



**Victoria District NHSC  
Smoky Lake County, Alberta**

**Cultural Landscape  
Inventory and Analysis**



Prepared for:  
**Parks Canada**  
**Western and Northern Canada Service Centre**

**Final**

**Date:** February 2007  
**HCD Project Number:** 496352  
**Team Leader:** Joann Latremouille



This final report titled:

Victoria District NHSC  
Cultural Landscape Inventory and Analysis

dated: February 2007

HCD Project Number: 496352

has been reviewed by the Senior Review Team Member in accordance with  
the following criteria:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Reviewer/Date:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Meets scope of work as described in the Proposal for Services	<hr/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Meets the conservation approach as described in the Proposal for Services	<hr/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Meets quality for technical content and methodology	<hr/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Meets quality for clarity, grammar and tone	<hr/>

**Heritage Conservation Directorate**  
Professional and Technical Programs  
Real Property Branch  
Public Works and Government Services Canada



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	iii
<b>1.0 Introduction</b> .....	1
1.1 Project Team.....	1
1.2 Acknowledgements.....	2
1.3 Methodology.....	2
1.4 Cultural Landscapes as Cultural Resources .....	2
1.5 Site Plan for Victoria District NHSC.....	3
<b>2.0 Periods of Development</b> .....	5
2.1 Period 1: Prehistory to the Arrival of the Métis, 1865 .....	5
2.2 Period 2: The Métis Community, 1865 to 1899.....	7
2.3 Period 3: The Ukrainian Settlement Period, 1899 to 1920 .....	16
2.4 Period 4: Decline and Resurgence, 1921 to the Present .....	20
<b>3.0 Inventory and Analysis</b> .....	23
3.1 Land Patterns .....	23
3.2 Landforms .....	25
3.3 Spatial Organization.....	27
3.4 Vegetation .....	30
3.5 Viewscapes.....	32
3.6 Circulation.....	33
3.7 Water Features.....	35
3.8 Built Features.....	36
3.9 Archaeological Remains .....	44
<b>4.0 References</b> .....	45

### Appendix A: Aerial Photographs, Series 1920 to 2000



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this *Cultural Landscape Inventory and Analysis* is to provide the stakeholders of Victoria District National Historic Site of Canada with enough information to enable them to make informed evaluations about the site's historic values and resources during the Commemorative Integrity Exercise, which is to take place in March 2007.

Based on the reasons for the recommendation by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada that Victoria District be designated a national historic site, Parks Canada has developed a *Statement of Commemorative Intent*:

*“Victoria District is of national historic importance because its cultural landscape, through highly visible and intact physical attributes, represents an exceptional illustration in one concentrated area of major themes in Prairie settlement including the development of the fur trade, the establishment of the Métis river lot system, the arrival of missions, Prairie agricultural development and the establishment of eastern European immigrants at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.”*

Cultural landscapes as heritage resources are generally much less familiar to Canadians than other types of resources, for example, single historic buildings, or even historic gardens. This current document is intended to be a reference tool to enable the stakeholders of Victoria District NHSC to determine which resources relate directly to the reasons for their site's national designation, and which have more local heritage value within their community. Although the *Victoria District NHSC Cultural Landscape Inventory and Analysis* reviews the history of the district and its landscape resources, it is not meant to be either a social or an economic history.

The introduction to this document, contained in **Section 1.0**, outlines the background for the project, presents the members of the project team, and acknowledges the assistance that the team has received from various community members. It goes on to discuss the heritage conservation methodology employed for the project, and the definitions of cultural landscapes as cultural resources. The section closes with a site plan for the national historic site based on aerial photographs from the year 2000.

**Section 2.0** is an overview of the history of the development for the cultural landscape. It reviews currently available material, and for the purposes of clarity and understanding, is divided into four periods: prehistory to the arrival of the Métis in 1865; the Métis community, 1865 to 1899; the Ukrainian settlement period, 1899 to 1920; and a final period from 1921 to the present.

The part of the document that contains the inventory and analysis of the various cultural landscape resources, **Section 3.0**, is largely structured according to the topics contained in the Landscape Guidelines section of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. The discussion contained within this section recommends various elements of the landscape for consideration by the CI Exercise as heritage resources, of either national or local value.

**Section 4.0** contains a list of the references consulted during the production of this documents.

**Appendix A** contains several series of aerial photographs of roughly the area of land occupied by Victoria District NHSC. The compiled aerials were taken during a succession of years between 1920 and 2000. Notes have been added to the photo compilations to indicate information relevant to the Cultural Landscape Inventory and Analysis. The aerial photographs will also be made available in a digital format that will enable future researchers to compare changes to individual properties over time.



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Heritage Conservation Directorate [HCD], Professional and Technical Programs, Real Property Branch, Public Works and Government Services Canada, has been requested by Janet Wright, Historic Sites Planner, Western and Northern Canada Service Centre, Parks Canada, to produce a *Cultural Landscape Inventory and Analysis* for Victoria District National Historic Site of Canada [NHSC], Smoky Lake County, Alberta. This *Cultural Landscape Inventory and Analysis* is intended to be a background document for the *Commemorative Integrity Exercise* that will be conducted later this year at the site.

Victoria District NHSC was designated in 2001 on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada [HSMBC] as a nationally significant cultural landscape. It is the aim of this present document to provide the participants of the *Commemorative Integrity Exercise* with a general understanding of cultural landscapes as a particular category of heritage resource, as well as to provide a specific understanding of the elements that make up the cultural landscape that is Victoria District NHSC.

The study area for this document includes all of the land within the current designated boundaries of the national historic site. However, the study area also takes into account viewscales and land use relationships between the site and its surroundings, as well as two important cultural resources that are outside the current boundaries of the national historic site.

In addition to its national designation in 2001, Victoria District contains the oldest building in Alberta still on its original site. The Clerk's House of the former Hudson's Bay Company trading post is the central heritage resource at Victoria Settlement Provincial Historic Site which is now included in the national historic site.

### 1.1 Project Team

Parks Canada project co-ordinator:

Janet Wright                      Historic Sites Planner, Parks Canada

Government of Alberta

Peter Melnycky                  Historian, Historic Sites Branch, Alberta Tourism Parks,  
Recreation and Culture

Heritage Conservation Directorate project team:

Joann Latremouille              Team Leader / Conservation Landscape Architect

Marie-Claude Quessy            Conservation Landscape Architect

John Zvonar                      Quality Review (Landscape)

Caise Chandler                  Graphic Communication

Jody Scully                        Publishing Support

## 1.2 Acknowledgements

A project with the scope of this current document involves the assembly of a great deal of information from a wide variety of sources. Heritage Conservation Directorate would like to thank the following individuals for the generosity with which they took time from their own lives to meet with the team and answer its questions: Peter Apedaile, Don Campbell, Will Chaba, Graham Dalziel, Noreen Easterbrook, Pauline Feniak, Don Klym, Marianne Mack, Juanita Marois, Harold and Frances Mitchell, and Harold West.

## 1.3 Methodology

The methodology employed by Heritage Conservation Directorate for this project incorporates four general activities: research, field investigation, and the identification and analysis of the site's cultural landscape values and resources through the construction of a history of the landscape at Victoria District NHSC.

Throughout all of the foregoing activities, the HCD team was guided by the following international charters and national policies:

- *The Venice Charter*,
- *The Florence Charter*,
- Parks Canada's *Cultural Resource Management Policy* [CRM Policy], and
- Parks Canada's *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* [Standards and Guidelines].

In particular, the analysis of the cultural landscape at Victoria District will be structured in this current document by the organization of topics in the landscape guidelines in the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

## 1.4 Cultural Landscapes as Cultural Resources

For most of its existence UNESCO's World Heritage Committee [WHC] directed its energies to recognizing buildings and archaeological sites of outstanding universal value. In the 1990s, when the World Heritage Committee became interested in outstanding cultural landscapes as a particular category of heritage resource worthy of recognition and protection, they required a definition that would serve to direct their deliberations. The definition for cultural landscape adopted by the WHC is as follows:

*“Cultural Landscapes represent the ‘combined works of nature and of man’ ... They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.”*  
(UNESCO/ICOMOS, 1995, n.p.)

Parks Canada’s definition of the term ‘cultural landscape’ predated the World Heritage Committee by one year:

*“Any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people.”* (Parks Canada, 1994, p. 119)

Quite obviously these two definitions both apply to Victoria District NHSC as a cultural landscape. The Parks Canada definition emphasizes changes wrought by human beings on areas of land, whether those changes are obvious in the physical world, or are ideas or beliefs held by cultural groups. The WHC definition emphasizes the evolutionary process of cultural development on the natural world. This report will present an analysis of the inventory of heritage resources contained within the cultural landscape of Victoria District, and will reference both these definitions as applicable.

## **1.5 Site Plan for Victoria District NHSC**



## 2.0 PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT

To understand the present day cultural landscape of Victoria District and its heritage resources, it is important to know how that landscape came into existence. Because of number of changes that have taken place over time, the story of its development is divided into four periods for the purposes of this study:

1. Prehistory to the Arrival of the Métis, 1865;
2. The Métis Community, 1865 to 1899;
3. The Ukrainian Settlement Period, 1899 to 1920;
4. Decline and Resurgence, 1921 to the Present.

Consideration of these four periods of landscape development will provide a historical context for the various resources identified in Section 3.0 as important to the cultural landscape that constitutes Victoria District National Historic Site of Canada.

### 2.1 Period 1: Prehistory to the Arrival of the Métis, 1865

For early Aboriginal peoples, the presence of an easily navigable waterway, such as the presently named North Saskatchewan River, could provide an abundant and varied food supply including sturgeon and other fish, as well as the berries that grew along the shoreline. The river also could also provide the possibility of trade with other cultures throughout North America. The earliest evidence of human activity in the area that would become Victoria District is a prehistoric campsite dated by archaeologists to four thousand years before the present day. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 6) Despite the abundance of potential resources for at least cyclical occupation in prehistoric times, the current archaeological record for any such occupation is scarce. This could be accounted for by the relatively small area within Victoria District NHSC that has been investigated:

*“ Artifacts recovered from the Victoria Post site indicate that the location was only lightly utilized by native people in prehistoric times. The archaeological evidence for this consists of a few lithic shatter and flake fragments recovered from below the historic depositional horizon. Much more evidence for native people and people of mixed-blood comes with objects excavated from historic contexts.”* (Forsman, 1985, p. 5)

The establishment of the Hudson’s Bay Company [HBC] in 1670 marked the beginning of a large-scale trading economy that would fundamentally change the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and their landscapes in western North America. By 1810 the HBC and the North West Company had both reached the general area of the future Victoria District. In that year they built the Lower Terre Blanche Houses, adjacent forts on the North Saskatchewan River within a common stockade at the mouth of the White Earth River. (VHGS, 1999a, n.p.) The appearance of fur traders in the area would slowly but inevitably change the local Aboriginal economy from hunting and gathering with some

trading of specialty goods among other Aboriginal cultures, to one based on the trapping of fur bearing animals for European consumption, with hunting and gathering as an increasingly secondary support.

