

Restoration Project: Melby/Rogness House



O.K. Melby Home

This house was built around 1903 by early settlers Ole (O.K.) and Mary Melby

O. K. Melby and Mary were both Norwegian immigrants. In the spring of 1894 they moved to the Manfred area and farmed successfully for eight years. In 1902, Ole established a lumberyard in Manfred and built this home, where they lived the rest of their lives. Mary died in 1936 and Ole died in 1940.



Sam Rogness Home

Sam Rogness purchased this home in 1942. Following the purchase he and his wife Lilly lived in the home until her death in 1944. In 1948 he married Myrtle Mortenson, who was then teaching in Manfred. Sam was the Standard Oil Bulk Man, and later managed the O & M Elevator. They are pictured together on this photo. In 1971 Sam passed away, and Myrtle continued to make this her home until 1981, at which time she moved to Harvey.



Restoration Work Begins

During the next 20 years the house was owned by a number of people. On June 28, 2000 the house was acquired on behalf of the Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. group.

A team of people gathered several times during the summer and fall of 2000 working on cleaning the grounds, and one day, during a rainstorm, instead of working outdoors, the group began to clean the interior.



Dedication of the Museum

The Manfred Heritage Museum was dedicated on July 26, 2003. There were 225 friends and family of Manfred attending this significant event in Manfred. In addition to the dedication of the museum, also dedicated were the Vang Lutheran Church and the State Bank of Manfred/ Manfred Post Office buildings.



Ribbon Cutting

Myrtle Rogness, former owner of the Melby/Rogness home, did the honors at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Also participating were representatives of the other two buildings, Edgar Flick, last postmaster in Manfred and Verna Bowers, current president of the Vang Lutheran Church



Bedroom



Military Display



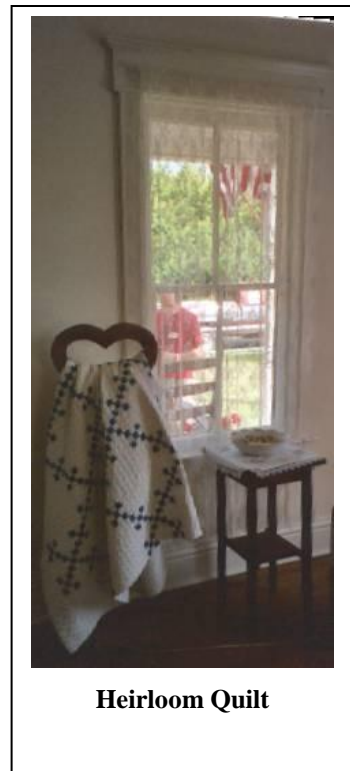
Roll Top Desk



Piano



Museum Looking North



Heirloom Quilt



The museum is staffed May 1 through September 30, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. There is no admission charge to enter. The purpose of the Manfred Heritage Museum is to provide present and future generations the opportunity to learn about important contributions that rural places such as Manfred have given to North Dakota and to America.