

A Brief History of ASHMONT

Early Days

Two events marked the beginnings of Ashmont as a hamlet: the building of a store by Mr. Walter Joy on his farm, two miles west of the present town site around 1915, and the establishment of the first Post Office in the farm home of Mr. Babcock on the N.W. corner of the later McConnell farm. Soon afterwards, the Post Office was moved into the store to be operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Adams.



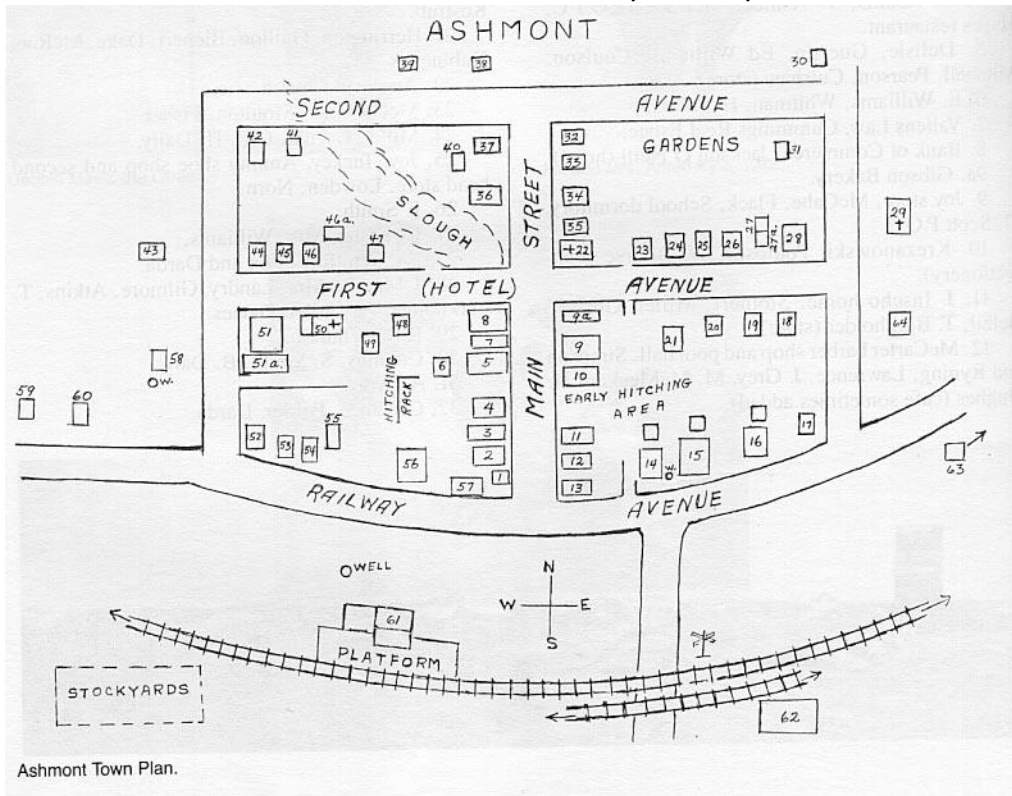
Ashmont Station House 1942

The Boom Years

Ashmont's growth during the 1920's paralleled the expansion of the railway, which by the spring of 1920 had already reached Spedden. Business interests saw the value of moving the hamlet to its present site, while work on the railway was being renewed at that time. Main Street became a busy place with Dr. Valens, a lawyer, and Dr. Massicotte, a dentist setting up their practices, and The Bank of Commerce offering emergency services in a tent, before building on Main Street. The Bank's early activities were not blessed with good fortune, as the tent blew down in a windstorm forcing the temporary use of Mr. Percy Anderson's shack, and the building itself burned down soon after construction, necessitating a trip to St. Paul for any banking purposes. Meanwhile, Ashmont's services on Main Street continued to expand between 1920 and 1923. A

particularly lengthy winter in 1921 facilitated moving buildings into place on skids, as was done with the Adam's family home, which then came to serve for many years as the Post Office. Mr. George Scott established and operated a creamery. Mr. Jack Draper opened his livery barn and dray business in 1921. Mr. Joy's store was moved to the North end of Main Street. The two Oelisle brothers from St. Paul, Amos and Edward, opened a hardware store. Dr. Valens opened a law office. Mr. Ed Williams opened a store, as did the Guertin family. Mr. Cummings

established his real estate office. In 1923, the Brooks Elevator Company began building its elevator, and Mr. John Inscho set up as Ashmont's first blacksmith. Later, his home became a Red and White store run by Mr. Andy Stothert.



Map of Early Ashmont

At a later date around 1926, Mr. Joe Murray built a large house on Hotel Avenue, about the same time Mr. and Mrs. William Gilmore established their boarding house. As well, the Hayward Lumber Company opened its lumber yard during this period.

Significant Later Construction

Local traffic generally was greatly helped with the construction of Highway 28 between Ashmont and St. Paul in 1939.



Building Highway 28 in 1939





Ashmont Hotel 1955

Ashmont's Landmark

There is no missing the 630 feet high C.F.R.N. television tower with its reflector dish built around 1964. Ashmont was chosen as the installation point, because its fairly high location guarantees a relatively clear signal path between Ashmont and Edmonton.