Throughout the 1840s and into the 1850s various traders and missionaries were active in the general area of the future Victoria District. While the fur trade was centered on Fort Edmonton at this time, missionary activity was extending ever closer to the area of the future Victoria District. Missionary work in these two decades was carried out by: the English Methodist, Robert Terrill Rundle; the Catholic priest, Father Thibault; the Methodist layman, Benjamin Sinclair; Methodist ministers, Thomas Woolsey and the Henry Bird Steinhauer; and the interpreter, Peter Erasmus. The targets of all this missionary activity were members of the Cree First Nation, as well as a relatively small number of Métis people involved in the fur trade. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 8)

In 1860 the Wesleyan Methodist Church appointed Rev. George McDougall to be the chairman of their northwestern missionary district. Within two years McDougall had visited the area east of Fort Edmonton and persuaded Rev. Woolsey to move his mission from the north shore of Smoking Lake (as it was then called) to the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River, effectively founding Victoria Settlement. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 10)

Beyond founding and naming 'Victoria' in 1862 after the reigning queen, Rev. McDougall and his eldest son John visited Rev. Steinhauer at Whitefish Lake where they found that the fields at the mission station had been yielding crops of barley for several years. McDougall also developed a friendship with Maskepetoon, Chief of the Woods Cree, who converted to Methodism attracted by its messages of peace. Under the direction of John McDougall, logs were cut and stockpiled for the buildings that would be erected the next year at Victoria. (Hurt, 1979, p. 5-7)

Victoria was located in the aspen parkland that formed a band between the coniferous forests to the north and the grasslands to the south. The actual site of Victoria, a shelf of land on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River, was also located on the trail between Fort Edmonton and Fort Garry, a rather rudimentary land connection between those two concentrations of settlement. Fish and wild fowl were abundant, while the soils could support initial crops of potatoes, turnips and some grains. (Hurt, 1979, p. 107)

In 1863, McDougall's wife and six of their children joined the father and eldest son at Victoria. The family constructed a log cabin, stable, and a church, as well as some other outbuildings. The children tended a small plot of vegetables, and helped to lay up hay for the animals. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 10; Hurt, 1979, p. 8)

The following year, 1864, an eight-room house was constructed, and a palisade of tamarack logs was erected to surround the growing number of buildings at the mission. (Hurt, 1979, Ch. 2, Endnote 30) The seeds for the garden that year came from Lac la Biche, Edmonton and Whitefish Lake. Mrs. McDougall worked in the garden plots, and when the men were away, she supervised the harvest of barley and the haying. (Hurt, 1979, p. 15-

16) Besides constructing a residential base that year, the McDougalls also established a Protestant school at Victoria, and brought a teacher from the Red River settlement to staff it. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 15)

In 1864, the strategic location at the centre of Cree territory that had attracted George McDougall, as well as the activity of the free traders, also drew the HBC to establish a trading post, Fort Victoria, within a kilometer of the mission station. The transportation of trade goods was assisted by the fact that the cart trail between Fort Edmonton and Fort Victoria was relatively passable. (Hurt, 1979, p. 59 & 66)

Up to this point in time, Victoria District consisted of a small number of people of European descent who were focused on a much larger number of Cree, either to save their souls or to gather fur pelts from them. While the Europeans were settled on two small properties, Victoria Mission and nearby Fort Victoria, the Cree were much more fluid ranging between the buffalo lands to the south and the forests to the north. The year 1865 saw a profound shift in this pattern of land utilization: Rev. McDougall's invitation to Methodist Métis from the Red River to come to Victoria to take up farmland was the beginning of the displacement of the Cree from the area.

## 2.2 Period 2: The Métis Community, 1865 to 1899

The invitation from Reverend McDougall brought more than twenty-five English speaking Métis families to the area around the Victoria Mission in the summer of 1865. These settlers carried with them the idea of the river lot system of property division that had been the norm at the Red River Settlement since 1812, and had been introduced there from the system used along the St. Lawrence River during the French regime.

The transposition of the river lot system to the North Saskatchewan River represented more than a means of organizing private property. In the words of landscape architectural theorist, J. B. Jackson:

*“The network of boundaries, private as well as public, transforms an amorphous environment into a human landscape, and nothing more surely shows some of the cherished values of a group.”* (Jackson, 1980, p. 115)

In this case the values exhibited by the river lot system included the importance of easy contact between members of the community, and a sense that all members of the community should be treated fairly. The river lot system permitted the houses to be built relatively close to each other. Every property owner shared equal access to the water and the varying agricultural potential and soil quality that tends to run in bands parallel to the bank of any river.

The houses of the new arrivals were located at the south end of their properties, on relatively flat terraces near to the riverbank. Kitchen gardens and a few acres of grain

were planted just behind the houses to the north. Throughout the next fifteen years the Métis would augment their agricultural effort with meat from the spring and fall buffalo hunts. (Villeneuve, 2000, p. 2554; Melnycky, 1997, p. 17)

The influx of so many people necessitated the construction of a combined schoolhouse and church at Victoria Mission. The building was whitewashed on the outside and finished with boards on the inside. The gardens and fields at Victoria Mission had developed to the point that they could provide turnips, potatoes and barley cakes for Christmas dinner. (Hurt, 1979, Ch. 2, Endnote 55; p. 19)

The year 1865 also saw the completion of the Clerk's House at the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Victoria. The house, still in existence today, was built as a post-on-sill structure with the walls filled in by horizontal logs slotted into the upright posts, a method called Red River framing. In form, the house was built with a gable roof, with two windows symmetrically located on either side of a centre door on the ridge side of the house. There were two chimneys near either end of the building. A gable-roofed dormer with a third window broke through the roofline above the door. The exterior wood of the Red River framed walls was first covered by wooden lathe, and then with clay mixed with slaked lime, to keep the structure weather-tight. Within two years, a store was completed at the trading post. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 19; Hurt, 1979, p. 85)

By the year of Confederation, 1867, there were one hundred people living at Victoria, three employees assisting the Clerk at Fort Victoria. A contract had been signed with a man named J.S. Meade to improve the cart road from Edmonton to Fort Victoria. The road was to be twelve feet in width with timber bridges where required. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 14 & 21; Hurt, 1979, Ch. V, Endnote 166)

The winter of 1868-69 was particularly hard with almost no standing snow, which contributed to making the following growing season one of the driest recorded to that time in Rupert's Land as the area was then known.

Amidst these tribulations, on December 31 of 1869, the Hudson's Bay Company transferred its property in Rupert's Land to the Dominion of Canada. Any advantage this development might have had for Victoria in the short term was almost immediately wiped out by a small pox epidemic the following spring. In addition to three daughters of the McDougall family, more than fifty people died of the disease at Victoria. This represented more than forty per cent of the population. (Hurt, 1979, p. 21; Ch. 2, Endnote 48; p. 24; Melnycky, 1997, p. 12-14)

The immediate effect of the small pox epidemic was the loss of the McDougall family in 1871. The Rev. George McDougall and his wife left for Edmonton, while John McDougall moved to Morely to minister to the Stoney people. What the community gained was its first hospital, and a new Methodist minister, the Rev. Peter Campbell. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 12; Hurt, 1979, Ch. 2, Endnote 60; p. 29)



Despite the worldwide economic recession between 1870 and 1895 that prevented large-scale settlement schemes, Victoria continued to grow at a slow pace. By 1872, two hundred and fifty people were attending the Methodist church at Victoria, and some seventy children were attending the school. The community now extended twenty kilometers to the west to include the Lobstick Settlement, also laid out according to the river lot system. (Hurt, 1979, p. 105; Melnycky, 1997, p. 14)

The river lot system of organizing property boundaries at Victoria and Lobstick settlements was first threatened in 1872 with the passage of the Dominion Lands Act. The Act required all newly acquired land in the west to be surveyed. However, the pattern to be followed was the rectangular system used in the United States with uniform sections of one square mile divided into quarters for distribution to settler families. In Canada, some sections were slated for agricultural settlement, some were to be retained by the Hudson's Bay Company, some were reserved for railway development, and some were for schools. (Hurt, 1979, p. 103)

When the Dominion Land Surveyor, William S. Gore, visited Victoria to follow up on the passage of the Act, he observed that most of the houses had only small patches of cultivated ground on which to grow barley and potatoes. The Rev. George Grant gave a fuller account that same year:

*“The log houses of the half-breeds, (English and Scotch) intermingled with the tents of the Crees, extend in a line from this west end along the banks of the river, each man having a frontage on the river, and his grain planted in a little hollow that runs behind the houses, beneath the main rise of the ridge. Most of their hay they cut in the valley, on the other side of the ridge where we had camped...”*

*“The settlement is seven years old, and consists now of between twenty and thirty families of half-breeds and from ten to a hundred tents of Crees, according to the time of year, each tent housing on an average seven to eight souls...”*

*“At Victoria wheat has been sown for seven successive years, and was a failure only once, the cause being an extreme local drought.”* (Hurt, 1979, p. 109)

After the Hudson's Bay Company's three thousand acre reserve was surveyed in 1872, settlers were forced to take up lands beyond these limits, and this caused a shift to the west of the HBC post, and promoted the development of the Lobstick Settlement. (Hurt, 1979, p. 109-110)

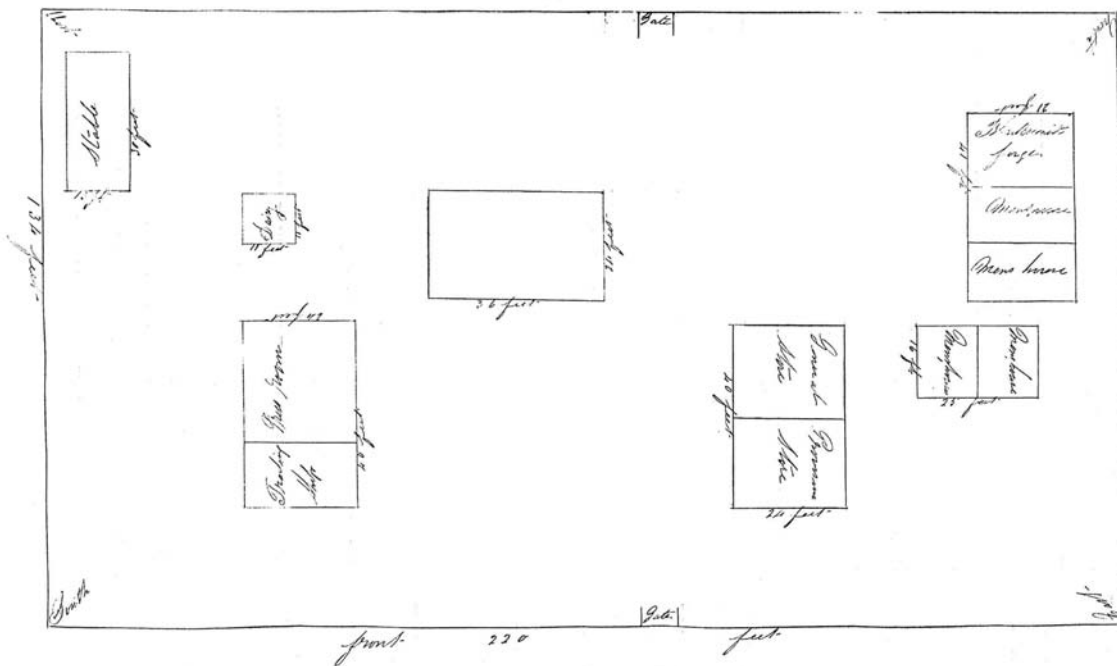
The following year the Company built a gristmill on Smoky Creek about three kilometers northeast of the trading post where the Victoria cart trail crossed the creek. The mill was a definite sign that times were changing. After discouraging agricultural settlement for so much of its history, the Company mill was an initiative to encourage settlers to grow

wheat and barley. The settlers had to contribute a portion of their grain to the Company to pay for the use of the mill. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 20)

