

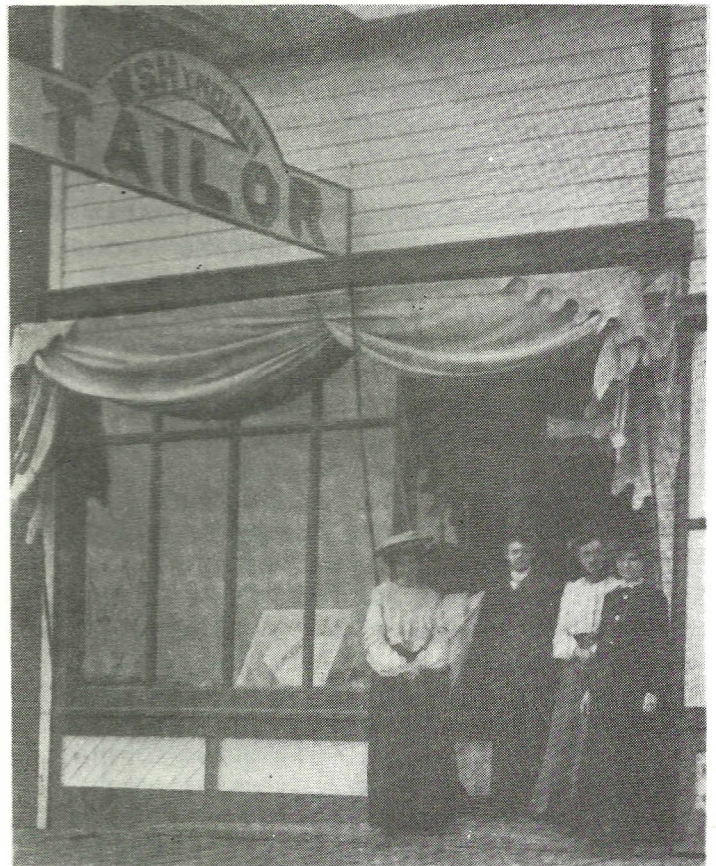
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This walking tour was prepared by the Hamiota Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee. The Committee consists of Delmar Kirk, Helene Dillon, Jack Boyd, Lorne Dale, Wallace Henderson, George Vincent and Don Murray.

The Committee gratefully acknowledges the advice and support provided by staff of the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship.

HAMIOTA EXPLORING OUR HERITAGE



On the cover: Hamiota tailor Willie Hyndman and his staff pose in front of his shop in 1910.

A HAMIOTA SNAPSHOT

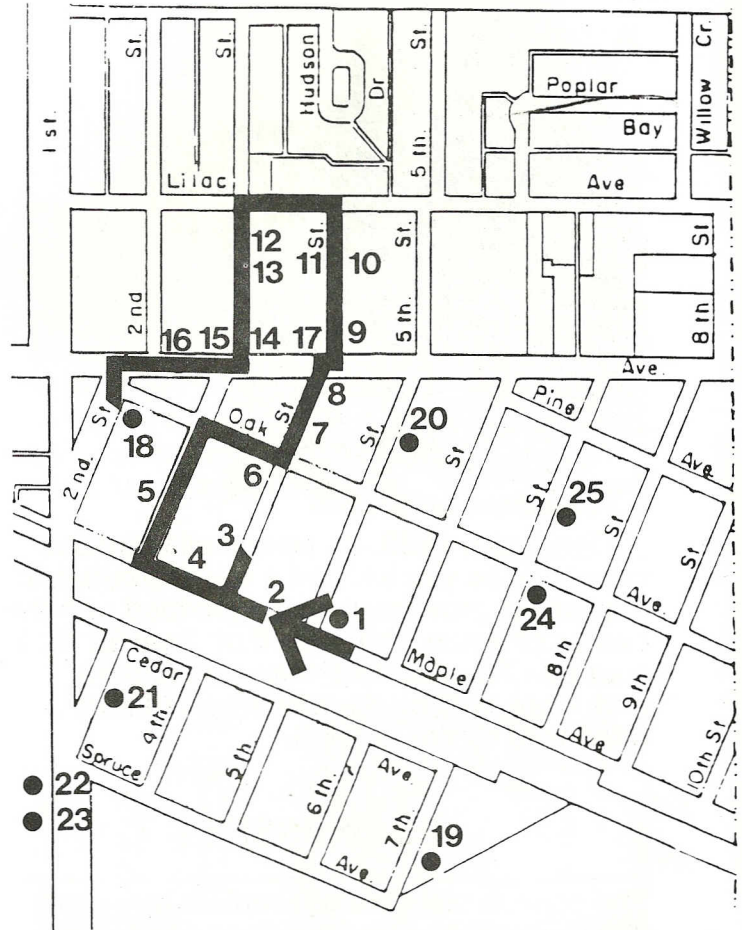
Within a few years of Manitoba's entry into the Canadian Confederation in 1870, Dominion survey crews were dispatched to subdivide the land in western Manitoba in preparation for the expected influx of settlers. That fond hope would not be realized, however, until railways reached the frontiers in the early 1880s. Before that time only a trickle of settlers were able to make their way, by horse and wagon, into the untamed territories of western Manitoba. It was not until the late 1870s that the first settlers arrived in the Hamiota area.

