CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

BUILDINGS OF HERITAGE INTEREST

1 ## City Hall (former Post Office) – 1898
97 Saskatchewan Avenue East
Designated Federal Heritage Site

Thomas A. Fuller, prominent architect and designer of Canada's Parliament Buildings, erected this Dominion Post Office. It features hammer-faced limestone, a steep mansard roof, and a central gable on each façade. Political machinations and a change of site caused construction to take three years. The rear single storey addition was built in 1920, and the building became City Hall in 1960.

2 ## Bank of Montreal – 1907
115 Saskatchewan Avenue East

After buying A.G. Halstead's private bank in 1904, the Bank of Montreal established itself in this prominent position on Saskatchewan

Avenue next to the Portage Hotel. The architectural features of this building are common to many branches of the Bank of Montreal. Built of red brick contrasted with the Tyndall limestone and a finely carved pedimented entrance, the structure exudes stability.

3 ## Newman Block – 1902
246 Saskatchewan Avenue East

Proudly displaying a curved pediment that caps the truncated southeast corner, the building was erected by C. Jeffrey for T.A. and F.L. Newman to serve as a general store. The Newman brothers arrived in Portage la Prairie in the early 1880s, and both were members of the town council.

4 ## Old Land Titles Building – 1889
103 - 3rd Street N.E.
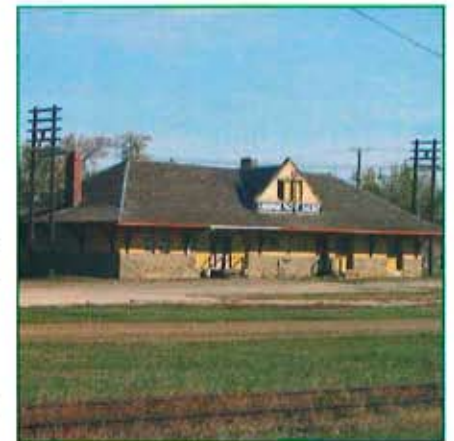*Designated Provincial Heritage Site*

Constructed from the designs of E.F. Head in 1889, the building confirmed the status of Portage la Prairie as a regional centre. Refronted by Provincial Architect Samuel

Hooper in the Neo-Classical style, the building still displays the pedimented entrance, a deep cornice supported by brick pilasters, and the two urns on the parapet from the 1906 renovation. Now the building houses the Trés Unique Café.

5 ## CPR Station – 1893
301 - 3rd Street N.E.
Designated Municipal Heritage Site

Built by Tomkins Construction of Vancouver using imported sandstone and local brick, the depot was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style by Edward Colonna. Heavy wood brackets support a notable bellcast roof.

6 — Halstead House – 1889
103 - 2nd Street N.E.

One of the few examples of Italianate architecture in the community, this house has a cube-like form topped by a shallow hipped roof. The Reverend Wm. Halstead was an important figure in the Manitoba Methodist Conference and a temperance advocate.

7 — Hill's Drugs – 1901
200 Saskatchewan Avenue East

Built for pharmacist J.K. Hill, this building features wide recessed window arches on the second storey abutted by a checkerboard of alternating horizontal and vertical bricks. A decorative brick parapet exaggerates the building's height.

8 — Costigan Block – 1893
104 Saskatchewan Avenue West

Designed by E.F. Head, the Costigan Block featured a retail confectionery store on the ground floor, with apartments and offices on the upper floor. Three large arched windows separated by pilasters provided natural lighting. John and Cyprian Costigan came to Portage la Prairie in the 1880s, and soon became pillars of the community.

9 — Dr. S.B. Cowan House – 1908
22 - 3rd Street S.W.

An example of four square design, this house originally had a porch running the full width of the front elevation. Dr. Cowan was Medical Officer of Health for Portage during the flu epidemic of 1919.

10 — Marlatt House – 1913
202 Crescent Road West

A striking Greek Revival house, this building has colossal columns which support the roof and second floor veranda. S.R. Marlatt had many careers — farmer, fur trader, general merchant, lumber dealer, Justice of the Peace, Inspector of Indian Agencies, and Mayor of Portage la Prairie.

11 — McCowan House – 1903
39 - 2nd Street S.W.
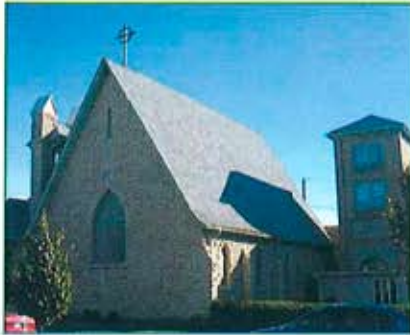### Designated Municipal Heritage Site

One of the finest surviving examples of Eastlake architectural detailing, the house was built for David McCowan, Secretary-Treasurer of the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie, 1893 to 1930.

12 St. Mary's la Prairie Church — 1898
36 - 2nd St. S.W.
Designated Provincial Heritage Site

This church is the notable legacy of Winnipeg architect H.S. Griffiths, and Portage la Prairie contractor J.H. Bossons. Built in the Gothic Revival style, the church features a unique stone belfry extending upward from the north side wall, pointed windows with deep reveals, fine woodwork, and a dark wood ceiling with carved trusses.

13 Church of Christ — 1903
25 - 2nd Street S.W.

Built from the designs of D.W. Bellhouse, this is the third church of the Christian Disciples since their arrival in Portage la Prairie in the 1870s. The building is notable for its corner entrance, which

stands at 45° to two identical elevations. Constructed of local buff-coloured brick, the building also features large Tudor-arched windows framed with stone.

