

House of David Synagogue
in Manitou Beach

Location: 107 Winnipeg St. Manitou Beach

Plan G10 Block 12 Lot 16

Owners: Pre-homestead era ????

Homestead Records: 1905-06: John Joseph MacLachlan Manitou Beach

Property owners as per Village Tax Records:

1905-1925 J.J. MacLachlan of Manitou Beach

1925 -1930 A. Turner & C.H. Hammond

1930 – 1945 Samuel Birnbaum (Bernbaum) of Saskatoon

1945-1953 A. Sperling of Watrous - - Jewish synagogue notation

1953-1975 Jewish Synagogue c/o people in S'toon

1975-2004 Samuel Gordon Meyers of Saskatoon

2004-200? Gladys Meyers sold to Helen and Charlie Johnson from Manitoba

200? The Johnsons sold the property.

Looking in the Village tax records (yes, I know they ought to be in Sask. Archives but----) revealed a surprise as I was expecting notation about a synagogue during Sam Birnbaum's ownership but it was during that of A. Sperling's that the "Synagogue" was noted. However, in 1967 & 1968 Jewish Synagogue was recorded c/o Oscar Mazer of S'toon; in 1973 the synagogue was c/o Jacob Goldenburg of Saskatoon.

So who the actual owner of the property was between the years after Sperling sold and when S. Meyers purchased I'm afraid I do not know. I have no information, unfortunately, about the rabbis or services.

Recollections from Mr. Cliff Wright –phone conversation April 27th 2007 about the synagogue:

“Wright said the first synagogue was in the Lakeview Hotel (built 19210 AKA the Jewish Hotel serving kosher food or the lot on the east side*). But that lot became home to a gas station in 1929 and in 1936 two cottages were added to the lot. Mr. Wright and I hypothesized the synagogue was likely inside the hotel.

During the 1940's the W'peg Street cottage was the site of the synagogue.

Sam and Mrs. Birnbaum had three children: Frank who became a dentist, Leo and a daughter.

The Jewish community was very large as during the summer months several hundred Jews travelled, by train and car, from W'peg to escape the anti-semitism prevalent in that city and province. Also they came for the mineral water treatments that were familiar to them from their eastern Europe homeland.

*(owned by M.M. Koehler until it was sold it to T.J. Kirton in the early 1930's. I have been told she was a United Church member.)

My guess is that Friday evenings the hotel dining room became the place of assembly and prayer for the Jews. This is a guess tho. after reading about synagogues on some Jewish web sites. The place of worship did not necessarily have to be a special building but could be improvised, esp if for temporary use, e.g. summer time at Manitou Beach. I am not sure where Watrous Jewish businessmen and their families worshipped.

So Frank I hope this will be of some use to you and your project. Much info I had at home and only spent about an hour rummaging thru Village records. Quite enlightening!

Good Luck, Sue Alcock

