Asessippi Parkland
Driving Tour Guide
Welcome to Asessippi Parkland

Asessippi Parkland region is an area rich in culture and history.

Settlers from many countries made their new homes in the area, bringing with them their unique cultures and building designs.

These many cultures make up the diverse culture that is our history.

We hope that you enjoy the driving tour as we take you on this trip through the past.

Please use the map in the centre of the booklet to help guide you through Asessippi Parkland.

GPS locations have been added for those who enjoy the challenge.

For more information on historic sites in the area, visit www.AsessippiParklandTourism.com
1. Boulton Manor, Russell
Red House, Russell

2. Barnardo Home

3. Millwood Bridge

4. Binscarth Museum, Binscarth
Binscarth Colony Farm, Binscarth

5. Angusville Heritage Hall

6. Inglis Grain Elevators National Heritage Site

7. Russell Trail

8. St. Elijah Romanian Orthodox Church and Paulencu Pioneer Home

9. Skinner’s Arboretum

10. Asessippi Townsite

11. Shellmouth United Church
This important Russell house was built in 1894 for Major and Mrs. Charles A. Boulton. Major Boulton was a soldier, settler and senator and one of the founders of the Town of Russell and Village of Shellmouth. He was a notable character opposed to Louis Riel during the Red River Rebellion of 1869-70 and then also during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Major Boulton was appointed to The Senate of Canada by Sir John A MacDonald and he spent a great deal of his time out of the area while his wife and children resided here. In recent times, Boulton Manor has served as a private Christian Academy and for apartments, and most recently as Boulton Manor Bed & Breakfast. At one time there was a tunnel that connected Boulton Manor and the Red House but it has been blocked off. Many of the streets in Russell have been named after members of Major Boulton’s Family – Heather, Lawrence, Augusta and Darcy Streets.

For more information call Linda or Ward Tweet at 204-773-3267.

GPS:

N 50.46.505
W 101.17.141
Red House
203 Pelly Avenue S.
Russell, MB

Red House is the oldest house still standing in Russell, built in 1888 by William Barrett Lennard who had came to Russell in 1880 with Major Boulton. Mr. Lennard hauled the bricks used for his house from near Asessippi by ox and cart. His daughter, Georgina married Major D'Arcy-Everett Boulton, the son of Major Charles Boulton. In 1994, while they were renovating, the Falkevitch family found an old flour sack in the walls stuffed full of Army memorabilia and other historical information which provided a better sense of the history of the house. The papers range from 1914 to 1917, and include military papers from different offices, Red Cross information, financial statements, way bills, and a chronicle of Russell Schools dated 1917. There are rumours that there was a tunnel connecting this house with the Boulton Manor.

At present the house is rented out so can only be viewed as a drive by or walking tour.

If you would like more information visit our website at: www.assessippiparklandtourism.com or contact the present owner at kewankiw@mts.net.

GPS:

N 50.46.513
W 101.17.191
Dr. Barnardo Home Site

For thousands of Londoners and their descendants Dr. Barnardo is a well known name, a hero to some for his philanthropic work to remove destitute children from the slums of London in the late 1800s. But the stories of children who were the subject of his philanthropy, there were mixed outcomes. The R.M. of Russell was one of two Canadian communities that had what were called Barnardo Homes, and while the building is no longer standing, visitors can view the cairn at the former location. When the establishment was at its height, the farm covered 8,000 acres, including pasture land in the Assiniboine Valley. One of the best known features of the Home was the Creamery. It is estimated that 28,000 children were brought to Canada under the auspices of the Barnardo Foundation, with two-thirds under 14 years of age. About 800 boys passed through the Russell Barnardo Home.

From Russell go 2.5 km west of Russell on Hwy 16. Turn left on Road 166W and drive for 1.5 kms until you hit a dead end, turn right, go 1.5 kms. On your left you will see the cemetery. When you get to the next intersection turn left, go .5 km. The cairn will be on your right marked by a flag. A miniature display of the Barnardo Home can be seen at Russell & District Library.

