

MANITOBA

The Manitoba Grid

The Manitoba grid covers most areas in the southern part of the province (Figure 24, page 18). The far north is largely unsurveyed, apart from a concentration of townships in the vicinity of The Pas and townships along the Canadian National Railway line that runs north-east from Turnberry.

The eastern boundary of Manitoba runs north along the eastern side of range 17 east of the first meridian; it runs north from the 49th parallel for about 267 miles, to a point just south of the Cobham River. The boundary then peels away from range 17 and strikes approximately north-east for about 76 miles to near the eastern extremity of Island Lake. Then it swings slightly northwards and runs directly some 282 miles to the point where 89° west longitude intersects with the shoreline of Hudson Bay, near the mouth of the Black Duck River. From here, the boundary follows the shoreline of Hudson Bay to 60° north latitude.

The Manitoba Surveys

The First and Third Surveys. The Dominion Land Survey was implemented on July 10, 1871. Some earlier survey work in Manitoba had been carried out in 1869, when the first meridian was established, but the work was discontinued because of the objections of the Metis and disputes about the ownership of the land involved. The first line surveyed in the Dominion Land Survey system was along the first meridian — the eastern boundary of section 36 in tp 10 range 1, west of the first meridian. The line was used as a reference, or “control,” to establish the survey grid in relation to the first meridian. In this part of the township, however, sections were not marked out because the area had been divided into river lots settled by the Metis prior to 1871.

In Manitoba, the first survey covers most of the southern part of the province. The first survey's general layout is described on page 13. The third survey (1881 to present) predominates north of the first survey. The layout of the third survey is described on page 14. The dividing line between the first and third surveys is shown in Figure 24 (broken line) and Figure 25 (solid line).

We can trace this dividing line from west to east across the province, beginning where the township line between tps 30 and 31 joins the western border of Manitoba. From this point, moving eastwards, we follow the northern boundary of tp 30 range 29, west of the first meridian. From the north-east corner of this township, the line moves due south along the range line between ranges 28 and 29 west of the first meridian. It goes to a point at the south-east corner of tp 27 range 29, west of the first meridian.

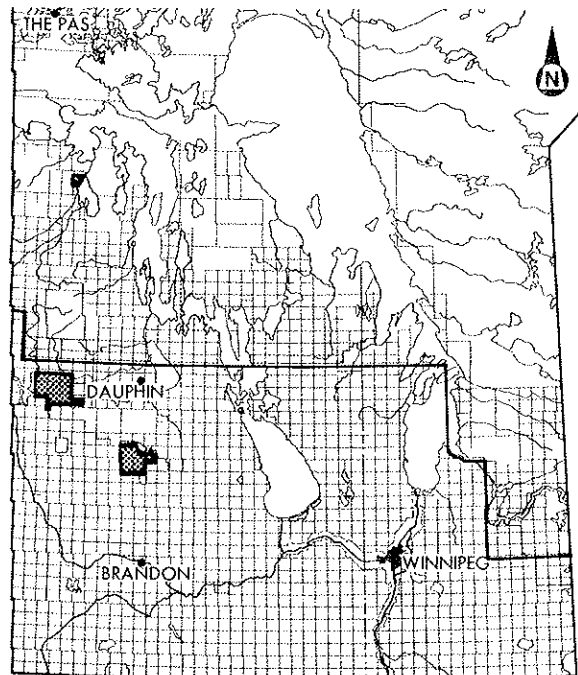


Figure 25 — Manitoba's surveys:

- All surveyed areas south of the survey division line are in the first survey (1871-1879), except the 2 shaded areas, which are in the modified first survey (1920-1921).
- All surveyed areas north of the survey division line are in the third survey (1881 to present), except the single township shown shaded, which is in Manitoba's modified third survey (1949).

The dividing line then begins its long journey due east along the township line between tps 26 and 27, crossing most of the settled part of the province. Just east of Deer Island in Lake Winnipeg, the line meets up with the range line between ranges 7 and 8, east of the first meridian. From this point it follows the range line south across Lake Winnipeg, reaching the east shore of the lake at Traverse Bay. It touches the shore at the north-east corner of tp 19 range 7, east of the first meridian.

