/evolved. These periods are keyed as follows:

i)	Late Prehistoric	v)	1901 - 1930
ii)	1640 - 1821	vi)	1930 - 1960
iii)	1821 - 1881	vii)	1960 -
iv)	1881 - 1901		

Hudson Bay Lowland

-northern (Thule) rock structures
-fur trade posts and fortifications (Fort Prince of Wales, York Factory)
-Hudson Bay Railway

Boreal Forest/Shield

-petroglyphs/petroforms (boulder mosaics, southeastern Man.)
-salt extraction, metals (Mandy mine 1916 - copper)
-hydro projects (dams, impoundments, transmission lines - Point du Bois)
-Hudson Bay Railway

Lakes and Interlake

-fur trade posts and fortifications (Norway House)
-E. European Jews settlement patterns (Bender village - medieval strassendorf)
-Icelandic " " (Riverton, Gimli)
-fishing industry (Gimli, George Island, Warren landing, Hecla)
-water routes, landings and portages (E & W Mossy Portages
Grand Rapids Tramway, St. Andrews Locks), river steamers and barges

Prairie/Parkland

-bison jump / pound (Stott Site / Assiniboine Valley)
-**linear mounds** (burial site, southwestern Man.) [i]
-native seasonal camps/trading post camps (Lower Fort Garry)
-agricultural mission (St. Peter's)
-fur trade posts and fortifications (Lower Fort Garry)
-provincial borders (Canada / U.S. Boundary Commission Survey, "postage stamp" prov.)
-sectional grid (Dominion Land Survey - principal meridian marker, field patterns etc.)
-**Mennonite settlement patterns** (Neubergthal, Old Bergfeld) [iii, iv, v]
-Ukrainian " " (Gardenton, four - corner homesteading)
-Anglo/Ontarian " " (Morden district)

Table 3. SELECTION LIST FOR HISTORIC LANDSCAPE EXAMPLES (cont'd)

Prairie/Parkland

-limestone quarries and kilns (Stonewall, Tyndall / Garson)
-agricultural patterns - crop selection, harvesting, fallow, storage, irrigation, drainage ditching, shelterbelt planting
-research stations, nurseries and nurserymen (Brandon, Morden, F.L. Skinner, A.P. Stevenson, H.L. Patmore, W.J. Boughen)
-drainage channels and diversions (Floodway)
-brick factory (Neepawa, Learys)
-sand & gravel pits
-resource conservation/recreation (R.M.N.P. Clearlake townsite)
-trails (Pembina Trail, River Road, post road)
-rail route, elevator / town spacing, station gardens (Dauphin, Virden)
-telegraph / telephone network
-river steamers and barges
-residential neighborhood (Brandon)
-popular culture (Centennial projects, Perry Park)
-sports landscapes (ball fields, golf courses)
-landscape kitsch (giant symbols, world claims)
-military landscapes (training fields, bases)
-penitentiaries (Stony Mountain, Headingly)
-symbolic (International Peace Gardens, Darlingford Memorial)

Greater Winnipeg

-fur trade posts and fortifications (Fort Douglas)
-battle site (Seven Oaks)
-river lot (St. Norbert, North Point Douglas...extant street patterns)
-landfill sites
-rail yards, bridges
-retention ponds
-boulevard tree planting program (Broadway Ave.)
-planned residential (Tuxedo Park, Wildwood Park)
-**suburban park** (Assiniboine Park, Kildonan Park, King Edward Park) [v]
-warehouse district
-Legislative Grounds
-Churchyard gardens (St. Lukes Anglican)
-cemeteries (Brookside, St. Norbert, St. Peters)
-landmark sites (Portage & Main, Portage & William re. Bloody Sat.Winnipeg general strike 1919 / Victoria Park, Seven Oaks)

Although fine for organizing a selection list, or inventory, the Mott and Friesen structure appeared less attractive as a vehicle for introducing concepts of historic landscape recognition and evaluation. Another possibility lay in simple, descriptive categories, a method used in the draft documents of the Manitoba Historic Landscapes Working Group (1986) and more recently by the authors of *Heritage Landscapes in British Columbia* (1989). The Manitoba group had seven basic categories which could be sub-defined. These were: Open Spaces; Residential Landscapes; Industrial & Commercial Landscapes; Institutional Landscapes; Agricultural Landscapes; Corridor Landscapes; Historic Associations; and Pre-historic (Pre-contact) Landscapes. Such a list, with sub-headings, readily lends itself to visualization of the landscapes or places involved because it is based on a description of landscape type - elemental landscapes which many people will be familiar with. The British Columbia document also used a typological approach and presented a more extensive (sixteen entries) and simplified list of categories. The list was selected to represent the diversity of historic landscapes in that province and could in fact have been much longer.

This is of course the nature of list making. Where do you stop? How many "types" do you need to make your point? What do <u>all</u> types have in common? In this case, they describe a sub-set of historic landscapes which are, fundamentally, a tangible record of peoples activities. If more elaboration is required, it could follow along the lines of:

1) Where people live: settlement patterns, homesteads,yards ...
2) How they get around: trails, tracks, locks & canals ...
3) What they do: (i) vocation ...
   (ii) interests, beliefs, cultural expressions ...

As a guide to recognition of historic landscapes, thinking about and describing how people live on and use the land is the simplest and potentially most effective means of display. Typology , presented as a list, imposes limits which do not exist. By posing simple questions and learning to think about a new subject, people may take away with them the insight to recognize historic value in landscapes they encounter. For the presentation, the concept of 'type' will be introduced as it relates to the range of human activity which has resulted in modifications to the landscape.

Any particular activity will have a characteristic set of imprints. The extent to which these survive in contemporary environments will vary widely. Those landscapes which still have legible imprints and express something of their past have good heritage potential. Evidence of past modifications may take a variety of forms. These can be summed up in four basic criteria. When evaluating a modified landscape, things to look for include:

1) Organization: pattern, enclosure, contextual relationship ...
2) Physical Elements: structures, furnishings, plants, water elements ...
3) Perceptual (Aesthetic) Qualities: views, sounds, smells ...
4) Intangible Qualities: symbolism, spiritual, associative, emotive ...

The full measure of a landscape's historic value, may not be discernable from a survey of the site alone. Value is related to how representative of, or distinct to, a: style, period, region or culture, a particular site is. The uniqueness of a site relative to all known similar examples, is also a factor in establishing significance. Then are those intangible qualities noted above, which require some foreknowledge for them to come into play. The importance of some sites, lies in their association with a past figure, activity or event. A contemporary landscape can trigger deeper appreciation for that past, if it still has the features or characteristics which formed a part of the original setting. Historical fact is no longer detached and distant - a passage of text. It has a place, just where you are standing now, that can be experienced with all the senses. It is important that anyone interested in historic landscapes, appreciate these aspects which require evaluation but are not a visible part of the actual site.

2.2 Series Format

The panel series is intended to be an introductory, self administered interpretive package. It is anticipated that it will be used chiefly for short term exhibit and should therefore be capable of easy transport and assembly. The series will be suited for use at special events, regional community functions, local museums or any gathering related to heritage or landscape issues. The information will be presented to viewers assumed to have an open mind and some interest in heritage issues, but no familiarity with the concepts of historic landscapes.

The style of material presentation will have a great affect on the success of communicating the desired messages. Contemporary marketing through television and printed media, has accustomed the public to sophisticated packaging of information. A combination of text and illustrations will be considered essential. Material should be presented in short, well illustrated discrete blocks versus long, verbose texts. The presentation must be clear and accessible. For example, the introduction should include a generous number of engaging images; a sampling from which most people will recognize something and establish a connection to the subject. For continuity, a simple column layout should be used for all the panels in the series. This structure permits flexibility in the arrangement of text and images, but ensures that the series reads as a whole. A similar rational applies to the selection of a font style and set of font sizes and the type and quality of graphic material. The font must be simple and sized for legibility at a distance and by the moderately visually impaired

Equally critical is the editing of material to be presented. Table 4. lists some do's and don'ts compiled for guidelines in the preparation of commemorative plaques. Although such markers tend to be associated directly with a specific site or event and are limited in the scope of information to be presented, the recommendations are quite suitable to this study. In particular: answer basic questions; check the accuracy of information; don't assume viewer familiarity; "be concise".

[Technical Notes on the panels as constructed]

30" x 40" panels. Four column layout, images sized horizontally to fit multiples of column width (6 1/4' with 1/2" spacing). Mixture of line and continuous tone artwork. Text formated and printed on Macintosh hardware; Times font in 18, 30, 60 & 96pt sizes. No colour prints to avoid archival problems and to facilitate reduction and duplication. Mylar 3080's made of paste-up artwork, and resin coated paper photographs used for dimensional stability and durability. Mounted on 3/8th" foamcore for good stiffness / weight ratio.

Table 4. Recommended "do's" and "don'ts" to assist in the drafting of a marker inscription. (Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation, How - To Series 1: p.5).

Do's:

- Research the subject for commemoration prior to drafting an inscription using as many documents as are readily available. Inscriptions based on personal or communal recollection or oral tradition are often demonstrated to be inaccurate at a later date. Ensure that all facts presented in the inscription are accurate and well established.
- Answer the basic questions: who? what? when? where? and why?
- Make the message interesting, significant, and clearly relevant to the plaque location. Direct quotations from historical sources, where space permits, often provide the reader with greater insight and a better feel for the topic.
- Include a title which clearly explains who or what is being commemorated.
- Consider the development of a bilingual inscription (eg. English / French, English / Ukrainian) where the community's ethnic composition or the subject for commemoration may dictate.
- Be concise. Most plaque inscriptions rarely exceed 100-150 words, this length being dictated by available space on the plaque and by the reader's desire for quick and condensed information.

Don'ts

- Do not assume that visitors will be familiar with local places, personages, and events.
- Avoid introducing editorializations or expressing judgements within the inscription.
- Use superlatives (such as "first", "oldest", "largest") with care. Statements containing these are often open to contradiction.
- Forgo the use of abbreviations; these may not be understood by one unfamiliar with the subject matter.
- Avoid repetition at all cost.

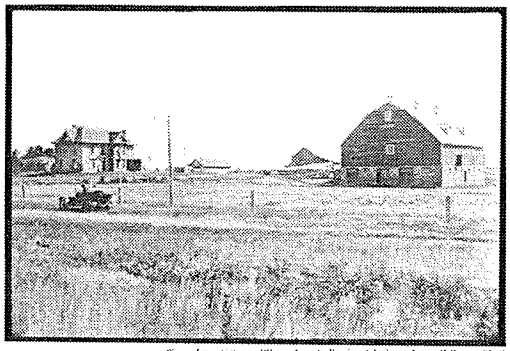
CHAPTER 3
THE PANELS IN DETAIL

3.0 Introduction

Six display panels were prepared for this series. The text for each panel, including annotations for the illustrations, are reproduced in sections 3.1 to 3.6. A reduction of each complete panel precedes the text entries. Some sample illustrations from each panel have been included to accompany the text.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

IN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA



Landscapes are the settings of our lives. They are the environments which shape our activities and in turn are modified by our presence. A historic landscape is a site which contributes to our understanding of past people, events or periods. Some provide a scene in which we can more easily visualize historic events and activities. Most historic landscapes however, bear the mark of human endeavor. Modifications may have been planned, but more commonly they have evolved from habitual patterns of use. These landscapes reflect the beliefs, technologies and lifestyles of the people who used them. In all cases, characteristics representative of the historic activity, have survived to the present day with enough integrity to maintain a sense of that past.

Figure1. Panel 1 - Introduction to Historic Landscapes.

3.1 Historic Landscapes - Defined

HISTORIC LANDSCAPES
IN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Landscapes are the settings of our lives. They are the environments which shape our activities and in turn are modified by our presence. A historic landscape is a site which contributes to our understanding of past people, events or periods. Some provide a scene in which we can more easily visualize historic events and activities. Most historic landscapes however bear the mark of human endeavor. Modifications may have been planned, but more commonly they have evolved from habitual patterns of use. These landscapes reflect the beliefs, technologies and lifestyles of the people who used them. In all cases, characteristics representative of the historic activity have survived to the present day with enough integrity to maintain a sense of that past.

Shaver Farm, Killarney, 1916. (Manitoba Provincial Archives, Jessop Collection #148). (Note: photograph appears as the frontispiece to this report.)

A riverscape along the Assiniboine, in Spruce Woods Provincial Park. This scene remains much the same as it would have appeared 100 years ago. Shaped by natural process alone, such unmodified landscapes are increasingly rare near populated areas of the province. Though not recognized as historic landscapes, they are useful as benchmarks against which changes can be measured, and are a vital part of our heritage resources. (1984, A. Beech) (Figure 2.)