Hamiota. The name was coined before the village even existed. A post office operating on the farm of Thomas Hamilton was initially named Hamilton. To avoid confusion with the Ontario city of the same name, the post office name was changed to Hamiota, meaning, in Sioux, "plenty of Hamiltons."

In 1889 the Great North West Central Railway extended its line north from Rapid City and the present townsite of Hamiota was surveyed at that time. With the arrival of the first train in December of 1891 the feverish activity of establishing a thriving village began. Several houses were moved in from the countryside to form the basis for the community. In a year's time the population increased from about 10 to 200 and the number of buildings from 4 to over 60. By 1909 most of the land around Hamiota had been settled or purchased, and the village became an important local distribution centre.

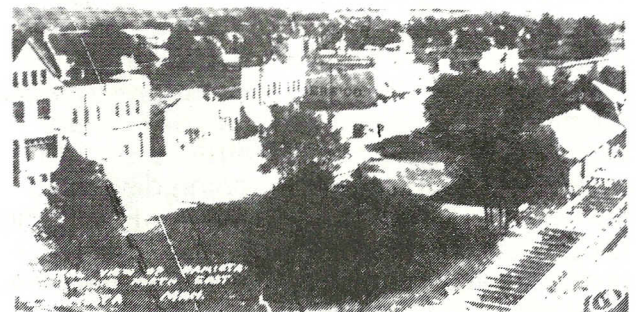
As the village grew, new and bigger buildings replaced those lost in frequent fires and some fine homes were erected by resident carpenters and builders. Like other small communities that arose in Manitoba, Hamiota reached its heyday in the years before World War I. The village was incorporated in 1907 and for ten years it was a booming community. Photographs of the village at this time show a typical Manitoba town, with smart little buildings of careful design on tree-lined streets. While that way of life is gone, you will find on this walking tour of Hamiota many reminders that the past is still with us. The buildings identified on this tour will help you to imagine what life was like in rural Manitoba 100 years ago.

TOUR MAP

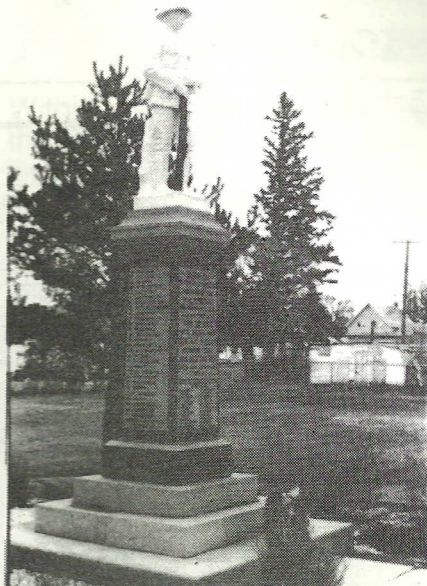


This tour starts at the Hamiota cenotaph and winds along several streets that provide an opportunity to view the architectural character of Hamiota's early commercial, religious and domestic buildings. Some important or interesting buildings (#19-#25) that are beyond the limits of the actual walking tour are discussed on pages 13-15.

