

34. 302 Main Street (1948) - Steinbach Post Office

Replaced beautiful brick post office and Town Hall across Main Street which regrettably was demolished.

35. 306 Main Street

Former site of the well known H.W. Reimer's Ltd. General Store (1886-1964) and family home. The store was well known throughout Southeastern Manitoba.

36. 377 Main Street - Derksen Printers & The Carillon

Formerly called the Steinbach Post, owned and operated by Arnold Dyck (Low German author), the business was bought by Gerhard Derksen in 1936 and re-named Derksen Printers. Continued to publish the German-language Steinbach Post newspaper and ran a small commercial printing shop. In 1946, The Carillon News made its debut as an English-language newspaper serving all of southeastern Manitoba. Eugene took over the business from his father expanding it greatly; now his son Rick owns the business.

37. 420 Main Street - Evangelical Mennonite Church

This church is the descendant church of the Kleine Gemeinde, the founding church in Steinbach (the original 18 families of Steinbach all belonged to this church). In 1911 they built on this site. In 1960 the building was destroyed by fire and the present core structure was constructed.

38. 403 Main Street (c 1948) - Don's Bakery

Originally Steinbach Bakery, owned by Cornelius (Roy) and Rose Toews and family, was sold to Don and Martha Toews and Don Friesen. Later, Jim and Carol Penner bought the business and had murals depicting various authentic scenes of Steinbach heritage businesses painted on the exterior walls.

39. 280 Barkman Avenue - Heritage Tree

Crab apple tree planted in 1905 by Jacob D. and Anna Barkman as part of their orchard. A curious thing happened to the tree about twenty years ago when two trunks of the tree started producing fruit in alternate years. (See heritage tree marker at base of tree). The site has recently been donated to the City for heritage purposes.

Medo Lawn Apartments were built in 1961 by George and Mary Kehler.

40. 376 Elmdale Street - Heritage Trees

Oak trees in front yard are approximately 180 years old, about 45 years old when the Mennonites arrived in 1874. (See heritage tree marker). Eugene and Helen Derksen (Derksen Printers) built the home in 1954. Property presently owned by Lyle and Carolyn Peters.

41. Sports Centre - Elmdale Street

Steinbach Centennial Arena celebrates Canada's centennial. T.G. Smith Arena named after a local banker who strongly supported minor sports. Steinbach Curling Club (across the street) built by Legion members in 1948.

* 13 sites having greatest heritage value.



The horses and sleigh "ushering in" the automobile city. (see item 17)

STEINBACH'S BEGINNINGS
A BRIEF HISTORY

The Village of Steinbach was founded in the fall of 1874 when a small party of Kleine Gemeinde (small church) Mennonites determined a suitable location to settle. This group of 18 families, almost half of whom were from Steinbach, Borosenko, Russia, chose this spot along "Stony Brook" to build a replica of the village they had fled.

The Mennonites had their beginnings during the Protestant Reformation in the 1500's. Persecuted, they left Holland for Poland; restricted in their faith again they left Poland for Imperialist Russia and again, refusing to be deterred from their religious beliefs and lifestyle, they came to Canada in 1874 where they had been promised the freedoms they cherished.

Disregarding Manitoba's grid survey system, the settlers divided the quarter sections of land they had been given into the block system, providing for long narrow strips of land perpendicular to and on either side of the creek so they could have a source of water and live close to each other (like a village for the benefits it provided). Each had the bulk of their land farther away, again in narrow strips, so that all got some of the good- and not-so-good land.

As the Village grew and developed, Main Street and later Hanover Street, both parallel to the brook and running through all the villager's lots, took shape. Who knew that from these humble rural beginnings would grow the prosperous City of Steinbach - the hub of south eastern Manitoba.

Also available is a companion brochure to this, which details Steinbach's beginnings and draws attention to reader boards and placed markers.

* * *

The Steinbach Heritage Committee wishes to thank Ernie Toews, local historian, and many other citizens who provided ideas and helpful information for this project.



