Historic Places of the Red River: FIELD TRIPS

Rivers West
Manitoba Historic Resources
Historic Places Initiative
Come Explore

Historic Places along the Red River are great places to explore – *they bring history to life!*

Grey Nuns Convent –
St. Boniface Museum
Lots to see and do

Here are just a few places to visit:

• The Forks
• Kenosewun Museum
• Seven Oaks
• Lagimodière Gaboury Park & Fort Gibraltar
• Lower Fort Garry
• St. Andrew’s Church
• St. Peter, Dynevör Old Stone Church
• Grey nuns Convent
• Captain Kennedy House

Fort Gibraltar
The Forks

The Forks has been a meeting place for 6,000 years. First Nations gathered here to trade, negotiate and celebrate.
Is The Forks a place you like to go to meet your friends?
Did you know this building is a Historic Place?
It was once the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Repair Shop.
The Forks

The Repair Shop is the oldest surviving railway repair shop in Manitoba. It is the only building that remains from the *Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway*. It was built in 1889!
The Forks

Next time you are at the museum – imagine trains driving into the building, coming for repair. This building tells us the story of the railways and all they brought.
The Forks

The Forks tell us other stories too. Did you know there were many fur trade forts here at The Forks? This is what it looked like in the 1870s. Today Main Street goes right through the fort.
The Forks

Upper Fort Garry is just one of many forts built at the Forks.
The Forks

This is all you will see of Upper Fort Garry today.
The Forks

The original Fort Garry was moved to Lower Fort Garry because it always flooded. Other forts here were Fort Gibraltar I and II and Fort Garry I.
The Forks

The Forks is important for more than its forts and railway and being a meeting place. It was also once the “gateway to the west”.
Europeans started to come to Manitoba in large numbers in the late 1870s. They needed somewhere to stay before going out to find a homestead or farm.
The Forks

Large buildings called “immigration sheds” were built at The Forks. People stayed in them until they found a home.
The Forks

Today The Forks is a great place to meet friends and explore.

It is also an important part of our history with lots of stories to tell.
Kenosewun

“Kenosewun” is a Cree name for the ‘place of many fishes’. Do you know where that is?
Kenosewun

Here is a hint...
It is also the place where archaeologists found the first “farm” in Manitoba.
Kenosewun

There was once a dangerous rapid there. It was great for fishing.

Today a dam floods the rapid, but fishing is still good.

It is now called Lockport.
Kenosewun is also the name of a small museum and park beside the Red River at Lockport.

You can see what the archaeologists dug up and the story artifacts tell of our first farmers.
Seven Oaks

There once was a fierce battle between the Métis and Selkirk Settlers.
No one knows who fired the first shot, but 21 lay dead in the end.
Seven Oaks

The fight was about many things – land, companies, profit and culture – what people often fight about. *Here is the story...*
Seven Oaks

Cuthbert Grant, a Métis leader and bison hunter for the North West Co., along with a group of his friends, had a chance meeting with a leader of the rival Hudson’s Bay Co.
Seven Oaks

Robert Semple, of the HBC and Governor of the Red River Settlement, with 26 of his men confronted Grant and the Métis.

A shot was fired and in the end Semple and 20 of his men lay dead.
Seven Oaks

The skirmish of 1816 is called the Battle of Seven Oaks or the Battle of Frog Plain.

A monument marks the location on Main Street in Winnipeg.
Seven Oaks

Later John Inkster, a Scottish settler, and his Métis wife Mary Sinclair, built a home on the land at Seven Oaks.

They were a prosperous family with many successful children.
Seven Oaks

Today Seven Oaks is a museum and historic place full of stories for you to discover.
Seven Oaks

Seven Oaks is the oldest surviving home or residence in Manitoba. It was build between 1851 and 1853. (The flood of 1852 put the building on hold.)
Seven Oaks

This historic building was designed and built by Inkster. It’s a rare example of something called lap-joint construction.

