

Riverside Cemetery

Carberry Fair Grounds



RIVERSIDE CEMETERY is an important site in Manitoba, one of the last remaining small-town burial grounds with an intact Victorian-era design. Still defined by its elaborate filigreed gates, original wire fence (from The Stewart Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio), broad paths lined with concrete curbs, lush lawns, specimen trees, and studded with fine marble and granite gravestones, the cemetery is a rare survivor. Where many other similar cemeteries have been updated by the removal of many of their original architectural features, Hartney's designed landscape is still intact. And with its impressive memorial tower, constructed by Albert Henry in 1936 to honour the area's pioneers, the site is an important and memorable place.

St. Andrews Anglican Church

Third and Selkirk



ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH (now known as the Old English Church), built between 1893 and 1894, is an exceptional expression of some of the basic and most familiar traditions of Anglican church architecture. Beginning with its steep roof, continuing through to its stolid brick walls and buttresses, and concluding in its sublime internal features and details, many carried out in delicate wood carvings, the church is a textbook example of the type. Constructed by local artisans and church members, this picturesque church gained a chancel echoing the same roofline in 1907, while the prescribed furnishings appeared as funds were raised by the Ladies' and Girls' auxiliaries as well as private endowments, a co-operative approach typical of small towns in southwestern Manitoba. In later years, the church languished for lack of a permanent pastor but has recently found new life with a new faith community and is being restored in the same progressive manner in which it was built.

St. Pauls Presbyterian Church

211 Main Street



ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, from 1896, recalls an important church-building initiative from the late 1890s. The brainchild of Rev. James Robertson, Superintendent of Western Canada, this initiative ensured that Presbyterian congregations in Manitoba could have a well-designed building (from standard plans from noted Winnipeg architects) at a reasonable cost. Rev. Robertson's program involved grants up to one-fifth the amount of the building cost and loans up to 50%. Robertson even secured from the Canadian Pacific Railway the right to transport all building materials at two-thirds their ordinary rate. Several of these churches still stand, including St. Paul's at Hartney. Likely derived from designs by Winnipeg architects Chesterton and McNicol, the church features a simple rectangular plan, a high basement, small but detailed Gothic windows and the little belltower on its ridge. Like others of its type, it is a church of much distinction

A.E. Hill and Co. Store

608 Third Avenue



THE A.E. HILL AND COMPANY STORE, from 1902 (and its adjacent neighbor, the Lewis Building), form a distinctive and important focal point at the south end of Hartney's main street: East Railway. With their excellent Romanesque Revival forms, features and details—so typical of commercial buildings at the turn of the 20th century—the buildings form a striking pair. Built by local mason James McArter, with a complete kiln of brick from the local Kirkland operation, the Hill Store was an industrious place, offering dry goods on the main store and providing dress-making services on the second floor for many years, all under the direction of Irene Hill. Now used as the Hart-Cam Museum, the building has recently been featured in Hollywood films, first as a bank in *The Lookout* and then as Currie's General Store in *The Stone Angel*. The building's interior is also notable, with its intact pressed tin ceiling and hand-powered, counterweighted lift.

Lewis Building

141 Main Street



In 1901 Walpole Murdoch and F.G. Lewis bought the *Hartney Star* newspaper from Dr. Woodhull, with Mr. Lewis supplying the capital and Mr. Murdoch serving as editor and manager. This fine building was constructed in 1902 to house the Star's operations. With its fine brickwork (presumably by James McArter with brick manufactured locally), variety of arch shapes and intact cornice, the building is a dandy little example of the Romanesque Revival style, so popular for commercial buildings at this time. It is worth noting that when the Star's first woman owner, Annie Playfair, ran the newspaper she lived on the upper floor. This building has served a variety of purposes since its original newspaper office function, including the Union Bank, Bank of Montreal, telephone office, post office, credit union building and a Liquor Commission outlet.

Merchants Bank

520 Fourth



THE OLD MERCHANT'S BANK, from 1914, is a very good example of the kind of simple but effective designs that many bank corporations used to impress and inspire their customers. With its red brick, noble classical details (like the white cornice, quoins at the edges, mildly arched openings), all raised above street level with this and that, the building continues to do something. The building also was used by the Bank of Montreal and now serves as a residential this and that.