Steinbach Heritage Walking Tour

Self-Guided Heritage Walking Tour(s) of Steinbach

Length of full tour - 3½ km
Short tour (items 1-14) - 1 km
Long tour (items 15-41) - 2½ km

Walking/cycling tour begins at the Jake Epp Library
255 Elmdale Street

Please forward comments, questions or corrections to:

Steinbach Heritage Committee:
225 Reimer Avenue, Steinbach, Manitoba, R5G 2J1
Elbert Toews, Chair (204-326-3930)
Henry Fast H.K. Friesen
Evelyn Friesen Gary Snider
Royden Loewen Rowland Sawatzky
Ron Dick

STEINBACH HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

Parking available at the Jake Epp Library parking lot - 255 Elmdale Street.

*13 sites having greatest heritage value.

1. 255 Elmdale Street - Jake Epp Library (1996)

Named in recognition of Jake Epp, former local educator, Steinbach Town Councillor, Provencher MP and veteran of three cabinet posts. Mr. Epp, whose maternal grandfather, Peter Toews, was among the original 18 families that founded the community of Steinbach in 1874, taught at the local high school in the 1960's and 70's. He was an MP for 21 years (1972-1993).

2. Elmdale Street - Johann G. Barkman Heritage Walkway

Stony Brook (English for Steinbach) is the waterway, in front of the Jake Epp Library around which Steinbach was built. An interpretive sign nearby on the walkway (100m east) explains the beginnings of Steinbach along this brook and with a map and place signs shows the original 20 lots (18 families) that settled here. Note the small sign nearby which marks the boundary line between Lots 11 and 12.

3.* 306 Reimer Avenue (1936) - "Loewen Green"

Original home of J.T. and Margaret Loewen, building mover, brother to C.T. Loewen and father to Mel and C. Wilbert Loewen. Still owned by C. Wilbert and Kaye Loewen. House looks very much like it did in 1936.

4. 311 Reimer Avenue (1946)

This post World War II home was inhabited by the Ben H.W. Reimer family situated on the original "Reimer" lot. His father founded the H.W. Reimer General Store which dominated Main Street from 1886 to 1964.

5. 330 Reimer Avenue (1928)

Former residence of the Jacob G. Kornelson family, long time high school teacher at Steinbach Collegiate (1930's-1950's). Refurbishing and second story veranda added in late 1980's by Mrs. Annie (Cornie) Loewen (Loewen Windows) as a home for missionaries on furlough. Presently owned by Norm and Sandy Senkiw.

6.* 319 Hanover Street

Former A.T. & Helena (Elizabeth) Loewen residence and site of Loewen Funeral Home, which later became an international funeral home corporation - The Loewen Group. The house was built in 1905 in Giroux, and moved to this site in 1929. Exterior has been changed extensively. Presently owned by Brian and Sheila Harder.

7. Hospital Street / Reimer Avenue intersection

See interpretive signs in the pocket park commemorating the "Old Bethesda Hospital" (1936-1967) which used to be located nearby and the early health care workers that served this community.

8. 287 Hanover Street (1930)

Former residence of teacher / historian, P.J.B. Reimer. Present owners are the Peter H. Dueck's.

9.* 255 Hanover Street (1914)

Originally built and occupied by the J.R. Friesen family located on Main Street next to J.R. Friesen Ford dealership (now Fairway Ford) which they owned. Moved to present site in 1950 where it was briefly used as a nurse's residence for the nursing home next door. Present owners, Jerry and Bev Friesen are working at restoring the building to its original "look". This house is the first building in Steinbach to be declared an official "Municipal Heritage Site".

10. 250 Hanover Street (1925)