ENJOY YOUR TOUR OF OUR TOWN!



Looking east down Maple Avenue, 1906.



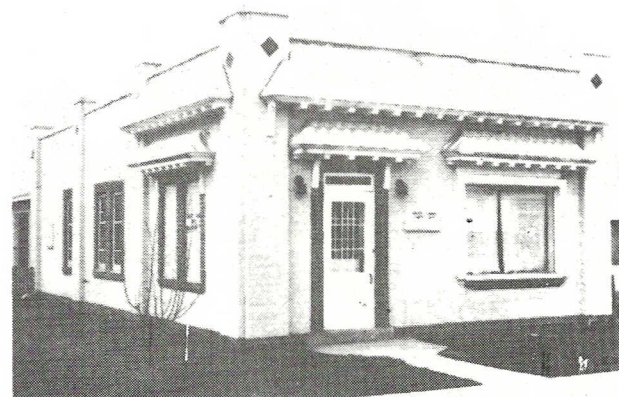
1. Cenotaph, 1920. In almost all Manitoba communities you will find a war memorial, in a quiet but prominent spot, inscribed with the names of those who gave their lives for their country. The Hamiota cenotaph and the park were built on the site of an old hotel, destroyed by fire in 1906.

BUSINESSES

The commercial core of Hamiota was once dotted with many fine buildings. Only a few remain today, but these are representative of important types of commercial architecture that were used throughout Manitoba between 1900 and 1940. The former Chambers Company Building of 1892 (#2), for instance, is a good example of early large wood frame buildings. Its twinned arched windows and decorated roof cornice are typical of the architectural detailing used at that time. The former Royal Bank Building (#4) built in 1889, is the only remaining example of the early banks that served Hamiota. It is a typical example of brick construction. The simple face is enlivened with protruding brick details near the roof. The old MTS Building (#3), built in the 1930s, exhibits a Spanish theme in its styling, seen in the tiled overhangs. The old Hamiota Theatre (#5) built in 1947, is an example of small town theatres: a smart front detailed in Art Deco styling disguises the large hall behind. The former Post Office (#6), constructed in 1935, is also representative of architecture of a later age. Built of brick, the building is typical of small government buildings.



2. Former Chambers Company Building, 1892, 63 Maple Ave. E. William Chambers, the first mayor of Hamiota, operated this store for many years.



3. Former MTS Building, ca. 1935, 59-4th St. SE. Imagine the flurry of activity in this building as operators connected subscribers throughout the area.



4. Former Union Bank, 1889, 39 Maple Ave. E. The original third storey of the old bank was damaged by a fire in 1928 and was removed.



5. Former Hamiota Theatre, 1947, 35-3rd St. S. Hamiota movie-goers were thrilled at the first showing in the new theatre, "Rebecca", starring Laurence Olivier.



6. Former Post Office, 1935, 35-4th St. SE. During World War II the post office was a vital link between servicemen and their families.

HOUSES

Domestic architecture in the small communities of Manitoba has gone through several stages, all represented in Hamiota. The earliest houses were typically small, constructed of wood frame, and built on a simple rectangular plan (#7, 8, 10, 25). Minor architectural details like localized shingle work or a coloured stair window might be the only expensive touches. As communities grew and became more secure this kind of modest house design became more sophisticated. They were often enriched with dormers, bay windows, porches, towers and detailed woodwork. All of these devices can be seen on houses on this tour (#11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20).

Developments in house planning brought in

new house shapes. "L"-shaped plans, some with corner towers, became common.