14 Armstrong House — 1913
106 Crescent Road West

This magnificent home boasted its own ballroom and many modern amenities. Its owner Hugh Armstrong was a businessman with interests in fish marketing, lumber, mining and land speculation. He was elected as a Conservative MLA in 1908 and became Provincial Treasurer in 1911.

15 F.G. Taylor House — 1913
102 - 1st Street S.W.
Designated Municipal Heritage Site

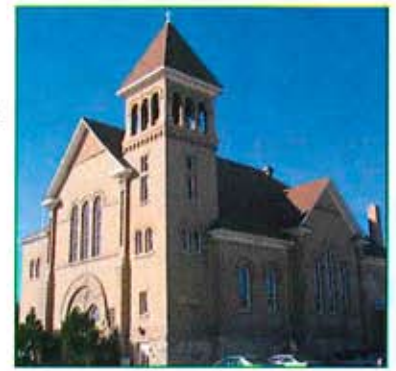One of the few local red brick houses, this building reflects influences from the Chicago School of Architecture. Its first owner, F.G. Taylor, was a prominent lawyer and politician who served as Mayor of Portage la Prairie and leader of the Manitoba Conservative Party.

16 Trinity United Church — 1897
15 Tupper Street South

Built at a cost of $12,000, architect H.S. Griffiths created a Romanesque Revival style edifice. A central gabled portion is flanked by a pyramid roofed bell tower. A fine stone arch dominates the entrance. Originally known as Knox

Presbyterian Church, it became the United Church of Portage in 1925, and adopted the name Trinity United Church in 1960.

17 First Presbyterian Church — 1927
17 Royal Road South

The union in 1925 of the Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Methodists to form the United Church of Canada left some Portage Presbyterians who wished to carry on as before. They built this church with its crisply raised brickwork at the corners and above the Tudor-arched door and window. Other features include a steep pyramid-roofed mock tower and solid detailing.

18   Arthur Meighen House – 1908
131 Dufferin Avenue East

One of the homes owned by Canada's 9th Prime Minister, it is distinguished by a front tower and two-storey bay window. Arthur Meighen had been a lawyer in Portage and its Conservative MP from 1908 to 1921. He succeeded Sir Robert Borden as Prime Minister in 1920.

19   Senator Watson House – 1904
139 Dufferin Avenue East

Architectural elements of this house have much in common with Trinity United Church. The sweeping veranda supported by prominent columns invite attention. Robert Watson was a millwright and businessman who served on the city's first town council in 1881. He became an MP, a Manitoba MLA, Minister of Public Works, and a Senator.

20   Garrioch House/School – 1855
210 Portage Avenue

Although changed over the years, this building is actually one of the oldest log schools in Manitoba. It was built near Pratt's Landing for Peter Garrioch who had previously taught classes in his home. In 1889, it was dismantled and moved to its present site where it was rebuilt as a smaller school building. It also served as a church, court house, and concert hall for St. Mary's la Prairie Parish.
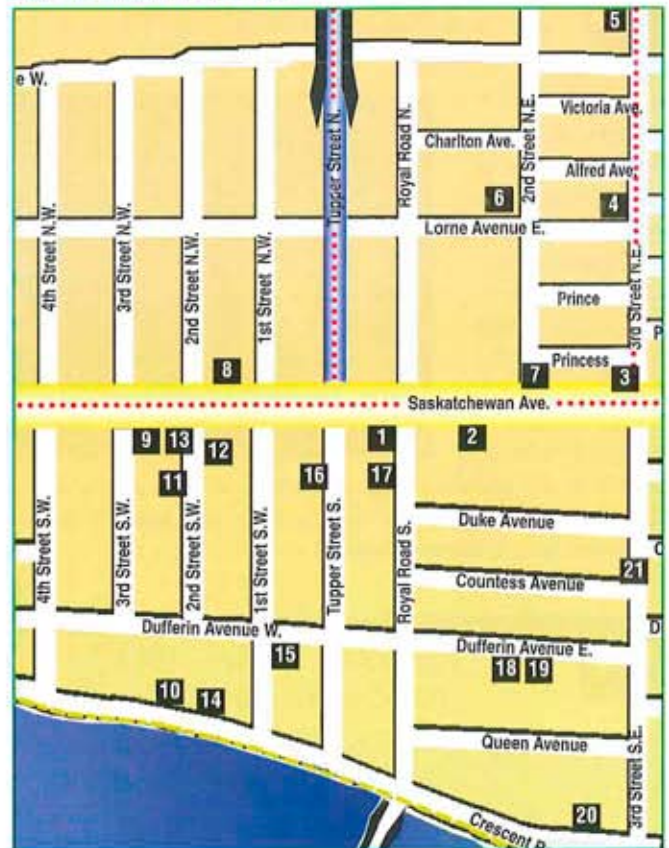
21   Court House and Gaol – 1894
20 – 3rd Street S.E.

One of the city's finest public buildings is George Browne's court house. Built by T.M. Beamish of Brandon, the compact brick building successfully balances the horizontal tightness of the Calgary sandstone base and encircling band courses against the elongated arched windows and prominent pediment. The striking arched entrance is now hidden by vegetation. Behind the Court House is the gaol built from designs of Charles Wheeler in 1891.

BUILDING LOCATOR

The buildings in this pamphlet are part of the Portage la Prairie Historical Buildings Inventory compiled by the Heritage Advisory Committee.