

LANDMARKS



Grand Marais's Significant Heritage Buildings

**Landmarks: Grand Marais's Significant
Heritage Buildings** was developed
on behalf of the St. Clements Heritage and
Tourism Committee and the
Grand Marais Heritage Group.

2014

Landmarks

Grand Marais's Significant Heritage Buildings

In 2010-11, the Grand Marais Heritage

Group, under the direction of the St. Clements Heritage and Tourism Committee, commissioned a comprehensive and detailed inventory of 152 local buildings and sites. This project, called Grand Marais Special Places, was intended to ensure that the community's built heritage was fully recorded, and also that through subsequent analysis and evaluation, that a handful of buildings and sites were identified as having major heritage value for the community. These kinds of initiatives are being undertaken across the province, in more than 50 other communities, supported with technical and financial assistance from the Province's Historic Resources Branch and Heritage Grants Program.

As noted, the development of a list of significant sites was a key goal of our Special Places project, and was the result of careful and studied deliberations using standard heritage evaluation criteria, processes and scoring regimes. This work was carried out by the Grand Marais Heritage Group with assistance from staff of the Historic Resources Branch. We are grateful to the branch for their generous support and patient attention in this particular endeavour.

As a collection, the 11 buildings that ultimately were identified as possessing considerable heritage significance, define many aspects and themes from Grand Marais's past, and do so through places that are at

once significant, but also interesting and attractive. Many of the selections are cabins/cottages, the most resonant of our remaining building stock. These, and a few other public/commercial buildings, are places that the people of Grand Marais can look to with pride. These buildings remind us of past glories, but also suggest an enduring sense of community, and are a beacon for its future.

These 11 buildings are presented on following pages with an accompanying Heritage Value Statement that elucidates each building's key heritage attributes.



List of Significant Heritage Buildings

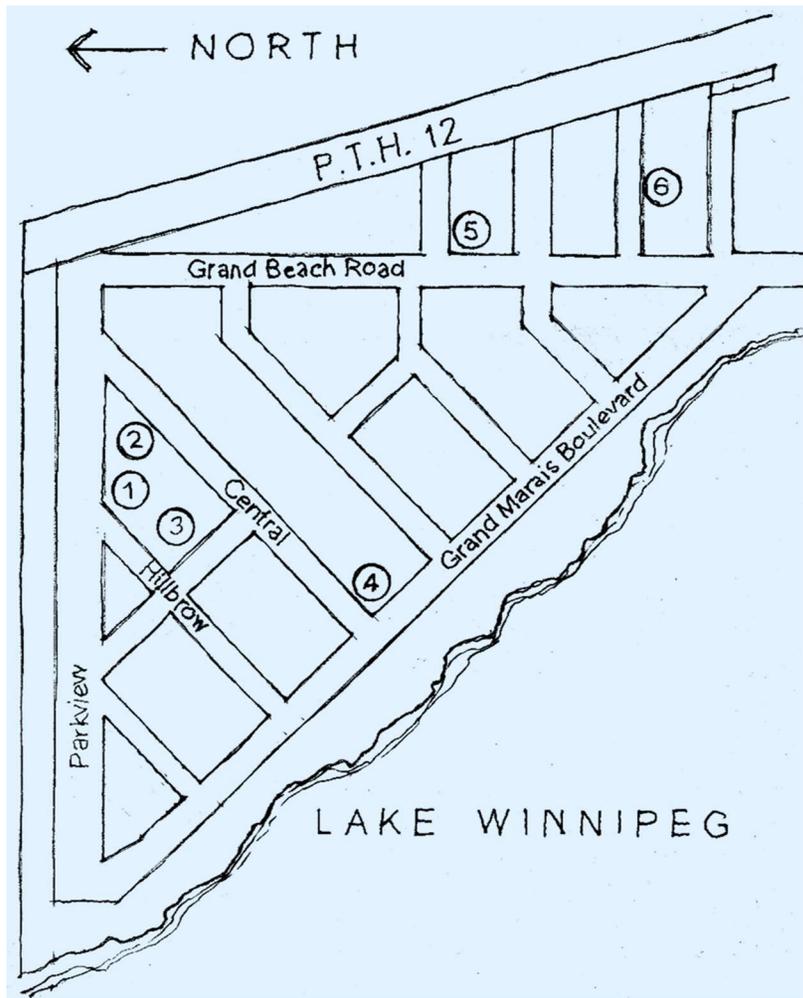
- St. Jude's Anglican Church, Grey Avenue
- Lanky's Hot Dog Stand, Grand Beach Road
- Harry's Hideout, Victory Road
- Oakleigh Lodge, 36 Hillbrow Avenue
- Oak Manor, 27 Oak Avenue
- Stone Fence Cottage, 275 Grand Marais Boulevard
- McGee Cottage, 52 Hillbrow Avenue
- Broken Tree Cabin, 77 Grand Marais Boulevard
- Ashgrove Cottage, 31 Central Avenue
- Bremont Cottage, 13 Thorncliffe Avenue
- Johnson Cottage, 28 Cameron Avenue

Signs like this example at St. Jude's Anglican Church identify notable Grand Marais heritage sites.