GPS:  

Cairn  
N  50.45.121  
W  01.20.765  

Cemetery  
N  50.45.400  
W  101.20.583
Millwood Bridge

The community of Millwood was founded with the arrival of the railroad in 1885-86, and was surveyed for two hundred lots and planned as a divisional point for the railway. At this time there was a store, two hotels, a meat market, a grist mill, saw mill and two livery barns. The railroad, however, changed its plans and the divisional point was established further west at Russell. The community of Millwood, which once boasted a population of 80 no longer exists, although there is a Millwood School and Millwood Bridge (both built after the community declined) that mark the site. The triple arch concrete bridge built in 1929 still spans the Assiniboine River and recalls the provincial government program that provided better market access for many parts of rural Manitoba. This bridge replaced the second wooden bridge, and before that, goods were transported across the river by barge.

Located on Hwy.#579. From Russell go south on Hwy 16 – 3.9 kms to Hwy # 579. Turn right, go 4.9 kms, turn left staying on #579, go another 9.2 kms to Millwood.

From Barnardo Home Site – continue south to Hwy #579 and follow to Millwood.

GPS:

N  50.41.389
W  101.24.826
The Binscarth & District Museum is a result of the dream and dedication of Gordon Orr. Mr. Orr purchased a building in Binscarth and moved his artifacts into it making a small display. In 1983 a second larger building, the former North American Lumber Yard, was purchased, and his artifacts were relocated. Since then, many community members have donated antiques. In 1991 with the passing of Mr. Orr, the museum became property of the Village of Binscarth and was declared a Municipal Heritage Site. The displays will take you back to the time of Aboriginal peoples and buffalo herds. View the buffalo skull dating back thousands of years, and the large collection of arrowheads and other ancient tools. Take a stroll through the general store, summer kitchen, school room and agricultural room to get a sense of life at the turn of the 20th century. The museum is open in the summer from Monday to Friday during the months of June to August from 10-12 and 1-4 pm and there is no set admission fee but donations are welcomed. The Museum is located in the Village of Binscarth off Highway 16, 10 miles south of Russell.

For more information call 204-532-2217.

GPS:
N  50.37.445
W  101.17.067
In 1880, A Bain and W.B. Scarth, representing the Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company, secured three townships of land in the vicinity on which was established a settlement. In 1882, George Smellie, the company manager, chose SE 35-19-28W as the site for the Binscarth Colony Farm, named after a farm in Orkney. The farm was to serve as an example to the new settlers that the colonization company planned to bring to the area. Smellie imported purebred cattle and oxen, as well as farm equipment, and brought them as far as Fort Ellice by steamboat. The Colony farm once boasted a 60 x 300 foot barn, sheds and piggery as well as a combination store / hotel, blacksmith and a hall used as a church and meeting place. In 1886 the Manitoba North Western Railway Co. arrived, on its way to the west. The railway passed south of Colony Farm and some of the buildings there were moved to SE15-19-28W to create the Village of Binscarth. In 1891 the stock farm was dismantled, and the splendid herd sold to other newcomers in the region. The Presbyterian Manse, built in 1883, was moved to this location in 1886 and is the only remaining building from Colony Farm.

A scale model of the Colony Farm can be seen at the Binscarth Museum.

GPS:

N 50.37.542
W 101.16.980
Angusville Heritage Hall
(Ukrainian People’s Home of Ivan Franco)

This Municipal Heritage Site was constructed in 1934 by members of the Ukrainian community of Angusville and surrounding area. Ukrainian National Home societies were central to the maintenance of Ukrainian communities throughout Manitoba – theatrical groups, choirs, reading and political discussion clubs sponsored a variety of cultural and social activities. The building is adorned with three domes or “banyas” of a type more typically seen in Ukrainian Church architecture. This site also boasts a hand-painted curtain, unique stage and viewing balcony, bronze statue of famed Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko, and an original painting of King George V and Queen Elizabeth.

The Heritage Hall is located in the village of Angusville, just off Highway # 45, 13.5 miles east of Russell.

To arrange a tour call Nadia at 204-773-2764.