Bison were a mainstay in the lives of early native peoples across the prairies. Hunters took advantage of the bison's herding behavior to drive large numbers of the animals to preselected natural pitfalls and traps. Some kill sites had dramatic cliffs or 'jumps' but in areas with more subdued topography, features like ox-bow lakes or constructed 'pounds' were used to mire or slow the large animals. A hunt based on the selection of areas with appropriate landscape morphology, and enhanced with drive lines and barriers where necessary, represents a significant landscape dependent industry. Such sites today help interpret not only the hunt, but the cultural development and domestic life of native populations. (Historic Resources Branch: Manitoba Culture , Heritage and Recreation) (Figure 3.)

Figure 2. Natural landscape along the Assiniboine River. (1984, A. Beech)

Figure 3. Driving bison over the valley wall. (Historic Resources Branch: Manitoba Culture , Heritage and Recreation)

Wm. Morton Farm, Gladstone, 1916. Ploughing of the prairie soils has led to one of the most extensive areas of modified landscape in the world. Mile after mile of grassland and parkland have been cultivated: trees and scrub were removed, sloughs were drained, and access largely limited to the grid of section line roads. Though equipment and seed varieties have changed, basic agricultural patterns are deeply entrenched and relentlessly similar over an entire geographic region. (Manitoba Provincial Archives, Jessop Collection #194)

A contemporary view of the "English Garden" behind the Museum Building in Wasagaming, Riding Mountain National Park. On first encounter, this neatly kept, picturesque garden, found in the heart of a National natural heritage park, is something of a puzzle. Delightful in its own right today, it is a living clue to the ideology and culture of those who developed the park in the 1930s. At that time, this area was a recreation destination for the elite of Manitoba society - those who could afford to own and to operate a motor vehicle during the Depression years. These people were predominantly Anglo-Canadians, who still held strongly to Victorian values. This garden, and others in the park, used natural materials in a quaint and contrived fashion - nature improved with a touch of the homeland. (1990, A. Beech) (Figure 4.)

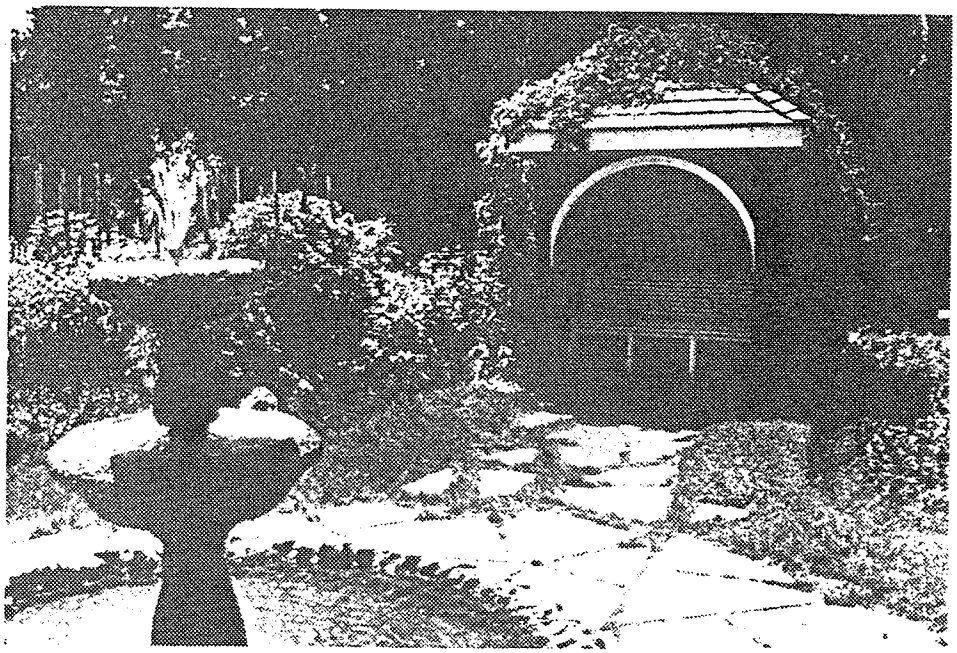
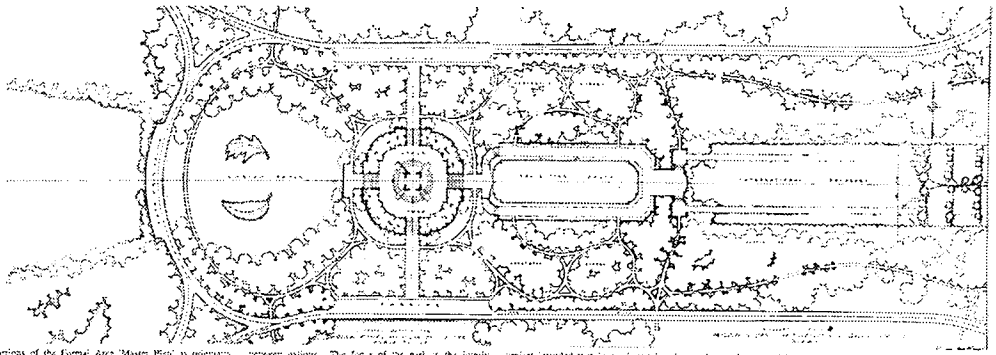


Figure 4. Ornamental garden, Wasagaming R.M.N.P. (1990, A. Beech)

IDENTIFICATION and EVALUATION



Portion of the Formal Area 'Master Plan' as originally conceived and approved in 1916. The International Peace Garden represents a set of ideals and sentiments - friendship between nations. The focus of the park is the jointly developed Formal Area, organized axially along the border between North Dakota and Manitoba. Proponents of the project intended that "nature's machinery" would turn the countryside and the whole prospect would be a "riot of gardens of Eden."

(Courtesy United States Dept. of the Interior National Park Service)

'One easy step to recognize historic landscapes.'

Wherever you go, pause, look and think about the place you are in. It is a reflection of those who occupied the land before you, and its character will evolve further as it comes under the stewardship of successive generations. There is no simple way to categorize historic landscapes. Try instead to imagine how people have occupied and used the land in the past - from everyday activities to special events.

Ask yourself:

- Where did people live?
  settlement patterns, homesteads, yards ...
- How did they get around?
  trails, tracks, forks and roads ...
- What did they do?
  work, recreation, beliefs, celebrations ...

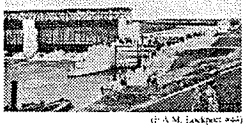
Any particular activity will leave a characteristic set of imprints, evidence of which may take a variety of forms. When evaluating a modified landscape, things to look for include:

1) Organization:
   patterns, relations, conceptual relationships ...
2) Physical Elements:
   earthworks, structures, furnishings, plantings ...
3) Perceptual (Aesthetic) Qualities:
   views, vistas, smells ...
4) Intangible Qualities:
   symbolic, spiritual, expressive, emotive ...

While all landscapes can tell us something about the history of the people associated with them, their importance varies with how clear, unique and representative that historical record is. Is the landscape typical of, or distinct from, a particular style, period, region or culture? Is this the only remaining example, or are there many? Have important characteristic imprints survived in a legible condition?

(P.A.M. Garbutt Collection #215)

A private residence, Selkirk, c.1900. The enclosed and well manicured front yard makes a clear statement about the social status and attributes of the people who lived there. At the far left is a facade, the planting and fenced activities of the residents themselves.

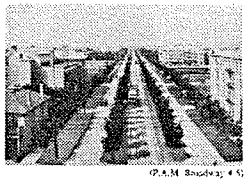


(P.A.M. Landport #444)

Post card picture view of St. Andrews Lock, c.1910. Waterways were a necessity of early transportation in the province. This lock and dam was built so that passenger and freight traffic could negotiate St. Andrews rapids, the only significant Lake Winnipeg factor to inhibit up or down river passengers. Excursion has always been a popular spot for recreational outings. The combination of a "scenery setting" with the historical novelty of boats lowering up and down, continues to be a fascination.

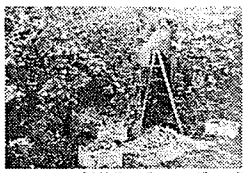
(P.A.M. R.M.N.P. #30)

The 9th Hole of the Riding Mountain National Park golf course, c.1936. Our capacity to modify the landscape is well demonstrated in our pursuit of recreational activities. Through the construction of facilities like golf courses, race tracks, amusement parks and festivals, changes with the nature of the activity, the need to play increasingly leads to highly specialized landscape development. How is seen here is more, says much about the interests and fortunes of the time.



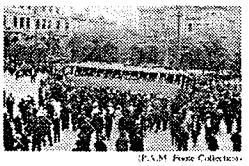
(P.A.M. Broadway 4 6)

Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg c.1910. Efforts to green the city with grass and tree-lined boulevards, was a typical component of the beautification movement embraced by many North American cities during this period. Creating a more humane environment or opposing urban vistas, was thought to be essential for the preservation of people's moral and physical health.



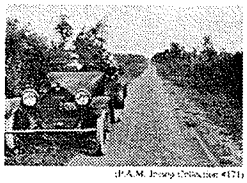
(P.A.M. Morden Experimental Farm #17)

A.P. Stevenson in his apple orchard at 'Pine Grove Nursery' - the Morris Studio, Morden, c.1940. The aims of farm experiments and experimental farms in the province of Canada has varied from fact-finding knowledge and broadcasting the information and availability of locally grown seasonal. Stevenson's specialty was the development and testing of apple varieties and some ornamentals. He was an early promoter of shelterbelt planting.



(P.A.M. Foote Collection)

Civic dignitaries in front of City Hall during the Winnipeg General strike, June 21, 1919. This streetscape was the scene of activity on Bloody Saturday. An "illegal" demonstration was held, troopers dashed and a street car was overturned. The Mayor read the Riot Act and ordered the streets cleared. Hundreds became charged and rode onto a bloody encounter in the city's history. After the death and injuries of that day and with the threat of more violence, an opportunity was taken to end the strike called off. The legacy of the General Strike in Canada was the rise of industrial unionism. Today, a visit to the scene of the confrontation on the strike's anniversary draws those involved events and the same programs.



(P.A.M. Jessop Collection #171)

Motor touring on the Clarke Road, Portage to Prairie, 1916. Today's road system is a combination of a grid network inclining section lines and a less rigid set of routes which evolved from the trails of the earliest inhabitants of the region.

(P.A.M. Rentschler Collection #42)

Garrison Quarry, Tyndall, 1909-11. Demands for durable building materials, in most towns of reasonably secure growth in Western Canada resulted in a thriving stone industry. Limestone quarries have existed along the escarpment and communities such as Tyndall and Stonewall grew in association with them. Today the open pits, exposed working faces, and derelict buildings, give a good sense of the scale and methods of the industry.

(Historic Resources Branch, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation)

"Petroglyph 1, The Creek Site". The picture shows one of a limited set of boulder mosaic features from a site on the Whiteshell area. The grouping is probably the largest of its kind in North America. Because of the diversity in form - religious, geometrics & "pathways" - found in the region, it is considered the probable birth place of the petroglyphs on the continent. Some of the features are presented as time lapse between 500 B.C. and A.D. 1. We can only speculate on the sacred nature of the sites and the ceremonies for which they were used. Orientations suggest an awareness of celestial movement and the movements of celestial bodies.

Figure 5. Panel 2 - Identification and Evaluation.

3.2 Identification and Evaluation

IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

'One easy step to recognize historic landscapes.'

Wherever you go, pause, look and think about the place you are in. It is a reflection of those who occupied the land before you, and its character will evolve further as it comes under the stewardship of successive generations. There is no simple way to categorize historic landscapes. Try instead to imagine how people have occupied and used the land in the past - from everyday activities to special events. Ask yourself:

- Where did people live? settlement patterns, homesteads, yards ...
- How did they get around? trails, tracks, locks and canals ...
- What did they do? work, interests, beliefs, celebrations ...

Any particular activity will leave a characteristic set of imprints, evidence of which may take a variety of forms. When evaluating a modified landscape, things to look for include:

1) Organization: pattern, enclosure, contextual relationship ...
2) Physical Elements: earthworks, structures, furnishings, plantings ...
3) Perceptual (Aesthetic) Qualities: views, sounds, smells ...
4) Intangible Qualities: symbolic, spiritual, associative, emotive ...

While all landscapes tell us something about the history of the people associated with them, their importance varies with how clear, unique and representative that historical record is. Is the landscape typical of, or distinct from, a particular style, period, region or culture? Is it the only remaining example, or are there many? Have important characteristic imprints survived in a legible condition?