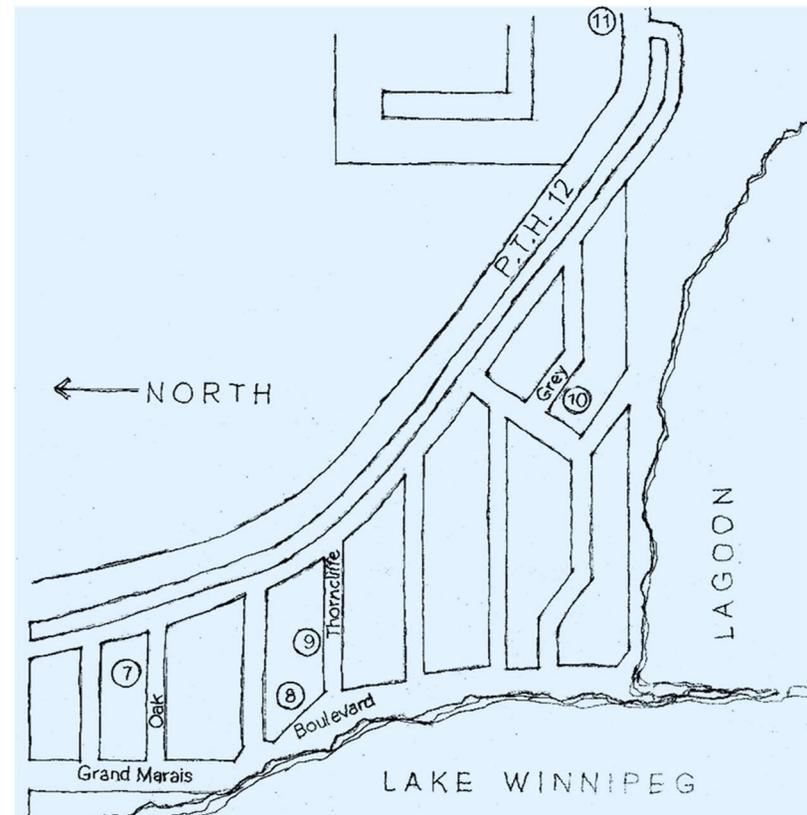


Three archival views of Grand Marais from the 1940s and 1950s, of buildings now gone, remind us of the importance of preserving our local heritage: top left a typical cabin scene; bottom left a view of the commercial strip that once defined Parkview Avenue; and below the picturesque little log fire hall.





These two maps, presenting Grand Marais as two halves (north side on the left, south side on the right), show the locations of the community's landmark sites. The buildings have been presented as if in a walking tour, and do not necessarily correspond to the presentation of sites on the following pages.



Buildings correspond to the following numbers: 1) Oakleigh Lodge; 2) Ashgrove Cottage; 3) McGee Cottage; 4) Broken Tree Cottage; 5) Lanky's Hot Dog Stand; 6) Johnson Cottage; 7) Oak Manor; 8) Stone Fence Cottage; 9) Bremont Cottage; 10) St. Jude's Anglican Church; 11) Harry's Hideout (please note that this last site is actually quite a bit further to the east, on Victory Road, and so beyond this map's boundaries).

St. Jude's Anglican Church / 1896

Grey Avenue at Sunset Avenue



Built in 1896, and thus 18 years before the summer-time community of Grand Marais was established in 1914, St. Jude's Anglican Church is the oldest remaining building in the village, and also the strongest connection to the original Métis community that settled here. The church is of log construction, but that pioneer building technology is disguised by a sophisticated Gothic Revival form, a crenellated tower that rises from the front porch.

The church is surrounded by a cemetery that contains the gravesites of many of Grand Marais's earliest inhabitants.

Lanky's Hot Dog Stand / 1950

Grand Beach Road at Madeline Avenue



Lanky's Hot Dog Stand—“Home of the Foot Long”—is the last remaining site along Grand Beach Road that recalls the line of commercial establishments that once dominated this strip – serving fast foods and entertainments, but also groceries and other necessities.

Lanky's, which was put up in 1950, still expresses that summer-time resort atmosphere, with a frankly unsubstantial building with informal, hand-made features, whose gaudy colours are at once jazzy, fun and light-hearted.

Harry's Hideout / 1956

Victory Road at Sinclair Avenue



Harry's Hideout was a fixture in the community for about a decade, beginning in 1956 and operating until the late 1960s. The facility, known primarily as a movie theatre but also as a dancehall, was the brainchild of Harry Blake-Knox. The Hideout offered evening movies in the summer-time twice a day and dances on Saturday night. Harry Blake-Knox was an important character in Grand Marais, active on local council, publisher of the local newspaper, *The Spotlight*, and founder of the Grand Beach Electric Company. In 1992, the 125th anniversary of Canada, he was awarded the Commemorative Medal. Images above and at lower left show Harry's Hideout during its heyday and under construction in 1956.