Between 1873 and 1878 Aboriginal families began moving to the southern plains from the Victoria Mission because of continued failures of the summer buffalo hunts. (Hurt, 1979, p. 30)

Passing along the Victoria Trail in 1874 as a member of the North West Mounted Police contingent that was on its way to Fort Edmonton, Sam Steele observed most houses at Victoria were of thatched roof and log construction. The people lived by buffalo hunting, fishing, and the planting of crops in the spring that were not very well tended through the rest of the growing season. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 15)

Despite the ongoing loss of its Aboriginal clients, by 1874, the Hudson's Bay Company post at Victoria had developed into a complex of seven structures: the Clerk's house, a stable, a trading shop and press room, a dairy, a general provision store, a men's house, and a combined blacksmith's forge and men's house, all of which were surrounded by a palisade. The palisade was later replaced by a picket fence, and later still by a wooden rail fence enclosing about half an acre. At this time the post had a 5 ½ acre field enclosed by a rail fence. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 19-20)



**Figure 2.2a:** Hardisty Plan of the Hudson's Bay Company trading post, Fort Victoria, drawn in 1874. [Attribution]

In addition to trading for furs during this period, the Company employees at Fort Victoria kept the gristmill in repair, tended their barley fields and repaired the cart road to Fort Edmonton. (Hurt, 1979, p. 71)

The following year the steamer, *Northcote* became the first Company steam-powered boat to reach Fort Edmonton from Grand Rapids where the North Saskatchewan flows into Lake Winnipeg. (Melnicky, 1997, p. 26)

Despite this advance in transportation, the days of the fur trade were numbered. In 1876, the Cree Chief Pakan (James Seenum) signed Treaty Six at Fort Pitt, and obtained relatively small reserves for his people at Whitefish Lake and Saddle Lake. Peter Erasmus acted as chief interpreter for the Plains Cree negotiating Treaty Six at Fort Carlton. (Melnicky, 1997, p. 28-34)

Two years later, Victoria District was surveyed by the Dominion Land Surveyor W.F. King. King found that most of the river lots east of the Methodist mission had already been claimed by settlers. (Melnicky, 1997, p. 14; Hurt, 1979, p. 32)

The signing of Treaty Six in 1876 had effectively removed the Plains Cree from the immediate vicinity of Victoria. Although the establishment of an Indian agency in the settlement brought them back to receive handouts from the soup kitchen set up at the agency, the days of the Cree as viable customers and clients of the Hudson's Bay Company were over. In 1883, with a dwindling supply of furs in the area, the Company closed the trading post at Victoria. (Melnicky, 1997, p. 18-21)

In 1884, a Dominion Land Surveyor again surveyed Victoria District. The majority of the buildings shown on the Tom Kains survey of that year are located within fenced areas of land. (Kains, Field Notes of Victoria Settlement, Season of 1884)

The survey by Kains covered the townships west of the fourth initial meridian, and his report deals with the vegetation and soil types in the area. His map of the HBC was relatively precise. *“Measuring from corner to corner, Kains noted that the south and north walls of the palisade were approximately 222 feet long, and the west and east walls 135 feet and 139 feet respectively.”* Kains' drawing differed from Hardisty's in that the stable was not shown, and a structure, perhaps a kitchen, was attached to the north wall of the Clerk's House. Kains also showed bastions at the southeast and southwest corners of the palisade. (Hurt, 1979, p. 85)

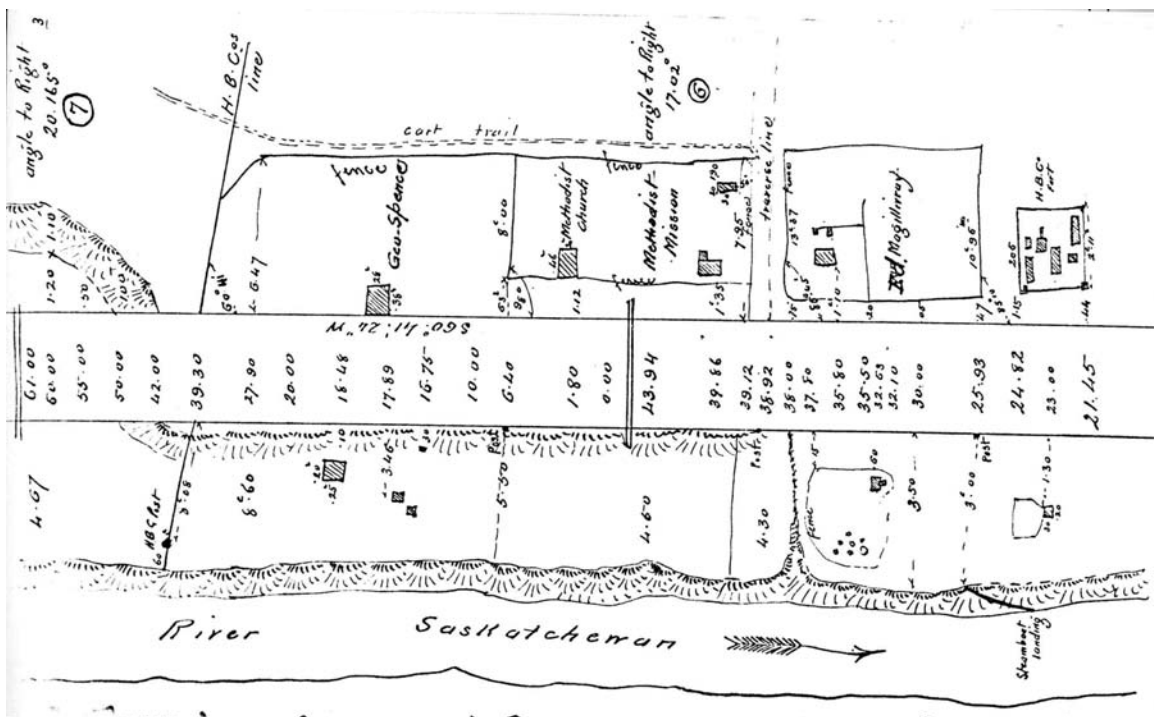
Kains' notes on the area are revealing about the natural landscape:

*“The River Saskatchewan runs through the southern portion. South of the river is dense bush, interspersed with muskegs. Poplar and clumps of spruce, with thick willows, cover almost the whole surface. The country north of the river is dense bush, consisting of small poplars and willows, with the exception of a narrow belt at the immediate north side of the river, through which the Edmonton and Battleford trail is located. The village of Victoria is situated on Sections 11, 13 and 14, and a grist mill is located on Smoky Lake Creek which runs into the Saskatchewan near the east boundary of the range. Soil, second class. Settlers' claims extend*

along the north side of the river the whole width of the township.” (T. Kains, Townships west of Fourth Initial Meridian – Range XV11: 58 Outlines, p. 218)

Although Kains’ survey confirmed the land holding system of river lots that had been in use since the first Métis arrived at Victoria in 1865 from the Red River Settlement, his instructions were actually to modify the system to make it conform to the system mandated by the Dominion Lands Act:

“The lots should be about two miles deep and you will adopt as your line, section or quarter section lines. The side lines shall run due north and south and road allowances one chain wide shall be left on all meridian section lines and on the new line, but the latter shall not in any case to be taken out of the area of the adjoining quarter sections.” (Hurt, 1979, p. 110)



**Figure 2.2b:** Survey Sketch Plan by Tom Kains showing the HBC fort and the area immediately west of it in 1884. [Attribution to come.]

Kains submitted his survey report to Ottawa in 1885. He had indicated nine river lots east of the Hudson’s Bay Company reserves:

“Since the eastern boundary of the reserve served as the rear boundary of the river lots, those lots located closest to the reserve were necessarily smaller and shorter than those located further east... lots three through seven were the most developed area of the settlement, with all service enterprises, the H.B.C. fort and the Methodist Church, concentrated on

*lots six through eight. There were approximately fifty buildings located on the entire nine lots, most of which appear to have been farmhouses and associated out buildings.” (Hurt, 1979, p. 111)*

Kains also wrote to the Surveyor General that most of the inhabitants of Victoria were at a duck hunt, and therefore did not make their statutory declarations to claim their ownership of their lands. This would later become a problem for the citizens of Victoria. (Feb 21, 1885, 9935)

The year 1885 was a troublesome one in western Canada. The North West Rebellion spilled over into Victoria. Inspired by Riel’s activities further east, a few people from Saddle Lake tried to take over the community, but were easily chased off. Alarmed by the deaths at Frog Lake, settlers from Victoria and Lobstick left their homes to camp out for safety on the banks of the North Saskatchewan some twelve kilometers to the west. The arrival of the Alberta Field Force under Major General T.B. Strange strengthened the community. Strange’s men reinforced the palisade at the old Hudson’s Bay Company fort adding a bastion to the southeast corner, and helped to establish the Victoria Home Guard made up of local settlers and commanded by the Methodist minister, Rev. James McLachlan. The situation at Victoria was greatly calmed by Chief Pakan’s decision to remain neutral in the conflict, despite the fact that he was making little headway in his attempts to secure a larger reserve from the Dominion Government for his people. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 28-31)

The unrest in the area likely stimulated the development of the community. In 1886 a telegraph line connecting Edmonton and Battleford reached Victoria. That same year a seam of lignite coal was discovered near Victoria. In 1887 a post office was opened at Victoria, and to avoid confusion with Victoria in British Columbia, was named Pakan in honour of Chief Pakan. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 28-35; Hurt, 1979, p. 125)

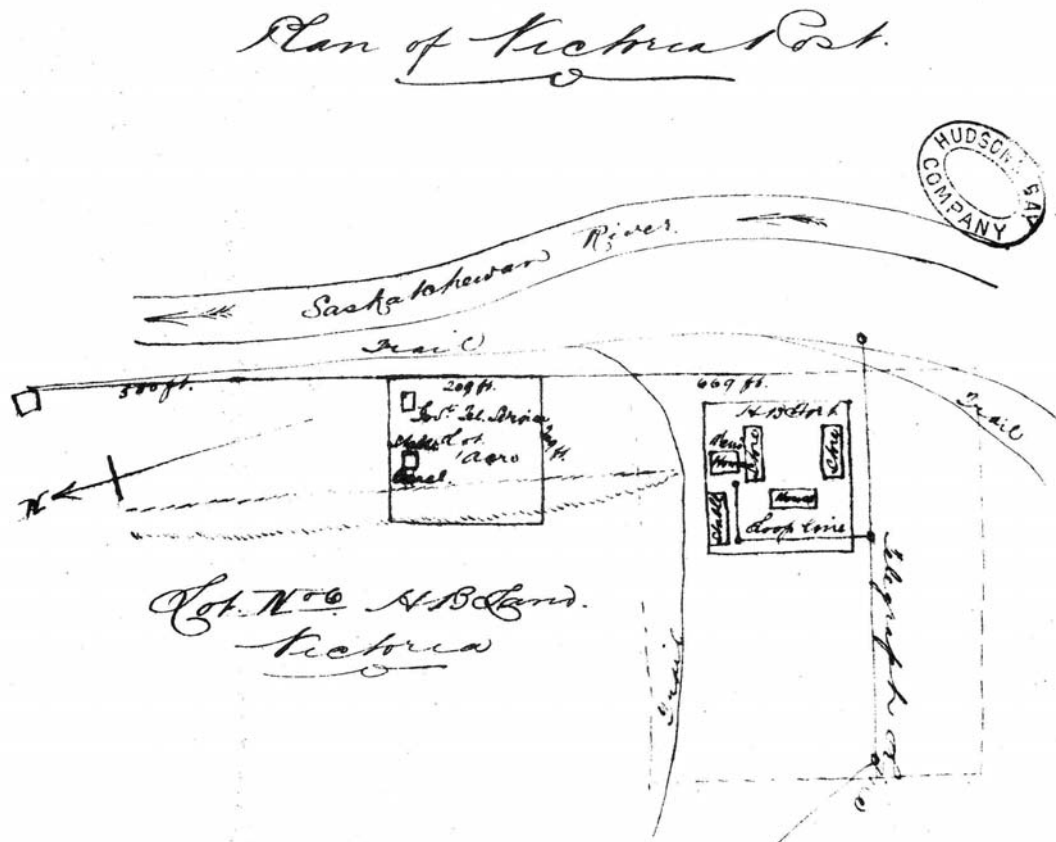
The 1887 visit of the Dominion Land Surveyor, F.W. Wilkins provides information about the landscape across the river to the south of the newly renamed settlement of Pakan. Wilkins worked opposite the old Hudson’s Bay Company post and along Egg Creek. He found the mission property on the south side of the North Saskatchewan to be hilly, and mostly without timber except for a few stands of small poplars and a few spruce and pines, of no value except for firewood. Some larger trees, spruce and poplar, were growing on the banks of Egg Creek and the North Saskatchewan. He also found seams of soft coal at the surface along the riverbank. (Wilkins, 1887)