Crawford Building

510 Fourth Avenue



THE CRAWFORD BUILDING, which originally housed W.E. Crawford's jewelry store beginning in 1902, is an important element in Hartney's impressively intact commercial district. Although the building never boasted a clock, it had a high clock tower at the southwest corner that the Hartney Star declared "lent to the store a certain novelty and grace." Many school children of the day were noted as standing before Mr. Crawford's store window to admire the rings, brooches and clocks displayed there, with most interest focused on a miniature golden steam engine that Mr. Crawford constructed with tiny wheels and pistons, which they were told would actually run. When, in 1906 the Union Bank sought to enlarge its premises Mr. Crawford sold this store to the bank and built beside it a one-storey building for his jewelry operation. Mr. Crawford was a notable local citizen, serving on the school board, town council and as mayor in 1909. He took a leading and vocal part in planning the town hall and was one of the company who started the Lyceum theatre.

Irene Hill House

Ottawa Avenue



With its sturdy brick walls, tall box-like form and delicate wooden porch details (some in obvious Italianate forms), the IRENE HILL HOUSE is a terrific expression of turn-of-the-twentieth century architectural aesthetics. And the fact that one of the community's most beloved characters—Irene Hill—lived here for so many years makes it even more important. Irene attended the University of Toronto, where she received a Bachelor of Arts, and where she spent 12 satisfying years in different departments, and in her spare time typing manuscripts for one of Canada's most renowned scholars. She ultimately returned to Hartney in 1940 upon her father's death, to take over the family business – the A.E. Hill Store. For many years, Iren Hill was a fixture in the town's business community, as well as in its vibrant social life. She was secretary-treasurer of the Hartney Figure Skating Club, president of the Hartney Golf Club, secretary of the Hartney-Cameron Chamber of Commerce and librarian of the Hartney-Cameron Library for 30 years.

Tribble House

Lisgar Street



This small house is a very good example of the type of modest residence that many families in Hartney would have lived in at the turn of the twentieth century. With its solid brick walls—likely of local manufacture—and simple form under a basic gable roof, the house is a textbook example of the type. With its elegant bay window on the front face, the house also suggests the kind of modest architectural pretensions that also attended such designs.

Agnew House

33 Main Street



The large and impressive Agnew House was built around 1905, and is considered the oldest house on Souris Street, the location of an important concentration of large houses in Hartney. The house was built for Neil and Mary Agnew, farmers in the area who raised five children here, and who were active in community politics, curling, golf and social clubs. Mary, who died in 1970 at age 92, was also active in the Presbyterian Church and was a fervent hockey fan. The Agnew House is an exceptional example of its type, in this case featuring many features of the Queen Anne Revival style. The complex floor plan, the many window openings and variety of window shapes, and the detailed bargeboard at the roofline, are all hallmarks of that important style, popular in Manitoba in the early 1900s.

Fry House

31 Main Street



Another important Queen Anne-style house on Souris Street, the site where Hartney can boast an exceptional concentration of large brick houses, is the FRY HOUSE. Probably built around 1910, the house was built for James Fry, an important local businessman involved in men's clothing for many years. Based on a four-square form—thus a squarish plan, two storey height and truncated pyramidal roof—the house also boasts some important Queen Anne details, especially visible on the elaborate verandah, where the richly turned wooden elements are a sight to see.

Galbraith House

42 Main Street



THE GALBRAITH HOUSE, from 1906, is one of Hartney's finest houses, architecturally impressive and also sited along River Avenue to give it great prominence in town. The house was built for W.H. Galbraith, a hotel owner, and also seems to have functioned for some time as a local maternity hospital. The house is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture, one of the most popular styles for houses in Manitoba between 1890 and 1910, an expression of great sophistication. The Galbraith House is a very fine example of the type, with its grand form, fine brick walls, broad porch with Classical columns, and in the gable end facing the street, wooden shingles and a distinctive Palladian window. The house also still boasts many of the original features and details.

East Railway Commercial Heritage District



As noted in the introduction to this section, Historic Resources Branch staff advised that Hartney's main commercial thoroughfare (East Railway) was an important concentration of buildings that made this area of particular heritage value. The business street has an impressively intact number of buildings defining the typical styles, forms and details that once graced nearly all small-town Manitoba commercial thoroughfares.

It was suggested that this area be noted for special attention when opportunities for heritage promotion and education arose. The following images are used to highlight this important area in Hartney.

Souris Street Heritage District



Where is it in here?



As noted in the introduction to this section, Historic Resources Branch staff advised that a stretch of large houses on Souris Street was an important concentration of buildings that made this area of particular heritage value. The set of Queen Anne-style houses along Souris is exceptional for a community of our size, and a real tribute to the ambitions and taste that defined Hartney even at an early stage.

It was suggested that this area be noted for special attention when opportunities for heritage promotion and education arose. The following images are used to highlight this important area in Hartney. The “tour” starts at the north end of Souris and continues to the south, concluding at something – it is quite amazing to see impressive house after house in just one row.



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