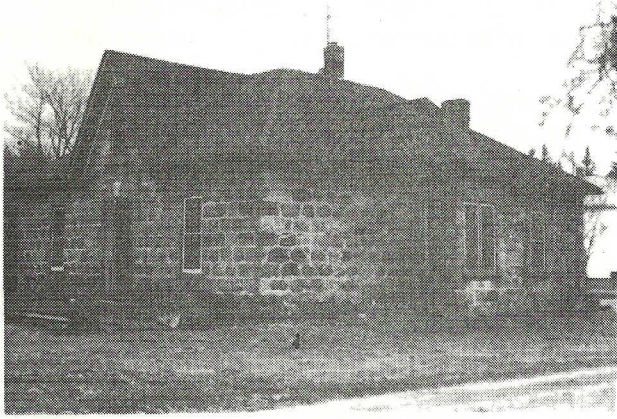
Greater wealth in the developing communities of rural Manitoba during the early years of this century permitted the construction of ever more ambitious buildings. Houses became larger, typically two storeys, and more substantial materials were employed (#22, 23, 14). Brick was often used, stone being limited to those areas of the province that were richer in the material. Thus it is all the more surprising to find a fine stone house in Hamiota (#9) at such a distance from a major stone source. Several brick houses were built in Hamiota, but only the former Narin House (#22) remains. Later house designs introduced in bungalow styles (#21).



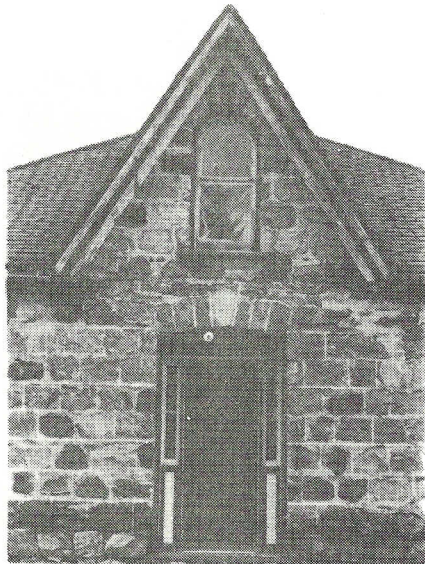
7. Former Bedford House, 1906, 18-4th St. S. During the 1920s the great-grandparents of Lyndon Johnston, a renowned figure skater during the 1980s, lived here.



8. Former Eby House, ca. 1905, 88 Birch Ave. E. Imagine the smell of coffee brewing on a wood stove as Allan Eby, a butcher, prepared for his workday.



9. Former J.G. McConnell House, ca. 1905, 22-4th St. NE. The only stone house ever built in the village, this building was constructed for J.G. McConnell, a successful businessman.



This detail of the former McConnell House shows the fine stonework and door detailing.



10. Former Lawson House, 1892, 38-4th St. NE. The original Hamiota School, above, was sold in 1898 and converted by Dr Lawson into this house. It was later home to two of Hamiota's mayors: William Dick and Ted Venables.



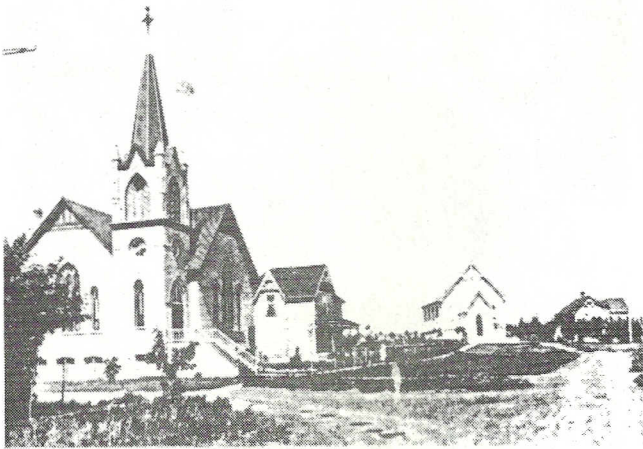
11. Former Cowan House, ca. 1920, 39-4th St. NE. Between 1909 and 1928 house and street lights were lit with gas from the Acetylene Gas Company. Many of the pipes for the system are still in place, underground.



12. Former Anglican Rectory, ca. 1898, 40-3rd St. N. This building is typical of late 19th century architectural styles. The windows are framed with ornamental wood trim.

