

Special Place Sites

In partnership with the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection, the Winnipeg Beach Heritage Advisory Group has undertaken a project that focused on our community's historic buildings.

The following list of buildings constitutes the group's recommendations about those places that have major claims for local heritage significance. Each building listed below is also presented on the following pages, with an accompanying Heritage Value Statement that elucidates that building's key heritage attributes.

- CPR Water Tower
- Winnipeg Beach United Church
- St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church
- Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church
- Playland
- Weynoke Cottage (73 Kernested)
- Intermezzo Cottage (128 Hazel)
- Passamaquoddy (139 Laurel)
- Sandells Cottage (164 Prospect)
- Lavallie Cottage (446 Spruce)
- Markdale Cottage (441 Oak)
- Wavecrest Cottage (140 Park)
- Jasper Haven II (245 Ash)
- Charge Cottage (350 Prospect)
- Epsilon Villa (352 Epsilon)

The development of this short list of significant sites was the result of careful and studied deliberations using standard heritage evaluation criteria, processes and scoring regimes. This work was carried out by the Winnipeg Beach Heritage Advisory Group with assistance from our heritage consultant, Mr. Wally Johannson and staff of the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection. We are grateful to the branch for their generous support and patient attention in this particular endeavour.

As a collection, these 15 buildings define many aspects and themes from Winnipeg Beach's past, and do so through places that are at once significant, but also interesting and attractive. These are places that the people of Winnipeg Beach can look to with pride. These places remind us of past glories, but also suggest an enduring sense of community, and are a beacon for its future.

CPR Water Tower



The Winnipeg Beach CPR Water Tower, a riveted steel storage tank on a braced skeletal steel frame, is the best example of its type in Manitoba and the only structure that remains from the various facilities built by the CPR to develop Winnipeg Beach into a premier lakeside resort. The site's vast sandy shoreline, supplemented in the early 1900s by the CPR's amusement, recreation and other amenities, made it a perennially popular destination for summer excursions and vacations. The water tower, designed and built by Vulcan Iron Works Ltd. of Winnipeg, added a highly visible feature to the shoreline, as well as a source of pressurized lake water for railway use and local firefighting.

Winnipeg Beach United Church



Built in 1907, and originally serving a Presbyterian congregation, the United Church is a strong reminder of the earliest days of the community. Although recently resheathed, the overall form, with its broad roofline and handsome candlesnuff tower, is a landmark. The church, which was built by S.B. Ritchie and Hugh McPherson, still contains its traditional Gothic windows and original altar.

St. Bartholomew Anglican Church



St. Bartholomew Anglican Church, built in 1908, is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the community, recalling the earliest years of activity here. Recently recovered on its exterior, the church still exhibits its original informal and inviting character, with its broad main facade and offset tower. Inside, the church still features its original altar, some stained glass, wooden pews and bell.

Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church



Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, from 1936, is a striking example of the Baroque church architecture that informed the church designs of so many eastern European church communities in Manitoba. With its multi-domed form, and cruciform plan, Sts. Peter and Paul is a textbook example of the type. Its high levels of integrity, outside and in, are also a testament to a congregation that continues to honour its roots.

Playland



Built in 1941, Playland is the best remaining example of the kind of modest commercial structures that once lined Main Street. Serving up fast food and entertainments to Winnipeg Beach cottagers and visitors, this wall of simple facades, facing onto the lake, and also onto the various amenities there, like the roller coaster, was a major feature of Winnipeg Beach for more than 50 years. Playland is a good reminder of the type, seen in so many small Manitoba towns, with a large squarish facade punctuated with simple rectangular windows, but with a slight variation: the use of large main-floor openings that would be lifted in the summer months to create a seamless transition between the sidewalk and the joyous noises within.

Weynoke Cottage



Weynoke is the most important building in Winnipeg Beach. Constructed in 1898 for the family of Edwin Frederick Stephenson (making it the oldest building in the community), this large, rambling building recalls the earliest Canadian sensibility for a country escape from a place like Winnipeg. The basic house-like external form belies the interior, which is a veritable treatise on the rustic, picturesque construction and decorating qualities of the day, with exposed log beams and a majestic stone fireplace, as well as countless other features and details of that era.