Annotations:

Portions of the Formal Area 'Master Plan' as originally conceived, and approved in 1938. The International Peace Garden represents a set of ideals and sentiments - friendship between nations. The focus of the park is the jointly developed Formal Area, organized axially along the border between North Dakota and Manitoba. Proponents of the project intended that "nature's stitchery" should join the countries, and the whole prospect would be a "flowery garden of Eden." (United States Dept. of the Interior National Park Service)

A private residence, Selkirk c.1900. The ordered and well-maintained front yard makes a clear statement about the social status and attitudes of the people who lived there, as do the home's facade, the clothing and posed activities of the residents themselves. (P.A.M. Garbutt Collection #213) (Figure 6.)

Figure 6. A private residence in Selkirk c.1900. (P.A.M. Garbutt Collection #213)

Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg c.1910. Efforts to green the city with grass and tree-lined boulevards, was a typical initiative of the beautification movement embraced by many North American cities during this period. Creating a more humane environment in growing urban centres, was thought to be essential for the preservation of people's moral and physical health. (P.A.M. Broadway # 5)

Motor touring on the Curtis Road, Portage la Prairie, 1916. Today's road system is a combination of a grid network following section lines and a less rigid set of routes which evolved from the trails of the earliest inhabitants of the region. (P.A.M. Jessop Collection #171)

Post card picture view of St. Andrews Lock, c.1910. Waterways were a mainstay of early transportation in the province. This lock and dam was built so that passenger and freight traffic could negotiate St. Andrews rapids, the only obstruction Lake traffic faced in sailing up to Winnipeg. For Winnipeggers, Lockport has always been a popular spot for recreational outings. The combination of a "country setting" with the theatrical novelty of boats locking up and down, continues to be a fascination. (P.A.M. Lockport #44) (Figure 7.)

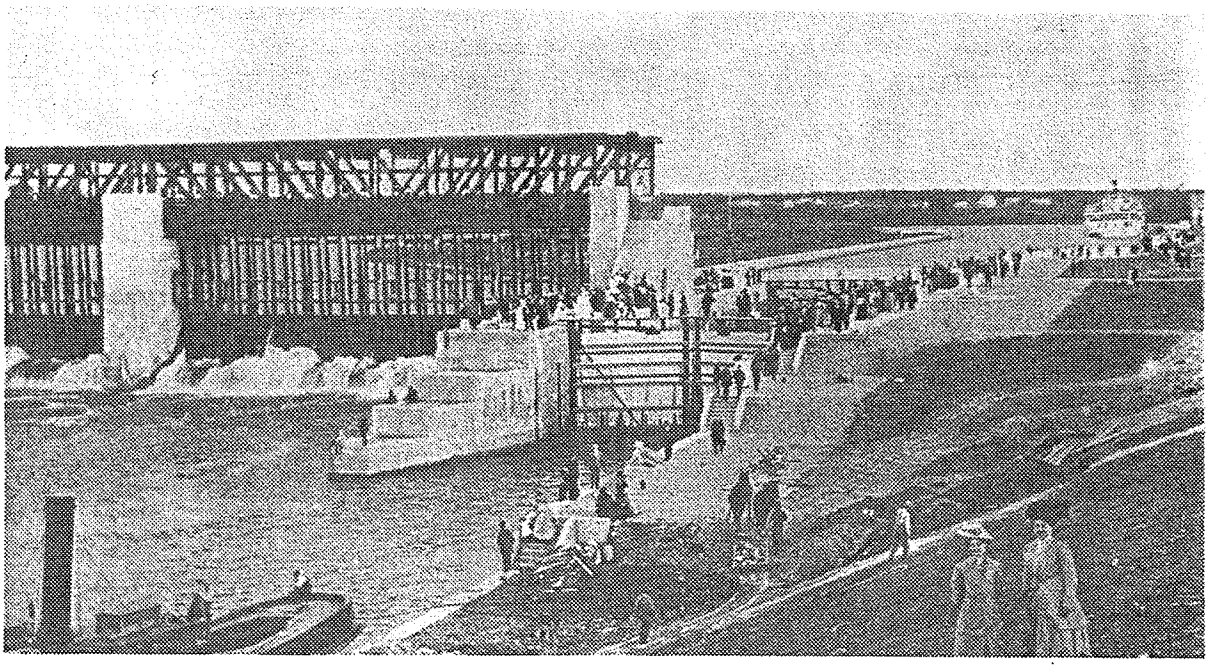


Figure 7. St. Andrews Locks, c.1910. (P.A.M. Lockport #44)

A.P. Stevenson in his apple orchard at "Pine Grove Nursery" - by Minns Studio, Morden c.1900. The work of early nurserymen and experimental stations in the province greatly advanced horticultural knowledge and broadened the selection and availability of hardy plant material. Stevenson's specialty was the introduction and testing of apple varieties and some ornamentals. He was an early promoter of shelterbelt planting. (P.A.M. Morden Experimental Farm #17) (Figure 8.)

Figure 8. A.P. Stevenson in his apple orchard at "Pine Grove Nursery". (P.A.M. Morden Experimental Farm #17)

Garson Quarry, Tyndall, 1909-11. Demands for durable building materials, to meet turn-of-the-century urban growth in Western Canada, resulted in a thriving mining resource industry. Limestone quarries were opened along rail routes, and communities such as Tyndall and Stonewall grew in association with them. Today the open pits, exposed working faces, and derelict lime kilns, give a good sense of the scale and methods of the industry. (P.A.M. Reifschneider Collection #42)

The 9th Hole of the Riding Mountain National Park golf course, c.1936. Our capacity to modify the landscape is well demonstrated in our pursuit of recreational activities. Though the sophistication of facilities like golf courses, race tracks, amusement parks and ballfields, changes with the nature of the activity, the need for play frequently leads to highly specialized landscape development. How liesure time is spent, says much about the fashions and fortunes of the times. (P.A.M. R.M.N.P. #20)

Civil disobedience in front of City Hall during the Winnipeg General Strike, June 21, 1919. This streetscape was the focus of activity on Bloody Saturday. An "illegal" demonstration was held; tempers flared and a street car was attacked; the Mayor read the Riot Act and ordered the streets cleared; mounted police charged and rode into a black moment in the city's history. After the death and injuries of that day and with the threat of more violence, an agreement was reached and the strike called off. The legacy of the General Strike to Canada was the rise of industrial unionism. Today, a visit to the scene of the culmination of the strike's activities makes those pivotal events all the more poignant. (P.A.M. Foote Collection) (Figure 9.)

"Feature 3, Tie Creek Site". The photo shows one of a linked set of boulder mosaic features from a site in the Whiteshell area. The grouping is probably the largest of its kind in North America. Because of the diversity in form - effigies, geometrics & "pathways" - found in the region, it is considered the probable birth place of the phenomena on the continent. Some of the features are presumed to date from between 500 B.C. and A.D. 1. We can only speculate on the sacred nature of the sites and the ceremonies for which they were used. Orientations suggest an awareness of cardinal directions and the movement of celestial bodies. (Historic Resources Branch: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation) (Figure 10.)

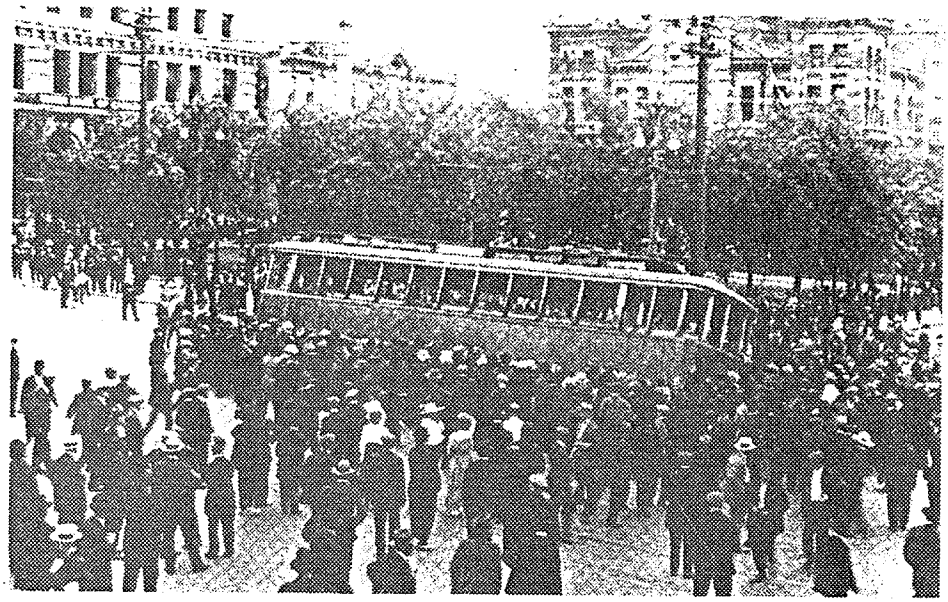


Figure 9. Civil disobedience in front of City Hall, June 21st, 1919. (P.A.M. Foote Collection)

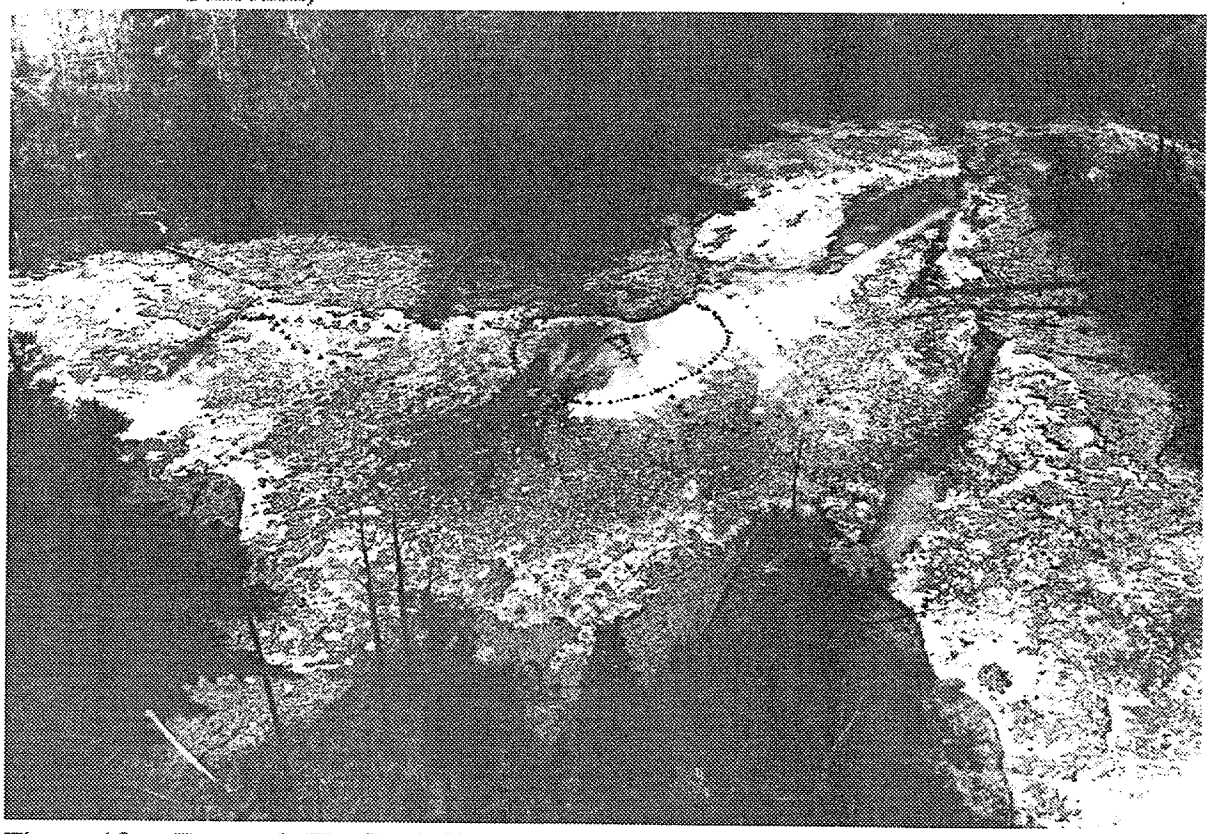


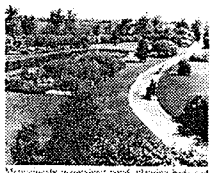
Figure 10. Feature 3, Tie Creek Site. (Historic Resources Branch: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation)

HERITAGE RESOURCE VALUE

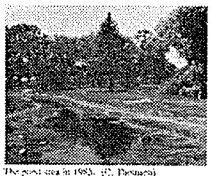
The value of historic landscapes is foremost a personal issue: our strongest connections are to places with which we and our families have direct personal association. Recognition of such places can stir strong emotional feelings. They may help explain who we are, where we came from and how we might shape the future; or give comfort in the remembrance of an experience shared with someone close to us. Although used by other people, these places may not have a similar significance to their lives.

