

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
BYLAW NO. 1201-09**

**A BYLAW OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNATING THE STRY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Historical Resources Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. H-9, as amended, permits the Municipal Council of a municipality to designate any heritage resource within a municipality whose preservation it considers to be in the public interest as a Municipal Historic Resource, upon giving notice to the Owner of the Resource in accordance with the Historical Resources Act;

**WHEREAS** it is deemed in the public interest to designate the heritage resource located in Smoky Lake County on Pt. NW 22-58-13 W4 as a Municipal Historic Resource; and

**WHEREAS** the Owners of the Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church have agreed to waive tax or other compensation for the designation of the Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church as a Municipal Historic Resource, now and in the future.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of Smoky Lake County in the Province of Alberta, having complied with the Historical Resources Act, and duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

**1. HERITAGE RESOURCE DESIGNATED AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

The Heritage Resource, commonly known as Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church, is hereby designated as a Municipal Heritage Resource, specifically described in Schedule "A", which is located on the lands legally described as follows:

**Meridian 4 Range 13 Township 58 Section 22, the north east quarter of legal subdivision 14. Containing 4.05 hectares (10 acres) more or less.**

**Excepting thereout all mines and minerals subject to the condition that the same shall be used for church purposes only.**

**2. PERMITTED REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS**

Subject to Section 3 hereof, the Heritage Resource hereby designated in Section 1 as a Municipal Historic Resource shall not be remove, destroyed, disturbed, altered, rehabilitated, repaired or otherwise permanently affected, other than in accordance with the terms of Schedule "B" attached.

**3. ADMINISTRATOR**

The Development Authority of Smoky Lake County is hereby appointed to administer the implementation of any matters arising from the matters set out in Schedule "B".

Received First Reading this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Elected Official

Seal

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

Received Second Reading this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

Received Third Reading and finally passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Elected Official

Seal

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

## SCHEDULE “A”

This Statement of Significance forms Schedule “A” to Bylaw 1201-09 and provides a *Description of the Historic Place*, explains the *Heritage Value* of the building and identifies, by written description and photographs, those *Character Defining Elements* of the Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church which are regulated by the “General Guidelines for Conservation” (Schedule “B”) and must be preserved (the “Regulated Character Defining Elements”).

### THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### STRY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NE 22-58-23 W4

##### Other Names

Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Stry  
Stry – Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Holy Euchraist  
The Ruthenian Greek Catholic Parish of St. Michael  
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (source Propamiatna knyha. 312)

#### Description of Historic Place

The Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Parish at Stry was constructed in 1934 and completed in 1944 and follows the strict building traditions of the prairie Byzantine church style. The Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church is a wood frame church on a cruciform plan and has two small onion domes on octagonal drums that flank the west façade and a prominent central dome over the crossing, on a large octagonal drum and surmounted by an open octagonal cupola, which rests on a small onion dome and ball supporting a wrought-iron cross. An exceptional feature of the interior of this church is the design of the altar baldachino (the ornamental structural canopy over the altar) with its pilaster mouldings and traditional painted icons. This resource is clearly visible from several kilometers away on the Stry Road, just off Secondary Highway 859 southeast of the town of Vilna.

#### Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church lies in the association it has with the early Ukrainian immigrants in the district. The Stry Church is an important structure to the parishioners and regional population and contributes to the historical continuity of the other buildings in the area and to the collection of Ukrainian-Canadian churches in East-central Alberta.

Many more Ukrainian immigrants arrived after the railway was established and soon their presence was established north of the North Saskatchewan River where the land was surveyed for homesteading during 1905-06. This is where a number of small settlements sprang up, including Stry, just west of the Saddle Lake Reserve. Most of the settlers were from the western Ukraine, or Burkowina.

Zenobius Mikitsa opened a post office and store at Stry in 1910 and he became the first postmaster and that same year, work began on a Catholic Church and cemetery near the store. Father Philip Ruh, an architect, designed the log church which was named St. Michael's Parish at Stry and by 1913, the church was completed. The sides of the church were plastered by mud.