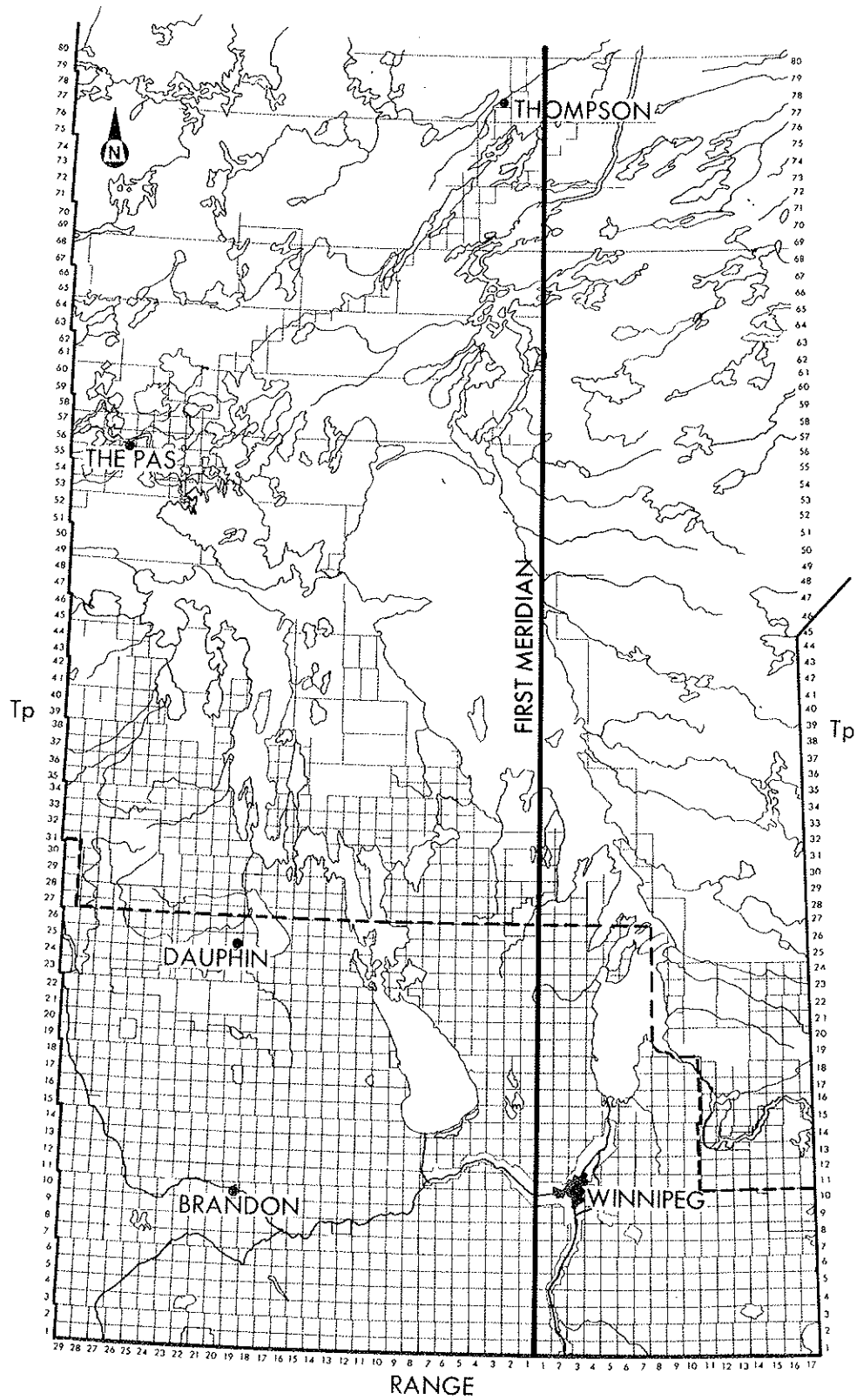


Figure 24 — Manitoba's survey grid.

From here it follows the shoreline of Lake Winnipeg and the south-west bank of the Winnipeg River. Next, it joins the north boundary line of tp 18 range 9, east of the first meridian and runs due east to the north-east corner of tp 18 range 10, east of the first meridian. Then it runs south, following the range line between ranges 10 and 11, east of the first meridian.

The dividing line reaches its southern limit where it joins the township line between tps 10 and 11. It follows this township line east to the eastern border of Manitoba.

The Modified First Survey — 1920 to 1921. This survey covers 2 small areas of the province in the vicinity of Riding Mountain National Park (Figure 25). One area, near the north-west corner of the park, takes in those parts of tp 23 ranges 24-26 not in the park, tp 24 ranges 25-27, and tp 25 ranges 25-27 — all west of the first meridian.

The other area is off the southern boundary of Riding Mountain National Park, near Clear Lake. It contains tp 18 ranges 19-20, that part of tp 19 range 18 not in the park, tp 19 ranges 19-20, and those parts of tp 20 ranges 19-20 not in the park — all west of the first meridian.

The modified first survey differs from the first survey in the width of the road allowances. As discussed earlier, road allowances of the first survey are 99 feet or 1½ chains wide (page 13). Those of the modified first survey are 66 feet or 1 chain wide. The extra land obtained by narrowing the road allowances was added to each quarter section adjacent to

the road. Townships surveyed under the modified first system thus have somewhat more land available for agricultural development. It works out that quarter sections in townships in the modified first survey are about 4 acres larger than those in townships surveyed under the first survey.

The Modified Third Survey — 1949. This survey affects only a single township in Manitoba — tp 42 range 24, west of the first meridian, bordering on Swan Lake (Figure 25). As discussed earlier, the surveyors in Saskatchewan modified the normal third survey by adding a fourth east-west road (page 15). In Manitoba, the surveyors produced a different modification of the normal third survey.

Refer now to the layout of the normal third survey as shown in Figure 19. Manitoba's surveyors modified the normal third survey by adding 3 more east-west road allowances, to make a total of 6 east-west road allowances. In doing so, they reverted to the layout of the road allowances used for the first and second surveys (Figure 17), while maintaining the 1-chain road allowance width and the township dimensions of 486 by 483 chains characteristic of the third survey (Figure 19).

The extra road allowances in Manitoba's modified third survey reduced the amount of land available for agriculture in the township by about 144 acres. This loss was divided equally among the quarter sections, so that each quarter section in 42-24-W1 contains about 1 acre less than quarters in townships of the normal third survey.