The value of historic landscapes may also be collectively held, significant to many people, though they may not all be aware of it. Each of us has different interests and even our own priorities change through the course of life. Landscapes which clearly contribute to the historical record should be respected, so that their stories are available when we have need of them. Sometimes the value in a historic landscape is latent, or hidden, and not fully appreciated until it serves as the catalyst for related and much needed development.

Landscapes are not discrete objects, finite like a fossil or a building. They are complex and dynamic. They include earth, water, living things and all the processes that go with a natural system, as well as the material things we build. They have context and cannot be considered in isolation from what goes on around them. Change is a fundamental part of their character. Historic value then...is but one attribute of landscapes. It is not nobler than others, but is poorly understood. It is easy, through ignorance, or economic or political actions, to irrevocably damage or to lose the very qualities of a "place" which make it special.



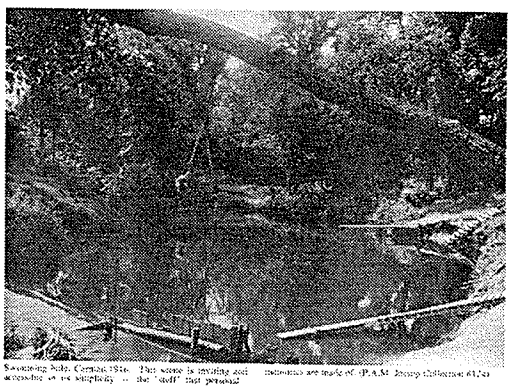
Main steady-state park, playing fields and path, at King Edward Park, c.1930. (City of Winnipeg: Parks and Recreation)



The same area in 1983. (C. Pentland)

The land-use of King Edward Park has changed considerably since its initial development in 1924. The provision of land for a sales park, for example, led to the removal of dense perimeter shrub plantings. This opened the intimate, enclosed picnic ground and gave to the scenery of neighboring residences. Park vegetation has all shown thinning, and planting keep becoming simplified in response to a shift in maintenance practices and requirements. The first photograph was taken where the park road a treelined pathway which is an essential gathering technique. In recent years, reforestation efforts have been instituted in various areas to reverse the process of replacement. The difference in detail evident in the early scenes is no longer attainable.

Sometimes things just work out. This was the case of the residential owners intent to operate the park. Because of this intervention, redevelopment plans proposed in 1965 proposed backfilling the historic, and wooded, at once. Community residents, however, came to the park's defense. Above recognizing the park as an asset and recognized the importance of the water feature for the overall character and identity it engendered. With the consideration of the park's administrators, the feature was saved and cleaned for restoration. King Edward is typical of contemporary park designs in Winnipeg, for its period. The park's major contribution to the active role it plays in the lives of community members - people who have maintained a sense of their past through the conservation of the park.



Sauntering Solo, Century Style. This scene is inviting and accessible on its simplicity -- the "stuff" that personal memories are made of. (P.A.M. Bessey Collection 61/2a)

The Heritage Resources Act

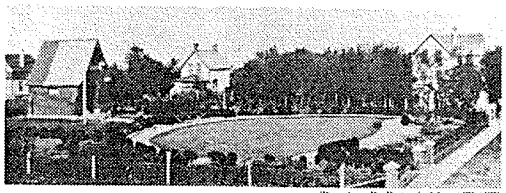
Designating Heritage Sites in Manitoba

There is an enormous level of economic activity that can be used to designate and to protect sites of heritage value.

The public purpose in the designation, restoration, or protection of our heritage, must initially through be positive attitudes. And it will accelerate the enjoyment of all those concerned. Public announcements and hearings will allow municipal governments, citizens, organizations, land developers, and individuals to show their efforts to avoid the needless loss or destruction of our heritage.

The Heritage Resources Act encourages individuals and groups, with the assistance of grants and programmes, to actively protect and preserve their past. And it gives municipal governments a mandate to protect the community's heritage, such as sites and buildings. At this level you as your organization can be highly effective identifying and protecting important features of your local heritage. The Heritage Resources Act is a public tool. Let's all use it! (*The Heritage Worth Keeping*: Worth Hearing Museums Corner Borough and Recreation)

Contact your local municipal office or regional office of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation for more information.



(Details from The Dannybrand Saga 1870-1970)

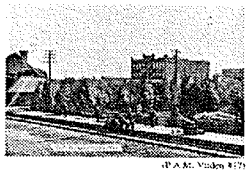
Dannybrand Memorial Park, c.1921. Both the building and area have been nominated for provincial designation by heritage-conscious local citizens. The structure is the only origin purpose War Memorial building in the province and the park preserves and integral to the sacred quality of the site.

The public plantings and feeding have been enthusiastically maintained including the recent replacement of those trees originally planted 'one in honour of each of the Boyne Boys'. A memorial service continues to be held each year.

Preservation, or freezing in time, is not an imperative for all things old. In cases which warrant intervention, places of outstanding or unique significance can be placed under protective jurisdiction. Federal, Provincial and Municipal heritage resource legislation exists to protect sites for all our benefit. An official designation is insurance against too rapid and poorly planned change

A policy of conservation is adequate for most sites. Management by owners is both realistic and preferable. Governments recognize this: Manitoba for example, has changed the taxation laws on older rural accessory buildings, in an effort to stop unnecessary demolition. Government officers will assist in research, education and promotion projects. They can provide technical advice and moral support for all personal initiatives. They also appreciate any contribution to our store of heritage knowledge, including personal accounts, journals, maps, drawings and photographs

Ultimately, everyone should be encouraged to pursue and enjoy "reading" the landscape on their own, and if it is in their power, to manage historic landscapes in a sensitive manner. People still have to live and work on the land. This is the way things are and it should be accepted as part of the richness of landscape, for our actions today contribute to a continuous record. Readily visible use of the land has a short history in the prairies, two centuries perhaps against twenty in Europe, where generation after generation of people have done the same things in the same places and have adapted inherited landscapes slowly. Contemporary technology provides powerful tools to effect rapid and extensive change - lamentably these are often used with little respect for our heritage. What do you want to pass on to future generations?



(P.A.M. Virden #17)

A partial view of the C.P.R. station in Virden, 1908. Interest in the past is nothing new. Fortunately however, it has been augmented in its focus, resulting in the loss of valuable insight and material no longer. A postalgia for the railway, for example, may prompt efforts to place a locomotive on a pedestal in the park, or to track down the local names for some "adjacent" streets. Attempts keep together, in their original location - tracks, train station and gardens - can give a far better account of railway and community history. The railway garden, was part of a progressive strategem to persuade ratepayers to voluntary action merely by exposure by competition to the civil lines. Elements as the cinders and railway chatterys the gardens were horticultural showpieces illustrating what could be accomplished on prairie soils. The banks and stations themselves, were the original faces of town. They set the pattern of future districts and defined the social structure of the community.

The following panels review a selection of historic landscapes in many states. Each could be considered of Provincial and/or National significance because of the substantial information made to the historical record of human activity in the province.

This interpretive panel series has been done through the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Manitoba, with assistance from the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation. The documentation and presentation of historical was financially supported by the Manitoba Heritage Federation.

Figure 11. Panel 3. Heritage Resource Value.

3.3 Heritage Resource Value

HERITAGE RESOURCE VALUE

The value of historic landscapes is foremost a personal issue; our strongest connections are to places with which we and our families have direct personal association. Recognition of such places can stir strong emotional feelings. They may help explain who we are, where we came from and how we might shape the future; or give comfort in the remembrance of an experience shared with someone close to us. Although used by other people, these places may not have a similar significance to their lives. Personally meaningful places are a constant in a world changing all about us.

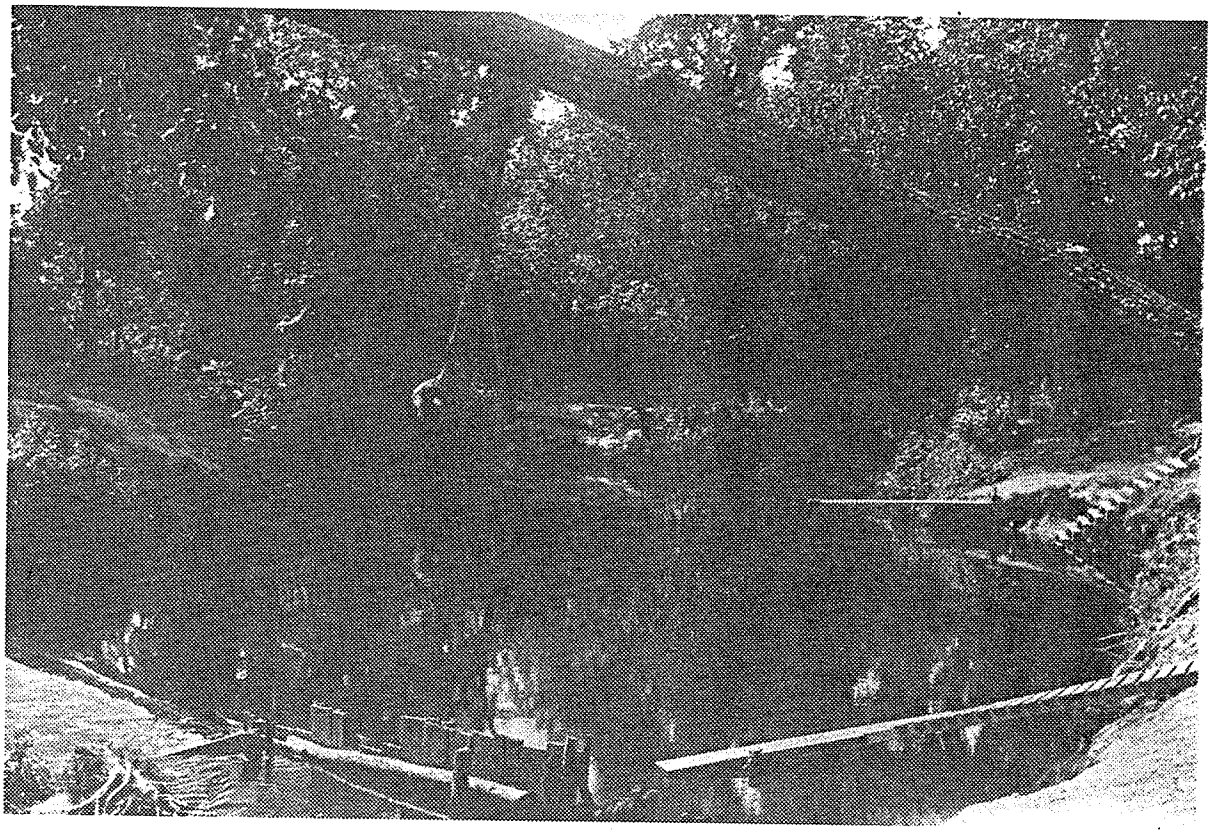


Figure 12. Swimming hole, Carman,1916. This scene is inviting and accessible in its simplicity -- the "stuff" that personal memories are made of. (P.A.M. Jessop Collection #124)

The value of historic landscapes may also be collectively held, significant to many people, though they may not all be aware of it. Each of us has different interests and even our own priorities change through the course of life. Landscapes which clearly contribute to the historical record should be respected, so that their stories are available when we have need of them. Sometimes the value in a historic landscape is latent, or hidden, and not fully appreciated until it serves as the catalyst for related and much needed development.

Landscapes are not discrete objects, finite like a fossil or a building. They are complex and dynamic. They include earth, water, living things and all the processes that go with a natural system, as well as the material things we build. They have context and cannot be considered in isolation from what goes on around them. Change is a fundamental part of their character. Historic value then, is but one attribute of landscapes. It is not nobler than others, but is poorly understood. It is easy, through ignorance, or economic or political actions, to irrevocably damage or to lose the very qualities of a place, which make it special.

Preservation, or freezing in time, is not an imperative for all things old. In cases which warrant intervention, places of outstanding or unique significance can be placed under protective jurisdiction. Federal, Provincial and Municipal heritage resource legislation exists to protect sites for all our benefit. An official designation is insurance against too rapid and poorly planned change.

A policy of conservation is adequate for most sites. Management by owners is both realistic and preferable. The provincial government recognizes this and has, for example, changed the taxation laws on older rural accessory buildings, in an effort to stop unnecessary demolition. Government officers will assist in research, education and promotion projects. They can provide technical advice and moral support for all personal initiatives. They also appreciate any contribution to our store of heritage knowledge, including personal accounts, journals, maps, drawings and photographs.

