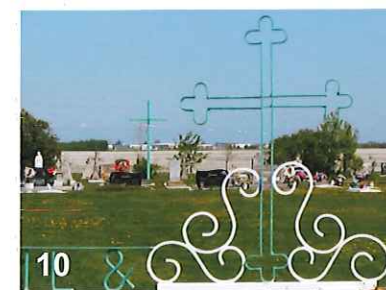


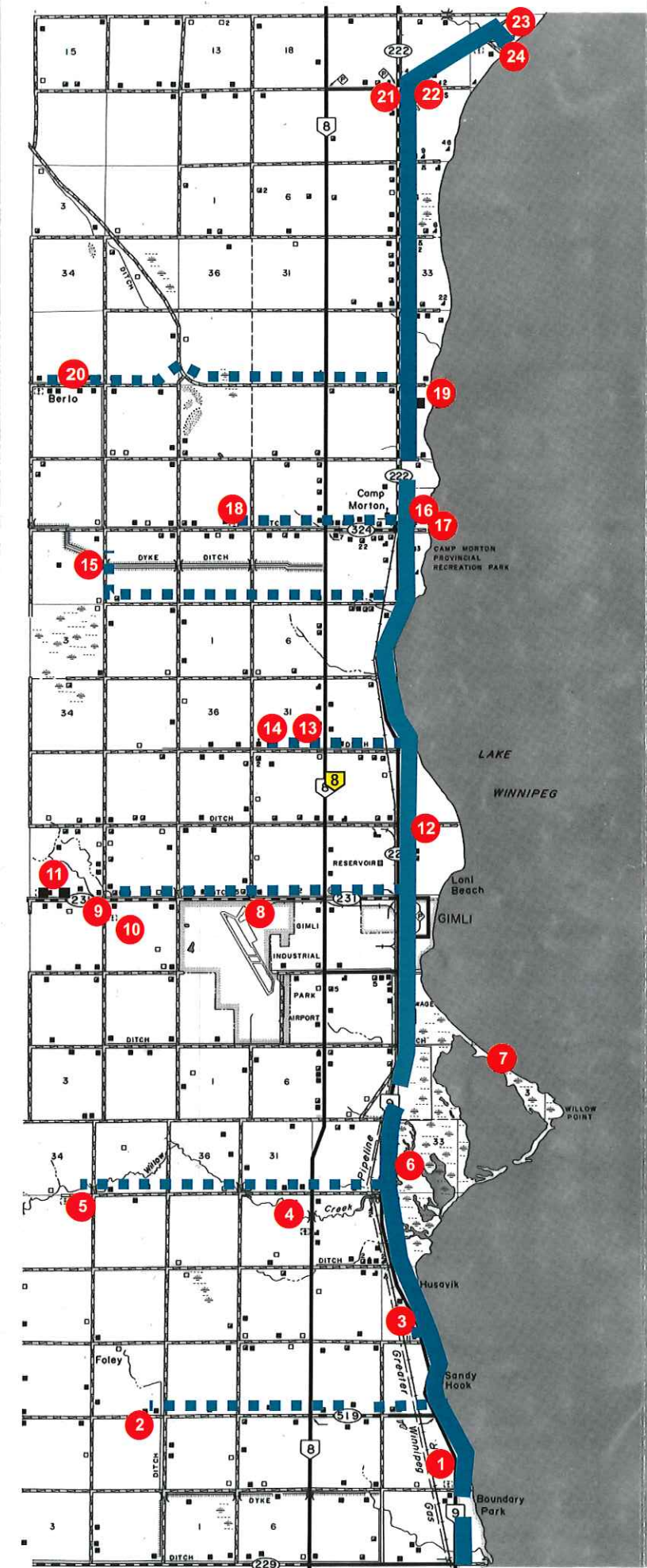
Heritage Tour Sites RURAL RM OF GIMLI

Follow PTH 9 north from Boundary Creek (Winnipeg Beach), the former southern boundary of New Iceland, to the Arnes Harbour Fish Plant, and you tread in the footprints of the Icelanders, Ukrainians, Poles and Germans who proceeded you a century ago in their quest for their little piece of "The Last Best West". The last segment of the trail you follow is the Colonization Road cleared in 1876 and 1877 by Icelandic settlers, some infected with and dying of smallpox. Experience the heritage our forebearers built and left behind, and the markers and monuments erected in their memory by their children and grandchildren.

