

## Commercial Buildings

Like any Manitoba town it's our commercial core that defines Hartney – it recalls our purpose, it marks our place. And Hartney has a remarkably intact downtown. Where many other places have lost whole swathes of their commercial thoroughfares, Hartney can still boast of many interesting buildings that help express this core aspect of the community's identity. The typical commercial styles and the near-ubiquitous use of masonry are still present in several storefronts, suggesting what these streets looked like when they were lined with such structures.



Some archival views showing Hartney's commercial heritage.

Contemporary views of Hartney's commercial heritage.



## Memorials and Cemeteries

Like many other communities, Hartney has two notable sites connected to memorial activity – its cemetery just to the west and north of town and its war memorial, on East Railway Street.

The War Memorial is an affecting tribute to the many young men of the Carberry area who gave their lives in World Wars I and II. The unbearably long list of names engraved on the red granite base remind us of that sacrifice. The memorial itself is also important as a piece of design, with the military figure atop the shaft a fine example of craftsmanship.



Memorial to the Pioneers at Riverside Cemetery.



Hartney War Memorial.

## Building Trades in Hartney

Hartney has a significant claim in small-town Manitoba history: the building construction industry. All Manitoba communities naturally had local builders involved in the industry, and will be able to highlight this important aspect of the province's past through those individuals and their buildings. Many communities also contained important facilities associated with building construction—saw mills, quarries, lime kilns, lumber yards—and a few towns with remnants of these kinds of operations will also be able to focus attention via those sites.

But what we have in Hartney is special – the many remaining buildings actually constructed with bricks that were manufactured at two major brickyards, right here, more than 100 years ago.

Brick was available at Hartney as early as 1890, when William J. Mathers and W.H. Atkinson of Deloraine opened a branch of their lumber yard. They did not manufacture the brick, however, but acted only as distributors of products of now-unknown origins.

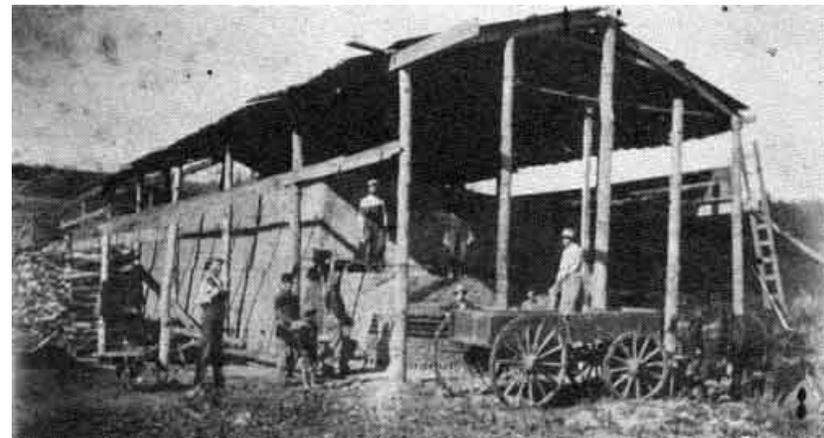
Hartney's first brick operation got underway in 1895, when Harry Payne of Souris bought a tract and land west of Hartney and planned an immediate start of a brick yard, stating that he could sell brick for \$8.00 per thousand. The yard was started that year, but in 1895 production was unknown. Payne and his workers were back at Hartney in April 1896, beginning production late in the month. The yard appears to have had a capacity of 100,000 bricks per day. Late in May the Payne yard was doing a "land office business in terms of demand," with the proprietor vowing to continue production until freeze-up in the fall. Payne wanted to stockpile the brick for the next (1897) season. He fired his first kiln of 100,000 bricks early in June, 1896. During August, however, most of the brick yard crew left to work in the yard at Deloraine, necessitating Payne's replacement of the workers with fresh help from Souris.



Hartney's brick-men, Harry Payne (top) and William Kirkland (bottom).