Ultimately, everyone should be encouraged to pursue and enjoy "reading" the landscape on their own, and if it is in their power, to manage historic landscapes in a sensitive manner. People still have to live and work on the land. This is the way things are and it should be accepted as part of the richness of landscape, for our actions today contribute to a

continuous record. Readily visible use of the land has a short history in the prairies, two centuries perhaps against twenty in Europe, where generation after generation of people have done the same things in the same places and have adapted inherited landscapes slowly. Contemporary technology provides powerful tools to effect rapid and extensive change - lamentably these are often used with little respect for our heritage. What do you want to pass on to future generations?

Annotations:

Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation [Bison LOGO]
The Heritage Resources Act

There is an existing legal structure which can be used to designate and to protect sites of heritage value.

"Its main purpose is the designation, restoration, or protection of our heritage; from fossils through to pioneer artifacts. And it will co-ordinate the interests of all those concerned. Public assessments and hearings will allow municipal governments, citizens, organizations, land developers, and individuals to unite their efforts to avoid the needless loss or destruction of our history."

"The Heritage Resources Act encourages individuals and groups, with the assistance of grants and programmes, to actively protect and promote our past. And it gives municipal governments a mandate to protect their community's heritage, such as sites and buildings. At this level you or your organization can be highly effective identifying and protecting important features of your local heritage. The Heritage Resources Act is a public tool. Let's all use it." (*Our Heritage: Worth Keeping. Worth Sharing*. Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation)

Contact your local municipal office or regional office of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation for more information.

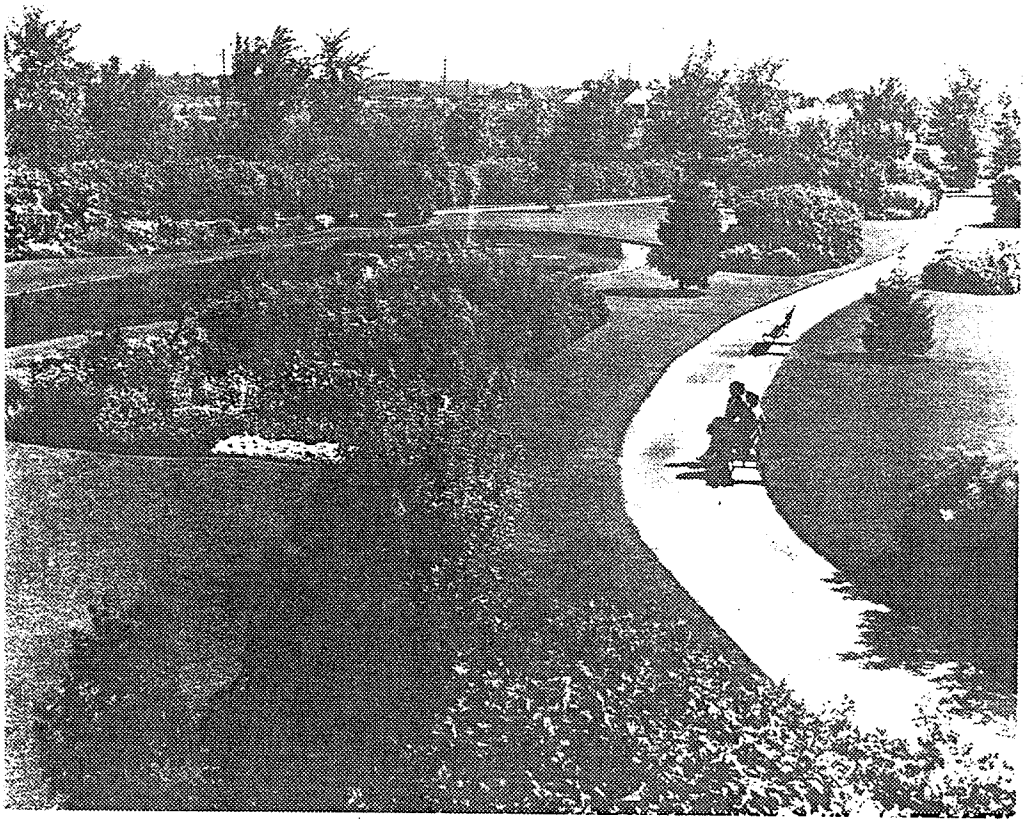


Figure 13. Meticulously maintained pond, planting beds and paths of King Edward Park, c.1940. (City of Winnipeg: Parks and Recreation)

The pond area in 1985. (C. Thomsen)

The appearance of King Edward Park has changed considerably since its initial development in 1924. The perceived need for a safer park, for example, led to the removal of dense perimeter shrub plantings. This opened the intimate, enclosed space around the pond to the scrutiny of neighboring residences. Park vegetation has of course matured, and plantings have become simplified in response to a shift in maintenance practices and responsibilities. The first photograph was taken when the park had a resident caretaker who used manual gardening techniques. In recent times, maintenance duties have been assigned to visiting crews, dependent on power equipment. The attention to detail evident in the early scene is no longer afforded.

Sometimes things just wear out. This was the fate of the mechanical system used to operate the pond. Because of its deterioration, redevelopment plans prepared in 1985 proposed backfilling the feature, and sodding it over. Community residents, however, came to the park's defense. Many remembered the park in its prime and recognized the importance of the water feature for the overall character and identity it engendered. With the cooperation of the park's administrators, the feature was saved and slated for restoration. King Edward is typical of community park designs in Winnipeg, for its period. The park's major significance, is the active role it plays in the lives of community members; people who have maintained a sense of their past through the conservation of the pond.

Darlingford Memorial Park, c.1921. Both the building and site have been nominated for provincial designation by heritage-conscious local citizens. The structure is the only single purpose War Memorial building in the province and the park grounds are integral to the sacred quality of the site. The paths, plantings and fencing have been conscientiously maintained, including the recent replacement of three spruce trees originally planted "one in honour of each of the Bolton Boys". A memorial service continues to be held each year. (Photo from The Darlingford Saga 1870-1970)

A partial view of the C.P.R. station in Virden, 1906. Interest in the past is nothing new. Frequently however, it has been fragmented in its focus, resulting in the loss of valuable insight and material heritage. A nostalgia for the railway, for example, may prompt efforts to place a locomotive on a pedestal in the park, or to truck away the local station for some "adaptive" re-use. Artifacts kept together, in their original location - tracks, train, station and gardens - can give a far better account of railway and community history. The railway garden, was part of a corporate stratagem to promote settlement in territory made newly accessible by completion of the rail lines. Oriented to the coaches and railway platform, the gardens were horticultural showpieces, illustrating what could be accomplished on prairie soils. The tracks and stations themselves, were the original focus of town. They set the pattern of future districts and defined the social structure of the community. (P.A.M. Virden #17)

The following panels review a selection of historic landscapes in more detail. Each could be considered of Provincial and/or National significance because of the substantial contribution made to the historic record of human activity in the province.

This interpretive panel series has been done through the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Manitoba, with assistance from the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation. The documentation and presentation of material was financially supported by the Manitoba Heritage Federation.

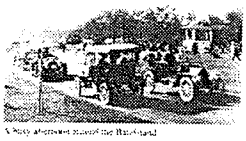
ASSINIBOINE PARK

"Well kept parks are, without question, refining and civilizing factors ..." Mr. F. L. Dixon, Chairman for Winnipeg Public Parks Board, Annual Report 1907

PROLOGUE

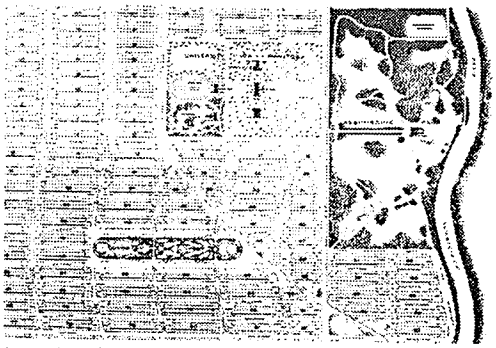
By the 1890's Winnipeg had become "the gateway to the west" and was experiencing a period of rapid urban growth. As commerce boomed so to did population. People from all levels of society were arriving, many with attitudes and desires shaped by previous experience in other established cities. The need to preserve "breathing places" was recognized by some concerned and far-sighted citizens. A network of boulevards, urban squares and parks and a large suburban park were called for. The site selected for this large "outside park" consisted of riverbottom woodland and prairie, just south of the Assiniboine River and west of the young city of Winnipeg.

The methods and ideals behind many social projects of this period were widely shared. One such link significantly relates to Assiniboine Park. It's designer, Frederick Todd, was based in eastern Canada and had worked with, and was greatly influenced by, F. L. Olmsted -- the man who introduced the English Landscape Style to North American public park design. Though documentation of Todd's work for this park can no longer be found, the roots of its design have always been apparent.



A busy afternoon around the Bandstand

The Formal Garden west of officially planted with flowering annuals and perennials. This area was an important component of overall park design. The main entry was laid out in a symmetrically framed pattern to maximize the transition from the grid area of the city to nature in the park.



A section of the 1910 design of plan for Tuxedo Park subdivision showing Assiniboine Park as one of its principal attractions. Public park promoters were fully aware of the

beneficial effect park development had on adjacent land values. Courtesy Map Collection, Public Archives of Canada.

1904 283 acres of land along the south side of the Assiniboine River were purchased for the new "Suburban Park".

With the acquisition of several species of native animals, work was begun on the zoological grounds.

1905 The Park's Board accepted and approved plans and recommendations for the park's development. The commission for this preparatory work had been fulfilled by Frederick G. Todd, a landscape architect from Montreal.

1907 Development of the Formal Garden in the south-east corner of the park was completed.

1908 Original Pavilion was completed.

Duck Pond was installed.

1909 Victoria Day - Official Opening Ceremonies for Assiniboine Park.

1911 Private interest developers installed the first wooden footbridge across the Assiniboine River. The park was also proving to be a good attraction for real estate development to the south and east (Tuxedo Park - *The Suburb Beautiful*) and had a direct influence on the boulevard development of Wellington Crescent, the scenic route from urban Winnipeg to its premier green space.

Construction of the original Cricket Pavilion was completed and the first bandstand was built.

1914 Contract let for construction of original Palm House.

1916 The existing, main stone gateway was built at the south-east entrance to the park.

1923 Plans were prepared by Park's Superintendent,George Champion, to convert the original park nursery into the Informal (English) Garden.

1928 Additional parcels of river-front land were acquired to the east and on the north bank.

The Lily Basin, sheltered behind the original pavilion and pergola. This feature survived the 1929 blaze and was incorporated into the new pavilion.

1929 May 27th - the Pavilion, which had become "a centre of social life in Winnipeg", burned to the ground. By Victoria Day the next year, the existing Pavilion was built and officially opened.

1932 The present footbridge from Portage Avenue, across the Assiniboine River, was officially opened. The work had been undertaken as an unemployment relief project.

1950 A zoo advisory committee was struck and a preliminary plan for the modification and expansion of zoo facilities was adopted.

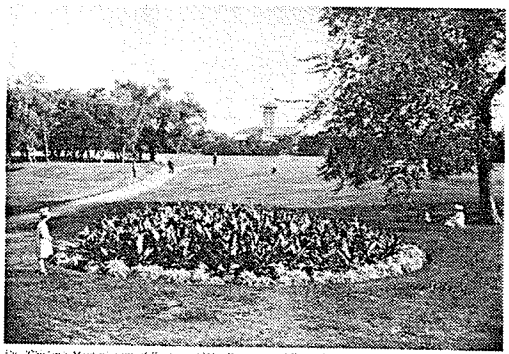
Bison Range at the zoo. Although not part of Todd's original plans, animals were displayed as several early Winnipeg parks. Eventually these collections were consolidated at Assiniboine Zoo, where the exhibits continue to be a great attraction.

1957 The new Bear Range was officially opened. This marked a period of progressive and extensive development in the zoo facilities.

A further 06 acres of land was transferred to the park from the Town of Tuxedo.

Since the 60's, many renovations and additions to the park's facilities have been made. These relate to contemporary social pressures and physical conditions. Though the park's design has strayed from its original concepts, it still retains the look and feel of its English Landscape Style heritage.

CHRONOLOGY



The "Children's Meadow" south of Pavilion, c.1924. This view reflects the principles of the English Landscape Style

Sunken Rose Garden of three tiers set on pastoral expanse of grass and a shrubbed planting bed in a naturalistic design.

adapted from: *Five Histories and Developments of Assiniboine Park and Zoo* - Unpublished report - City of Winnipeg Parks & Recreation Department, Winnipeg (1977).

All photographic images courtesy of the City of Winnipeg Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 14. Panel 4 - Assiniboine Park.