Other special features –
- cut-stone foundation
- stone-lined cellar
- imported glass window panes and door hinges
Seven Oaks

Take a tour of the museum to find out more about the story of the Inkster family and the Battle of Seven Oaks.
Lagimodière Gaboury Park & Fort Gibraltar

Nestled on the banks of the Seine and Red Rivers was a homestead of a famous family. They were the first French-Canadian family in the west.
Lagimodière Gaboury Park & Fort Gibraltar

Jean Baptiste Lagimodière and Marie-Anne Gaboury were from Quebec but came west to work the fur trade.

Marie-Anne was unusual as one of the first white women in the west.
Lagimodièère Gaboury Park & Fort Gibraltar

Jean Baptiste was a secret courier for Lord Selkirk during the Battle of Seven Oaks.
The Lord rewarded him with the piece of land along the Seine and Red rivers.
Jean Baptiste and Marie-Anne were also Louis Riel’s grandparents.

Riel often visited his grandparent's farm.
Lagimodière Gaboury Park & Fort Gibraltar

Both Jean Baptiste Lagimodière and Marie-Anne Gaboury are “persons of national historic significance”.

You can visit where their homestead stood, now a park on the river.
Lagimodière Gaboury Park & Fort Gibraltar

Beside the homestead park is Whittier Park where Fort Gibraltar is and the Festival du Voyageur is held.

You can walk the trail from one park to the other, in the footsteps of Louis Riel.
Lagimodière Gaboury Park & Fort Gibraltar

At Fort Gibraltar you can explore the life of a voyageur and try your hand at living as they did 200 years ago.
Lower Fort Garry

Lower Fort Garry was built between 1830 and 1850 – it is a big place.
This is the oldest stone fur trading post in North America!
Lower Fort Garry

The fort has many stories to tell.

One of the stories is about life in the fur trade with trappers, traders and voyageurs.

M. G. Leyson, Grade 6
Lower Fort Garry

LFG supplied the fur trade. It was a big shipping centre. Goods were shipped to LFG from London and furs to London from LFG.
Lower Fort Garry

When you visit LFG you can meet traders and people that lived and worked at the fort 150 years ago. They might ask you to help them work.
Lower Fort Garry

In 1871 a very important meeting took place at LFG. The Ojibwa and Cree met with Canadian representatives to sign Treaty 1 – an agreement still important today!
In 1873 another big event occurred at the fort. The North West Mounted Police had just been formed and they were on their way west to keep peace on the frontier.
Lower Fort Garry

The newly formed police force, later named the RCMP, stayed at LFG before they started their famous March West across the wild prairies.
Lower Fort Garry

LFG was also a temporary prison until Stony Mountain Penitentiary was built in 1877.

In the 1880’s one building at the fort was the "Manitoba Lunatic Asylum".
Lower Fort Garry

Because of its location on the Red River, the fort has played many important roles in our history.

A visit to the fort is full of fun stories of our past, that you can take part in.
On the west bank of the Red River, between LFG and The Forks, a small wooden church was built in 1831.

This was one of the first churches in the area.
St. Andrew’s Church & Rectory

It was built by William Cockran. He was an Anglican missionary, who came to the Red River Settlement from England, in 1825.
Cockran came to teach the men and women of the fur trade how to be farmers and Christians. Cockran and his wife also started one of the first schools in the area.
St. Andrew’s Church & Rectory

Soon a bigger church was needed so Cockran, and the people who went to his church, build a larger church out of limestone they dug out of the riverbank.
St. Andrew’s Church & Rectory

Duncan McRae, a stonemason from Scotland, helped.