The season of 1897 saw Payne burning two kilns of brick in July, with a final kiln of 150,000 bricks in mid-November. It is known that Payne sold brick to W. Hopkins for the latter to veneer his store that year. The following year saw Payne supplying local demand, while shipping brick to towns both east and west. It also saw Payne building a couple of brick houses during the autumn. Competition also reared its head for Payne during 1898, and this possibly forced him to plan improvements to his brick plant for 1899. In the new year, Payne's wire-cut brick machine was said to be working splendidly, making brick more cheaply, with a price reduction under consideration. Production was soon increased to 30,000 bricks per day. A commentator in the summer of 1899 stated that even with these changes, Hartney's brick yards were unable to supply the demand placed upon them. Payne tried to solve this the following year by installing a new wire-cut brick machine. This was less than successful, however, as the producer would not prevent the brick from cracking. He wound up discarding the new machine in favour of an older one. The Payne yard continued in business through 1901./

Another Hartney brick yard started in 1898 as the Hartney Brick and Delft Company, run by George Sackville and Company. The Sackville yard was located a short distance east of Hartney and produced a white brick. Sackville burned his first kiln of brick in July and the last in November, shipping out large quantities at that time. The story in 1899 was similar to that of the previous year, with Sackville taking a partner named Little.



These old images of Manitoba brick-making operations (top at Gladstone and bottom near La Riviere) suggest what the Hartney brick plants were probably like.

By mid-August the firm was shipping brick over the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway line, and in fact had several outstanding orders on hand. William Kirkland, who had worked for Sackville since 1899, took over the yard in 1901 at a time when the area faced a brick shortage. This condition continued into 1902, especially in light of the probable closure of the Payne yard. Kirkland's first kiln of 80,000 bricks was burned in May 1902, and the lot went into the new A.E. Hill and Company building then under construction. Indeed, that lot of brick was not enough for the large structure, as its construction was delayed in June because of the non-arrival of brick from the city. The local production shortage apparently continued into late July, when Leckie and Co. received a "car of white brick" for sale.

Little is known of the Kirkland operation during 1903 and 1904, except that in the latter year the plant burned a kiln of 150,000 bricks. The *Hartney Star*, in visiting the yard in May 1905, commented on the "fine and inexhaustible deposit of clay" that was being worked by Kirkland's steam brick machine. A 1907-1908 Dominion Government report on the Kirkland yard found that it sat on 15 acres and produced 30,000 bricks per day, with 10 men employed. The 1907 output was said to be one million bricks. Another government report on the Kirkland yard in 1912 indicated that there had been some problems with quality, the bricks being soft and porous because of a silty underlay in the clay and lower temperatures in the scove kilns. During 1913 Kirkland had maintained production at around one million bricks, most of which were shipped to Regina for use in the new Legislative Building. The Kirkland yard suffered from the same problems after 1914 as other Western Canadian yards – a building downtown, and labour shortages because of the World War. Despite this, the Kirkland yard remained open, though its production dwindled until it finally closed, prior to 1920. After its closure, William Kirkland went into full-time trapping of fur-bearing animals, something he had done in the off-seasons at the brick yard.



The bricks and stones of a Hartney house reveal the exquisite craftsmanship, evident still 100 years after walls were put up.

## Modern Buildings

While they are not yet considered heritage sites, the community of Hartney contains two notable buildings that one day could attain that status: the Hartney Dominion Post Office and the old Hartney Service Station.



The Hartney Dominion Post Office, from 1960, is a typical but excellent example of the kind of small International style buildings that the Canadian government was building in many small towns in the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s.

With its bold cantilevered roof extension, designed to provide protection from the elements, the former Hartney Service Station is a rare surviving example of automobile service stations that began popping up in small Manitoba towns in the 1950s.

# Hartney's Significant Heritage Sites

The following list of buildings and sites constitutes the Hartney Heritage Advisory Group's recommendations and reminders to the community about those places that have claims for heritage significance.

