CASE STUDY: CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mapping Historic Sites in Rural Manitoba

Lead Agency: Manitoba Historical Society
Consultants/Partners:
Funding: Manitoba Heritage Grants Program
Report: Mapping Historic sites in Rural Manitoba: development, themes, and applications

Project Overview:

The Manitoba Historical Society compiled an inventory of historic sites around Manitoba to assist tourism and management. The sites are historic based on the following criteria: noteworthy object, event, or person. The society researched sites through local history books, local knowledge (including social media), driving around the province, and Google Earth to show human disturbances (e.g., shelterbelts, foundations, roads, rights of way, and other straight or curved lines). During site reconnaissance, the investigators used drones to enhance their exploration and to provide interactive views. Each location was inventoried and mapped then had a sign installed with a title, website, and QR code for more information. Metadata for each location included: alternative/common spellings, building materials/architect, type of site (agricultural, military, education etc.), project name, ethnicity, neighborhood descriptions, photo available, municipality, local/state/national recognition. The information is searchable and also available by pop-ups on a Google maps base. A webinar is also available for the project through the Rural Policy Learning Commons.
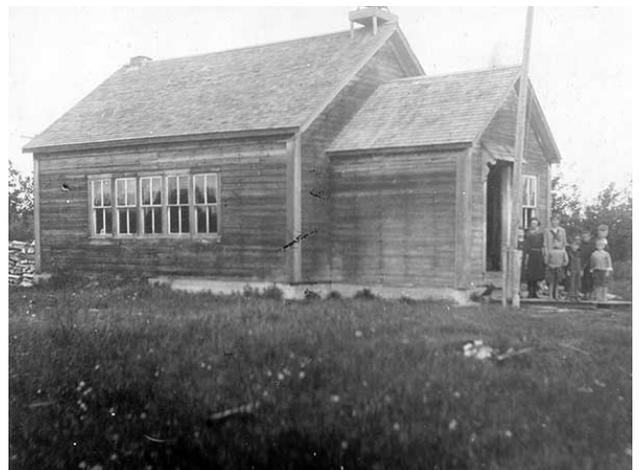
How Project Contributes to Rural Resiliency:

This type of inventory can assist in improving regional resiliency by identifying sites, site managers, and sites of local/regional significance. It can also be used to enhance historical/genealogical research, education, and tourism. Collecting the sites into an easy to navigate database and map may assist relatively obscure sites to find supportive funding or public awareness. These sites may also develop a "rural story" and help towns and regional planning agencies identify historical trends to protect, mitigate, or enhance.

Suggestions for towns and/or COGs to assist in this type of project:

Historical commissions and districts likely have a wealth of knowledge to start, complete, and maintain this type of inventory. Partnering historical societies with regional planners and economic development groups could propel the project forward.

Shergrove School (no date) by R. M. Stevenson
Source: Archives of Manitoba, School Inspectors Photographs, GR8461, A0233, C131-3, page 31. Retrieved from http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/shergroveschool.shtml

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