CHURCHES

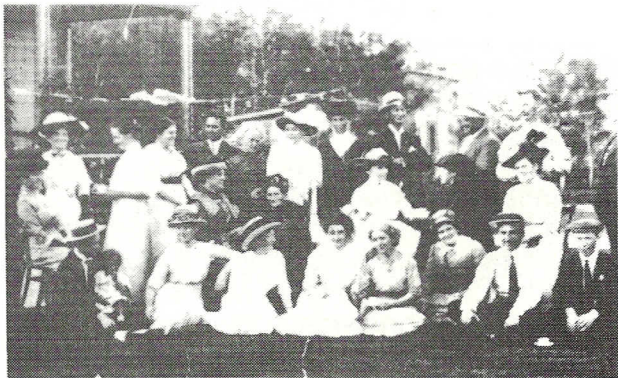
Religious architecture in Manitoba's small towns covers a wide range of faiths and architectural styles. In Hamiota, which was basically a Protestant community, three denominations were represented: Anglicans, Methodists and Presbyterians. The United Church was formed from the union in 1930 of the local Methodist and Presbyterian congregations. Pentecostals arrived in the 1940s. The Gothic Revival style, with its steep roofs, steeples and pointed windows, was most commonly used for early church architecture and in Hamiota, the style was standard.



Knox Presbyterian Church, with the old Zion Methodist Church in the background. The Presbyterian Church, which sat on 3rd St., was dismantled in 1934 and rebuilt at Decker.



13. Christ Church, Anglican, 1901, 36-3rd St. N. This fine Gothic Revival church cost all of \$1600 to build.



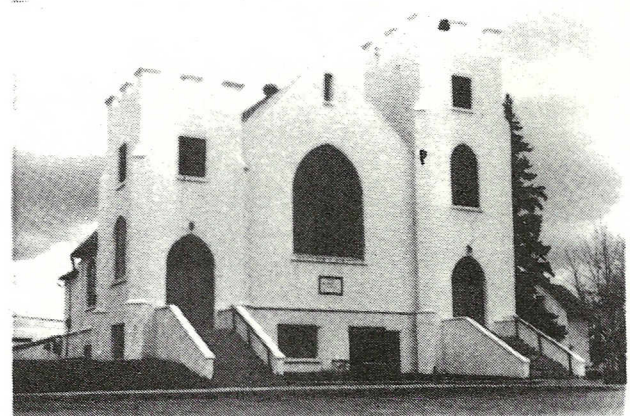
This 1914 photograph shows some of Hamiota's early residents. These elegantly dressed people walked the same streets you are on.



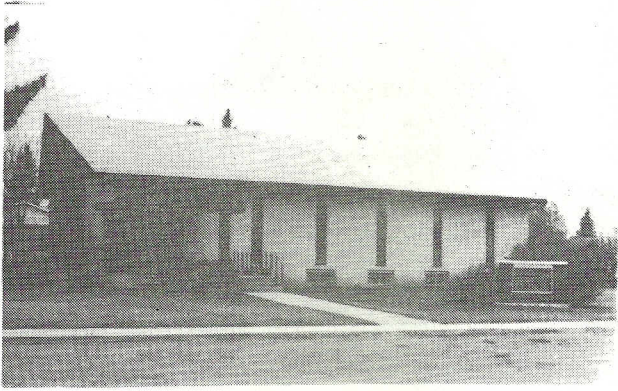
14. Former Scott House, 1907, 63 Birch Ave. E. The home of Hamiota's first Chief of Police once sat amidst carefully landscaped grounds.



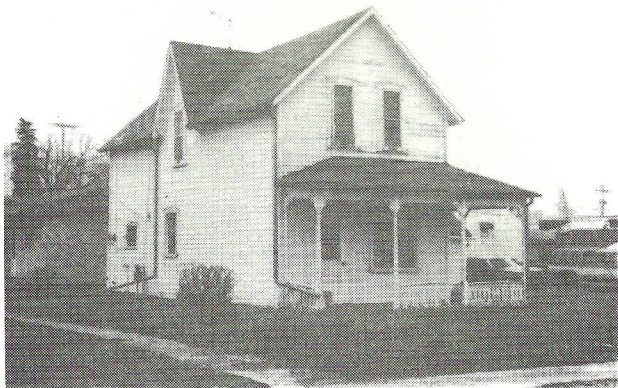
15. Former McLean House, ca. 1890, 9-3rd St. S. Joseph McLean ran an implement dealership in town until 1929. An "L"-shaped plan, bay windows and the original verandah are evident in this photograph.



