

Cottage-style Houses (1920-1935)

After the First World War the popularity of the gable-and-shed style began to wane, and a new type, known locally as the cottage style, began to appear (Figure 28). During the 1920s and early 1930s, a fairly large number of these homes were constructed, primarily in the district's communities.

Due to its local nomenclature, and the fact that this type of residence did not appear in the study area until after the growth of Gimli as a popular summer resort area, it is possible that this house style was influenced by the style of seasonal houses being constructed in Gimli during this period (Figure 29). However, low profile bungalow homes of this type were also popular throughout the province during the 1920s.

In the planning district cottage houses were characterized by a low-pitched pyramid roof with wide overhanging eaves, one and as many as four dormer windows, and usually a front verandah. By the early 1920s concrete was in common use, and many of the cottage homes were built with full basements. The housing examples constructed prior to the 1920s usually had basements added later. Attached kitchen sheds were also fairly common and, as in the case of the earlier gable-and-shed type of home, the shed portion was often the original structure. Decorative elements were rare. Window mouldings and eave returns on the dormers were found on a few examples (Figure 30), while verandahs were occasionally enhanced with carved pillars and balustrades (Figure 31).



Figure 28
'Cottage-style house, Riverton.



Figure 29
Cottages of this type were being constructed in the Gimli area soon after the railway connection between Winnipeg and the community was completed in 1906.



Figure 30
Decorative elements on the cottage residences included window mouldings and eave returns on the dormer windows.



Figure 31
Magnusson house, Gimli.
This cottage house features a small gable, stained glass transoms on the front window and a wraparound verandah.