When the CNR extended a line north of the North Saskatchewan River from Edmonton to St. Paul in 1919, the railway community of Vilna was established 12 km north of Stry and this brought even more settlers into the district, many from the war-torn Poland and the Ukraine and soon there was a need for a newer and larger church in the district.

Work began on a new church in 1934 and it was designed by Mr. Hruday and the contractor was Mr. Holowaychuk. Both of them lived near Vilna and were also responsible for building the local school at Stry. The altar was built and decorated by Mr. Wanat and Nestor Chmilar built the tetrapod. The painted banners on either side of the altar were done by noted Alberta church painter, Peter Lipinski (1888 – 1975).

Even though church services were being conducted shortly after the central nave was serviceable, the building was complicated and the design of the building (especially the domes) was complex, and the structure was not completed until 1944. The original church was converted into a parish hall and functioned as such until a new hall was built in 1957 at which time the log structure was dismantled.

The Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church has served the church since its completion with summer services being conducted by The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate from Mundare. The local chapter of the Ukrainian Catholic woman's League also undertook some of its activities from these premises. The Parish has restored the Church with the aim of it serving as a church and as a heritage landmark, telling the story of the early settlement at Stry.

### **Character Defining Elements**

Character defining elements of the Ukrainian Catholic Church at Stry that define the church as being in the Byzantine tradition include architectural features and decorative detailing such as:

#### **Exterior – church**

The Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church is a wood frame building resting on a board – formed concrete foundation. The Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church presents a typical exterior, sheathed with horizontal wood siding and with volumes, projections and gables that directly relate to the arrangement of interior spaces. Outstanding features include the expertly executed domes and drums as well as the open cupola crowning the larger central dome which is prominent in Ukrainian church architecture and represents heaven and the universe.

Two small sheet-metal domes on small octagonal drums flank the west façade and the prominent central dome over the crossing, on a large octagonal drum, is also sheathed with sheet metal and is surmounted by an open octagonal cupola, on which rests a small onion dome and ball supporting a wrought-iron cross. The central drum is fitted with four semi-circular fixed-transom rectangular windows on the west, east, north and south surfaces.

#### **Interior – church**

The transition between the rectangular shape of the crossing and the octagonal base of the drum is achieved with four pendentives springing from simple pilasters at the corners of the crossing. The ceiling of the central dome is flat and covered with painted acoustical tiles, from which the chain for the chandelier is hung. The drum and crossing are illuminated by four fixed rectangular windows containing coloured glass, surmounted by semicircular fixed transoms. The windows pierce the drum at the west, east, north and south walls of the drum.

An exceptional feature of the interior of this church is the design of the altar baldachino (the ornamental structural canopy over the altar) with its pilaster moldings and traditional painted icons. The church contains all original liturgical items including some valuable artifacts salvaged (and still used) from the original log structure designed by Rev. Phillip Ruh, interior furnishings including altars, tetrapod, pews, and original lighting fixtures. There is also the original choir loft with stair access.

The interior walls of the church are fibre board material (parishioners refer to it as Donacona), a light wallboard made of compressed wood pulp laid horizontally in a staggered fashion. The fibre board material below the chair rail is manufactured with a vertical v-groove pattern resembling wood paneling. Above the chair rail, the material provides a smooth painted surface.

The finished floors in all areas of the church are narrow, wood hardwood strips with a clear finish and the apse floor area has been covered with a red carpet.

The Stry Church remains in its original location on its concrete foundation. The essential character defining elements have remained unchanged and well preserved and of particular note are the onion domes raised on octagonal drums, as well as the original finish materials, fenestration and massings that reflect the interior spaces of the cruciform plan. There have been minor changes to the foundation and the entry doors but the structure has been well-maintained over the years and retains a high level of integrity.