These buildings are presented on the following pages with an accompanying Heritage Value Statement that elucidates that building's key heritage attributes.

- Hartney Town Hall (220 W Rwy)
- Former MTS Office (315 E. Railway)
- St. Andrew's Anglican (602 River)
- St. Paul's Presbyterian (401 E. Rwy)
- War Memorial (East Railway & River)
- Riverside Cemetery (Highway 21)
- A.E. Hill & Co. Store (310 Poplar)
- Lewis Building (308 Poplar)
- Crawford Building (213 W. Railway)
- Merchant's Bank (221 E. Railway)
- Irene Hill House (207 King)
- Tribble House (504 River)
- Agnew House (402 Souris)
- Fry House (400 Souris)
- Galbraith House (600 River)

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 Hartney Heritage Advisory Group with assistance from staff of the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism. We are grateful to the branch for their generous support and patient attention in this particular endeavour.

As a collection, these 15 buildings and sites define many aspects and themes from Hartney's past, and do so through places that are at once significant, but also interesting and attractive. These are places that the people of Hartney 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.

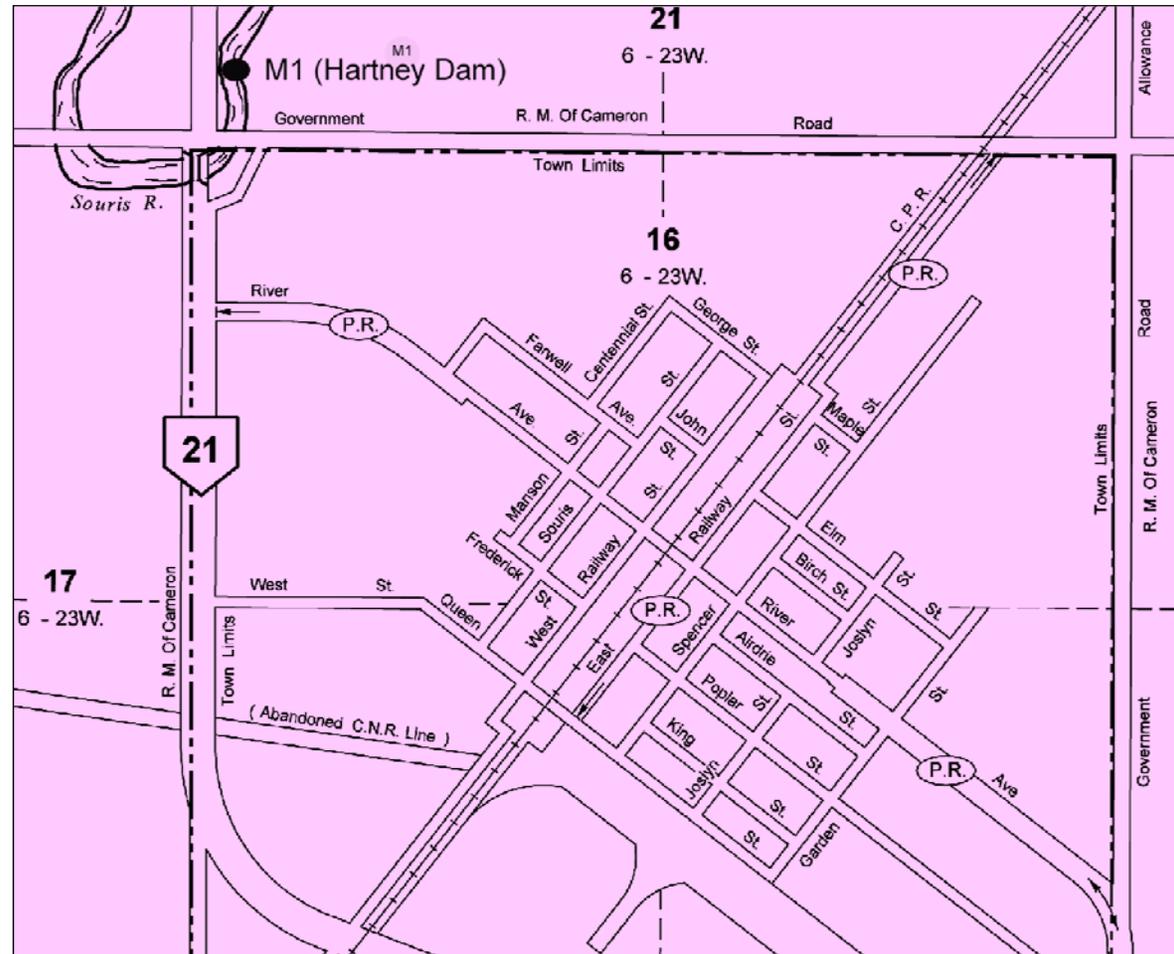
In this exercise, the Town of Hartney was advised by the Historic Resources Branch (HRB) that it had an exceptional collection of houses and commercial buildings, which explains why four business blocks and five houses are included on this list. Many other Manitoba communities of our size are advised to try to limit the number of buildings on the List of Significant Sites, to make for a more concise focus, but in our case HRB felt these nine buildings were actually needed on the list to better reflect our truly exceptional built heritage.