Intermezzo Cottage



A subtle variation in a basic rectangular plan—the angling of the two ends to the street—creates one of Winnipeg Beach’s most striking cottages. One of the oldest in the community, from 1905, the cottage is also one of the largest, and the original elegant interior has been carefully preserved for more than century.

Passamaquoddy



Passamaquoddy, named for First Nations peoples of New Brunswick and Maine, is one of the best Winnipeg Beach examples of a classic Manitoba cottage type. With its shallow pyramidal roof and long line of screened openings facing into a verandah, this kind of cottage can be found in all Manitoba summer resorts. Passamaquoddy is an exceptional example of the type, built by S.B. Ritchie, the C.P.R. contractor who constructed many Winnipeg Beach cottages. The elements of the form are clearly visible outside but also inside, where the original construction—exposed wooden frame and rafters—and a variety of ingenious wooden features and built-in furniture are all open to view. This is one of the oldest cottages in the community.

Sandells Cottage



A nearly perfect example of the traditional Manitoba cottage, with shallow pyramidal roof and long line of screened openings facing into a verandah, is here enriched with attention to subtle details. Built around 1908 by S.B. Ritchie, the C.P.R.'s major local contractor, the cottage also has been preserved inside, and the high levels of physical integrity that attend the original construction materials, features and details are an ongoing tribute to a family that has honoured this summer place for more than a century.

Lavallie Cottage



Lavallie Cottage is an excellent representative of one of the typical small cottage types from the early decades of the community, in this case to 1936, when it was built by a Mr. Weatherby. Small, charming and still revealing many of its original design and construction qualities, the cottage effectively suggests the delight of such places. From its simple plan, basically a box, to its straightforward gable roof, the building is a model of efficiency. But it also boasts original fenestration, a nearly original interior with bare wooden walls, which in places even reveal the original lumberyard mark: Abbotsford Lumber.

Markdale Cottage



One of the oldest cottages in Winnipeg Beach, from 1920, Markdale Cottage recalls the kind of small but crisply designed cottages that so many early residents called home for the summer. In this case, the cottage is remarkable for the retention of nearly all of its original architectural qualities. From its overall form, distinctive hull-shaped roof and especially its many windows and numerous original features of its wooden interior, the cottage is a clear and proud reminder of early building traditions.

Wavecrest Cottage



Wavecrest is an important local example recalling how familiar Manitoba cottage forms could be transformed into something more impressive. Built in 1930, this handsome building presents the traditional motif—a shallow pyramid roof and long line of screened openings—but enlarged with a six-sided parlour section that not only enlarges but also dignifies the form. Wavecrest is also an excellent example recalling the kinds of materials, features and details that defined cottage architecture in these early years. And inside, the building still retains those qualities, with an open, airy sensibility created with its exposed wooden frame, all open to the roof rafters, many original built-in components, all with the highest levels of physical integrity.

Jasper Haven II



Built in 1930, Jasper Haven II is a minty little building, whose simple form, roof line and other traditional cottage elements easily transport one back to the first decades of community life at Winnipeg Beach. Its wall of large windows, suggesting openness and light, are reinforced inside, where original qualities are still intact. Original wooden construction materials, so common at that time, are still apparent, as are any number of other features and fixtures, including even original wiring.

Charge Cottage



Built in 1921 for Wilfred Charge, a buyer for Eaton's Department Store in Winnipeg, this cottage is one of the grandest in the community. The large and impressive building recalls how the community was not only a modest summer escape for many, but also could for some be a place where impressive architectural statements could be made. Still clearly a cottage, the formal appearance, broad roof and wealth of windows lifts this building to a slightly different plane.

Epsilon Villa



The traditional shallow pyramidal roof and long line of screened openings facing into a verandah that defines a Manitoba summer house is visible at Epsilon Villa, but with a major twist – here with a striking second floor cupola that appears as a lookout tower. This feature has made the Villa, built around 1920, a local landmark, and also recalls the variety of forms that ingenious cottage owners might use to make an architectural statement, in this case by a chief of police for his bride to be.

Those were the days my friends

We thought they'd never end



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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

All photographs from Archives of Manitoba, except those Special Places Sites photos from the Winnipeg Beach Inventory.