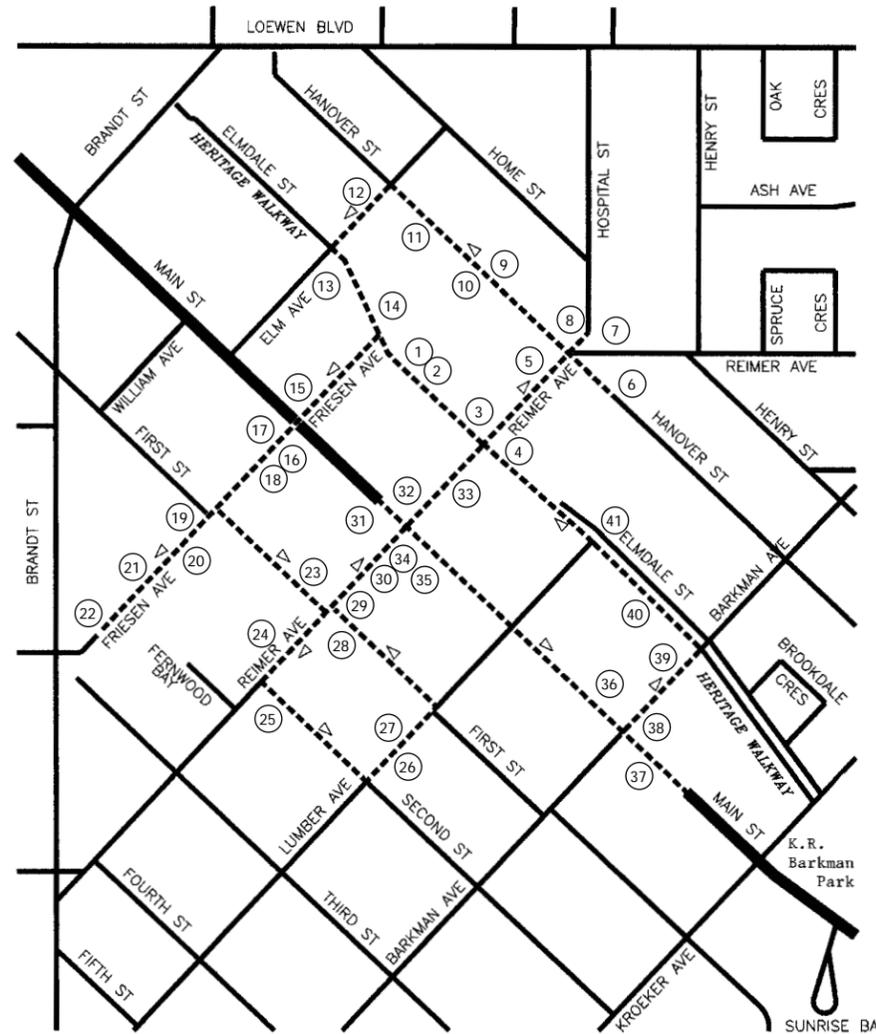
Former residence of Rev. Jacob Reimer. Considerably changed exterior. Now owned by Laurent and Kathleen Plett.

11.* 228 Hanover Street (1912) - "Hanover Homestead"

Former residence of long time teacher / principal of Steinbach Collegiate, Julius G. and Helen Toews (1920's - 1940's). Originally a one-storey teacherage of Steinbach School District, Julius bought the house for \$1,200 in 1930, lifted the roof and inserted a second storey for his large family. Barn on property, built circa 1912, housed cows that were taken by herders to community pasture. Later residents included the Henry Mueller and Ike & Elsie Kroeker families. Present owners are Jim and Marlene Reimer. Built by Jacob S. Barkman.

12.* 330 Elm Avenue (c 1925)

Former residence of long-term early mayor of Steinbach, Johan G. Barkman (1885-1915). Attic of one storey home provided sleeping quarters for children. Now owned by Marilyn Heinrichs.



13. 303 Elm Street (1943)

Built for Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Whetter in 1943. Expensive for those days, this house is still immaculately kept by present owner, Helen Kehler. Few modifications have been done to the home. Lived in for many years by Abe and Rosa Toews (5c to \$1.00 Store).

14. Ernie A. Friesen Park

Named in recognition of Steinbach's Mayor Ernie A. Friesen, who served as mayor from 1986-1992 (served as councillor from 1980-1986). Former site of Kinsmen outdoor pool and park.

15. 231 Main Street (c 1930) - Steinbach Hatchery / Feedmill

The last of the Steinbach mills, once the foundation of the City's economy. The mill was constructed by Peter F. Barkman and Associates. In 1977 Peter Wiebe and Associates purchased the mill.

16. 242 Main Street (1948)

Former site of Royal Bank building and Town Hall in 1946. Also office of John D. Goossen, Secretary-Treasurer of R.M. of Hanover for many years.