GPS:

N  50.44.096
W  101.01.161
Inglis Grain Elevators National Heritage Site
Inglis, MB

The Inglis Grain Elevators National Historic Site was officially recognized in 1996 as a unique and enduring architectural symbol, representing one of the most important periods in the development of Canada’s grain industry from 1900 to 1930. The site boasts five vintage grain elevators, four of which were built in 1922, the same year as Inglis was founded. The fifth elevator was added in 1941 to create the unusual Reliance double-elevator. Visitors are welcome to explore the site at your own pace with a self-guided walking tour or to participate in a guided interpretive tour. In addition to being a National Historic Site the Inglis Elevators are also recognized as a Provincial Historic Site and a Manitoba Star Attraction.

The site is located in the village of Inglis just off Highway # 83.

A small tour fee is charged and donations are graciously accepted. Groups are welcome and asked to call ahead to arrange tours.

Don’t forget your camera! These photogenic giants look great inside and out. Phone-204-564-2243 or email: iahc@mts.net Website: www.ingliselevators.com

GPS:

N 50.56.705
W 101.14.934
Russell Trail Interpretive Sign

In 1886 the end of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway at Russell was the closest point potential settlers for the Shell River–Gilbert Plains–Dauphin country could reach by rail. By 1890 Dauphin had a population of 1,200 people but no railway connections. Originally pioneers had followed the arduous trail north from Shoal Lake. In 1890 T. A. Burrows was hired by the provincial government to construct “roads” to open up Northwest Manitoba, and the Dauphin country in particular. By 1889, however, the rush of immigrants to the area was very great. Some went away dissatisfied on account of the difficulty in getting to and from markets on the line of the railway and the distance to travel over very bad roads to get there. In 1881 Burrows began building a road northeast from Russell, the end of the railway. Completed in 1892, the trail became known as the Russell-Dauphin Colonization Road, or the Russell Trail. Until 1897 when the railway reached Dauphin, this road along with another following the Arden Ridge in the east at the foot of the escarpment, were the main means of reaching Dauphin country. Thus Russell was the disembarkation point for many of the new Ukrainian settlers who filled the territory between Gilbert Plains and Dauphin, as well as those who settled on the southwestern slopes of the Riding Mountain. Within the Russell Municipality the road ran straight north, connecting with Binscarth in the south. This road merged with the Fort Ellice Trail near St Lazare. Only after the Russell Trail intersected the Pelly Trail did it begin to veer eastward towards Gilbert Plains. The trail remained in use until the Canadian Northern Railway extended its line from Dauphin in 1903. The interpretative sign erected by Asessippi Parkland Tourism is located northeast of Inglis in the RM of Shellmouth-Boulton – off of Highway 366. Watch for signs.

GPS: N 50.59.06 W 101.07.01
St. Elijah Romanian Orthodox Church  
Hwy #366, North of Inglis

This parish was established by Romanian immigrants from the Carpathian Mountain region in Eastern Europe more than one hundred years ago and was the only rural Romanian settlement in Manitoba. The church, which has been designated as a Provincial Heritage Site, was built in 1908 and is a replica of the kind of distinct Romanian Orthodox Churches of the old country, with simple rectangular shape and rounded ends, interior sculptured rafters, processional crosses and icons. The church replaced a sod and log structure dating from 1903 on land that was donated by Elie Burla. The church was used for worship until 1952. Restored in 1979, the church was dedicated to community pioneers on the 80th anniversary of the founding of the parish. Today only a handful of descendants of the original pioneers remain, they continue to hold service once a month in the newer church on the site.

For tours call Barry at 204-564-2228

St. Elijah Romanian Orthodox Church is located at same site three miles north of Inglis just off Highway 366, go ½ mile west on Rd# 135..

GPS:

N  50.59.57
W  101.16.19
The Paulencu Pioneer House is the only known surviving Romanian-designed farm house in Manitoba. It was built in 1906 by one of the first settlers to the area and modeled after the style of the Carpathian Mountain Region of Bukovyna. It is of basic design, including a rectangular three-room plan with centrally positioned door and hip roof. The Romanian vernacular form, however, tended to be somewhat larger and more ornate. It is of round log construction with overlapping saddle-notch corner connections and plastered with clay and using local materials. At the upper portion of the exterior walls the logs progressively extend out to form large brackets which help to support the roof’s wide overhanging eaves. It is completed with period furnishings and boasts a smokehouse in the attic.