#### **Landscape elements**

The cemetery has many beautiful old grave markings including one signifying the resting place of the first settler in the Stry district who passed away in 1850. The property still has original 1934 spruce border on north side and an original large white wooden cross stands against the Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church alongside the new marker which was installed in 1985 for the 75th anniversary of the heritage site.

**Information sources:**

Alberta Culture Historic Site Inventory Site form (type 36401); dated November 12, 1987; Source – photographed by Jaroslaw Iwanus (Propamiatna knyha. 312)

“Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church Divine Liturgy and Christmas Celebration” smoky lake signal, <http://www.smokylake.com/index.php?cmd=display&storyID=2807>

Some info in survey form on file from 1987/2005 historic resource form

Site owner- Ukrainian Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Western Canada (Application for Historic Resource Designation)

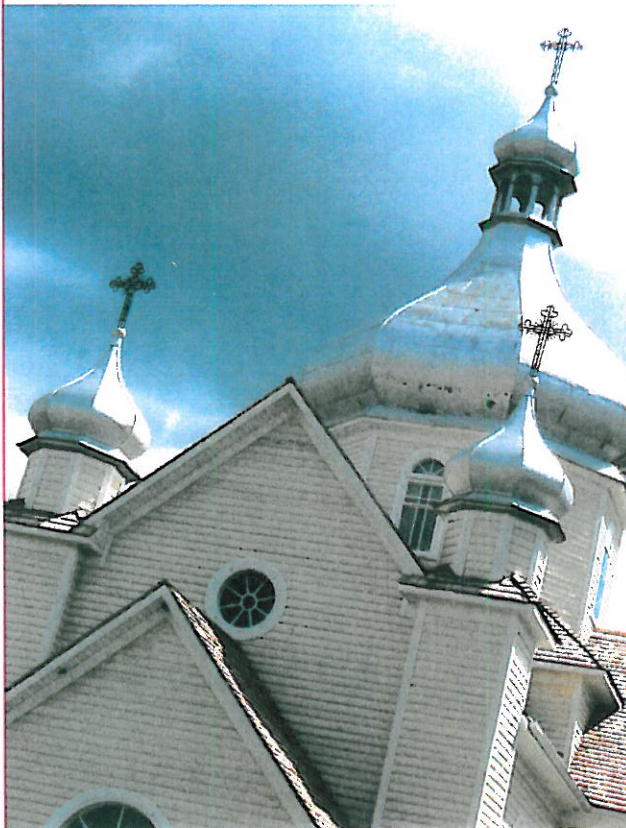
PHOTOGRAPHIC DETAIL – EXTERIOR



West Side



East Side



Close up of West Side



Close up of East Side

## SCHEDULE “B”

This is Schedule “B” to Bylaw 1201-09 and identifies the “General Guidelines for Conservation” for the Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church, located on LSD 14 – 22-58-13 W4M.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CONSERVATION

#### 1. Approval of Development or Alterations

As per Section 26 (6) of the Alberta Historical Resources Act, notwithstanding any other Act, no person shall destroy, disturb, alter, restore or repair a Historic Resource or remove any historic object from a Historic Resource that has been designated under this Section, without the written approval from Council or person appointed by Council of that purpose.

Council has appointed the Municipal Planning Commission as the approving Authority for this purpose. Any development or alterations affecting the Stry Ukrainian Catholic Church shall respect and conserve the heritage value and character defining elements identified in the Statement of Significance, in accordance with these General Guidelines for Conservation and as recommended in the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places.

#### 2. Compatible Uses

Wherever possible, the use of the Municipal Historic Resource shall be compatible with the existing building such that only minimal changes are required to the building. The use of the Municipal Historic Resource for its original purpose is desirable.

#### 3. Original Character

The original distinctive qualities and character of the building as designated by the Municipal Historic Resource Bylaw should be preserved. The removal or alteration of any historical materials or features shall be avoided whenever possible.