- 1. Polish Pioneer Cemetery 1903 and Lundi Cemetery 1903** - on PTH 9 and Beachside Rd. - GPS loc N50 degrees 31.347 minutes W96 degrees 58.527 minutes.
- 2. Foley South Roman Catholic Cemetery 1930 and Ruthenian Cemetery 1926** - on PR 519, 2 1/3rd miles west of PTH 8 - minutes. GPS loc N50 degrees 32.184 minutes W97 degrees 04.632 minutes.
It is said that at the witching hour, luminous lights have been seen hovering above these cemeteries.
- 3. Hofi 1892/Steinkirki Cemetery 1876** on 17th Ave. just west of PTH 9 - GPS loc N50 degrees 33.077 minutes W96 degrees 59.288 minutes.
On this site in 1878, settlers built the first church in New Iceland and called it the Vidimes Church or Steinkirkju. It later burned.
- 4. Husavik Cemetery 1901** - on PTH 8, just south of Willow Creek - GPS loc N50 degrees 34.491 minutes W97 degrees 01.344 minutes.
- 5. St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church and Cemeteries 1905** - on Willow Creek Rd. 3 1/4 miles west of PTH 8 - GPS loc N50 degrees 34.850 minutes W97 degrees 05.851 minutes.
St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church (1905) is a modest example of Byzantine architectural influences recreated in Manitoba's rural Interlake region by early Ukrainian settlers. Through its single banya (dome), one-room plan, decorative intact interior and extensive iconography, including floral motifs painted by visiting Belgian priests, the church represents a simplified version of more substantial Eastern rite structures found in the Ukraine and elsewhere in Manitoba. Wood siding covers the original log structure.
- 6. RM of Gimli Centennial Monument** - on PTH 9, just north of Willow Creek - GPS loc N50 degrees 34.850 minutes W96 degrees 59.902 minutes.
Erected in 1987, the monument features pictorial panels which trace the development of fishing and agriculture after the establishment of the RM in 1887. It outlines the contributions of the founding group, the Icelanders, and the following ethnic communities such as the Ukrainians, Poles and Germans.
- 7. White Rock** - on Willow Island Road east of PTH 9, just west of lot #302 - GPS loc N50 degrees 36.299 minutes W96 degrees 57.488 minutes.
On this sand spit, on October 21, 1875, the first party of almost 300 Icelanders landed in New Iceland. A storm forced the captain of the steamer "Colville" to cut loose the barges carrying the settlers. The White Rock marks the approximate landing area and was erected by the Arnason family.



- 8. Hangar #1 1943** - Gimli Industrial Park
1 mile west of PTH 8, left on Municipal Dr., right on Dunlop Ave. to its end - GPS loc N50 degrees 37.778 minutes W96 degrees 59.687 minutes.
This airplane hangar is an excellent example of the kind of facilities constructed and operated across the prairies under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. At this and other bases, WW II bomber crews from Commonwealth and Allied countries were trained for service in overseas theatres of war. Gimli's facility was the largest in Manitoba, and actor Richard Burton was trained here. The military base remained open until 1971 and was a vital part of Gimli's economic life. Today the base continues to serve as a civic airport, flight training centre and an industrial park.
- 9. Sts. Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Church 1921** - on PR 231, 3 miles west of PTH 8 - GPS loc N50 degrees 38.410 minutes W97 degrees 05.382 minutes.
When they built Sts. Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Church, the congregation had already endured the loss of two churches, in 1909 and then in 1911. This church endured. The architecture is based on the symbolism of the Holy Trinity, with the three tiered bell tower, the three chambered floor plan, and the three windows on either side of the nave.
- 10. Felsendorf Sts. Cyril and Methodius R.C. Cemetery 1917** - 1/4 mile south of the church - GPS loc N50 degrees 38.195 minutes W97 degrees 05.274 minutes.
- 11. Gimli Holy Ghost Polish Independent Cemetery 1904 and Gimli Ridge Grace Lutheran 1916 Cemetery** - on PR 231, 4 miles west of PTH 8 - GPS loc N50 degrees 38.409 minutes W97 degrees 06.494 minutes.
- 12. Gimli Community Cemetery 1904** - on PR 222, 1 mile north of Gimli - GPS loc N50 degrees 39.173 minutes W96 degrees 59.687 minutes.
- 13. Dnister Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery 1903** - on Dnister Rd. 1/2 mile west of PTH 8 - GPS loc N50 degrees 40.144 minutes W97 degrees 01.711 minutes.
- 14. St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church 1905-06** - on Dnister Rd. 1 mile west of PTH 8 - GPS loc N50 degrees 40.186 minutes W97 degrees 02.494 minutes.
St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church is a modest example of how long-established architectural practices from the Ukraine were adopted to the pioneer conditions of rural Manitoba to enable early settlers to maintain and foster their religious traditions. The buildings' simple form, interior lay-out, materials and detailing, including a single banya (dome), recall in a humble manner important symbols associated with more elaborate Eastern rite facilities in the Ukraine. From its donated site to lumber sawn from local logs, this church demonstrates the desire among Ukrainian pioneers in the Gimli area to give tangible expression to their religious values and practices, despite limited resources.





