

July 11, 1978

Alberta Culture
Historical Resources
Historic Sites Service
10158 - 103 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 0X6

Attention: Mr. Rob Ingram

Dear Sir:

As we mentioned to you a few days ago on the telephone, our Society would like to do what we can to have the St. Stephen R. C. church at Harrisville preserved as a historic site.

This little church is one of the oldest in Alberta. The people of Harrisville decided to build their own church and in December 1900 the men of the area went to Fort Macleod with six teams and wagons to purchase the materials. In August of the following year, Father LaVerne said the first Mass in the new church which had already been damaged by a severe storm; the walls were separated from the floor, the roof was torn open and the doors and windows were broken. The church was repaired but another storm in January of 1904 again badly damaged the church. As a result, in June 1907 the parishioners tore down the church and reconstructed it in the coulee near the Police Lake road at Harrisville. The church, St. Stephen's of Hungry, is still there and is kept as an historical landmark. The residents of Harrisville take great pride in keeping the inside just as it was 75 years ago.

We are enclosing several pictures taken of the church and the cemetery. These pictures were taken June 17, 1978. The organ is the original organ, and is protected by a tin screen in an attempt to keep out the mice. The chair in the corner was donated to the church in 1907 and has a note to that effect on the back of the chair.

The roads that go to Police Lake are very busy roads as the Police Lake park is a very popular spot during the summer. One road is on the west of the church and meets with another road which is on the south of the church. The pictures show the beautiful setting in which the church is located.

~~This church is still used occasionally, and is kept open if anyone wished to look inside.~~

We feel that this church should be preserved, and would appreciate your efforts in this connection.

Yours truly,

CARDSTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lila Cahoon
Secretary