Oakleigh Lodge / 1922

36 Hillbrow Avenue



Oakleigh Lodge (also called Watt Cottage) has been a landmark in the community since its construction in the 1920s. The site of the local magistrate's office for many years, the cottage is also a strong physical presence. Facing onto Parkview and set into a hillock, the cottage is strikingly placed on a tall stone foundation. The large building has many exterior qualities from its earliest days, as well as many features and fixtures inside as well, including a large stone fireplace, wooden floors and ceiling, and many intact windows.

Oak Manor / 1927

27 Oak Avenue



Built in the 1920s, and thus quite old for Grand Marais, Oak Manor (also called the Doyle Cottage) is one of the best local examples of the kind of traditional cottage form that can be found in many other Manitoba summer communities. With its shallow pyramidal roof and wide verandah, the form is of a type. Inside, the original log construction is apparent in the exposed beams and rafters. The whole cottage, inside and out, has exceptionally high integrity, with siding, floor and wall materials and stone fireplace all still intact, lovingly preserved for nearly 100 years.

Stone Fence Cottage / 1928

275 Grand Marais Boulevard



Now called Stone Fence Cottage (and also known as the Stewart Cottage), from 1928, is a well known site on the south stretch of Grand Marais Boulevard. With its exquisite and impressive stone fence and fanciful cottage rising at the top edge of a sloped yard, the site is a notable one. The cottage itself is important, a good example of the kind that defines Grand Marais cottage designs. The fact that the building has high integrity, with materials, features and fixtures surviving from the 1920s, is remarkable. And of course the fence is perhaps the best known of its type in the community, which prides itself on the legacy of its stone fences and front steps.

McGee Cottage / 1922

52 Hillbrow Avenue



The McGee Cottage, built in 1922 and thus one of the oldest surviving summer residences in Grand Marais, is an excellent intact example of the kind of cottages built here at that time. With its simple basic form, shallow gabled roof and modest main face, the cabin says all it needs to say about the typical Grand Marais cottage – unpretentious, comfortable and sunny, given the many large windows that open into the main rooms. The high level of integrity, a tribute to owners over the years who have preserved so much, is also important. One of the key features of the cottage is the fine stone steps – a characteristic of many Grand Marais cottages, where the abundant stones have been used by so many for foundations and fences and intricate front steps.

Broken Tree Cottage / 1927

77 Grand Marais Boulevard



Broken Tree Cottage (also known as Kurtz Cottage) is a major Grand Marais landmark, standing on Grand Marais Boulevard and overlooking Lake Winnipeg. Built in the 1920s, this is the largest and most ambitious of the several distinctive log cottages and cabins that still stand in the community. With its grand size, distinctive form and of course impressive saddlenotch log construction, the building is an architectural wonder. Amongst its other attributes are a beautiful stone chimney and an interior whose high levels of integrity, still boasting original room configurations, finishes and details, is a major tribute to various owners over the years.

Ashgrove Cottage / 1922

31 Central Avenue



Ashgrove Cottage is one of the best remaining sites recalling how Grand Marais cottage owners often developed small complexes of buildings for rental purposes. A fine main cottage, from 1922, itself an important building, dominates the yard. Behind it are several outbuildings that were once used by visitors. One of these still reveals the modest and distinctive wooden pole construction that was used in its construction. Throughout all of the buildings are excellent intact examples of the kind of hand-made, ingenious features and details that define the cottage character of so many Grand Marais cottages and cabins – summery, whimsical and durable.

Bremont Cottage / 1928

13 Thorncliffe Avenue



Called "Bremont," the Whyte-Gibson Cottage, whose first summer dwelling was built around 1928, is an excellent example of the type of modest, informal cottages that defined Grand Marais in its early years. The hand-made quality of the original cottage is eloquently expressed in various surviving features and details, like the overall rustic form, the rubblestone chimney, wooden window frames with shutters, and original door. Inside, the cottage retains much of its original physical integrity. Additionally, an older shed with large vertically-operated shutters and even the original wire fence are still present on the site. While the cottage has been added on over the years, new additions have been sympathetic to the original building, and the whole site, heavily treed and private, is redolent of Grand Marais's quiet, informal sensibility.

Johnson Cottage / ca. 1945

28 Cameron Avenue



Built in the 1940s, and thus of a slightly later generation than the first Grand Marais cottages of the 1920s, the Johnson Cottage is a wonderfully intact reminder of the kind of hand-made design and construction practices that have defined the community's architectural identity for so many years. The cottage is small, distinctive, light-hearted and whimsical, in many of its forms, features and details. And even today, recent additions and renovations have all been undertaken with that kind of delightful free spirit.