

## Introduction

Located 40 kilometres southeast of Brandon, Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Heritage Park is composed of a 130 hectare area that preserves and protects the heritage value of the former homestead of the Criddle/Vane family. The park also protects representative features of the Assiniboine Delta Natural Region including mixed-grass prairie. The park accommodates nature-oriented recreational and educational opportunities and experiences, that are respectful of the natural setting and historic environment.

**Cover Photo:** The Criddle/Vane family at St. Albans, 1895.

*Left to right: Cecil Vane, Elise Vane, Evelyn Criddle, Edwy Vane, Norman Criddle, Julia Criddle, Talbot Criddle, Alice Criddle, Alma Criddle, Percy Criddle, Maida Criddle, Harry Vane, Beatrice Criddle, Stuart Criddle.*

## The Family

The Criddle and Vane families were Manitoba pioneers, well-known for their contributions in the fields of science, art, sports and culture, as well as for their somewhat eccentric lifestyle. By taking a walk through this historic homestead you take a step back in time and experience what life was like for these families. They settled in Manitoba in 1882 and the last family members left the homestead in 1960. Their homestead, known as St. Albans (NE 32-8-16W and SE 5-9-16W), was acquired by the Province of Manitoba in the 1970s. The site includes the Criddle/Vane home, the remaining structure of the first entomological field station in western Canada, a cemetery, old foundations and the remains of original landscape features such as the family tennis courts and a golf course.

The site is significant to the entomological research community for long-term scientific study. Norman Criddle collected specimens from the region which can now be found in many major insect collections throughout the world.

This park is proudly supported by the Criddle/Vane Heritage Homestead Committee of the Friends of Spruce Woods, whose dedication and work helped this homestead gain its designation as a Provincial Heritage Park in 2004.

To learn more about the Criddle/Vane family, visit the Sipiweske Museum located in Wawanesa, or visit the Park Centre in nearby Spruce Woods Provincial Park.

## For more information:

**Spruce Woods Park Interpreter**  
204-827-8850  
ParkInterpretation@gov.mb.ca

**Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**  
Carberry District Office  
204-834-8800  
PO Box 900, Carberry, MB R0K 0H0

**In case of emergency call 9-1-1**  
**Report Wildfires - Turn in Poachers**  
**1-800-782-0076**

**Park Vehicle Permits are required year round**  
**in Manitoba provincial parks**

**Visit us online at [manitobaparks.com](http://manitobaparks.com)**

Publication and on-site interpretive signs available  
in alternate formats, upon request.



# Criddle/Vane Homestead



## Interpretive Park Map



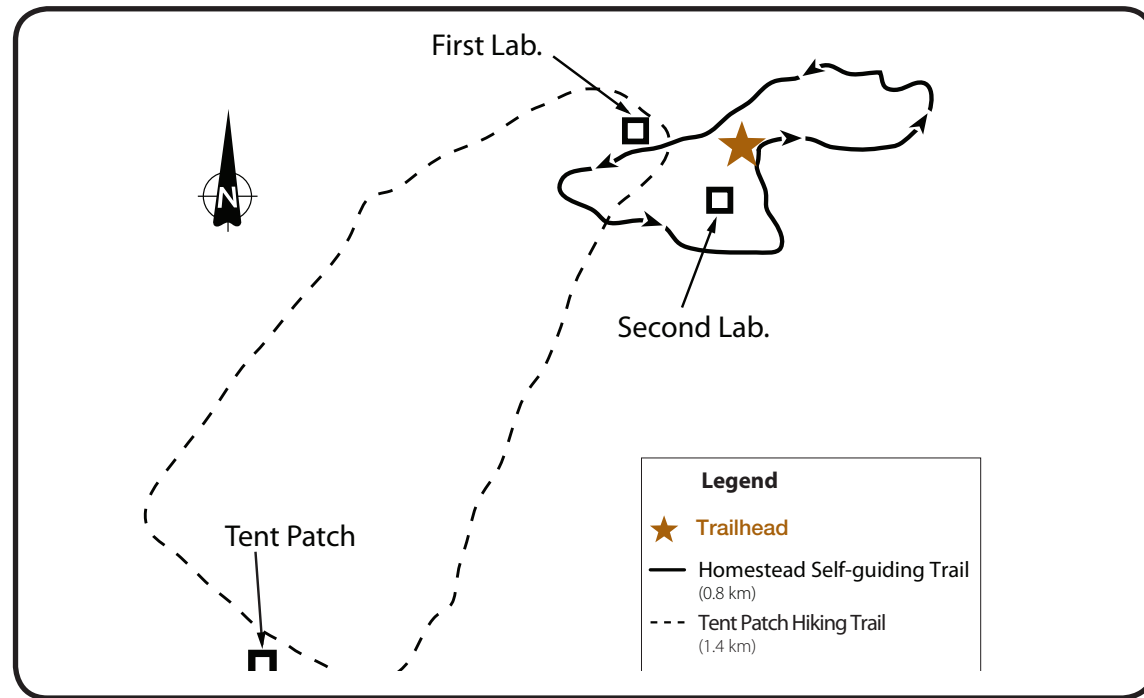
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# Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Heritage Park

## Criddle/Vane Family Tree



### Things to See and Do

Take a relaxing stroll along the Homestead or Tent Patch Trail to view the park's historic buildings, garden, cemetery, and tennis courts and read the series of outdoor interpretive signs. Texts and archival photographs provide information about the life history of the Criddle/Vanes and their contribution to sciences, art, sports, and culture.

### Homestead Self-guiding Trail

The trail is less than a kilometre (0.8 km) long and loops around the buildings and cemetery. The interpretive signs along the loop will tell the story of the Criddle/Vane family and their experience as early pioneers.

### Tent Patch Hiking Trail

The tent patch trail is a 1.4 kilometre loop down to the cleared tent patch site and back. The family lived at the tent patch from August to Christmas their first year. On the way, you will pass the location of Stuart's house and garden as well as one of the old tennis courts. The first half of the trail may be wet in places. Bring bug spray.

When visiting the park please be respectful of the plants, wildlife, and buildings. Watch for poison ivy.

