

Cemeteries/Memorials

Gladstone's cemetery is, like many other communities', beyond the strict boundaries of town. But it is of course a vital connection to the town, and in this instance also one of the province's prettiest small-town graveyards. Gladstone's war memorial is situated on the east side of town, in The Crescent neighbourhood, and is a very fine example of these affecting kinds of tributes.



A gravemarker in Gladstone Cemetery.



Gladstone War Memorial.



The unveiling of the Gladstone War Memorial in 1923.

Construction and Craftsmanship

Gladstone was the site of an important brickworks (developed by Magnus Wilson), and most of the community's brick buildings were constructed with that operation's output. Of great import is the survival of the Magnus Wilson House, whose distinctive form (slightly larger than normal bricks, suggesting stone construction, and specially commissioned for this house) makes for one of the province's more interesting explorations of this material. Several other brick buildings are also noteworthy examples of that material, and of the craftsmanship that attended it: the Bickle and Bailey Block, Fahrni House, Collins House and the house on the south edge of town near Highway 16.

Builders and contractors like the King Brothers, Ernie Cresswell and Ben Lobb were kept busy, and substantial evidence of their work is readily evident today. A preliminary listing developed through this project suggests which buildings might be used to focus on the contributions of these men to the ultimate form of Gladstone:

Ernie Cresswell

All Saints Anglican Church
United Manse
Knox House (C.7)
Gas House (D.16)

Ben Lobb

Clayton House (C.1)
Pinn House (C.2)
Lobb House (C.30)

Ben Williscroft

Williscroft House (C.3)
McAlpine House (C.37)
Williams Bros Store (D.6)



Wilson House (1905), one of the houses in The Crescent, a notable Gladstone neighbourhood of fine homes.

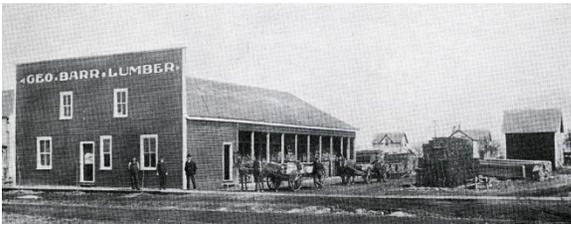


Bickle and Bailey Block (1896), a very fine example of brickwork on one of Gladstone's important commercial buildings.



The brick details on the Collins House are amongst the finest in town.

Like many other small Manitoba towns, Gladstone once boasted an impressive infrastructure devoted to the building trade: Barr's Lumber Yard, Kinny's Sash and Door Factory and as noted above, the Wilson Brickworks. None of these buildings or operations is extant today, but the cavity near the Whitemud River from which the clay for the Wilson operation was carved is still visible.



Barr's Lumber Yard.



Brick detail of the Bickle and Bailey Block.



Brick detail of the Saskatchewan Highway House.



Brick details of the Collins House.

Gladstone's Heritage Sites

The following 12 buildings and sites constitutes the Gladstone Heritage Advisory Group's recommendations to the community about those places that have major claims for local heritage significance. Each building and site listed below is also presented on the following pages, with an accompanying Heritage Value Statement that elucidates that building or site's key heritage attributes.

- CN Rail Station
- All Saints Anglican Church
- Gladstone United Church
- Wilson House
- Dr. Rose House
- Galloway House
- Claude King House
- Bickle House
- Galloway Department Store
- Bailey and Bickle Block
- Hamilton Davidson Store
- War Memorial

This collection effectively sums up key themes in Gladstone's history. Spiritual life is expressed in two excellent churches—All Saints Anglican and Gladstone United—fine representatives of the kind of Gothic Revival architecture so popular for Protestant churches in Manitoba around the turn of the 20th century.

The old CN Railway Station is a lovingly restored tribute to that critical aspect of our development. And the Gladstone War Memorial recalls, in a singularly handsome and affecting monument, those awful times of war and death.

Two finely appointed commercial buildings—Galloway Bros. Department Store and the Bailey and Bickle Block—are important reminders of the power and prestige accorded Gladstone as a new commercial centre developed. And the Hamilton Davidson Store, dated to 1876 (making it our oldest building) recalls the considerable age of our community.

The five houses noted here reflect several important themes in Gladstone's history of domestic life: those grand homes occupied by the town's business elite as well as those more modest houses of small merchants and workers; the legacy of brick construction as well as one of wood; the rare small-town activity of a society architect from Winnipeg (at the Wilson House) and the exquisite brickwork in many homes carried out by local craftsmen.

