

# Manfred ND "History In The Making"

An amazing story is unfolding!  
The Manfred projects celebrate  
not only history of bygone days,  
but also "history in the making."

## 2000

The modern-day story of "history in the making" for Manfred began with the founding of the non-profit organization *Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)* on July 25, 2000.

## 2001

"Manfred Days" celebrated July 15-16, 2001. Vang Lutheran Church placed on the National Register. Manfred News letter and manfrednd.org website begun. Melby/Rogness House painted and shingled.



Tiny Manfred sported a big-top tent on "Manfred Days" for a number of activities including a church service, picnic and program. Other locations for Manfred activities included a service and meal at the Manfred 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church and a banquet at the Presentation Center in Harvey. Some of the other activities included a parade and games in Manfred.

## 2002

*MHP, Inc.* was named "Preservation Success Story for 2002" by *Preservation North Dakota (PND)*, which also awarded a Grass Roots Grant to Vang Lutheran Church for a drainage project.

## 2003

The *Manfred Heritage Museum* was created on July 25, 2003, with the dedication of the 1903 Melby/Rogness House, 1905 First State Bank/ Manfred Post Office, and 1906 Vang Lutheran Church into the museum.



People from far and near gathered to witness the establishment of the *Manfred Heritage Museum*. Myrtle Rogness, former resident of the Melby/Rogness House, was given the honor of cutting the ribbon for the dedication.

## 2004

In 2004, *MHP, Inc.* received its first Cultural Heritage Grant from the *State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND)* to develop a cataloging system. *The Johnson/Ostrem Preservation Fund*, was established as an affiliate of *PND* for the benefit of the Johnson/Jacobson/ Ostrem House. This building, as well as the Cash Store, and the Solheim Service Station were roofed in 2004. The *MHP, Inc.* board of directors expanded and by-laws were written.

## 2005

In 2005, two brown signs "Manfred Museum" were installed through the ND Dept. of Transportation, with the stipulation that the *Manfred Heritage Museum* be open 5 months, 5 days a week, 6 hours a day. Two more affiliates of *PND* were established: The *Melby Heritage Society* was founded for the benefit of the Olaf and Lena Anderson House, the T.L. Beiseker First State Bank of Manfred/Manfred Post Office (this building was later transferred to *MHP, Inc.*), Cash Store, and Hotel Johnson. *Rural Vestige Alliance (RVA)* was founded to facilitate historic properties in Manfred, specifically Manfred School and the Solheim House.

# 2006

Exhibit panels, developed through a *SHSND* Grant, were installed in Vang Lutheran Church in time for a celebration on July 2, 2006 commemorating 100 years since construction of the Vang Church building. Also on that day, two buildings were dedicated into the *Manfred Heritage Museum*: Rogers Lumber Co/Solheim Station and the Johnson/Jacobson/Ostrem House.



The sermon for the service was given by Pastor David Langseth, the grandson of Pastor J.M. Langseth who served Vang Church for 35 years. Also present, were former pastors Les Foss, Reinhold Miller, and Wilfred Hanson together with the parish pastor Fred Schmidt. The mass choir and congregational singing were both glorious.



# 2007

A (2005-2007) *SHSND* Cultural Heritage Grant was awarded to *MHP, Inc.* for setting up the archives in the newly restored second story of the Melby/Rogness House. A (2007-2009) *SHSND* Cultural Heritage Grant was awarded to *MHP, Inc.* encompassing four phases for the Melby/Rogness House: water system, storm windows, porch spindles, and the first phase of exhibit panels for this building.

# 2008

A (2009-2011) *SHSND* Cultural Heritage Grant was awarded to *MHP, Inc.* for electrical work for the two Melby/Rogness garages, completion of the exhibit panels for the Melby/Rogness House and exhibit panels for the farm exhibit in the south garage, plus a window project for the bank/post office.

# 2009

Also during these years, the Vang Church basement was renovated with new walling and then painted. The hotel structure was stabilized and roofed, received exterior repair, and then painted.

# 2010

A three-fold celebration, held August 1, 2010, marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Manfred School building, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *MHP, Inc.*, and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge. On that same day, two buildings were dedicated into the Manfred Heritage Museum: Hotel Johnson/Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge, and Manfred School. Grants for the repair and shingling of the Manfred School and Solheim House roofs were awarded to *Rural Vestige Alliance* by *SHSND*, *PND*, and North Dakota Telephone Company. *PND* awarded a grant to the *Melby Heritage Society* for the construction of a boardwalk in front of the hotel. Also in 2010, new sidewalks were installed on the Melby/Rogness House property.



Program features from the 2010 celebration. From left: Gwyn Herman and Laverne Johnson singing “Wildflower”, the Bismarck Sverdrup Sons of Norway Folk Dancers, and the Bismarck Sverdrup Sons of Norway Folk Singers.

# 2011

In 2011, the community of Manfred received the prestigious “Preservation Excellence” award from *PND*, the certificate of which is proudly on display in the Melby/Rogness House. A *PND* Grass Roots Grant was awarded in 2011 to *The Johnson-Ostrem Preservation Fund* for interior carpentry repair of the lath and hardwood flooring.

# 2012

In 2012, a *PND* Grant was awarded to *Rural Vestige Alliance (RVA)*, enabling the portico over the front entrance of Manfred School to be rebuilt as it originally appeared.

## The Story Continues!

The story of Manfred’s “history in the making” could not have begun without friends going to bat for Manfred as contributors, volunteers, and grantors. The projects at Manfred are doing very well, thanks to everyone’s continuing help. Even with restoration in progress here and there around town, Manfred is a big WOW! for all who come to experience this tiny but wonderful place!