

THE ALBERTA GAZETTE, PART I, AUGUST 15, 2011
Notice of Intent to Designate a Provincial Historic Resource
(Historical Resources Act)

File: Des. 2170

Notice is hereby given that sixty days from the date of service of this Notice and its publication in Alberta Gazette, the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit intends to make an Order that the site known as the:

Glen Leslie Church, together with the land legally described as:

The south west quarter of legal subdivision four (4) of section six (6) township seventy two (72) range three (3) west of the sixth meridian, containing 4.05 hectares (10 acres) more or less excepting thereout: (a) all that portion described as follows: commencing at a point on the west boundary of the said section, a distance of two hundred and ninety seven (297) feet from the south west corner thereof, thence easterly and parallel to the south boundary of the said section, four hundred and eighty (480) feet to a point, thence northerly and parallel to the west boundary of the said section, three hundred and sixty three (363) feet more or less, to a point on the north boundary of the said south west quarter section of legal subdivision four (4), thence westerly and along the said north boundary four hundred and eighty (480) feet more or less to the west boundary of the said quarter section, thence southerly along the said west boundary to the point of commencement, containing 1.62 hectares (4 acres) more or less (b) 0.105 hectares (0.26 acre) more or less, for road, as shown on road plan 1168RS
Excepting thereout all mines and minerals

and municipally located in the County of Grande Prairie No. 1, Alberta be designated as a **Provincial Historic Resource** under section 20 of the Historical Resources Act, RSA 2000 cH-9.

The reasons for the designation are as follows: The heritage value of the Glen Leslie Church lies in its architectural significance as a rare example of a log church with exposed exterior walls. This type of construction was once common for churches and other buildings in Alberta, but extant examples of this construction technique are now rare.

Typically, one of the first institutions or buildings that settlers in new areas desire is a church or a place in which to hold worship services and to come together as a community. For the settlers in the Glen Leslie area east of Grand Prairie, worship services were initially held in the home of the region's leading resident, Thomas Leslie, and presided over by Presbyterian minister Reverend Alexander Forbes. As the area's population grew, a dedicated church building was deemed necessary. Rev. Forbes led initiatives to build churches at a number of locations in the area, notably at Grande Prairie (1911), Bezanson (1914) and Spring Creek (1914). All of the churches were gable-roofed, log structures. In the winter of 1913, Leslie and Forbes jointly acquired ten acres of land upon which to build a church. Construction on the simple rectangular-shaped, gable-roofed building began the following spring and was carried out by volunteers from the community. Construction on the church was completed in October 1915. Although the Glen Leslie Church was ostensibly a Presbyterian church, the congregation included adherents of various Protestant denominations and it eventually became a United Church. While purpose-built for use as a church, the building was also used as a school from 1918 to 1928. The Glen Leslie Church offered regular worship services until 1964. Since that time, it has been used occasionally for worship services and more regularly as a community centre.

Although the Glen Leslie area had been opened for settlement in 1910, transportation around and access to the region remained difficult. Consequently, the Glen Leslie Church, like many of the area's early buildings, was constructed of readily available materials. The church was built of locally harvested logs, which were stripped of their bark, partially squared, and laid horizontally. The logs were joined at the corners by hand-cut, dove-tailed notches. The church was weatherproofed with chinking between the logs. Wood shingles, originally pine, covered the roof and the gable ends. Entry to the church is gained through the south elevation via a five-panel door, which is flanked by double-hung windows. A row of three, evenly spaced, double-hung windows run along both the east and west elevations. The window and doorway openings are accentuated with trim intended to resemble segmental arches. Although many early churches in rural Alberta were constructed of logs, these buildings were often demolished, sold, or upgraded as finances and available building technology and materials improved. With its exposed-log exterior walls the Glen Leslie Church is an excellent and rare example of this early and once common building technique.

It is therefore considered that the preservation and protection of the resource is in the public interest.

Dated this 8th day of July, A.D. 2011.

David Link, *Assistant Deputy Minister*
Heritage Division