

Best Practice

Municipal Office Restoration

CONTACT

Town of Kerrobert

P. 306.834.2361

E-mail. Kerrobert@sasktel.net

Mail. Box 558, Kerrobert, SK, S0L 1R0

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THE PRACTICE

The Court House, Water Tower, and Hanbridge Building are all designated as municipal heritage sites in Kerrobert. When the Court House closed its doors the Town of Kerrobert decided to purchase and move the Town Office into the building in 1998. This decision was made to ensure that the historical landmark of our town remained in use, and apart of the community.

THE PROCESS

The Town of Kerrobert Court House was built in 1920. The brick and Tindal stone building is now a beautiful, historical home for the Town of Kerrobert Municipal Office. In 1998 the Town Office moved into the Court House. The Judicial District Building now holds not only the Town Office but also a Museum throughout the building, an Art Gallery in the upper Court Room and the offices of the Chamber of Commerce a lawyer and the KLD Foundation West Central Enterprise.

The Town's Water Tower is only one of two still standing and in use in Saskatchewan to date. The Water Tower was built in 1914 and stands 100 ft high holding 150,000 gallons of water.

In 1911 when Kerrobert was no more than a small village the CPR Station was built. The Railroad Station was the heart of the town with settlers coming in and more people being employed the town prospered. The Station is currently being used by the Kerrobert Wildlife Federation.

The Old Post office was also built in 1911; this building is known as Kerrobert Wheatland Library. The Royal Bank of Canada was built in 1910, after it was owned by J M Hanbridge former lawyer. Since then it has been known as the Hanbrige Building. Then it became the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan building. We were lucky to sell the building to a young couple who conserved the original structure and are now living in it.

The maintenance of all the heritage buildings in our town is very important. The Town of Kerrobert Municipal Office moved into the Court House in 1998 and we are doing our best to conserve the historical look and feel to the building. We are currently under construction of an elevator addition and new bathroom facilities to accommodate everyone in the building. The Town of Kerrobert strives to maintain the heritage structure and atmosphere of the former court house while upgrading the facility. The Wheatland Library also received new upgrades this past year.

The roof was replaced to ensure the building would remain structurally sound. The Wildlife Federation's occupation of the CPR Station allows for ongoing use for meetings and classes. The maintenance of these buildings ensures that we will be able to keep these landmarks in our community for many years to come.

The Town of Kerrobert Council has always realized the special features that are within the community, because of the historical buildings they strive hard to maintain them. By designating the sites as Heritage by Council in consultation with Government Department an agreement was reached to become owners of the buildings.

THE RESULTS

The benefits are we have five beautiful historical structures within the community. We have received several compliments regarding the atmosphere the heritage structures create within our community.

The biggest challenge with the Historical structures is the financial burden regarding maintaining the facilities in their historical, and original state.

The Town of Kerrobert takes pride in the multiple historical buildings still standing, in use, and keeping our community alive and thriving. It reminds us of the vision the early settlers had when they established their lives here. The use of the building for the Town Office, Art Gallery, Museum, also the part time office space for the Lawyers Office, Chamber of Commerce, KLD, and an oil company enables citizens' easier access to these services.

LESSONS LEARNED

We must ensure that the historical structures are preserved, it is sad to see other communities tearing down their heritage buildings; we should all take pride in the historical sites we have, and strive to utilize them, maintain them, and promote them. They are a wonderful part of our town and a great tourist attraction.