Heritage Tour Sites RURAL RM OF GIMLI

15. Camp Morton Ukrainian Catholic Society Cemetery 1913 - 3 miles west from PTH 8 on McElheran Rd. (Rd 115N), half mile north on Road 16E - GPS loc N50 degrees 42.310 minutes W97 degrees 05.522 minutes.

16. St. Benedict's Bell Tower 1938 - at junction of PR 222 and Camp Morton Rd. - GPS loc N50 degrees 42.839 minutes W96 degrees 59.640 minutes.
This freestanding bell tower is a local landmark and also a fascinating example of construction. The structure exhibits impressive decorative features carried out with stones and copious amounts of mortar.

17. Camp Morton 1920 - on Camp Morton Rd. 1/3 of a mile east of PR 222 - GPS loc N50 degrees 42.831 minutes W96 degrees 59.235 minutes.

Beginning in 1920 and operating for about 50 years, Camp Morton provided summer recreation for under-privileged Roman Catholic children and their parents. Later it was taken over by the Province of Manitoba and turned into a public park. The site features many buildings with fascinating construction procedures—some using logs in a technique called stack-log, and others exhibiting the appeal of stones placed in decorative patterns.

18. St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Cemetery 1905 - on Camp Morton Rd., just over a mile west of PTH 8 - GPS loc N50 degrees 42.831 minutes W97 degrees 02.858 minutes.

The cemetery contains a scale model of the original church built on this site, and a monument to the pioneers of the district.

19. Fagrabakka Cemetery 1897 - 1 3/4 miles north of Camp Morton on PR 222 in Lake Forest Estates, east of Lakeview Cres. and Parkwood Dr. east of PR 222 and south of Lake Forest Rd. - GPS loc N50 degrees 44.399 minutes W96 degrees 59.219 minutes.

20. Berlo Settlement and St. Peter & St. Paul R.C. Cemetery 1907- drive 2 miles west from PTH 8 on Lake Forest Rd., then jog left and west on Berlo Rd. for a further 2 miles to the cemetery - GPS loc N50 degrees 44.590 minutes W97 degrees 06.655 minutes.

The original log structures on Berlo Road were part of the unique German farming village of Berlo. Most were constructed around 1905 on long narrow lots fronting on Berlo Road.

21. Vilhjamur Stefansson Provincial Park and Monument - on PR 222 just south of Arnes Rd. - GPS loc N50 degrees 48.010 minutes W96 degrees 59.733 minutes.

Erected in 1969, this monument honours the most famous son of Arnes. Vilhjamur Stefansson was born at Hulduarhvatn in Arnes in 1879 and moved with his parents to North Dakota at the age of two. Stefansson was the last of the great Arctic explorers, and also wrote 24 books and about 400 articles on the Canadian Arctic and its people. In 1968, the Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada declared him to be a person of national historic interest.

22. Arnes Pioneer Lutheran Church 1910-1919 - on Arnes Rd. just east of PR 222 - GPS loc N50 degrees 48.121 minutes W96 degrees 59.584 minutes.

Though the Arnes district was first settled in 1876, the church was not completed until 1919, and was then moved in 1920 to its current location. The church is a good example of Icelandic Lutheran architectural traditions. The front tower is topped by an elegant two-piece affair, with a lower shoulder supporting a candle-snuff spire. A local carpenter fashioned pews, altar and pulpit, and communion and choir loft railings, all of which have been faithfully preserved by the community.

23. Arnes Lutheran Cemetery 1880 - from Arnes proceed NE on Colonization Rd. then turn right on Silver Creek Rd. - GPS loc N50 degrees 48.657 minutes W96 degrees 57.900 minutes.

24. Arnes Harbour Fish Plant 1949 - continue east on Silver Creek Rd. - GPS loc N50 degrees 48.571 minutes W96 degrees 57.708 minutes.

This is one of the few surviving fish packing plants still in operation in Manitoba, and like most, it is simple and functional. In the early 50s, Steve Sigurdson and Joe Dzydz maintained two fishing crews out of this building. In winter, tracked Bombardiers with mounted ice auger and puller, both designed and manufactured by Mr. Sigurdson were used to get to and from nets set under the ice.



"Gimli gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of Manitoba"



Produced by the RM of Gimli Heritage Advisory Committee

MONUMENT ERECTED TO
MAJOR CHRISTOPHER PATRICK O'KELLY
VC. MC. CAMP MORTON