3.4 Assiniboine Park

ASSINIBOINE PARK "Well kept parks are without question, refining and civilizing factors ...". Mr. E. L. Drewry, Chairman 1st Winnipeg Public Parks Board. Annual Report, 1893.

PROLOGUE

By the 1890's, Winnipeg, gateway to the west, was experiencing a period of rapid urban growth. As commerce boomed so to did population. People from all levels of society were arriving, many with attitudes and desires shaped by previous experience in other established cities. The need to preserve "breathing places" was recognized by some concerned and far-sighted citizens. A network of boulevards, urban squares and parks and a large suburban park were called for. The site selected for this large "outside park" consisted of riverbottom woodland and prairie, just south of the Assiniboine River and west of the young city of Winnipeg.

The methods and ideals behind many social projects of this period were widely shared. One such link significantly relates to Assiniboine Park. It's designer, Frederick Todd, was based in eastern Canada and had worked with, and was greatly influenced by, F. L. Olmsted -- the man who introduced the English Landscape Style to North American public park design. Though documentation of Todd's work for this park can no longer be found, the origins of its design have always been apparent.

CHRONOLOGY

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1908 Original Pavilion was completed.

Duck Pond was installed.

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1911 Private interest developers installed the first wooden footbridge across the Assiniboine River. The park was also proving to be a good attraction for real estate development to the south and east (Tuxedo Park - The Suburb Beautiful) and had a direct influence on the boulevard development of Wellington Crescent, the scenic route from urban Winnipeg to its premier green space.

Construction of the original Cricket Pavilion was completed and the first bandstand was built.

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1932 The present footbridge from Portage Avenue, across the Assiniboine River, was officially opened. The work had been undertaken as an unemployment relief project.

1950 A zoo advisory committee was struck and a preliminary plan for the modification and expansion of zoo facilities was adopted.

1957 The new Bear Range was officially opened. This marked a period of progressive and extensive development in the zoo facilities.

A further 66 acres of land was transferred to the park from the Town of Tuxedo.

Since the 60's, many renovations and additions to the park's facilities have been made. These relate to contemporary social pressures and physical conditions. Though the park's design has strayed from its original concepts, it still retains the look and feel of its English Landscape Style heritage.

adapted from The History and Development of Assiniboine Park and Zoo. Unpublished report. City of Winnipeg, Parks & Recreation Department: Winnipeg. (1972)

All photographic images courtesy of the City of Winnipeg, Parks and Recreation Department.

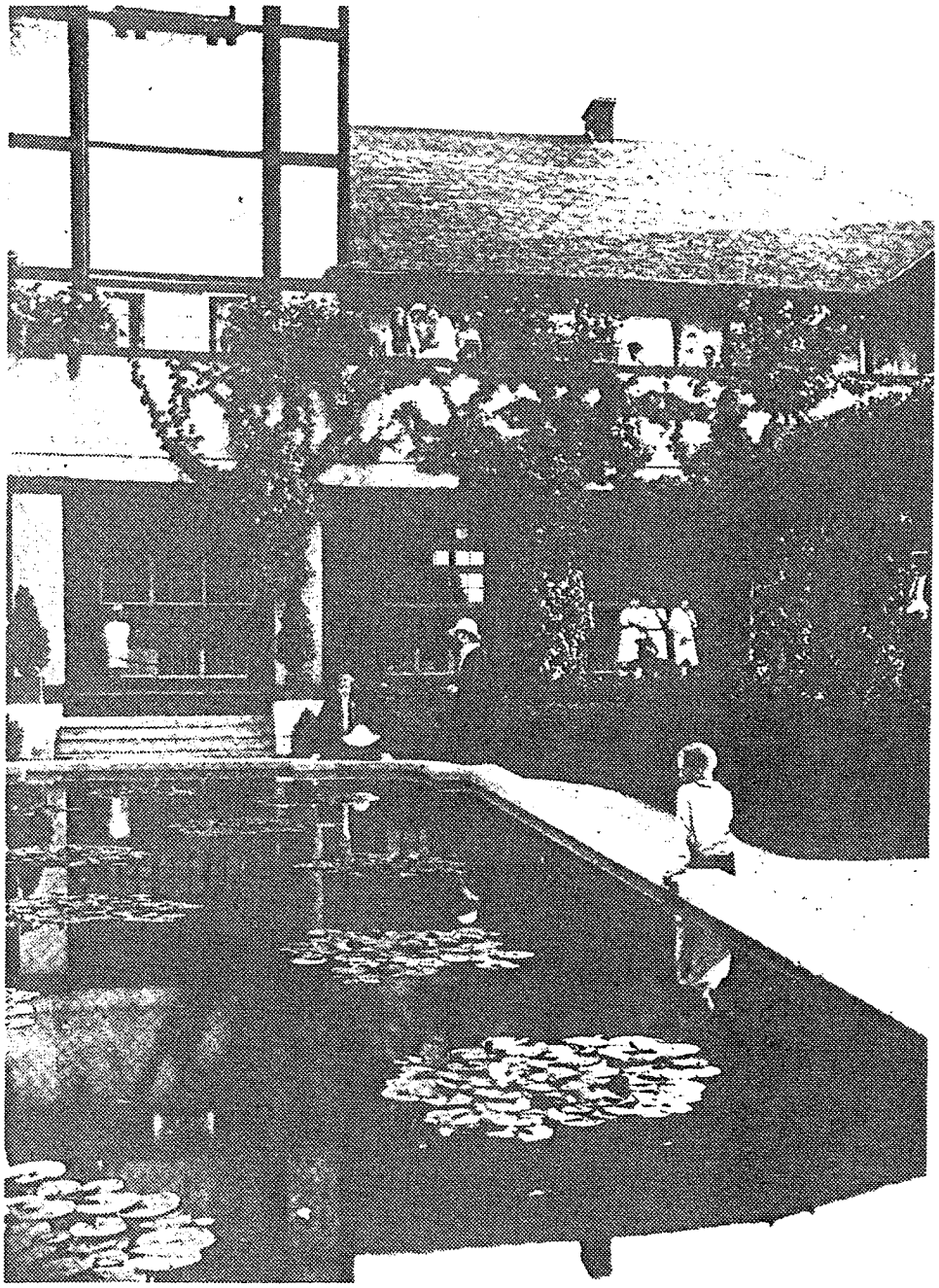


Figure 15. The "Lily Basin", Assiniboine Park pre - 1929. (City of Winnipeg, Parks and Recreation)

Figure Annotations:

The Lily Basin, sheltered behind the original Pavilion and pergola. This feature survived the 1929 blaze and was incorporated into the new structure. (Figure 15.)

The "Children's Meadow" north of Pavilion c.1924. This view exhibits the principals of the English Landscape Style: curved lines, clumps of trees set in pastoral stretches of grass, and a circular planting bed as a transitional device.

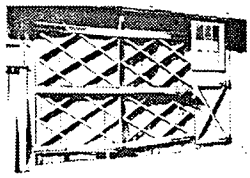
A busy afternoon around the Bandstand.

Bison Range at the zoo. Although not part of Todd's original plans, animals were displayed at several early Winnipeg parks. Eventually these collections were consolidated at Assiniboine Zoo, where the exhibits continue to be a great attraction.

The Formal Garden was originally planted with flowering annuals and perennials. This area was an important component of overall park design. The main entry was laid out in a geometrically formal pattern to establish the transition from the grid iron city to nature in the park.

A section of the 1910 proposed plan for Tuxedo Park subdivision showing Assiniboine Park as one of its principal attractions. Public park promoters were fully aware of the beneficial effect such development had on adjacent land values. National Map Collection, Public Archives of Canada.

MENNONITE VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS



A CULTURE TRANSPLANTED

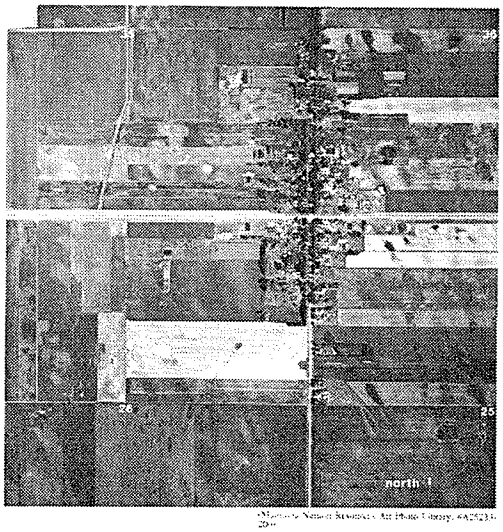
Mennonite immigrants were among the first agricultural settlers to inhabit and cultivate Manitoba's frontier lands. Shortly after the province joined Confederation, groups of experienced farmers, who would have the resourcefulness to successfully live in and develop sparsely populated regions, were actively recruited. Immigration agents were given an interested hearing by the Russian Mennonites, who at that time were facing yet another crisis in their freedom to practise their beliefs. Assured of important freedoms and given special concessions regarding the application for, and development of land grants, large groups of Mennonites left the steppes of Southern Russia for Manitoba in 1874. The first families occupied a block of eight townships reserved for them east of the Red River. Two years later another block of seventeen townships, west of the river, was opened to accommodate new arrivals and the relocation of families who found soils in the original East Reserve unproductive.

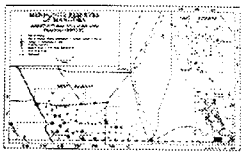
VILLAGE STRUCTURE

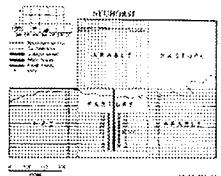
The Mennonites brought a way of life with them which had evolved to meet similar physical conditions and was structured to safeguard social and religious conventions. The re-creation of communal farming villages was a fundamental part of their cultural cohesiveness. Between eight and thirty families would pool their quarter sections and locate the village at the centre of the land block. The villages were linear, with houses built on one or both sides of the street. Each family had a long, narrow "yard" running perpendicular to the street. The remaining open land was divided into strips and each farmer shared equally in the good and not so good crop land. Low, marginal lands were given over to community pasture.

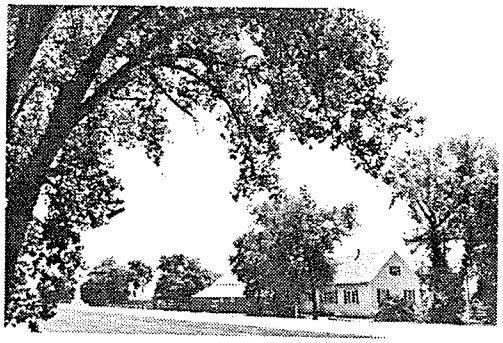
Today, ownership has reverted to large block holdings, but the original strip pattern, marked by vestigial ridges, is often still apparent. Clear reminders of the Mennonites cultural roots are also found in the village sites. The trademark architecture of adjoining house and barn are unique in the province. The placement and orientation of these principal buildings was consistent; some two hundred feet apart and one hundred feet from the street, leaving space for trees, gardens and fences. Many of these characteristic features are visible today, particularly amongst villages of the West Reserve. Some places, however have been totally abandoned, and are marked only by a double row of mature trees.

NEUBERGTHAL: CASE STUDY









3.5 Mennonite Village Settlements.

MENNONITE VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS

A CULTURE TRANSPLANTED

Mennonite immigrants were among the first agricultural settlers to inhabit and cultivate Manitoba's frontier lands. Shortly after the province joined Confederation, groups of experienced farmers, who would have the resourcefulness to successfully live in and develop sparsely populated regions, were actively recruited. Immigration agents were given an interested hearing by the Russian Mennonites, who at that time were facing yet another crisis in their freedom to practise their beliefs. Assured of important freedoms and given concessions regarding the application for, and development of land grants, large groups of Mennonites left the steppes of Southern Russia for Manitoba in 1874. The first families occupied a block of eight townships reserved for them east of the Red River. Two years later another block of seventeen townships, west of the river, was opened to accommodate new arrivals and the relocation of families who found soils in the original East Reserve unproductive.