17.* 236 Main Street - Fairway Ford

Fairway Ford dealership, formerly J.R. Friesen Implement Dealership (established in 1903). In 1914, the first Ford automobile dealer in Western Canada was established here. Son Ed and Olga Friesen continued to run the dealership into the 1980's (see photo).

18.* 241 Friesen Avenue (1930) - Friesen Machine Works Ltd.

A.S. Friesen & Sons (blacksmith shop) was formed by A.S. Friesen and his sons Peter and K.R. in 1892 at this site. In 1907 the partnership was split into a machine shop and lumber work. Sons, Henry and Barney continued the business for many years. Robert Friesen, son of Barney, took over the business in 1986, making it a fourth generation family business.

19. 240 First Street (1920)

Residence of Nick Brandt. Approximate site of Steinbach's first windmill in 1878 built by Abraham G. Friesen. Present owners are John and Delia Knight.

20.* 193 Friesen Avenue (1917)

This two storey house was built by John D. and Elisabeth (Friesen) Goossen during WWI presumably from an inheritance left his daughter Elisabeth by A.S. Friesen. Goossen was a land conveyancer and real estate agent as well as Town secretary. The house's exterior including the pillared verandas are original. The added garage was built recently and matches the original. Other owners have been C.Wilbert and Kaye Loewen, Don and Evelyn Thiessen, and presently, Royden and MaryAnn Loewen.

21. 180 Friesen Avenue (1918)

Former residence of Sebastian and Eva Rieger, who established a tailor shop and men's wear store known as Rieger Clothing. Now owned by John and Jackie Hiebert.

22. 160 Friesen Avenue (1920)

Although there is some doubt about original ownership, one source indicates it was the residence of John Friesen "Cream Taster" at the local creamery. Later residents were Rev. Dave and Mintie Brown. Present owners are Jake and Eva Schellenberg. The structure was altered by the addition of the second floor veranda.

23. 222 Reimer Avenue (1958) - Reimer Apartments

First apartments in Steinbach, built by Peter J. and Jacob J. Reimer, co-owners of Reimer Agencies (formed in 1947).

24. Pioneer Cemetery

Adjacent to the Cornerstone Bible Church (formerly the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, one of Steinbach's earlier congregations established c1900).

Steinbach's oldest cemetery where most of Steinbach's earliest settlers were buried. The Pioneer Commemorative Cairn was dedicated in 1996 in memory of the pioneers who arrived in 1874 to found the Village of Steinbach. Some of the oak trees in the cemetery are 190 years old.

25. 304 Second Street (1936) - Cultural Arts Centre

The old Steinbach Collegiate Institute. With the completion of a new collegiate, the building served as a Junior High school from 1962-1972 and then became the public library and seniors centre from 1973-1997. The Steinbach Arts Council took over the library space when the Jake Epp Library was built. The building has been significantly altered.

26.* 195 Lumber Avenue (1930)

Original residents were the Frank F. Reimer family. "Carload Frank" as he was known, was a merchant who bought goods in bulk. Later, Frank and his sons founded Reimer Express Lines. Presently owned by Steve and Jackie Bell.

27. 198 Lumber Avenue (1930)

Mrs. Abram W. Reimer residence.

28. 304 First Street (1939) - Downtown Apartments

This was the first building occupied by the "Steinbach Bible Academy" - now known as Steinbach Bible College/Steinbach Christian High School.

29.* 225 Reimer Avenue (1964) - Steinbach City Hall

City of Steinbach City Hall built in 1964. Former site of Kornelson School (1913-1960).

30. Corner of Main Street / Reimer Avenue - Cenotaph

The Canadian Legion cenotaph donated to the community in 1956.

31.* 282 Main Street (1910) - Earl's Meat Market

Housed Peter T. Friesen Book Store in 1914. Used as a restaurant for many years.

32. Corner of Main Street and Reimer Avenue - Clock Tower (2001)

Former site of Loewen Chevrolet dealership and the C.T. Loewen Lumber Yard. The clock tower was funded by the private sector (organized by the Banman family).

33. 275 Reimer Avenue (1946) - Hull's Family Bookstores

First home of the Steinbach Credit Union which moved to its Main Street location in 1986. One of the largest Credit Unions in Western Canada, it has assets worth \$2 billion.