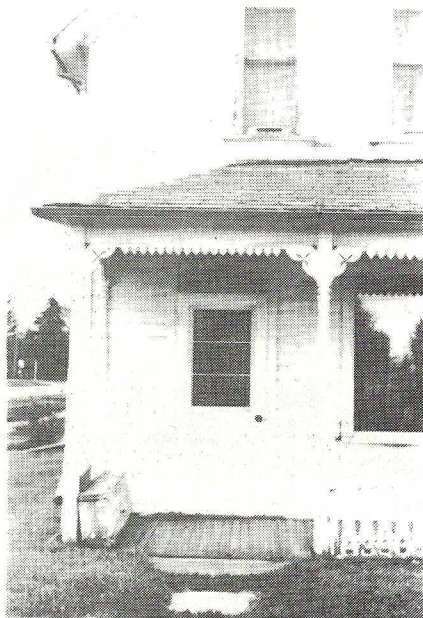
16. Hamiota United Church, 1914, 45 Birch Ave. E. This church features Gothic Revival elements in its pointed openings and battlements atop the two towers.



17. Hamiota Pentecostal Church, 1967, 81 Birch Ave. E. Local Pentecostals held their first service in the old Orange Hall in 1944.

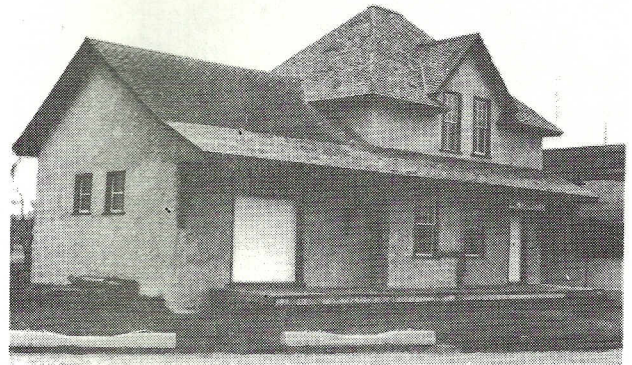


18. Former Josey House, ca. 1895, 16-2nd St. S. This is one of the oldest houses in Hamiota, and was once owned by the first publisher of the Hamiota Echo.



The fine Victorian woodwork is evident on the verandah of the former Josey House.

OTHER BUILDINGS



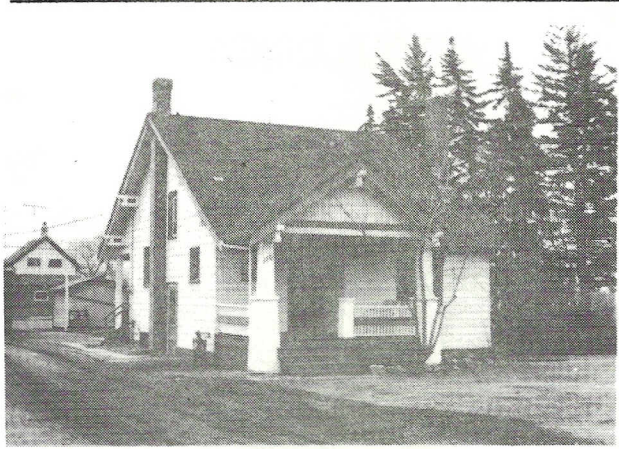
19. Former McConnell Station, 1909. Knots of waiting passengers, piles of luggage, and a busy station agent once transformed this Canadian Northern station into a hub of local activity.