The Paulencu Home is located on the grounds next to St. Elijah Romanian Church north of Inglis.

GPS:

N 50.59.57
W 101.16.19
Skinner’s Arboretum  
Hwy #83, North of Inglis

The Arboretum Trail is a series of self-guided trails leading through a variety of native and planted species. Some of the Scots Pine and Limber Pine were planted in the 1920s. The entrance to the Arboretum Trail and Skinner’s Nursery is Elm Drive where notable and unusual species include the Red Pine, Manchurian Fir, Black Hills Spruce, Trail development is an ongoing process. In 1998, several collections of Canadian-developed roses were planted as was a demonstration sunny perennial border with a wide variety of plants. The Arboretum Trail is a series of self-guided trails leading through a series of native and planted species. Facilities for tours include a campfire area and picnic tables. Visitors to the Arboretum Trail are welcome to take self-guided tours during daylight hours. No admission is charged, but voluntary donations are appreciated.

Skinners Arboretum is located between Inglis and Roblin and just off Hwy 83, watch for sign 10.5 kms north of Inglis, turn right and drive 1 km east.

GPS:

N 51.02.328
W 101.19.962
Asessippi Townsite
Hwy #83, Asessippi Valley

From PTH 83, visitors can look down into the winding Shell River Valley at one of the earliest settlements in this part of Manitoba. Asessippi was a bustling frontier community established during the 1880s and 90s. In 1882, with the hope of an early railway connection and with a federal land grant, the Shell River Colonization Co. founded the village of Asessippi. A dam, roller process grist mill, saw mill, shingle factory, brick works and cheese factory were all built at this site. About 50 Ontario settlers had homesteaded here by 1883. However, the railway did not arrive. Lacking access to a larger market, local industries failed and in 1888 the Government of Canada revoked the Company’s charter. Most residents resettled in nearby communities like Shellmouth and Russell.

For more information, refer to the publication: Asessippi Townsite, available from the Historic Resources Branch.

Directions: Take Hwy 83 north of Inglis, As you go through the valley, Asessippi townsite can be seen off to your left. Coming out of the valley turn left on Asessippi Ave. Take the first dirt road on your left and follow it to the townsite.

GPS:

N 50.57.463
W 101.19.256
Shellmouth was settled in the early 1880s and by 1885 was a thriving community with a large saw mill, a four storey hotel, a large stone livery barn, three stores, two blacksmith shops, a large number of dwellings and stopping houses, and a population of 118.

Shellmouth Presbyterian Church was officially opened on 25 June 1905, about a year after it had been decided to build. Before that, as was common throughout pioneer areas, people of various faiths had gathered together in homes and for several years in the local school, to worship. This church, which was constructed by volunteers under the supervision of carpenters Neil and Rory McFadyen and A. Callin, is a typical country church, with its Gothic Revival roots evident in the pointed windows.

The church is now owned privately and services are held the first Sunday in August.

For further information call Gayle at 773-2556.

GPS:

N 50.56.01
W 101.28.70
During the floods of the 1880s steamboats were able to navigate the Assiniboine all the way from Winnipeg, and in 1885 a wooden swing bridge was constructed above the high water mark. The bridge swung on the center pier to permit boats to pass up and down the river, carrying freight for communities along the river. The Dominion Government gave a grant of $10,000 for the construction of the bridge and approaches on both sides a mile long, and the province added a grant of $1,000. The total cost of the bridge was $13,000. The grading, dump and superstructure of the bridge was undertaken by Mr. Cartwright; with piers and pilings by Mssrs. Denmark and Simpson, under the supervision of the Dominion Government Engineer. Mr. Callin was clerk of the works, with Mr. Todd as overseer on behalf of the government county council. The lower water level in the valley made the swing bridge and its high piers unnecessary, and in 1908 a new steel bridge was built to replace it, which itself was replaced by the present bridge in 1991.

The interpretative sign is located on LaRiviere Ave. in the Village of Shellmouth on Hwy 549 west of Inglis.

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Photos: Dawna Boyce