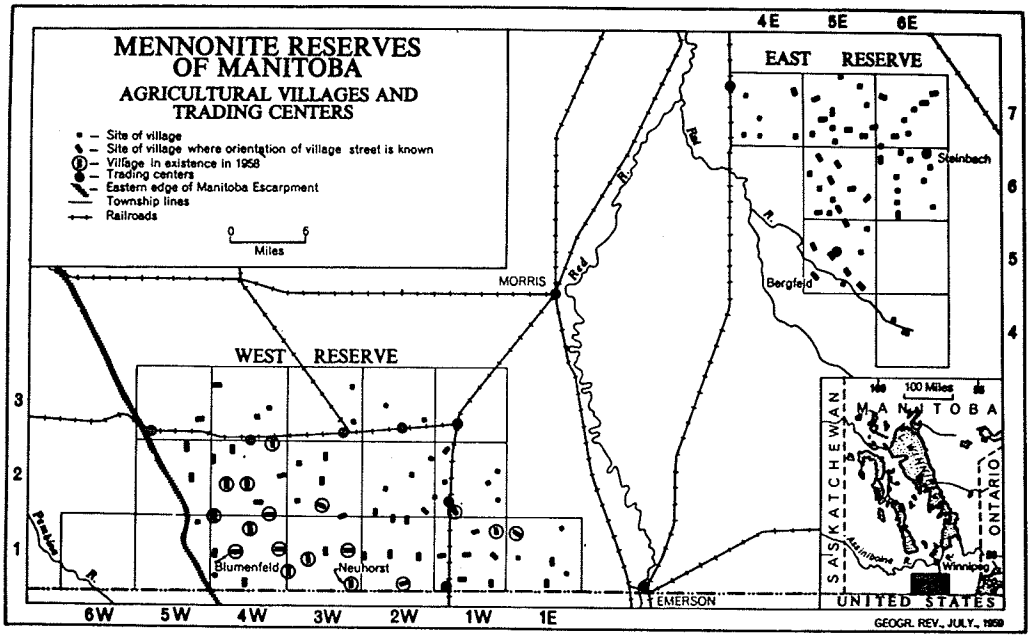


Figure 17. Distribution plan of Mennonite Villages in Manitoba. (Warkentin, J. 1959, in *Geographical Review.* Vol. 49)

VILLAGE STRUCTURE

The Mennonites brought a way of life with them which had evolved to meet similar physical conditions and was structured to safeguard social and religious conventions. The re-creation of communal farming villages was a fundamental part of their cultural cohesiveness. Between eight and thirty families would pool their quarter sections and locate the village at the centre of the land block. The villages were linear, with homes built on one or both sides of the street. Each family had a long, narrow "yard" running perpendicular to the street. The remaining open land was divided into strips and each farmer shared equally in the good and not so good crop land. Low, marginal lands were given over to community pasture.

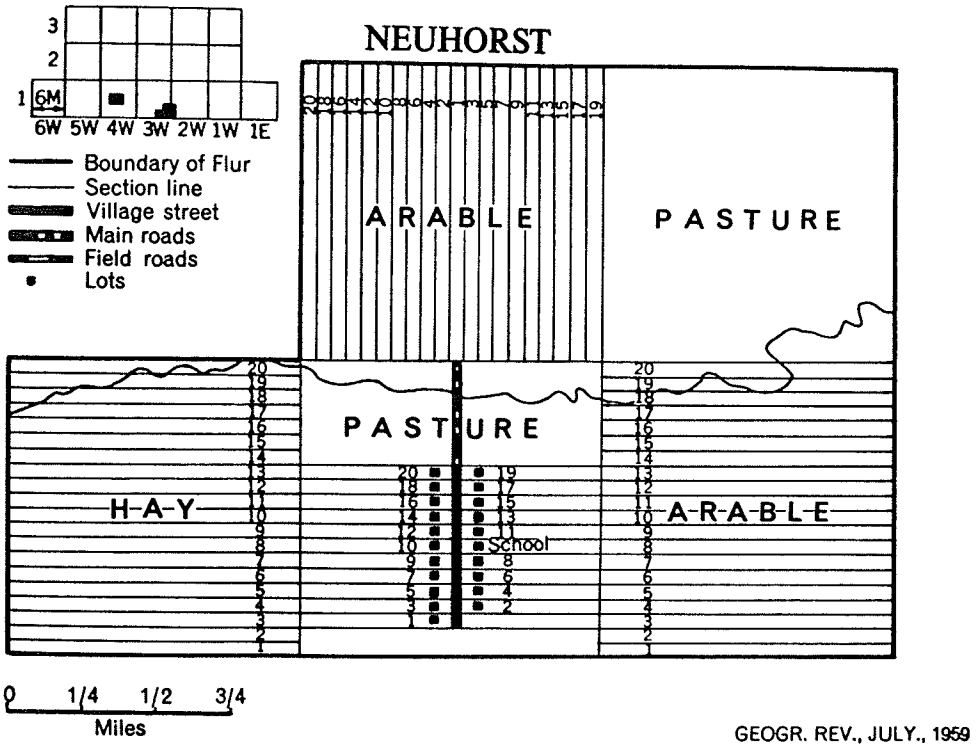


Figure 18. Land use plan for the village of Neuhorst. (Warkentin, J. 1959, in *Geographical Review.* Vol. 49)

Today, ownership has reverted to large block holdings, but the original strip pattern, marked by vestigial ridges, is often still apparent. Clear reminders of the Mennonites cultural roots are also found in the village sites. The trademark architecture of adjoining house and barn are unique in the province. The placement and orientation of these principal buildings was consistent; some two hundred feet apart and one hundred feet from the street, leaving space for trees, gardens and fences. Many of these characteristic features are visible today, particularly amongst villages of the West Reserve. Some places, however have been totally abandoned, and are marked only by an isolated, double row of mature trees.

Figure Annotations:

Map showing the locations of Mennonite village settlements in the East and West Reserves of Manitoba. (Warkentin, J. 1959, in *Geographical Review*. Vol. 49) (Figure 17)

An example from the West Reserve of the open field system applied to settlement of sectioned prairie lands. (Warkentin, J. 1959, in *Geographical Review*. Vol. 49) (Figure 18)

NEUBERGTHAL: CASE STUDY

Aerial view of Neubergthal village and surrounding field patterns, 1977. The first two farmers came to this site in the summer of 1876. At first settlement was limited to the east side of the village street, but with a drop in well water quality towards the south, development shifted to the west side and further north. The history of land ownership is somewhat confused. Surrounding fields appear to have been strip divided and shared, and the south end of section 25 was community pasture, for there was always some surface water available for the cattle. Part of section 26 was originally Hudson's Bay Co. land. In the village itself, the yard system in evidence today was not fully resolved until about 1909. Yards east of the village street are about half a mile long, while those to the northwest ended up about three quarters of a mile in length. The first settlement was in the northeast, and the property division is more irregular here. Most families built wooden structures

right away and some of the present barns date back to the earliest days. There is also knowledge of one "semlin" or sod house; its location now marked by a depression in the ground. (Manitoba Natural Resources Air Photo Library, #A25233-200)

A contemporary scene in Neubergthal village. Taken from the street intersection, the view shows a combined house and barn and the fenced yard stretching out behind. Typically the gardens fronting the street were given over to flowers and trees; the rear yard was the work place which may have had a large vegetable garden and small pasture. Today the street is shaded by towering cottonwoods and the yards sheltered by mature hedgerows -- when the village was started this was all open prairie. In its prime the village was nearly self-sufficient economically and socially. There were many mixed farms, blacksmithing and milling facilities, a school, and later a church and village store. (1988, A. Beech)

The criss-crossing pattern, illustrated at the top of this panel, is a traditional motif used for the large barn doors leading to the "sheen" or interior alleyway and open workspace. The pattern was used extensively by Mennonites who settled in Manitoba. (Historic Resources Branch: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation)

Neubergthal history adapted from Hamm, R. (1980). *New Bergthal Heritage and Cookbook.*

Thanks are extended to the Mennonite Heritage Centre and Archives Curator, Mr. Lawrence Klippenstein, for assistance in the research of Neubergthal and Mennonite settlement history.

MOUND BUILDING

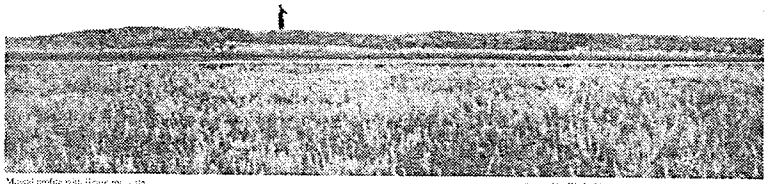
ANCIENT MOUNDS IN MANITOBA?

Between 900-1400 A.D., many impressive and enigmatic earthworks were constructed in Manitoba. Evidence of this cultural phenomena is found across much of North America. Mound building activity in Manitoba was probably directly related to similar sites found in southeast Saskatchewan and northern North Dakota. Manitoba mounds are found across the southern portion of the province, frequently clustered along the top edges of river valleys.

There are well over a hundred probable cultural mounds - ones which were likely constructed by early native groups. There are also a large number of possible mounds, which have been inventoried but not closely examined. This group of mound-like features could have been formed by natural processes.

FORM

Mounds in Manitoba typically feature a raised mound of earth over one or more burial pits. The most common form is a low, rounded hill, ranging from six inches to eight feet in height. They include interred remains, placed either in a slightly excavated chamber or directly on the original ground surface. More complex mound forms are illustrated in the schematic typology shown below.



Mound profile with figure on [illegible]

Figure 18. W. B. Nickerson survey and excavations 1917-35 in the southern Manitoba Mounds Region.

FUNCTION

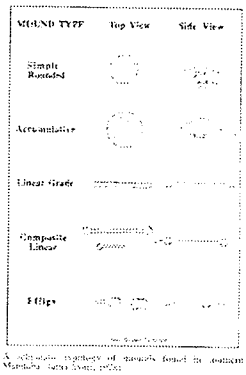
Mounds in Manitoba have long been a subject of interest and speculation. They have been opened by the curious and plundered by the insensitive. Amateur historians have ascribed fanciful origins, such as, "lost races of mound builders." There will always be some mystery as indeed there is concerning any prehistoric activity or culture.

Most mounds are associated with burials. But the extravagant effort that went into their construction, their purposeful orientations and the demographic record inherent in the remains, suggests a primary function other than just the burial. Based on the origins of material found in association with the mounds, it is clear that trade networks had been established across the continent

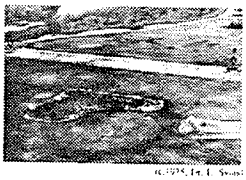
Accumulative mounds are hill-like in appearance, but having been added to over many years, have reached large proportions, and may contain multiple interments. Mounds built in the form of animals, like muskrat and beaver, are quite rare. Interpretation of these effigies should be cautious, for there is a danger of seeing things in existing forms that were never intended by the builders.

The most impressive features are low, broad and very long ridges of earth with burial mounds at the ends. The composite linear mounds of Manitoba are considered "unparalleled in Canada" (Syms, 1978). The aerial photograph shows one of the largest of these features.

Many native groups overlapped territorially and successfully coexisted. The ritual of mound building may well have been a co-operative venture to strengthen intergroup relationships. Past research has focused too narrowly on the contents of the mounds. Today there is interest in looking more closely at related encampments, to try and establish a more complete understanding of the lives and activities of these people. There is also interest in protecting the mounds from further destruction. Intact they stand testimony to the strength of their builders' beliefs.



A schematic typology of mounds found in southern Manitoba (after Syms, 1978).



(c) 1978, Leo L. Syms

Aerial view of a composite linear mound. "A" and "B" mark two possible forest entrances which are united by a ridge 1.25 miles (2 km) long and 600 feet (180 m) wide. Although measurements taken today will be affected by erosion and land use, the size of other works of this kind and their relative sizes are established by the aerial perspective despite cut-off on their sides and ends. It is not so apparent in the perspective, but this mound, like most of the others, would have required digging and moving the equivalent of some 10 million cubic feet of earth. The work, of course, was done without benefit of wheel or iron tool. Even so, this was a formidable undertaking.

Life-size models and art by Ernest Neola Lindoval

Life-size Museum vignette - Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

Figure 19. Panel 6 - Mound Building.

3.6 Aboriginal Burial Mounds

MOUND BUILDING

ANCIENT MOUNDS IN MANITOBA?

Between 900-1400 A.D., many impressive and enigmatic earthworks were constructed in Manitoba. Evidence of this cultural phenomena is found across much of North America. Mound building activity in Manitoba was probably directly related to similar sites found in southeast Saskatchewan and northern North Dakota. Manitoba mounds are found across the southern portion of the province, frequently clustered along the top edges of river valleys.

There are well over a hundred probable cultural mounds - ones which were likely constructed by early native groups. There are also a large number of possible mounds, which have been inventoried but not closely examined. This group of mound-like features could have been formed by natural processes.

FORM

Mounds in Manitoba typically feature a raised mound of earth over one or more burial pits. The most common form is a low, rounded hill, ranging from six inches to eight feet in height. They include interred remains, placed either in a slightly excavated chamber or directly on the original ground surface. More complex mound forms are illustrated in the schematic typology shown below. Accumulative mounds are hill-like in appearance, but having been added to over many years, have reached large proportions, and may contain multiple interments. Mounds built in the form of animals, like muskrat and beaver, are quite rare. Interpretation of these effigies should be cautious, for there is a danger of seeing things in existing forms that were never intended by the builders.