By the late 1880s the settlement of Pakan appeared to be growing again. A new school was opened in 1888. That same year the North West Mounted Police established a small detachment in the community in rented quarters. The following year the Hudson’s Bay Company trading post was reopened as an independent post. (Hurt, 1979, Ch. 3, Endnote 80; Melnycky, 1997, p. 35 & 21)

The Clerk of the HBC post, Francis David Wilson, was not however, very enthusiastic about the prospects for Pakan which was still called Victoria Post by the company. He wrote in 1889:

*“In my opinion the commercial business of the post will never be of much importance, as so much of the land in the neighbourhood is unfit for settlement. The settlers are entirely half breed although they live nominally by farming they really produce very little and depend upon their cattle and what little they can earn by freighting or otherwise for sustenance...”* (Hurt, 1979, p. 76)

In that year Victoria Post consisted of a dwelling house that had been recently renovated, a store building, a warehouse, a men’s house, and a stable. A dairy and a blacksmith’s shop had recently been removed from the site. (Hurt, 1979, p. 93-94)



**Figure 2.2c:** Sketch Plan of Victoria Post by E.K. Beeston, 1889. [HBC Archives, Section B, Class 360, Subdivision e, Piece 1. Post reports Victoria (Edmonton District) 1889]

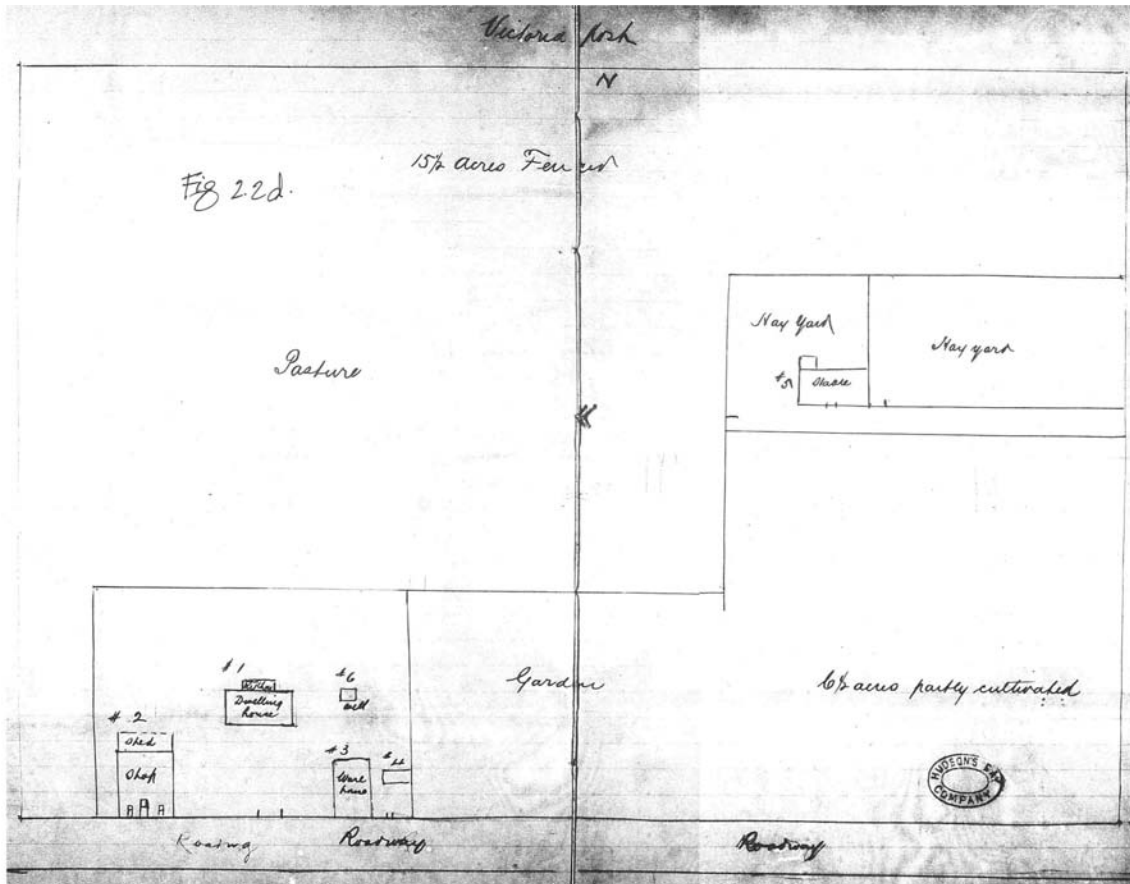
Beeston’s inspection report also contained some information about the landscape of the post:

*“The buildings are convenient for the Steamboat Landing, and near to the principal part of the Settlement. The Fort enclosure is about ½ an acre,*

*and the Field about 5 ½ acres; are surrounded by a Post and Rail fence, put up in 1888 at a cost of \$68.60.” (Beeston, 1889, p. 2)*

In 1892, Pakan gained its first government appointed ferryman, Simon McGillivray, who also hauled mail and freight in the area. George Kennedy was appointed Clerk of the Hudson’s Bay Company post in 1893. (Melnicky, 1997, p. 18-23)

The final inspection report for the Victoria Post was written in 1895. The report described the conditions of the dwelling house, sales shop, warehouse, men’s house, stable and well. It also provided some information about the landscape of the post: “6 ½ acres Land enclosed partly cultivated as garden. 15 acres Land under fence.” (Hurt, 1979, p. 94)



**Figure 2.2d:** Sketch plan of HBC Post with buildings, gardens and pasture shown as they were in 1895. (HBC Archives, Section B, Class 360, Sub-division e, Piece 4: Post Reports – Victoria (Edmonton District), 1895)

The year 1896 brought a unique threat to the Pakan area with the arrival of Dominion Land Surveyor, J.E. Woods. Woods came west with the intension of subdividing the Victoria and Lobstick Settlement lands into quarter sections. Local citizens had to approach their Member of Parliament, Frank Oliver, in order to retain the river lot system with its long lots extending north from the North Saskatchewan River. Backing down from his idea to impose the Dominion Lands Act system, Woods surveyed Lots 1 through

18 of the Lobstick Settlement as river lots during his time in the area. (Hurt, 1979, p. 111; Villeneuve, 2000, p. 2550)

The closing years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw many changes at Victoria District. A drilling crew was sent out in 1897 by the Geological Survey of Canada to search for commercially viable coal and oil deposits just across the river from Pakan. The drilling would be abandoned two years later. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 36)

Sometime between 1897 and 1898 the Hudson's Bay Company post was finally closed for good. The trading shop was renovated to be used for the next two decades as a village store. The Clerk's house was turned into a private residence, a use it would retain over the next six decades. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 21; Hurt, 1979, p. 97)

Although the closure of the fur trading post certainly heralded the end of an era on the North Saskatchewan River, the most fundamental change to Pakan and its surrounding lands occurred in 1899 with the arrival of the first wave of Ukrainian settlers. Up to that point the Victoria and Lobstick Settlements had been communities of English speaking Métis. The historic records provide a picture of the Métis around Pakan as skilled hunters and river men, indifferent farmers, and citizens willing to fight to retain a system of land holding that gave them close proximity to their neighbours and equal access to the North Saskatchewan River. The Métis seem to have maintained good relations with the Woodland Cree, although after the signing of Treaty Six in 1876, the Cree people largely abandoned the immediate area, except as occasional clients of the Hudson's Bay Company post at Victoria. For almost a generation between 1876 and 1899, the future Victoria District NHSC was a relatively homogeneous Métis community. Many enterprises such as river transportation and oil exploration were tried, but then abandoned. As the area became more populated, and fur bearing animals declined, the community was forced to rely more and more on agriculture as the mainstay of its modest prosperity.

### **2.3 Period 3: The Ukrainian Settlement Period, 1899 to 1920**

The first group of Ukrainian settlers arrived in the area of Pakan in late May or early June 1899. About thirty families arrived that year from Toporivtsi in the district of Chernivtsi, Bukovyna, which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. (Ponich, 1971, p.6; Melnycky, 1997, p. 36)

The Ukrainians came to Western Canada with a very different culture and very different personal aspirations from the Métis already established at the Victoria and Lobstick Settlements. Whereas the Métis were comfortable with travel and often gravitated to work that would take them away from their homes for extended periods of time, the Rev. D. M. Ponich's autobiography reveals the Ukrainians to be a people who were heart-broken to leave their homeland in Europe. While the Métis treated agriculture as a necessary but subsidiary pursuit compared to hunting, trapping, trading and transporting goods, the very reason for the Ukrainians coming to Canada was to ensure that their grown sons would have adequate farmland. (Ponich, 1971, p. 1-4)



In the area that would eventually become Victoria District NHSC, the Ukrainians settled to the north and east of the Victoria Settlement river lot system. They immediately began to clear land and build their houses. Within a year the lands were surveyed according to the Dominion Lands Act system, and each Ukrainian family received a quarter section from the Crown. (Ponich, 1971, p. 10-15)

Although few of the people who settled around Pakan had much construction experience, they were successful in reproducing the forms and styles of the houses they knew from the old country. The forested parts of their new properties were able to supply the size of logs that were the traditional structural material for houses in Bukovyna. They also managed to build structures that would last: a house constructed in 1904 by Dmitri Cebuliak on his property, the southwest quarter of Section 36, was restored around 1979 and is still standing. (W. & S. Cebuliak, n.d., p. 338)

Lynda Villeneuve describes the typical spatial layout of the Ukrainian farms at Victoria District:

*“In spatial terms, houses generally face south and other farm buildings are located nearby in a square around the farmyard. Most buildings are set in thick groves of trees protecting them from the north winds. Summer kitchens are common. The architecture of these homes is also typical: rectangular buildings of logs or squared timber, generally built with recessed and bevelled corners. Their single storey is usually divided into three rooms with a central hearth opposite the main entrance. They are clad in mud roughcast and have peaked or mansard roofs. The outsides are whitewashed.”* (Villeneuve, 2000, p. 2552)