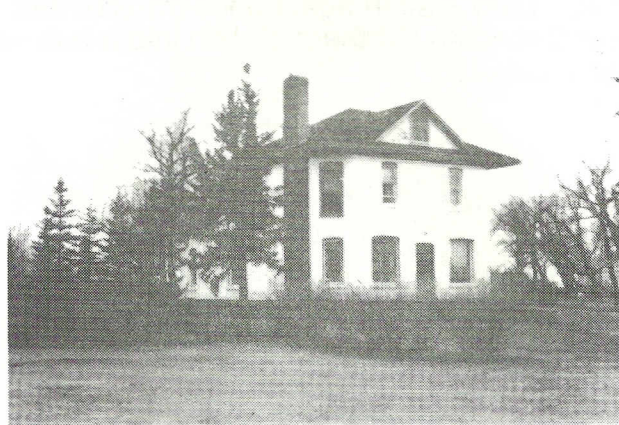
Hamiota Station, ca. 1902, demolished in the 1960s. The old Hamiota station was served every day except Sunday by a steam-powered train of the Canadian Pacific Railway.



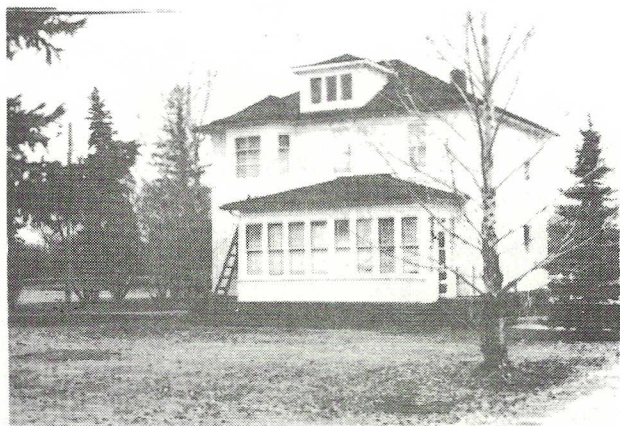
20. Former J.H. McConnell House, 1892, 32-5th St. S. This house was built by one of Hamiota's early entrepreneurs, and the area's MLA from 1914-21.



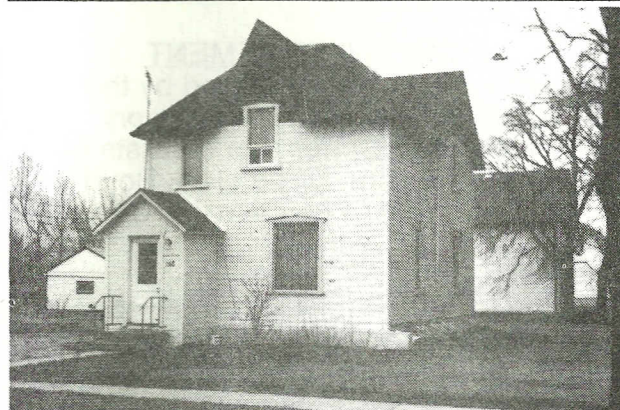
21. Former R. Wood House, 1928, 110-3rd St. SE. This "Aladdin" bungalow was built from a prefabricated kit that contained all the materials needed for its construction.



22. Former Nairn House, ca. 1900, 143-1st St. SE. This ambitious design, in brick, was once owned by a local jeweller. At one time the house featured a verandah that stretched across the front and sides.



23. Former S. Wood House, 1915, 171-1st St. SE. This house, and many others in the area, was constructed by local carpenter and designer Thomas Reece.



24. Former Jordan House, ca. 1895, 168 Oak Ave. E. The decorative details along the dormer eaves, called bargeboards, are typical of the architectural detailing of this era.



25. Fomer Squib House, ca. 1905, 36 & 38-7th St. E. This is a rare example of duplex design in a rural community. Imagine quiet descending on these two busy households when the Amos 'n Andy Show aired during the 1930s.

Your tour of Hamiota is now complete. What you have seen here is a sampling of the types of buildings that composed Manitoba communities almost 100 years ago. You have seen what houses, churches and stores looked like at that time. With your imaginations, you have entered some of these buildings and felt what it was like to actually live and work in them. We encourage you to return to your own communities and look at the old buildings there, the grand and humble alike. Discover and appreciate your past.

AND, OF COURSE, COME BACK TO HAMIOTA ANY TIME!