

Morden Mansions

A self-guided Architectural/Historical Tour Morden, Manitoba

This illustrated tour of some of the heritage buildings located in Morden has been prepared by the members of the Morden Historical Society. The community has a wealth of fine old buildings but their number is declining. It is the hope of the Morden Historical Society that this will not continue and those heritage buildings which remain will continue to be a source of pride for those who own them and for those who enjoy viewing them.

Several of the buildings, primarily at the urging of their owners, have been designated as Municipal Heritage sites by the Town of Morden. The designation means at least partial protection for the interesting examples of architecture from our past.

If you wish to complete the tour on foot, there is ample parking at either the Agriculture Canada Research Station or at the Morden Court House. The main route will highlight some of the most impressive structures, however there are numerous other interesting buildings which are worth viewing. Many are private homes of frame construction which illustrate architectural tastes in this community from the late 1800's to about 1930.



Morden Court House - 301 Wardrop St.

The Courthouse was built in 1904 as its datestone attests, and is an example of field-stone construction in Manitoba. The structure is a neo-classical design with Georgian (18th century England) origins. Note the attractive quoins (corners) and cornice (upper edge). The stones for this and other buildings came from the beach of ancient Lake Agassiz.



DEAD HORSE CREEK

MORDEN PARK

THIRTEENTH ST

10

9

TWELFTH ST

7

8

6

ELEVENTH ST

11

5

14

13

12

15

16

TENTH ST

4

NINETH ST

19

17

18

21

20

NELSON ST

DOWNTOWN STOPPING AREA

3

22

23

24

25

27

26

EIGHTH ST

DUNSTON

SEVENTH ST

WARDROP ST

29

2

THORNHILL

SIXTH ST

28

FIFTH ST

FOURTH ST

THIRD ST

SECOND ST

HOSPITAL

HIGHWAY # 3

FIRST ST

RESEARCH STATION

1



1 Agriculture Canada Research Station, 101 Route 100

The frame home was constructed in 1920 for the Superintendent of the Morden Experimental Farm as the station was then known. The first residents were Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Leslie who moved into the house in the spring of 1921 and occupied it until Dr. Leslie's retirement in 1956. The house has been the home of subsequent directors since.



2 6th & Stephen St.

The imposing Arlington Hotel was built in 1902 by John Kennedy. The front verandah with 2 upper balconies has been removed and the lobby entrance moved from the North-east corner to the centre front. A horse drawn lorry provided transportation for guests to and from the C. P. R. station.

3 8th & Stephen St.

The old post office, which now houses the Morden branch of the South Central Regional Library, boasts a 70 foot clock tower which chimes on the hour. The datestone records 1913 as the year of construction. Note also the inlaid limestone and interesting roof lines. *Designated as a Heritage site*