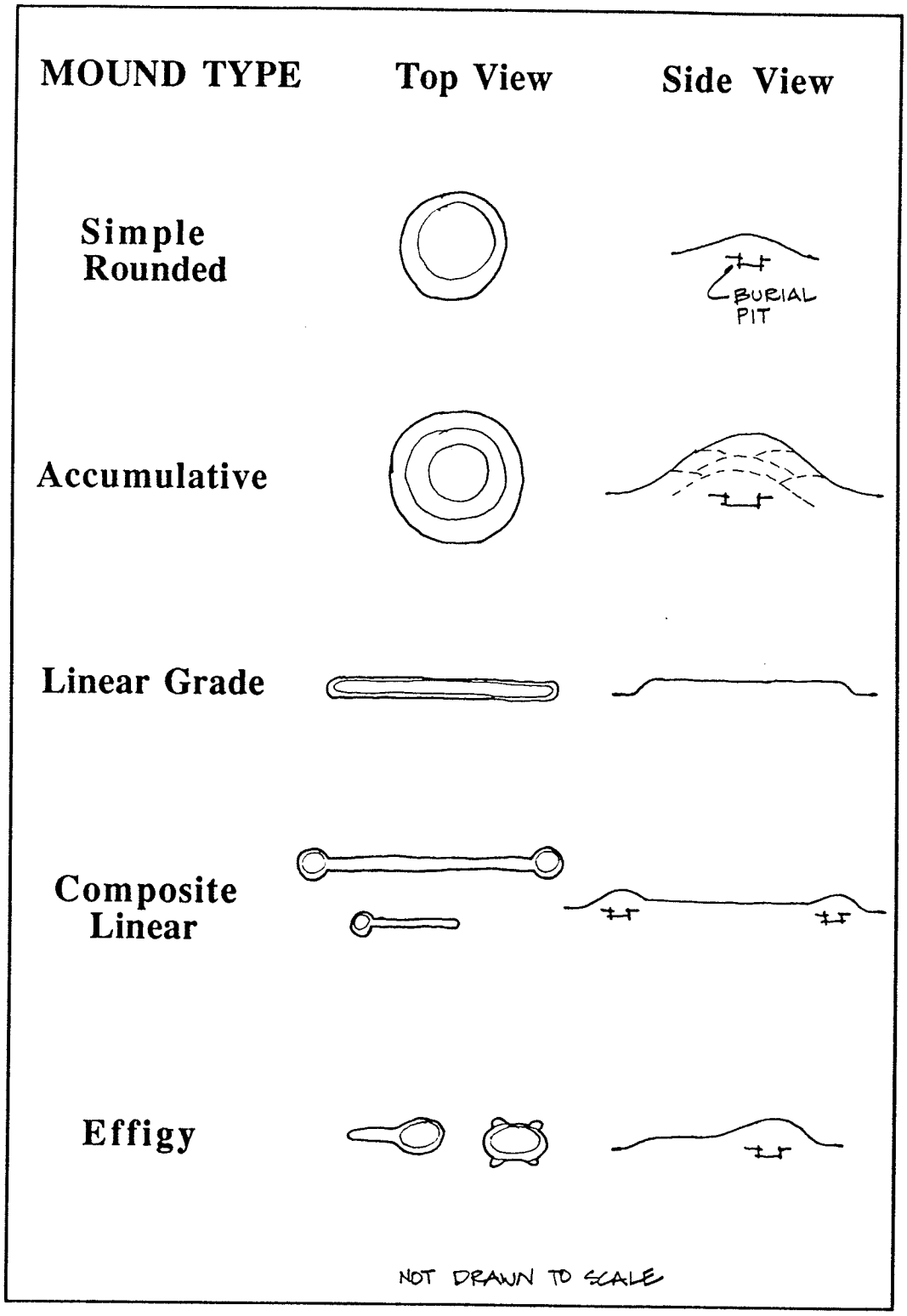


Figure 20. A schematic typology of mounds found in southern Manitoba.

The most impressive features are low, broad and very long ridges of earth with burial mounds at the ends. The composite linear mounds of Manitoba are considered "unparalleled in Canada" (Syms, 1978). The aerial photograph shows one of the largest of these features. Although measurements taken today will be short of the original size due to settlement and erosion, upwards of 650 cubic yards of cut sod and earth went into its construction. Anyone who has ordered a 'few' yards of top soil for a home landscaping project and then been overwhelmed by the small mountain dropped off on their front curb, can begin to appreciate the impressiveness of this volume. The mound described here would have required digging and moving the equivalent of some 3,900 wheelbarrow loads of earth. The work, of course, was done without benefit of wheels or any mechanical device, for this was a stone and bone technology culture.

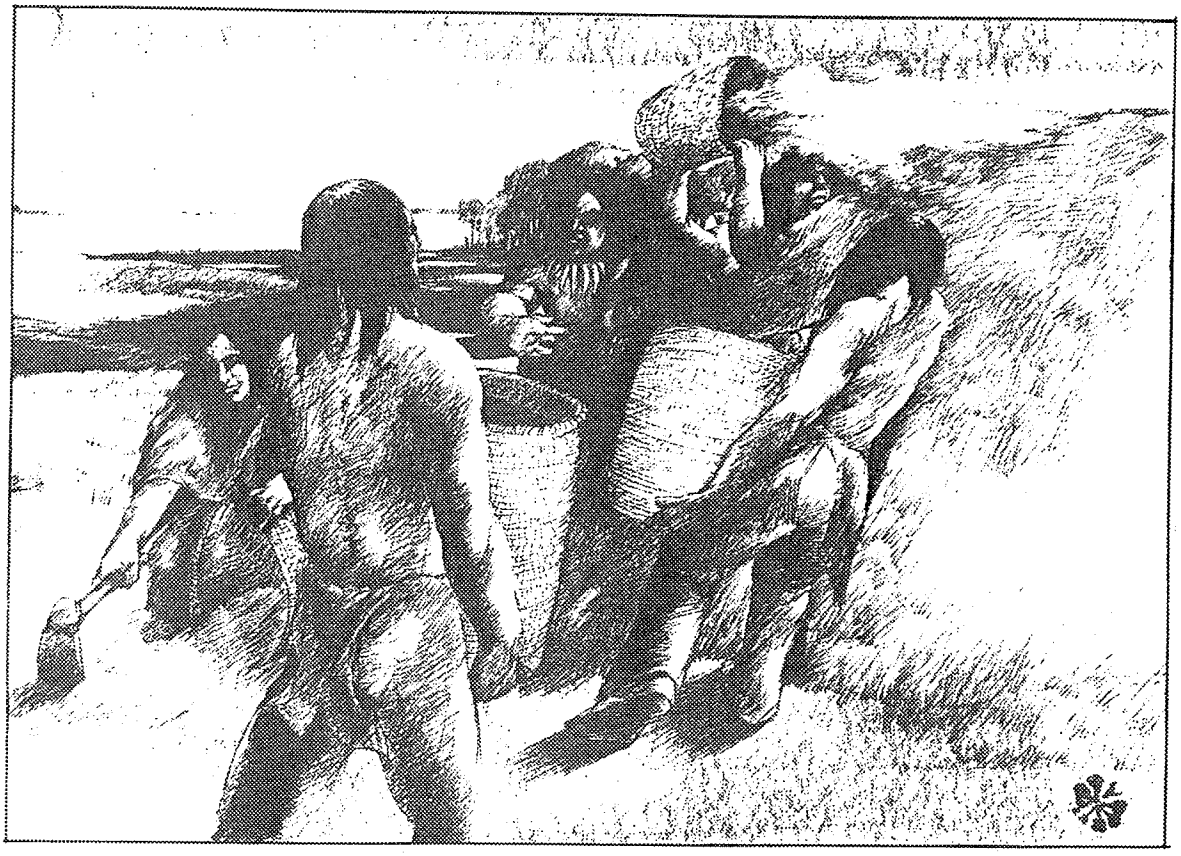


Figure 21. Mound builders.

FUNCTION

Mounds in Manitoba have long been a subject of interest and speculation. They have been opened by the curious and plundered by the insensitive. Amateur historians have ascribed fanciful origins, such as, "lost races of mound builders". There will always be some mystery as indeed there is concerning any prehistoric activity or culture.

Most mounds are associated with burials. But the extravagant effort that went into their construction, their purposeful orientations and the demographic record inherent in the remains, suggests a primary function other than just the burial. Based on the origins of material found in association with the mounds, it is clear that trade networks had been established across the continent. Many native groups overlapped territorially and successfully coexisted. The ritual of mound building may well have been a co-operative venture to strengthen intergroup relationships. Past research has focused too narrowly on the contents of the mounds. Today there is interest in looking more closely at related encampments, to try and establish a more complete understanding of the lives and activities of these people. There is also interest in protecting the mounds from further destruction. Intact they stand testimony to the strength of their builders' beliefs.

Figure Annotations:

A schematic typology of mounds found in southern Manitoba. (after Syms, 1978) (Figure 20.)

Aerial view of a composite, linear mound. 'A' and 'B' mark two circular burial mounds which are joined by a ridge 1.25' high, 20' wide and 650' long. (c.1975, Dr. L. Syms)

Mound profile with figure for scale.
(from "The W. B. Nickerson survey and excavations 1912-15 of the southern Manitoba Mounds Region")

Stacking earth and sod by hand to build a mound.
(Historic Resources Branch - Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation) (Figure 21.)

adapted from - Syms, Dr. L. (1978). "Aboriginal Mounds in Southern Manitoba: An Evaluative Overview." Unpublished Report. Parks Canada Manuscript Report 323.

CHAPTER 4
CONCLUSION

The panels will be the property of the University of Manitoba and administered by the Department of Landscape Architecture. The Department may wish to engage future students for the preparation of other feature landscape panels, particularly sites of unequivocal significance. Such additions would not only expand the breadth of this display, but could be targeted towards particular groups or form part of a lobby, if such is required, to obtain designation for a threatened important site.

Work on historic landscapes is still in its infancy in Manitoba, as it is all across the country. When the editor for the Canadian edition of the Oxford Companion to Gardens and Landscape Design began soliciting for subject material in 1988, the lack of any kind of inventory or register of historic landscapes was an immediate stumbling block. Work towards this has begun, but it is beyond the ability of a few dedicated individuals to prepare a comprehensive inventory. This project will require years of extensive consultation and a measure of luck. A wealth of personal anecdote, and attics and barns with treasures of photographs, journals and correspondences exists "out there." Much of this will never be volunteered; the owners have no notion of its value, or are modest because of its personal nature. They have yet to be convinced that history is not concerned solely with heroic events and famous people, that the institutions and environments we live with today were shaped by the actions of ordinary people. In some small part, this work may contribute to the opening of new doors.

It is hoped that the panels will be of value to the programs of the Historic Resources Branch. At present the Branch is beginning to address the intricacies involved in understanding, identifying, catagorizing and preserving heritage landscapes. The panels could be a useful tool to the program currently underway to assist communities in actively preserving local heritage resources. The Manitoba Historical Society is also interested in increased exchange with its associated local historical societies and may find the panels useful.

Most people are wary of government intervention, particularly the limiting of freedom to control their property which they fear comes implicitly with listing or designation. Ideally legal enforcement should be minimized and private initiative encouraged. Governments must expand the measures they can adopt to help people voluntarily manage heritage resources. This includes revising policies which serve as disincentives, providing support for research or technical services, and active promotion. The eco-museum concept, which has attracted much attention in recent years, correlates closely with the perceived need to manage whole districts, where the sum of the parts is greater than an individual element. Tourism spending currently carries weight and reports suggest upwards of one third of tourist traffic is related to heritage interests.

People always have and will continue to cherish personally significant landscapes. If people can be made to appreciate the historic value in all landscapes and make it part of the balance in any decision regarding changes to land, then all benefit. This applies especially to broad scale cultural landscapes, where people have adapted their lifeways to the geography and climate of a region, and modified the land according to their technology and needs. Landscapes that seem a good fit, are ones where people and the land have accommodated each other. They were born of pragmatism, often used indigenous material, and are sustainable because they are suited to the physical reality of place. They are to be celebrated, for maintaining identity in a global society is a daunting task.

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- -Public Archives of Canada
- -Provincial Archives of Manitoba
- -City of Winnipeg Archives (and other civic collections)
- -Winnipeg Parks Board Archives
- -Fire Insurance Plans
- -Hudson's Bay Archives

Photographs
- -Public Archives of Canada, Photography Collection
- -Provincial Archives of Manitoba
- -Winnipeg Parks Board Archives
- -Civic Archives
- -Western Pictorial Index, University of Winnipeg
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