Luckily some of the Ukrainian settlers had brought small mill stones for grinding grain with them, because by the time they arrived at Victoria District in 1899, the Hudson’s Bay Company mill, built in 1873, was in ruins. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 20; Ponich, 1971, p. 10)

Rev. Ponich writes that the settlers at Pakan hired an earlier Ukrainian settler to break ground for their fields in 1900. With a team of horses the man was able to break about one acre per day. This suggests that at least some of their land was naturally grassed meadows, because if the land had to be cleared of trees first, that first ploughing would not have gone so quickly. (Ponich, 1971, p. 10)

The first year the Ponich family used spades to dig their garden, and planted wheat by hand on the acre that had just been ploughed. Later they would plant barley because of the short growing season. (Ponich, 1971, p. 17-18)

Rev. Ponich mentions the following plants growing wild near his family’s homestead (N.E. ¼ of 26-18-17-W) during his first year at Pakan: spruce; pine across the plain to the east; Jackpine and blueberries to the east; low bush cranberries; and poplar in the bush along the creek running across their farm. (Ponich, 1971, p. 14-15)

Within two years of the first arrival of the Ukrainians, the Methodist Church appointed Rev. Charles H. Lawford as minister for the mission at Pakan. Lawford was also a medical doctor, which the settlement needed. Besides his medical practice and tending to the spiritual needs of the Methodist Métis, Lawford was expected to be active in converting the Ukrainians to Methodism. For the most part he was not very successful in the latter activity, and a year after his appointment construction began on St. Elias Russo Greek Orthodox Church just north of Pakan. Lawford was, however, instrumental in having a school built on the Hudson's Bay Company land about a mile southwest of the new Orthodox church. The school was intended for the children of both the new and the established settlers, and it was here that friendships were first established bridging the differences in background, and at least initially, in language. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 38-39; Ponich, 1971, p. 18-19)

Despite the profound difference in their cultures, relations between the Ukrainians and the Métis were generally friendly, with the established Métis providing the Ukrainian's first pigs and chickens. The one area of friction mentioned by Rev. Ponich related to property boundaries. The Métis had not been that concerned about property boundaries as long as the river lot system remained in effect. They tended to pasture sheep and cattle at the northern ends of their long lots, which were mostly unfenced. With the arrival of the Ukrainians and their settlement at the northern ends of the old river lots, the Métis lost access to free pasturage. Because some of the Métis had not paid much attention to the presence of surveyors in the district in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and had not registered their land, they were in some danger of losing it. The Member of Parliament, Frank Oliver, had to intervene with the Dominion Government to ensure that the older settlers could secure their lands properly in the law, so that it would not be taken over by the recent arrivals. (Ponich, 1971, p. 18-19; Melnycky, 1997, p. 37)

The population of the Pakan area grew substantially through immigration during these years. The thirty Ukrainian families of 1899 had increased to 250 families by 1906. This increase in population provided enough of a pool of customers and clients to support commercial and institutional development in and around Pakan. In 1905 a commercial, steam-powered flourmill was constructed on the bank of the river at River Lot 7. The immediate future of the ferry at Pakan was assured when it was taken over that same year by the new Province of Alberta. In 1906 a new Methodist Church was built at Pakan, and the following year the George McDougall Hospital was constructed in the village. The hospital was a substantial building with stone foundations and balconies overlooking the river. It featured modern conveniences, such as steam heat and a lift, and was staffed by three nurses and Rev. Dr. Lawford. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 35-39; Hurt, 1979, p. 44-49)

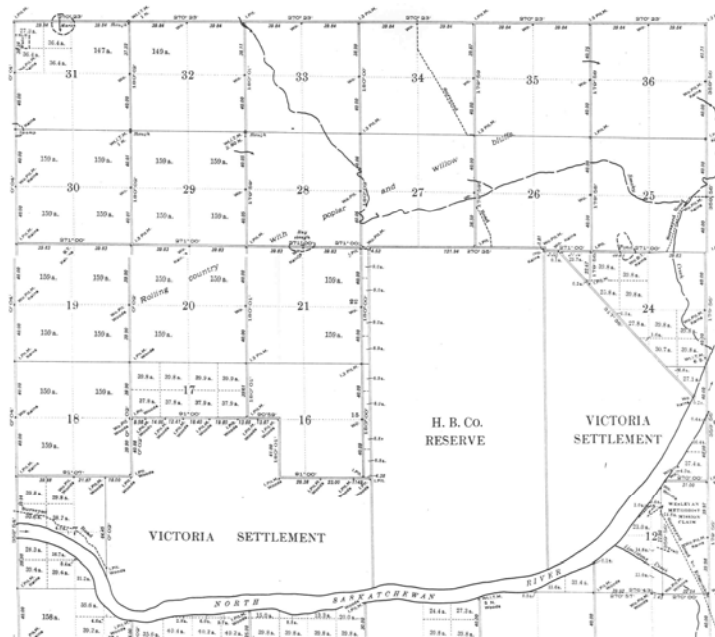
In 1908 George Kennedy, former Clerk at the Hudson's Bay Company's trading post, began to operate a general store in Pakan. In 1911 a Ukrainian farmer donated four acres northeast of the village for the construction of a Ukrainian Methodist Church, which was opened the following year. By 1915 Pakan was a busy supply centre for the surrounding agricultural lands with a hotel, two general stores, a flourmill, three equipment dealers, a livery barn, and two blacksmith shops. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 23, 39-40; Hurt, 1979, p. 41)

In the midst of this development, the Pakan area experienced its second major out migration of population beginning in 1914. Several of the established Métis families began to feel that the area on the North Saskatchewan River was getting too crowded. They sold off their farms in the river lots and moved on to the less settled area south and west of Lac La Biche. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 37)

Despite the loss of several Métis families, the development in and around Pakan continued with barely a pause. Villeneuve cites 1915 as the year in which Ukrainian, British, Canadian and American settlers began clear the lands along the North Saskatchewan River for more intensive farming. This would correspond to Frank Mitchell's recollection that there was active commercial lumbering along the banks of the river during this period. To service agricultural development throughout the area, the road system was extended northward in straight lines following boundaries established by the Dominion Lands Act in 1872. (Villeneuve, 2000, p. 2554; Mitchell, 1974, p. 20)

Through 1917 weekly steamer trips between Edmonton and Shandro on the North Saskatchewan passed by Victoria. By then a separate post office had been constructed immediately south of the Clerk's House on river lot six. Sometime during the 1910s plans were made to subdivide River Lot 6 at Pakan into thirty-five town lots, although only seven lots were ever occupied. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 27 & 40; Hurt, 1979, p. 121)

One link to the period of the original Métis community was severed when Chief Pakan died in 1917 and was buried at Whitefish Lake. It was this Woodland Cree Chief for whom the village was named in appreciation of his neutrality during the North West Rebellion. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 28)



**Figure 2.3a:** Survey Plan: Plan of Township 58, Range 17, West of the Fourth Meridian, assembled for the Surveyor General of Canada, 1918. [Attribution to come]

The blow to Pakan as a developing community first fell in 1918 when the Canadian Northern Railway line bypassed Pakan in favour of Smoky Lake, fourteen and a half kilometres to the north. By 1920 the population of Pakan dropped in half. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 40)

However, if the village of Pakan was damaged by the route selected for the railroad, the broader agricultural community was not. If anything, the presence of the railroad meant easier access for the farmers to markets for their grain and animals. It may well have been a sense of prosperity, or at least the potential for prosperity, as well as increased enrollment as the second generation reached school age, that encouraged the farmers in the Ukrainian sections of Victoria District to push for the construction of a new school with the added taxation that would result. In 1920, after several previous sites were considered, the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 59, Range 16, west of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meridian, was selected as the new location for Ruthenia School #2408. Two acres of land were purchased and an earlier school building moved on skids from its first location. This was the one of the first all-Ukrainian schools in the area, and it symbolized the degree to which the pioneering Ukrainian settlers had set down roots at the future Victoria District NHSC. (S. Cebuliak, n.d., p. 149; Ponich, 1971, p. 23)

#### **2.4 Period 4: Decline and Resurgence, 1921 to the Present**

Through the 1920s the community of Pakan and its agricultural hinterland swung between loss and gain. In 1921 Victoria and Pakan were removed from the Methodist Church's list of missions. By this year, the traditional Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches were well established, and the likelihood of missionary activity drawing additional converts to Methodism was low. While this removal did correspond to the beginning of Pakan's population decline, it could actually have been a vote of confidence in the community. The church no longer needed to send missionaries to make converts, for the district now had regular Methodist congregations attending services in at least two church buildings. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 40; Melnycky, pers. com.)

A major loss to the village of Pakan did occur, however, in 1922 when the George McDougall Hospital was closed and hauled away on skids to Smoky Lake. Sometime around 1925 the old Hudson's Bay Company trading shop that had functioned for many years within the village as a store was cut in half and hauled off the site. Throughout the 1920s the implement dealers and sawmills closed their businesses and moved away from Pakan. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 40; Hurt, 1979, p. 97)

But while the population and services within the village were declining, parts of the agricultural community were getting stronger and gaining or expanding institutions. A public cemetery company was established in 1923. The company received a gift of farmland northwest of Pakan on which it established the Pakan Asphodel Cemetery. Because of increasing enrolment, a new building had to be constructed at the Ruthenia School in 1924. The building was used for the older students, while the original building was used by the younger pupils. (S. Cebuliak, n.d., p. 149; Geiger, n.d., p. 17)

The Métis migration from the Victoria and Lobstick Settlements that began around 1914 went on through the 1920s and 1930s. Families descended from the earliest settlers of the river lots continued to leave for more isolated and less developed areas of Alberta, until the Métis as a distinct community had almost disappeared from the area. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 37)

As transportation became faster and more efficient, institutions within the agricultural lands began to be closed in the name of efficiency. Two schools were closed in the 1940s as education became centralized at Smoky Lake. The Ruthenia school was closed in 1950, a victim of the same process, although the building continued to be used for meetings of the Farmers' Union. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 38; S. Cebuliak, n.d., p. 150)

Despite the loss of institutions in the countryside after the Second World War, agriculture continued to intensify. The availability of tractors on rubber tires allowed farmers to cultivate larger amounts of land causing greater loss of the aspen and spruce wood lots. (Geiger, n.d., p.18; P. Feniak, pers. com.)