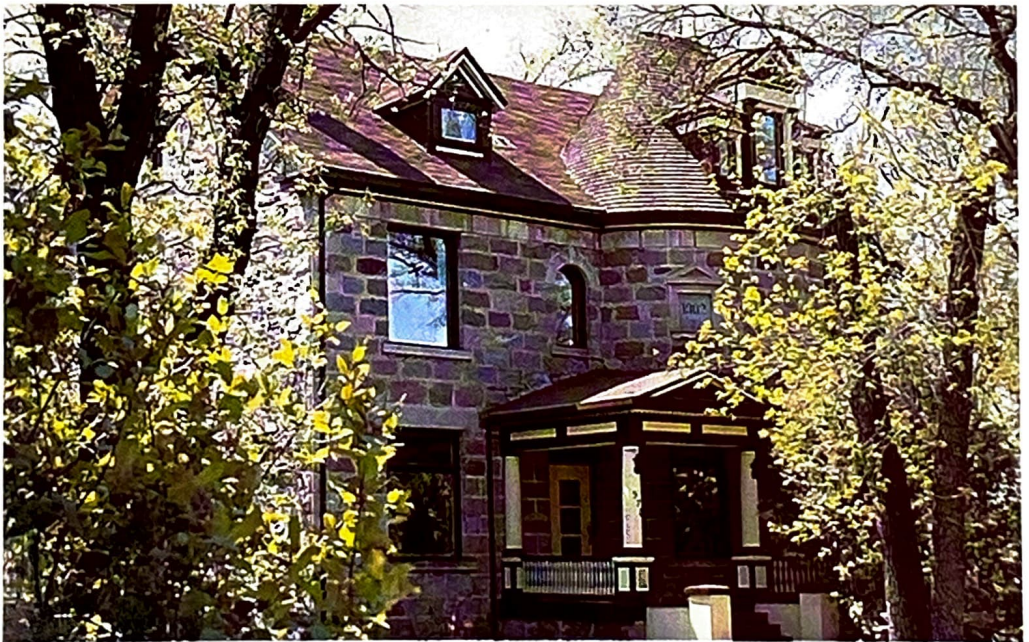
4 310-9th Street

This frame farm home was built in 1888 by James Lawrence for Henry C. Van Buren and was the residence of Valentine Winkler, first Member of the Legislative Assembly in Pembina. Additions were built in 1900 and 1922. Only four families have resided in this home since its construction.



5 522 Stephen St.

This cottage-style, fieldstone house has been tastefully re-modelled as a clothing store – proof that heritage preservation can be functional. It was built about 1895 by Scottish stone masons for William Hall, a baker.



6 572 Stephen St.

One of Manitoba's most elegant mansions, this house was built in 1902 for lawyer J. H. Black. It has an unusual datestone, a unique 3 window dormer and a charming oval parlour. The wrap-around porch emphasizes the chateau-like design.

7 586 Stephen St.

This house with Germanic styling was built from fieldstone in 1898 for Benjamin Porter, a grain merchant. Note the original metal roofing on the clipped gable roof.



8 577 Stephen Street

Formerly owned by Dr. J. B. McConnell, MLA for Pembina from 1907 to 1910, this neo-classical Renaissance style mansion was built in 1899. The cylindrical tower is its most obvious feature. Note also the sigmental (arched) windows. Originally a verandah with a second storey wrap-around balcony adorned the exterior, and a graceful curved staircase and stone fireplace were part of the entrance hall. *Designated as a Heritage site*



9 619 Stephen St.

Built in 1895, this well preserved frame house boasts a fascinating design, intricate wood trim and an interesting semi-round window. Such effort is not often seen in today's homes. The house was built for Walter Haley, Banker and Broker.



10 13th & Thornhill

Known as the McElroy House, this utilitarian, fieldstone structure was built in 1895.



11 Maple Leaf School, 555 Thornhill Avenue

The history of the Maple Leaf School dates back to the Maple Leaf School Division #83 which was formed in 1881. The original school was a log building located on a one acre site three miles east of Morden. The building was later moved to Morden and used as a courthouse and jail.

A new two room school was built in 1882 at the corner of Nelson and Stephen streets. The present Maple Leaf School was constructed in 1928 and enlarged in 1980. *Designated as a Heritage site.*

12 163-11th Street

This house was home to Frank and Netie Cowie between 1911 and 1962. It features a curved bannister, double doors between the diningroom and the parlour, corner block woodwork and high baseboards restored to the original woodgrain. The verandah was reconstructed in 1989.





13 145-11th St.

A mansard roof and dormer windows are features of the past, yet retain a definite charm. This house was built about 1900 by A. P. Braun, a hardware dealer.



14 11th & Stephen Street

The massive frame house was built in 1892 by John J. Lane, a lumber merchant. The master bedroom has an adjoining dressing room and in the clothes cupboard are high set rods to accommodate long gowns. The double vertical bay windows on the East wall are an interesting feature.



15 10th & Stephen St.

This traditional style church is the oldest non-residential building in Morden. It was erected by a Presbyterian Congregation on its present site in 1885 — a pivotal year in Canadian history which saw the Riel Rebellion and the completion of the transcontinental C. P. R.



16 168-10th St.

This well-maintained house with a proud bearing was built about 1900 by Arthur Hobkerk, a clerk of the Land Titles Office. The iron work at the peak provides the crowning touch.



17 Thornhill & 9th

Interesting roof lines and attic windows characterize this large residence. It was built about 1900 by S. Pickel, an auctioneer.