The group also noted in its evaluation exercise that a collection of other Gladstone buildings of slightly lesser heritage significance should be identified for the record as Sites of Heritage Interest; these are also featured in this booklet:

- Williscroft House
- Presbyterian Manse
- Madill House
- Collins House
- Adamson Garage
- Gas House

These latter two building are acknowledged to be difficult to deal with in terms of heritage conservation. Neither is in particularly good condition. But these are rare remaining building types: the Gas House is an extremely rare example of the kind of building used for early community lighting technology; and the Adamson Garage is one of a handful of garages remaining to recall the advent of the automobile in Manitoba.

CN Rail Station

49 Sixth Street



Gladstone's old CN (Canadian National; originally Manitoba and North Western) Station (1901-02) is an important reminder of the once-dominant role that railways played in Gladstone's development. Now relocated to Williams Park, and recast as a community museum, the building is still an excellent example of the kind of station design that graced many small Manitoba communities in the early decades of the 20th century. With its long low form, overhanging roof (that sheltered pass-engers in inclement weather) and animated front elevation (with various dormers), the Gladstone Station is an excellent example of its type.

All Saints Anglican Church

Dennis Street West



All Saints Anglican Church (1904-05) is an important Gladstone landmark. The church recalls the spiritual lives of many Gladstone pioneers, and is also a key reflection of their Anglo-Protestant heritage. At the same time, the church is an important example, in Manitoba, of a small-town church building. With its straightforward exterior of brick and stone, pointed windows and doors and steep roof, the church is a fairly typical Gothic affair. Inside, however, the church is a truly glorious (and apparently unique) expression of the faith, rendered in a sort of “Farmer’s Gothic” (by local builder Ernie Creswell) in which planks are set up into basic but evocative truss shapes.

Gladstone United Church

33 Morris Street South



Gladstone United Church (1893) is a major community building, representing the spiritual lives of local Presbyterians (and after the 1925 Union of many Presbyterians and Methodists), for the local United congregation. The building is important architecturally, a good example of the kind of forms and details that characterized Protestant church building in the 19th and early 20th centuries – Gothic Revival. In this case the staples of that style—pointed windows, fairly steep roof, stained glass—are joined with an impressive steeple. Alterations after a fire in 1952 resulted in the application of stucco to the exterior, but that change actually makes the church even more striking, a bright white form on the landscape.

Wilson House

90 Dennis Street East



The WILSON HOUSE (1905) is one of Gladstone's most important buildings, with ongoing historical connections to the Magnus and Ellen Wilson family, and an important reflection of the ambitions and sophistication of Gladstone's business elite in the early 1900s. Magnus Wilson was a major player in Gladstone's development, operating a brickyard adjacent to this house, and providing building materials for nearly every brick building in town. For his own house, Mr. Wilson commissioned renowned Winnipeg architect James Chisholm, and the resulting building is of course unique, but also unparalleled in small-town Manitoba history. Inspired by the castles of his native Scotland, the Wilsons got an exceptional Queen Anne-style manor, complete with corner tower and various other features and details typical of that highly popular style. Of equal interest, the house is clad in special bricks that were fired for this place (looking more like small stones than bricks), and inside features fine oak trim that was milled to order from local trees. All in all, a very made-in-Manitoba house.

Dr. Rose House

81 Cameron Street



The Dr. Rose House (1904) is another of Gladstone's fine large houses, part of a collection of buildings that is exceptional compared with Manitoba's current small-town heritage. Begun by T.E. Nichols and quickly taken over and completed by Dr. Rose (who also served as a Gladstone mayor, and occupied the house with his family until 1946), the house is an exceptional example of the kind of large impressive house that graced many of the province's small towns. In this case the building is a tour-de-force of the type, with an inviting plan and form, novel touches like a small canopied side porch and a variety of interesting window shapes. With high levels of integrity, inside and out, the house is a prized Gladstone home.

Galloway House

26 Hyde Park Crescent



The Galloway House (1898), one of Gladstone's older houses, is an excellent example of the kind of impressive and interesting buildings that Gladstone's entrepreneurial class erected in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Commissioned by William Galloway, co-owner of the Galloway Bros. Department Store, the house is an exquisite example of the kind of picturesque form and detail that were so popular at that time. Now under rehabilitation, the house still boasts many of the original features and details that made it a prized Gladstone home.

Claude King House

86 Broadfoot Street



The Claude King House is an important Gladstone building, with important connections to the community's construction history. This impressive Victorian-era home was built in 1900 by Claude King, who along with brother Ralph constructed many Gladstone houses. Even when they moved to Dauphin in 1907 the Kings still used brick from Magnus Wilson's Gladstone brickyard. Given Mr. King's background, it is not surprising that this building exhibits the highest levels of craftsmanship. In the confident use of brick throughout and especially in details around windows and doors, as well as the application of wood trim, the house is an exceptional expression of the builder's trade. The high levels of integrity are a testament to subsequent owners, including the Adamsons and two generations of the Stewarts.