#### 4. The Historic Period

The Municipal Historic Resource should be recognized as a product of its own time. Alterations which are not based on historical fact or which recreate an earlier or later idiom shall be discouraged.

#### 5. Witness to Change

Changes to the Municipal Historic Resource may have occurred over time. These alterations are evidence of the history and development of the building. Because this evolution may have acquired significance in its own right, alterations to the original building should be recognized and respected where indicated.

#### 6. Repair and Replacement

Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced wherever possible. Where replacement is necessary, the new material should match the original as to composition, colour, texture, design, etc. The repair or replacement of architectural features shall be based on a sound knowledge of the original characteristics of the features. Such knowledge shall be based on historical or pictorial evidence and not upon conjecture.

#### 7. Style and Craftsmanship

Distinctive stylistic features and examples of skilled craftsmanship that have been designated by the Municipal Historic Resource Bylaw shall be preserved and treated sensitively.

#### 8. Cleaning

In all cases, surface cleaning shall be undertaken with the gentlest means available. Sandblasting in particular, but also other cleaning methods, damage historic integrity and should not be undertaken without thorough testing prior to use on a building. Sandblasting is not recommended on brick, stone or wood. In all instances, it should be ascertained that a building exterior is really in need of cleaning prior to undertaking the work.

**9. Reversibility of Improvements**

When the introduction of new elements or materials is necessary to stabilize or preserve a municipally designated Historic Resource, alterations shall be undertaken such that the new materials, should they fail, may be removed at a later date without damage to the original fabric of the Municipal Historic Resource. Where this is not possible (i.e. use of epoxy), only those methods and materials that have been thoroughly tested and found satisfactory in situ shall be used.

**10. Recording**

Prior to undertaking any alterations, particularly in cases where alterations may threaten the building fabric (underpinning and moving structures), the Applicant shall compile a complete record of the architectural features of the Municipal Historic Resource. Measured drawings and photographs of details may prove invaluable if major features are damaged or lost during the subsequent repair work.

**11. Original Construction Details**

In some historic structures, poor construction details or inappropriate materials resulted in rapid deterioration of certain building elements. In these instances, accurate restoration of the original detail will inevitably result in the failure of the element. Therefore, restoration of the resource should be undertaken in such a fashion as to duplicate the original appearance as closely as possible while using details based on sound construction practice.

**12. Enforcement**

The Owner and the County shall enter into an Agreement to ensure that the designated structure will be maintained in such a manner as to prevent any deterioration.

**13. Improvements**

Prior to undertaking any improvements, a schedule of alterations should be prepared. This schedule should include phasing of alterations where necessary due to program or budget restrictions. The type and timing of both short and long term maintenance work shall also be included.

**14. Codes**

At no times should the life and safety of occupants of a Municipal Historic Resource be deemed of lesser importance than the preservation of the original fabric of the Municipal Historic Resource. The required life and safety standards are those required by the current Alberta Building Code. However, notwithstanding these Code requirements, where the essential character of the structure is threatened by changes for code reasons, every effort shall be made to achieve an equivalent safety standard by alternate means so as to minimize the impact on the historic fabric.

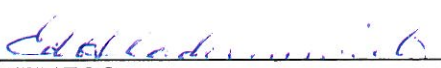
**15. Signs**

As a general rule, signs should be limited to signs that were originally present on the building. In instances where new use or interpretive functions dictate the use of additional signs, these new elements should be integrated into the general design of the project. The size, typeface, graphics and materials should be chosen to suit the period of the Municipal Historic Resource, wherever possible. All signs must conform to the Smoky Lake County Land Use Bylaw.

***THIS SCHEDULE is hereby agreed to by the Owners as registered on the Certificate of Title 852 121 638:***

**UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPISCOPAL CORPORATION OF WESTERN CANADA**  
10825 – 97 Street Edmonton, AB. T5H 2M4

  
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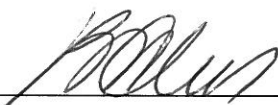
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