

Ambroz Blacksmith Shop Mossbank, Saskatchewan

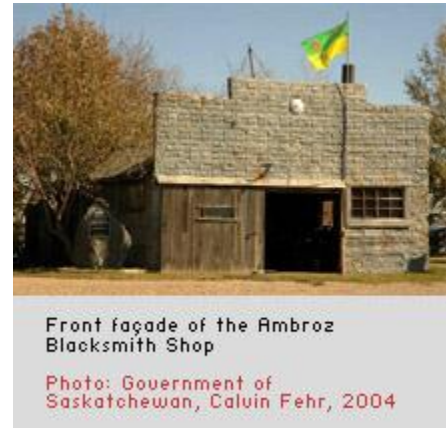
In the early 1900s farmers from eastern Canada moved west to homestead. They cultivated the prairies with hand plows and horse-pulled carts, and planted acres of durham wheat, flax and barley.

In 1928 Frank Ambroz, a Polish immigrant, arrived in Mossbank. In those days, a farming community could not survive without a good blacksmith. Frank Ambroz purchased an existing shop and opened his own business. During the sixty years he worked here, his name became synonymous with the shop.

The Ambroz Blacksmith Shop is a one storey commercial building on its original site. The simple wooden structure is basically a shed. The false front adds height to the shop, and the metal exterior is embossed to resemble stone or brick. A sliding door at street level must have made it easy for farmers to lead horses into the shop for shoeing and to haul plows for repairs.

Mossbank resident Bill Mackenzie remembers Frank Ambroz's skill: "Practically every town had a blacksmith... Frank Amboz—his big thing was shoeing horses..." Like other smithies Ambroz had to be versatile when he was called on to build parts for wagons and farm implements or to make railroad repairs.

Today the Ambroz Blacksmith Shop is a popular local museum where visitors get to see what life was like in pioneer days. The shop is maintained in working order with the forge and bellows on display.



Front façade of the Ambroz
Blacksmith Shop

Photo: Government of
Saskatchewan, Calvin Fehr, 2004



Caption: Hearth and tools
inside the Ambroz
Blacksmith Shop

Photo: Government of
Saskatchewan, Calvin Fehr,
2004

In an act of remembrance, every summer Mossbank residents pick the fruit from an apple tree that Frank Ambroz planted on his property more than half a century ago. In Mossbank, Apple Pie Day has become an annual holiday.

For additional information, follow this link:

http://www.historicplaces.ca/rep-reg/affichage-display_e.aspx?id=2873