Bickle House

47 Dennis Street East



The Bickle House is an impressive Queen Anne-style home, built in 1902 for Druggist A.T. Andrews who lived in it for only a year before selling to James Foster. By 1904 it belonged to noted local harness maker H. J. Bickle (part owner of the Bickle and Bailey Block), and although he lived in it for only four years it is still known locally as the Bickle House. Where others of Gladstone's large houses were of brick, this is an excellent example of what also could be accomplished with wood. The L-shaped plan, which itself creates interesting forms, has a large shady verandah, corner tower with a pyramidal roof, and attractive dormers. Inside, the house features many original features including metal hardware, wood trim and baseboards, leather-like wall panels, pocket doors with beveled glass, an original fireplace, some hardwood floors, a fine staircase and stained glass windows.

Galloway Bros. Department Store

Morris Street North



The Galloway Bros. Department Store is one of the earliest facilities of its type built outside a major urban centre in Manitoba. Planned in an eclectic style by architect George W. Gouinlock of Toronto, the store is a good illustration of an elaborate retail-warehouse structure. Its design combines a unique Queen Anne-inspired roofline and prominent oriel window with functional features more typical of an early twentieth-century store, such as large display windows and fine interior metal detailing. Built in 1902 for merchants William and Roper Galloway on a site with ready access to rail transport, the store has accommodated several commercial enterprises over the decades. Its location near two other brick structures erected in the early 1900s makes it an integral part of one of Gladstone's historic business streets.

Bailey and Bickle Block

41 Morris Street North



The Bailey and Bickle Block (1896) is an exceptional building, recalling the pinnacle of commercial accommodations developed in the late 19th century. It is also a wonderful example of Romanesque design and an exceptional expression of craftsmanship in brick. Built for W.S. Bailey and H.J. Bickle to house Bickle's harness-making business and Bailey's bank, the exterior of this building is little changed from views found in old photographs. In its early days this fine brick block was also home to lawyer D. Smith and Anderson and Ormond, barristers. A grocery, a butcher shop, and a doctor's office have all used space in the building. An exceptional example of the popular kind of architectural expression often employed on high-end commercial operations of the day—Romanesque Revival—the Bailey and Bickle Block is one of the finest examples (given its high level of integrity) in the province. The building is also a prized local example of the high levels of skills attained by Gladstone's bricklayers at the turn of the century.

Hamilton Davidson Store

5 Morris Street North



The Hamilton Davidson Store is Gladstone's oldest building, and one of the oldest structures in the province not associated with the history of the fur trade. Built in 1876, the building served originally as J.A. Hamilton and Davidson's General Store, and later as the first Galloway Bros. Store. When it was built it was the largest building in the new village of Gladstone, and reportedly the largest retail building west of Portage la Prairie. The building was moved to its present site in 1897. Given its age, it is natural that many tenants have occupied space over the years, including a grocery store, bank, community hall, furniture store, and finally as a bakery and café in 1932, a function it still maintains. Although it has been heavily reworked over the years, the building still maintains its basic form.

War Memorial

Dennis and Saskatchewan



Gladstone's War Memorial is a notable example of the kind of affecting tributes that small Manitoba towns put up after World War I to honour those who gave their lives during that conflict. Gladstone's memorial is an especially fine example of the type, with one side of the base listing the 51 local boys and Nursing Sister Agnes McPherson who were lost in the so-called Great War. Erected in 1922, the marble, sandstone and concrete monument was crafted by the Neepawa firm of Guinn and Simpson, with the actual figure of a soldier-at-ease coming from a workshop in Italy. Like others of its type, the memorial was sadly updated with the names of the 26 local dead from World War II, and the one local casualty from the Korean War.

Sites of Heritage Interest

The following six buildings of slightly lesser heritage significance are noted here as Sites of Heritage Interest.

- Williscroft House
- Presbyterian Manse
- Madill House
- Collins House
- Adamson Garage
- Gas House

Williscroft House

675 St. Clare Street



Text for placement only

Presbyterian Church Manse

401 Kent Street



Text for placement only

Madill House

907 St. Clare Street



Text for placement only

Collins House

691 St. Clare Street



Text for placement only

Adamson Garage

Address



Text for placement only

Gas House

672 Lundy Street



Text for placement only



Parting thoughts

The strength of a nation is derived from the integrity of its homes.

— Confucius

A country without a past has the emptiness of a barren continent; and a city without old buildings is like a man without a memory.

— Graeme Shankland