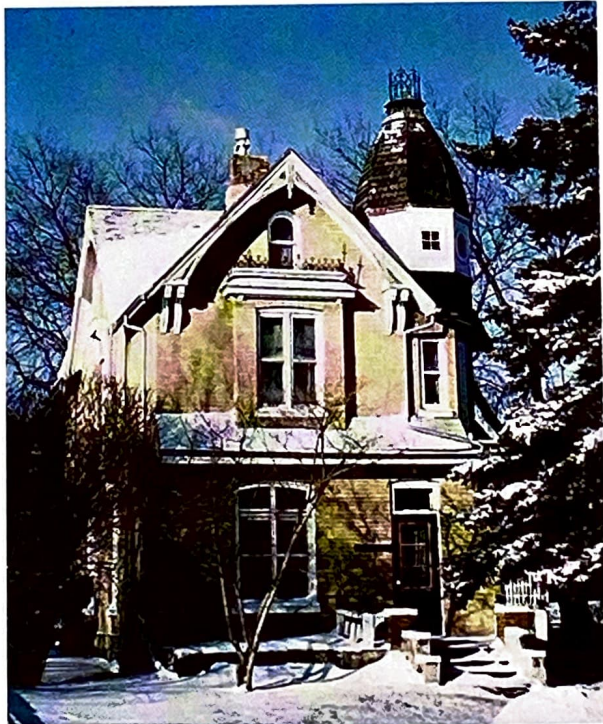
18 216-9th St.

This quaint and well-kept house has an interesting second level window. It was built for Edward Oke, a retired farmer, by his brother Sam, around 1895.



19 168-9th St.

This house was built of logs by Nathan York of Nelson and moved to Morden in 1887. John Acheson, merchant, bought it in 1903. He made several additions and enclosed the structure with brick.



20 180 Nelson St.

This 1895 brick mansion contains a multitude of interesting features including impressive iron cresting, an octagonal tower and a round stained glass window. The house was built of locally manufactured bricks for David Stodders, a grain merchant. *Designated as a Heritage site.*



21 160 Nelson St.

The elaborate frame mansion was built in 1890. Note the ornate porch. It was the home of W. J. Sutton, a banker and broker.



22 8th & Stephen St.

What is now the Morden Land Titles Office was erected as the general store of H. Meikle. Maud Fawcett (Coppinger) and Ella McClain (Stevenson) had their dressmaking business on the second floor. The Community Hall was also on the second floor. The original store front windows have been filled with stone. Note the interesting detail on the metal cornices.



23 8th & Stephen St.

The most impressive feature of the Morden Agencies Inc. 1901 building is the entrance. An ornate datestone combines with Romanesque arches and a rare polished granite pillar to invite the customer. This was originally known as the Heckels Block with the Alexander Hall on the second floor. The second storey was removed in the early 1940's.

24 St. Thomas Anglican Church, 131-8th St.

By 1885 Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist congregations were established in Morden. The residents moved from the former townsite of Nelson when the railway announced its decision to run the line through Morden rather than Nelson. St. Thomas Church was moved from Nelson, and although extensive renovations have been made to the building, the original sanctuary remains.





25 164-8th St.

This 1888 structure is small, yet big enough to boast an attractive second level window. It was the home of Southern Manitoba's first Presbyterian missionary and school inspector — Rev. Hugh J. Borthwick.



26 167-8th St.

The intricate trim on this house has survived since 1903 when it was built by G. W. McLarren, a druggist. For many years it served as the Presbyterian manse.



27 180-8th Street

The neat frame house was built by William Bell, a carpenter, in Nelson in the early 1880's, and shortly thereafter moved to Morden.



28 151-6th St.

A French Canadian style of porch is an interesting feature of this house. It was built about 1900 for Robert Livingston, a retired farmer.

This was made possible by a grant from the Manitoba Heritage Federation Inc. The Morden Historical Society also acknowledges the support of the Town of Morden, the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce and all those who have cherished and preserved the architectural history of the community.

Photographs by Hugh Arklie and Catherine Evenson