At the same time, HRB staff advised that our main commercial thoroughfare (East Railway) as well as a stretch of large brick houses on Souris Street, were important concentrations of buildings that made those areas of particular heritage value, even if only a few buildings in each area could be noted for high claims of heritage significance. These districts are noted in a section called Districts of Heritage Interest. It was suggested that these two areas be noted for special attention when opportunities for heritage promotion and education arose.

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## Map of Hartney

This basic street map of Hartney can be co-ordinated to locate sites noted on following pages, which are identified with street addresses.



# Hartney Town Hall

Address



THE HARTNEY TOWN HALL, built in 1906 by contractor Mr. H Vaughan, is an impressive example of the kind of multi-purpose public facilities that many small Manitoba communities ingeniously combined under one roof. Thus the building not only housed offices and meeting rooms for civic and public functions (as well as a jail), it also served as a fire station. Thus the large arched door on the right originally opened into the fire hall, where beginning in 1906 a variety of equipment— fire engine, hoses, horse cart, ladders and water tanks— was stored. The building itself is modest in its details but grand in its size and proportions, as well in its variety of openings – small and large, arched and flat topped. It remains a fine civic landmark, set across the tracks and facing the impressively intact facades of Hartney’s commercial throughfare.

# Former MTS Office

115 Main Street



The Former MTS (Manitoba Telephone System) Office, a tidy building in an eye-catching Spanish Colonial Revival style, is a fine representation of the modest-sized exchanges erected by Manitoba Government Telephones in small rural centres in the early 1940s. Based on a standard design also applied to other exchanges throughout Manitoba, the ca. 1945 structure is distinguished by its well-defined rectilinear form, many windows and contrasting finishes of light-coloured stucco, tile and red brick. Its presence recalls the pre-automatic era of telephone technology when human operators were essential to daily communications in their communities, working switching equipment that made local and long-distance calling possible. Still in office use, this facility is a bright and familiar fixture in Hartney's business district.

# War Memorial

121 Main Street



HARTNEY'S 1926 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. Hartney's memorial is an especially fine example of the type, with the tall shaft set on five stepped blocks and capped with an elegantly detailed feature. The 22 names inscribed on one side of the memorial recall "Our Glorious Dead" from the 1914-1918 Great War conflict, and a bronze plaque on the opposite side notes the 15 local dead lost in World War II. The base of the monument also identifies the major battles of World War I in which Hartney men fought and died: Amiens, Cambrai, Arras, Valenciennes, Ypres, Passchendaele, Somme and Vimy Ridge.