McRae was a little hobbit of a man who helped build many limestone buildings in the 1800s.
It was hard work to build a stone building in those days – so much of the work had to be done by hand. Oxen or horses hauled the stone slabs from the riverbank to the church.
St. Andrew’s Church & Rectory

They also built a large rectory close to the church – a home for Cockran and his wife.
You can visit both the church & rectory today. When there, imagine how you would build it with no machines or electric tools.
St. Andrew’s Church & Rectory

The church is still used today and it is a provincial heritage site. Both church & rectory are national historic sites.
When the first Scottish settlers arrived in the Red River Settlement, they were not well prepared to survive.

If it had not been for Chief Peguis and his people...
St. Peter, Dynevor Old Stone Church

they might not have lived through the first difficult years.

Peguis and his people taught them how to find food and live in this new land.
St. Peter, Dynevör Old Stone Church

Over time Chief Peguis and some of his people moved to a new settlement near Reverend Cockran, but on the east side of the Red River.
St. Peter, Dynevor Old Stone Church

Here they built a church in 1837 – the first and only church in the Red River Settlement for the First Nations people.
St. Peter, Dynevor Old Stone Church

The first church was wooden but in 1853 they build a stone church that still stands today.

When you visit the church you can see the grave of a great hero – Chief Peguis.
It was a warm night in June, just after midnight, back in 1844.

Four adventurous nuns from Montreal paddled up the Red River with their guides. In the dark...
Grey Nuns Convent
Musée de St. Boniface

they landed on the east shore, across from the forks of the Red and Assiniboine.

After 2880-kilometres, 59 days and 78 portages, they had arrived at their new home – St. Boniface.
Grey Nuns Convent
Musée de St. Boniface

These brave women were the first nuns to come this far west.

They came at the request of Bishop Provencer and the Métis people.
The four sisters had come to help the sick and elderly, care for orphans and teach children.
Grey Nuns Convent
Musée de St. Boniface

The four Grey Nuns were:
Sister Valade
Sister Lagrave
Sister Coutlee
Sister Lafrance
Grey Nuns Convent
Musée de St. Boniface

A convent was built for the nuns beside the St. Boniface church. It was made of square logs in the fashion called “Red River frame” and completed in 1851.
Grey Nuns Convent
Musée de St. Boniface

The convent was not only a home for the nuns but the place where they treated the sick, cared for the old and orphaned, and taught the children.
Grey Nuns Convent
Musée de St. Boniface

The Grey Nuns opened the first St. Boniface Hospital in 1871. The hospital has grown over time and the Grey Nuns are still taking care of the sick today.
Grey Nuns Convent
Musée de St. Boniface

The convent is the largest surviving Red River frame building in Canada. Today it is a museum you can visit to find out about the brave nuns and their lives and times.
Captain Kennedy House

Captain William Kennedy was an entrepreneur and Arctic explorer. He was one of many successful children born to Aggathas Bear and Alexander Kennedy.
Captain Kennedy House

Captain Kennedy was Métis. Like many sons of Hudson’s Bay Company officers, he was sent to Scotland at a young age to go to school.

K Neufeld Grade 6
Captain Kennedy House

Kennedy returned to Canada in 1833 and worked for the HBC in Montreal for a while.

In 1851 and 1853, the captain sailed the Arctic trying to find the lost Franklin expedition.
Imagine Captain Kennedy and his crew searching the frozen seas for Sir John Franklin. They never found the lost men.

In those days it was easy to get lost and never found again.
Captain Kennedy House

In the 1860s Captain Kennedy moved to the Red River Settlement with his new wife – an English woman named Eleanor.
Captain Kennedy House

They built a big stone house next to his mother’s on the Red River.
The house was built by Duncan McRae the famous stonemason.
Captain Kennedy House

They called the house “Maple Grove”. Today there is a tea room called Maple Grove in the house and a wee museum to visit.
Captain Kennedy House

Captain Kennedy House tells us stories of a brave Arctic explorer, a Métis businessman, and the beautiful stone house he built for his English wife.
Historic Places

Historic places are about stories. They bring stories to life for us. Each place and story has its own lesson.

The historic places along the Red River are full of stories for you to discover.