Pakan effectively vanished as a village when the post office was closed in 1960. The service function that it once held for surrounding farm families was transferred to Smoky Lake. Despite being able to travel much greater distances, there was still the need for local gatherings. The same year that the Pakan Post Office closed, the former Ruthenia School was purchased by the Ruthenia Community Centre, and was run as a community centre for twenty years. The increasing efficiency of the automobile continued to work against Pakan as a community centre; the ferry ceased operation in 1972 after a bridge was built farther west. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 35; S. Cebuliak, n.d., p. 150)

While farming remained a viable occupation and underwent its own evolution linked to larger machinery and breakthroughs in chemistry and genetics, another industry began to take shape, almost unnoticed within the community: cultural tourism. In 1945 the Mitchell family and other residents erected a memorial cairn to mark the site of the Hudson's Bay Company post, Fort Victoria. Nine years later the United Church of Canada, into which the Methodist Church had been absorbed, erected a cairn at Pakan Church in honour of the Reverends George and John McDougall and the members of their family buried at the former Victoria Mission. That same year the Province of Alberta bought the Clerk's house, which was now the oldest building in the province still in its original location. In 1961 the province marked the site of Fort Victoria with a cairn and began to assemble land for a provincial historic site. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 42-43)

As the number of commemorations increased around the former village of Pakan, Frank Mitchell was ahead of his time in recognizing the potential for cultural tourism at Victoria District. Around the time that the province commemorated the site of Fort Victoria, Mr. Mitchell moved the former home of Ben Sinclair, the son of an early Methodist missionary, to his own property near the park, and opened the Sinclair house as a museum displaying Mitchell's own collection of early settlement artefacts. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 43)

In 1976 the site of Fort Victoria was designated a Provincial Historic Resource. Through the 1970s, the province conducted archaeological studies of Victoria Mission, Fort Victoria and Victoria Settlement. In 1980 Frank Mitchell closed his Fort Victoria Museum and transferred its artifacts to the Smoky Lake Museum. That same year the Ruthenia Community Centre organization was dissolved, and the former school building sold to Steve Cebuliak. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 43; S. Cebuliak, n.d., p. 150-51)

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada designated the Rev. George McDougall to be a person of national historic significance in 1981 and unveiled a plaque commemorating him. Meanwhile the province opened the newly restored Clerk's house to the public. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 43)

The 1980s saw Pakan United Church, built in 1906 as the Methodist Church, also stabilized and converted to a visitor reception centre. A monument honouring the history of Pakan School District #3530 was unveiled in 1991. The privately owned Free Trader's house on River Lot 3 was recorded by architectural technologists in 1994 and restoration begun. (Melnycky, 1997, p. 43)

The Fort Garry-Fort Edmonton Trail was commemorated in 1997 as a National Historic Event of Canada. The section of this trail that runs through Victoria and Lobstick Settlements is commonly known and identified as the Victoria Trail. That same year the Victoria Home Guard Society was reconstituted with the goal of having Victoria District declared a national historic site. (Canadian Heritage / Parks Canada notice, February 17, 1997; Smoky Lake Signal, December 15, 1999, p.6)

Finally, in 2001 Victoria District was recommended for designation by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada because of its national significance as a rural historic district. After much deliberation, the HSMBC was satisfied that the inclusion of the river lots represented by the Victoria and Lobstick Settlements should be augmented by some of the Dominion Lands Act properties occupied by the original Ukrainian settlers, to tell the story of the waves of divergent cultures that came to the west in Canada.

### 3.0 INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* divides the cultural resources of any cultural landscape into eight different categories: land patterns, landforms, spatial organization, vegetation, viewscales, circulation, water features, and built features. This framework is an aid to ensuring that all the cultural resources that may shape a cultural landscape and make it unique are in fact recognized and understood. It is the role of this section to identify the various cultural resources found within the cultural landscape that is Victoria District NHSC, and to provide a historic context for these resources. This will enable the participants in the upcoming Commemorative Integrity Exercise to make informed decisions about the relative values of these landscape resources.

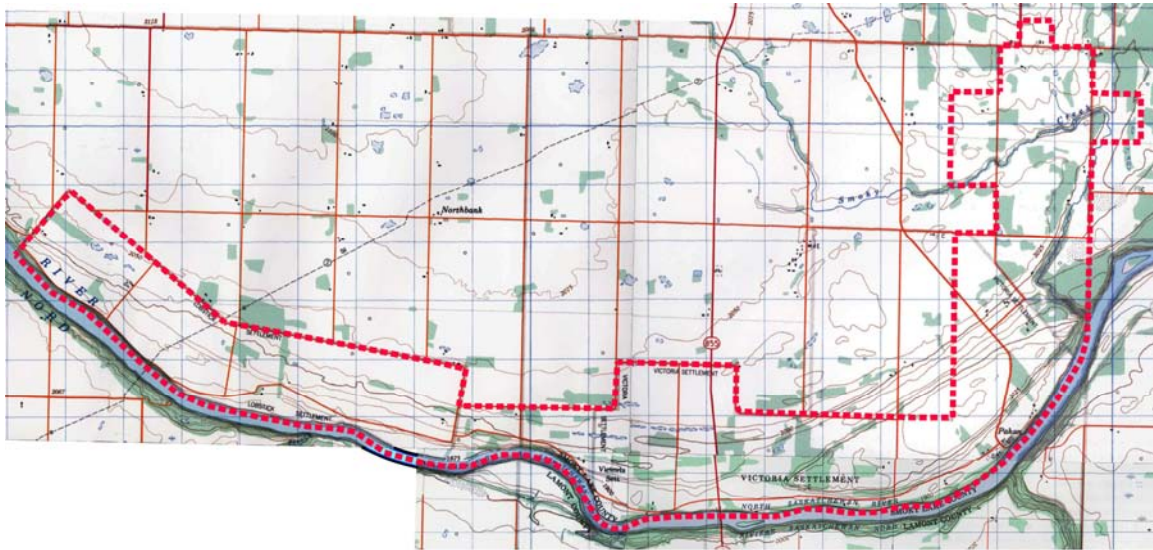
After a preliminary review of documentary material assembled in Ottawa, the two conservation landscape architects from the Heritage Conservation Directorate spent four days at Victoria District in July 2006 observing the cultural landscape and discussing its resources with local residents and provincial heritage personnel. The results of this research are now presented within the eight-part framework established by the *Standards and Guidelines*. Elements recommended as having heritage value are noted in bold.

#### 3.1 Land Patterns

Land pattern in the *Standards and Guidelines* refers to the overall arrangement and interrelationship of forests, meadows, water, topography, built features and other larger landscape components that are important in defining a particular landscape.

At Victoria District the most obvious land pattern is the varying relationship of settlement to the North Saskatchewan River. The earliest settlement by the English speaking Métis extended along the North Saskatchewan, which was the transportation lifeline from prehistoric times through the earliest periods of missionary activity and Métis settlement. When the Ukrainian settlers arrived after 1899, they were forced to take lands to the north with no direct connection to the river. However, as Métis families left the district in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, their lands were often purchased by the now established Ukrainian-Canadian farmers. For a variety of reasons, proximity to the North Saskatchewan River was important to the early residents of the area. Within the national historic site today, the density of houses and farm buildings with property connections to the river significantly outnumber the density of farmsteads with no property connection to it.

**The pattern of more intensive settlement related to the North Saskatchewan River, with more dispersed settlement to the north could be considered a heritage value of the Victoria District cultural landscape.**



**Figure 3.1a:** The areas of green on the map represent areas of forest or scrub woodland that still remain at Victoria District. All the areas shown as white are either cropland or pasture. In comparison with Victoria Settlement in the centre and the Ukrainian settlement lands to the northeast, Lobstick Settlement to the west has had the most land cleared for cropland and pasture. [Energy, Mines and Resources, 83-H/15, H/16, I/1, I/2; HCD/Chandler, 2006]

The extent of land that makes up Victoria District NHSC was originally located within what is called the Aspen Parkland, an association of vegetation between the coniferous forests to the north and the open grasslands to the south. Early observers such as the surveyor, Tom Kains, who visited the area in 1884, found a landscape of dense bush made up of willows and poplars of relatively modest size. The only clearings he noted at that time were on the properties immediately along the river.

Looking at **Figure 3.1a**, a map based on aerial photographs from 1980, it is obvious that most of the forest and brush had been cleared for agricultural production by that time. There remains a relatively narrow band of trees and shrubs along the north bank of the river, with woodlots of varying sizes interspersed, seemingly at random, throughout the area that constitutes the national historic site.

A comparison between **Figure 3.1a** and the fold out Site Plan in **Section 1.5**, which is based on aerial photographs from the year 2000, reveals that there has been little change in the extent of tree cover versus cleared fields or pasture during that 20 year period.

John Geiger's study of River Lot 3 at Victoria Settlement found that the intensification of agriculture occurred after World War II with the introduction of gas-powered tractors on rubber tires. This new machinery resulted in larger areas of land being cultivated with a consequent loss of forested land at Victoria District. (Geiger, n.d., p.18)





**Figure 3.1b:** The scrub forest of the Aspen Parkland once covered this area. The large size of fields visible today within Victoria District NHSC is the result of advances in mechanized agriculture throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

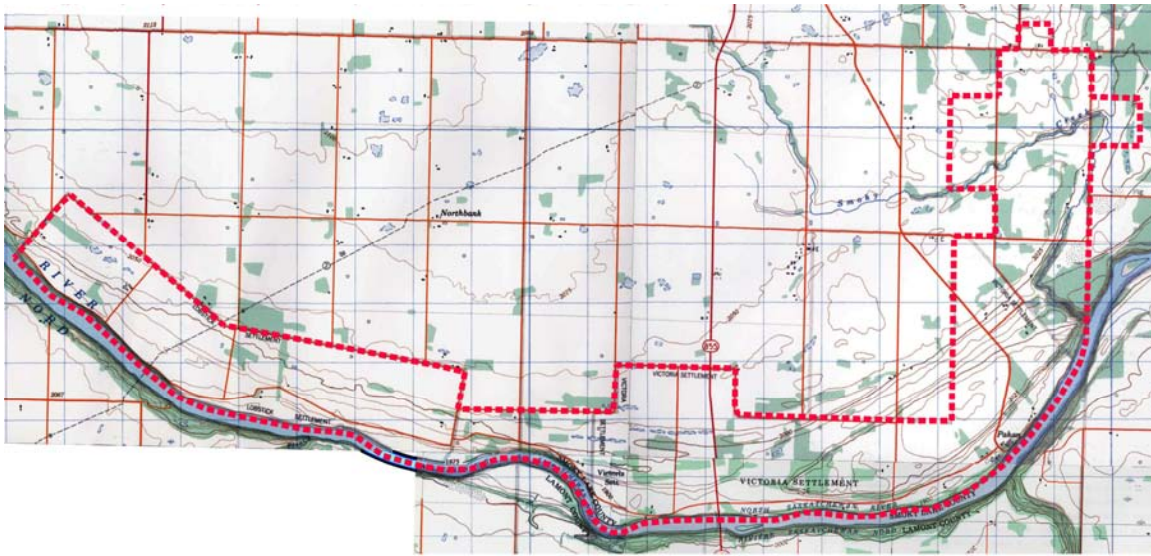
A general observation from **Figure 3.1a** is that the most intensive clearing of forest has occurred in the Lobstick Settlement area to the west. The areas of the historic Victoria Settlement and the Dominion Land Survey area occupied by the Ukrainian settlers from 1899 onward have retained more forest cover. A likely explanation for this disparity is that there are more surface areas hard to cultivate for one reason or another in Victoria Settlement and the original Ukrainian settlement area, than in the Lobstick Settlement.

**The existing pattern of forested land and cleared fields or pastures within Victoria District NHSC today is the result of the progressive development of agriculture and its technology, and could be considered a heritage value of the cultural landscape.**

## 3.2 Landforms

Landforms in the *Standards and Guidelines* include naturally occurring hills, valleys, slopes, plains and other topographical features, as well as terraces, embankments, berms, swales and other human-engineered topographical changes to the underlying ground plane that are important in defining a particular landscape.

The contour lines shown in **Figure 3.2a** provide a clear image of the large scaled landforms at Victoria District NHSC. A contour line on any map connects the points on the land surface that are the same elevation above sea level. The contour interval on this particular mapping is 25 feet, so the rise or fall in the ground elevation between two adjacent contour lines will be 25 feet. When contour lines are close together, that means that the area of land over which they run is sloping. The closer the contour lines are to each other, the steeper the slope. When contour lines are relatively far apart, the land indicated is relatively flat.



**Figure 3.2a:** The contour lines, shown in black, reveal the topography or shape of the land at Victoria District NHSC. Where contour lines are close together the land is steeply sloped; where the lines are relatively far apart, the land is relatively flat. [Energy, Mines and Resources, 83-H/15, H/16, I/1, I/2; HCD/Chandler, 2006]

What the contours shown in **Figure 3.2a** reveal is that all of the land within Victoria District NHSC slopes with varying degrees of intensity toward the North Saskatchewan River. Through much of Lobstick Settlement there is a fairly consistent slope toward the water that intensifies significantly near the river's edge. Much of Victoria District shows a series of three relatively flat terraces separated from each other by steeper slopes. Except for the steeper banks of Smoky Creek, most the Ukrainian settlement area is relatively flat.



**Figure 3.2b:** Part of the remains of a Métis farmstead on a natural terrace above the North Saskatchewan River between Range Roads 174A and 175. Note the higher bank on the south side of the river. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

For much of the extent of the North Saskatchewan River, as it forms the southern boundary of the national historic site, the slopes along the south bank across from the site are steeper and higher than the banks on the north side of the river.

**The naturally occurring pattern of terraces and slopes running toward the North Saskatchewan River, the sloping north bank of the river itself, and the banks of Smoky Creek could be considered to be a heritage value of the cultural landscape.**

In several places within the national historic site, the naturally occurring topography of the riverbank has been altered by people to provide access to the shoreline at ferry landings. Remnants of these altered riverbank slopes can be found: near the Feniak house on the river in Lobstick Settlement between Range Roads 184 and 185; on Smoky Lake County property south of Victoria Trail midway between Range Roads 183 and 184; and south of the Clerk's House at the former Fort Victoria. The topography may also have been deliberately altered by early settlers at the naturally-occurring river ford now occupied by the bridge immediately west of Métis Crossing. Altering topography in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was accomplished with picks, shovels, horses and wagons, and represented a major expenditure of time and energy by early settlers.

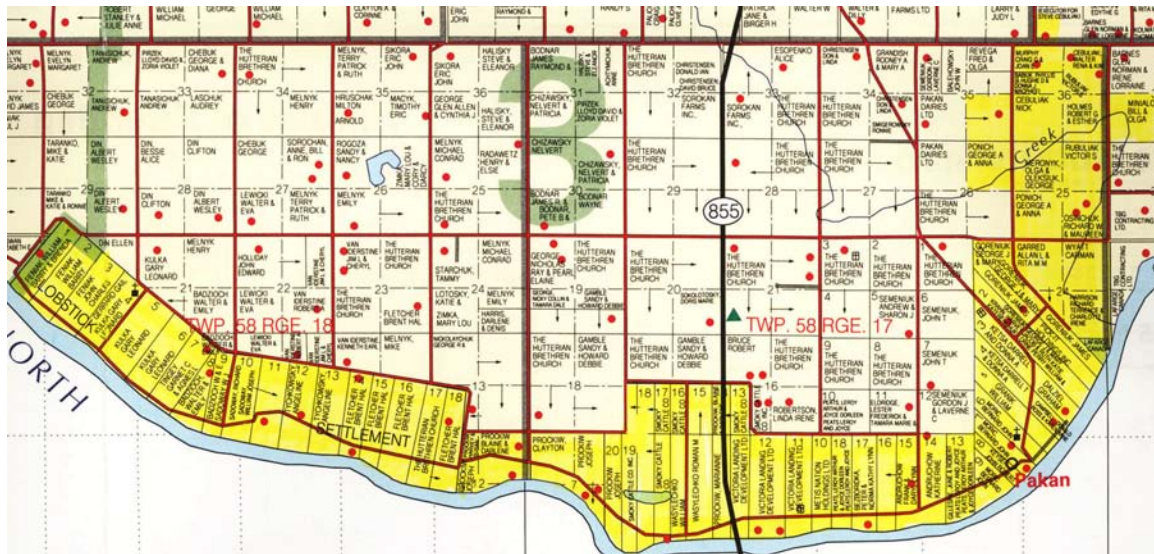
**Specific locations along the North Saskatchewan River where the bank has been altered to facilitate access to the shoreline for ferry landings or river crossings, demonstrate the extreme effort early settlers were willing to expend to improve transportation in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These alterations to the natural topography could be considered to be heritage values of the cultural landscape.**

### 3.3 Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is the phrase used in the *Standards and Guidelines* to describe the arrangement in three dimensions of a landscape's component elements, their relationship to each other and their relationship to the overall landscape.

Two systems of property division, the river lot system brought by the Métis from the Red River Settlement in the 1860s, and the quarter-section system introduced by the Dominion Land Survey in the 1870s, were both crucial in determining the overall spatial organization of the cultural landscape at Victoria District NHSC. While the two systems of land division could be discussed under the topic 'Land Patterns', they are so crucial for determining spatial organization that they are discussed here. Present-day fence lines, hedgerows and windbreaks now delineate these two methods of organizing land into private property, and make them visible within the landscape.

The excerpt from the 2004 Smoky Lake County Map (below) shows current property lines that form the framework for the spatial organization of Victoria District NHSC.



**Figure 3.3a:** Victoria District NHSC is shown in bright yellow on this excerpt from a map of Smoky Lake County. The property lines, shown by narrow black lines, provide a graphic indication of the differences between the river lot system at the center and left, and the Dominion Land Survey quarter-sections at the upper right of the national historic site. [Land Data Technologies, 2004]

**The physical elements such as fence lines, hedgerows and windbreaks that make the two systems of land division (river lots and DLS quarter-sections) at Victoria District NHSC visible, could be considered to be heritage values of the cultural landscape.**



**Figure 3.3b:** Aerial image of the Witford-Favell-Anderson homestead at River Lot 14, located on either side of the Victoria Trail in the Lobstick Settlement, 1920. [NAPL, CA 127-46]

The Métis farmsteads exhibit a spatial organization that is shaped by the specific geography of the cultural landscape of Victoria District NHSC. Within the river lot system, the Métis farmsteads (which included the farm house, a barn or stable, and possibly granaries or other outbuildings) tended to be located close to the North Saskatchewan River with ploughed fields for crops extending immediately north from the farmsteads, and unploughed pastures located at the far north end of the properties. Areas of woodland would often be maintained between the cropland and the pasturage, if the land sloped relatively steeply between the two cleared areas. The farmsteads were also likely to be located relatively close to Victoria Trail.

**The typical spatial organization of Métis farms in the river lot system - farmstead close to the river and the Victoria Trail, fields to the north of the farmstead, pasturage at the north end of the properties farthest away from the houses and outbuildings, and possibly woodland on steeper slopes between the cropland and the pasturage – could be considered a heritage value of the cultural landscape.**

The Ukrainian settlers all initially received properties delineated by the Dominion Land Survey into quarter-section lots. Farmsteads tended to be located relatively close to roadways, although earlier settlers often established farmsteads in the center of their properties, perhaps because the municipal roads were not yet constructed.

For the organization of the farmsteads themselves, the Ukrainians brought to the cultural landscape of Victoria District a type of spatial organization that was developed to respond to their climate in Europe, but which also worked for the climate of Western Canada. The farmsteads were organized to take advantage of the sun and to protect the family and livestock from winter winds. Typically, the farmhouses faced south with outbuildings located close by the houses to form rectilinear farmyards. Thick groves of trees were left intact to the north of the farmsteads to protect against the north winds.



**Figure 3.3c:** Remains of one of the Cybuliak family farmsteads showing the house facing south, and the outbuildings located to form a rectilinear yard. The grove of trees is to the north and west of the buildings. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

Because the Ukrainians settled so far from the North Saskatchewan River, the presence of the river could not tempt them to adapt this traditional form of spatial organization. However, where Smoky Creek crossed through properties, the presence of the creek did result in some buildings being located away from the rectilinear farmyard to take advantage of the promise of waterpower.

**The typical spatial organization of Ukrainian farms on Dominion Land Survey quarter sections - with farmsteads related to the roadways, the farmhouses facing south, outbuildings located to create rectilinear farmyards, and groves of trees offering protection from the winter winds – could be considered a heritage value of the cultural landscape.**

### 3.4 Vegetation

Vegetation as a category of cultural resource discussed in the *Standards and Guidelines* includes trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, grasses, vines and other living plant material that is important in defining the overall heritage value of the landscape.

At Victoria District NHSC the vegetation recorded early in the settlement period consisted of a fairly dense riparian association of trees and shrubs along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River and of Smoky Creek. There was also poplar and willow scrub forest on the terraces and upland slopes immediately above the river, and some spruce forest to the north in the area of Ukrainian settlement. Most of the river and creek banks remain densely vegetated. In fact it is somewhat surprising how little of the riverbank has been cleared for views toward the river. However, the historic scrub forests remain in only isolated pockets. (See Figure 3.1a.)



**Figure 3.4a:** This rich mixture of riparian vegetation species is found along Smoky Creek in the Ukrainian settlement area. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**Remnants of the vegetation types recorded during the early settlement periods – riparian associations of trees and shrubs along the river and creek banks, and isolated pockets of poplar-willow forest, and spruce forest, whether undisturbed or re-growth - could be considered heritage values of the cultural landscape.**

While the croplands and pastures are an integral part of the cultural landscape, the vegetation at their edges is also important. As land was cleared for crops and pastures, both river lots and DLS quarter sections became delineated by remnant trees and shrubs forming hedgerows along property boundaries.

**Remnant hedgerows along property boundaries could be considered a heritage value of the cultural landscape.**

As agricultural mechanization has allowed the growth in size of farm holdings, many historic boundary plantings have been removed to permit more land to be cultivated. While it is tempting to only assign value to the earliest agricultural patterns, Victoria District NHSC is an evolving cultural landscape. The increasing power of agricultural machinery, and the effects on the land of that machinery is part of the story.



**Figure 3.4b:** Developments in the power of agricultural machinery and consolidation of original properties have allowed a significant increase in field sizes where there are no limitations from topography. While this results in a loss of hedgerows, it is part of the historic evolution of the cultural landscape. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**Croplands and their changing scale influenced by developments in agricultural mechanization and increasing consolidation of property holdings could be considered a heritage value of the cultural landscape.**



**Figure 3.4c:** In several places within Victoria District NHSC, shelterbelts made up of poplar or willow trees were planted along roads. Eventually these shelterbelts accumulate enough additional vegetation that they are hard to distinguish from naturally-occurring hedgerows. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

In addition to naturally-occurring hedgerows along boundary lines where cultivation did not occur, shelterbelts appear to have been deliberately planted along many of the range

and township roadways. The planting of shelterbelts in Western Canada was actively promoted by the federal Department of Agriculture from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century up to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to providing a more human-scaled visual structure to monumental prairie landscapes, these shelterbelts helped to ameliorate the climate, slowing down winter winds and raising the relative humidity during hot, dry summers.

**The deliberately planted shelterbelts lining county roads within Victoria District NHSC could be considered heritage values of the cultural landscape.**

### 3.5 Viewscapes

Viewscapes according to the *Standards and Guidelines* include vistas, views, aspects, visual axes and sight lines that may (or may not) be framed by vertical features or terminate in a focal point - that are important in defining the overall heritage value of the landscape.



**Figure 3.5a:** A selection of important views that showcase the cultural landscape of Victoria District NHSC. Starting from the top left moving clockwise: North Saskatchewan River from Métis Crossing; Pakan Church and the Clerk's House from the hill to the north; farmstead looking southwest from Range Road 171; Goryniuk farm house looking west from Range Road 171. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]



At Victoria District NHSC important views include:

- views to the North Saskatchewan River from various points in the cultural landscape including Métis Crossing and the historic Victoria Park Cemetery;
- the view looking west along the Victoria Trail toward the Anderson House;
- the view down from Range Road 171a to Pakan Church and the Clerk's House;
- views from the former ferry crossing to the south shore of the North Saskatchewan River; and,
- numerous panoramas, large and small, across the rolling countryside toward farmsteads or to the horizon.

There may well be other important views and vistas known to the residents or stakeholders of Victoria District NHSC that were overlooked by the present researchers who had only limited time to spend at the site. In the course of the Commemorative Integrity Exercise, additional views having heritage value may be identified by residents or local stakeholders.

**Viewscapes for consideration as having heritage value include, but are not limited to, the following: views to the North Saskatchewan River from various points in the cultural landscape; views from the river to the ferry landings; the view looking west along the Victoria Trail toward the Anderson House; the panorama looking down the hill from Range Road 171a to Pakan Church and the Clerk's House; views from the former ferry crossings to the south shore of the North Saskatchewan River; and numerous panoramas, across the rolling country side toward farmsteads, or to the horizon.**

### 3.6 Circulation

Circulation elements that could be considered heritage resources according to the *Standards and Guidelines* include paths, walkways, parking lots, roads, highways, railways and canals that are important in defining the overall heritage value of the landscape.

Today's Victoria Trail includes the remains of the original land-based circulation artery within Victoria District. As the rudimentary cart trail connecting Fort Edmonton and Fort Garry, the trail was a contributing factor to locating the original Methodist mission at Victoria. Most of the earliest Métis farmsteads were located along the Victoria Trail. The fact that the trail largely followed the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River enabled it to provide the river lot settlement with a main circulation artery that ultimately linked the settlers with the outside world.

**Victoria Trail, with its meandering route along the bank of the North Saskatchewan River, could be considered to have heritage landscape value that speaks to both the original Methodist mission and to the early Métis settlement of the area.**

The secondary roadways running back from Victoria Trail and following the river lot property lines, are an important artifact of the river lot system of organizing private property, which the land owners had to lobby to retain in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**These roadways running back from Victoria Trail along the full lengths of the river lot property lines could be considered to have heritage value as a practical expression of the river lot system.**

The grid of roadways following the cardinal directions, which were intrinsic to the rectilinear Dominion Land Survey throughout Western Canada, still exists within Victoria District NHSC as it does in most of the Prairie Provinces. Today the north-south roads in the County of Smoky Lake are called Range Roads, and the east-west roads are called Township Roads. When the Ukrainian settlers arrived, it was this system of roadways that defined their immediate locale.

**The grid of roadways following the cardinal directions, installed because of the Dominion Land Survey in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, could be considered to have historic value because they provided the pattern of circulation for the Ukrainian settlement area within Victoria District NHSC.**

Essentially, Victoria District NHSC is the location where two very different systems of circulation meet.



**Figure 3.6a:** The eastern end of Victoria District NHSC exhibits a very site-specific manner in which the road system of the Dominion Land Survey was made to connect with the existing road system that grew out of the river lots. [NAPL AS5110-203; HCD/Chandler 2006]

**The adaptation of the Dominion Land Survey grid of roads to connect with the river lot roads is unique to Victoria District NHSC, and could be considered to be a heritage value of the cultural landscape.**

An essential part of the character of the cultural landscape of Victoria District is provided by the scale of the roads running through the agricultural landscape. With the exception of Highway 855, the existing widths of the vehicular surfaces of both graveled and paved roads within the national historic site evokes the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The scale of these roadways communicates an earlier and slower pace, that is starting to be a haven for 21<sup>st</sup> century urban and suburban residents.



**Figure 3.6b:** The relatively narrow surfaces of the roadways throughout Victoria District NHSC are remnants of an earlier age and important to the heritage character of the cultural landscape. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**The existing scale of Victoria Trail, and the Range and Township Roads throughout the national historic site could be considered to be an important heritage value of the cultural landscape.**

While the North Saskatchewan River itself will be discussed in **Section 3.7 Water Features**, the sites of the historic ferry landings form a part of the historic circulation system of the cultural landscape. Before the construction of the bridge on what is now Highway 855, there appears to have been three ferry landings within the boundaries of what is now Victoria District NHSC, connecting the north and south banks of the North Saskatchewan River. There was a ferry landing within the village of Pakan, and another in Lobstick Settlement that is now commemorated on the Victoria Trail midway between Range Roads 183 and 184. There was also a ferry crossing on what is now the property of William and Pauline Feniak between Range Roads 184 and 185.

**The sites of the former ferry crossings within the boundaries of the national historic site could be considered to have heritage value within the cultural landscape.**

### 3.7 Water Features

Water features as a category of heritage landscape resource, according to the *Standards and Guidelines*, can include natural ocean fronts, lakes, ponds, sloughs, rivers and streams, as well as constructed pools, dugouts and fountains.

The North Saskatchewan River is the spiritual, if not the geographic, centre of Victoria District NHSC. It was the presence of the river that drew the Woodland Cree, and caused the Reverend McDougall to move the Methodist mission south from Smoky Lake. It was the river that provided the earliest travel routes of the fur trade between Fort Edmonton and Fort Garry. It was the presence of the river that allowed the Métis settlers from Red River to organize their properties according to the river lot system with which they were familiar. It was the resources of the river that provided food to supplement the buffalo hunt and the early subsistence farming. It was a terrace on the north bank of the river that provided the obvious location for the village of Pakan to develop. Finally, it was the river as a potential transportation corridor, that gave rise to the several, though ultimately unsuccessful, schemes to run steam-boats from Edmonton to points east.



**Figure 3.7a:** Pelicans flying above the North Saskatchewan River at Victoria District NHSC, July 2006. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**The North Saskatchewan River forming the southern boundary of Victoria District NHSC could be considered a heritage resource of the cultural landscape having both physical and associative value.**

### 3.8 Built Features

Built features that are important in defining the overall heritage value of the landscape can include residential, commercial and institutional buildings, as well as smaller structures or amenities referred to in the *Standards and Guidelines* such as gazebos, grottoes, bridges, fences, benches, light standards, drinking fountains, playground equipment, statuary.

Victoria District NHSC is particularly rich in built features. In order to discuss them in a clear manner, it might be best to organize this section of the report according to the periods of landscape development first proposed in **Section 2.0 Periods of Development**.

### 3.8.1 Prehistory to the Arrival of the Métis, 1865

The construction of the Clerk's House at Fort Victoria, the newly established Hudson's Bay Company trading post, was started in 1864 and completed in 1865. As such, it is the only built resource still standing from the earliest period of the cultural landscape's development at Victoria District NHSC. It is also the oldest building in Alberta still in its original location. Provincial archaeologists examined the site in 1985. (See Forsman, 1985.)



**Figure 3.8a:** The Clerk's House at Victoria District NHSC. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**The Clerk's House could be considered to have heritage value as a built resource of the cultural landscape.**

### 3.8.2 The Métis Community, 1865 to 1899

The small pox epidemic of 1870 eventually resulted in the deaths of the McDougall daughters who succumbed to the disease. The carving of the McDougall gravestones is of the highest quality, and they look to have been imported from eastern Canada.



**Figure 3.8b:** The four gravestones of McDougall women, three of whom died in the small pox epidemic of 1870 at the Methodist mission at Victoria. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**The McDougall gravestones could be considered to have heritage value as built or crafted resources of the cultural landscape.**

The free trader's house was constructed in the early 1870s on River Lot 7 of Victoria Settlement to house Edward McGillivray, recently retired from the Hudson's Bay Company. McGillivray supported himself as a free trader at Victoria Settlement before rising in the community and moving with his wife to more substantial quarters. In 1907 the house was moved to its present location on River Lot 3 at Victoria Settlement.



**Figure 3.8c:** The free trader's house at Victoria District NHSC. [Parks/Villeneuve, 2000]

**The free trader's house could be considered to have heritage value as a built resource of the cultural landscape.**

The Anderson house is visible from more than a kilometer away when looking west toward it along the Victoria Trail. From that distance the house appears to be a terminus of the Victoria Trail, and is therefore a landmark within the area. In reality the road jogs around the house cutting the farmstead in two. Despite having buildings on both sides of the roadway, the Anderson farmstead is a fairly complete example of a Métis farmstead dating from the last years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It does require further study as it contains buildings from three family occupations: the Whitfords, Favells, and the Andersons. It was also the site of the first North Bank post office run by Henry Anderson, 1907-21. (P. Feniak, pers. Com.)



**Figure 3.8d:** The Anderson house, part of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Métis farmstead. [Parks/Villeneuve, 2000]

**The Anderson house and its ensemble of buildings are a good example of a Métis farmstead from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and could be considered to have heritage value as built resources of the cultural landscape. From a cultural landscape conservation viewpoint, the value of the ensemble of buildings would be far greater than just the house itself.**

The Benjamin Sinclair house was originally located on the Victoria Trail across from the present-day location of the North West Mounted Police monument on River Lot 10 in Lobstick Settlement. It was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century for the son of the early Methodist missionary, also named Benjamin Sinclair, who had established missions in the area that predated the McDougall mission at Victoria. The Sinclair house was originally located across Victoria Trail from the present-day location of the North West Mounted Police monument. In the 1960s the house was moved to Frank Mitchell's property at Victoria District and used to house the Fort Victoria Museum until 1980. Since that time it has remained empty, and has recently been moved to a site at Métis Crossing.



**Figure 3.8e:** The Benjamin Sinclair house when it was located at the Mitchell property in Victoria District. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**The Benjamin Sinclair house could be considered to have heritage value as a built resource of the cultural landscape. From a cultural landscape conservation viewpoint, its greatest value as a heritage resource would be achieved if the building was returned to its original location, regardless of who owned or managed it.**



**Figure 3.8f:** The former Cromarty garage at Métis Crossing. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

In recent years Métis Crossing on Victoria Trail near Highway 855 has been developed on the location of a former 19<sup>th</sup> century Métis farmstead as a museum and centre to celebrate Métis history and culture in Alberta. While the centre, owned and run by the Métis Nation of Alberta, has many goals to attain and needs to meet in the development of the property, there are several buildings on the property that are original to the Cromarty farmstead, many of which are still on their original locations.

**The buildings original to the Cromarty farmstead at Métis Crossing, and particularly those on their historic locations, could be considered to have heritage value as built resources of the cultural landscape.**

The Victoria Park Cemetery was established in 1896 as a burial place associated with the Methodist church. It contains the graves of many of the early settlers who built Victoria District and the village of Pakan. The six acres of the cemetery is now owned by the United Church of Canada.



**Figure 3.8g:** The road leading up the hill to Victoria Park Cemetery with its entrance sign at Victoria Trail. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**Victoria Park Cemetery with its grave markers, orientation and layout, could be considered to have heritage value as built resources of the cultural landscape.**

Throughout Victoria District NHSC there are several other buildings and structures that might date to the second period of the cultural landscape development, 1865 to 1899. Most of these are agricultural buildings that represent fragments of farmstead that have largely vanished over the years. While this section has highlighted certain structures as built resources of the cultural landscape, there may well be other buildings that could be added to this list.

### **3.8.3 The Ukrainian Settlement Period, 1899 to 1920**

Built resources from the Ukrainian Settlement Period are particularly well represented at Victoria District NHSC, and unlike the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, all of the houses and outbuildings remain in their original locations.



The first and second Cebuliak homesteads on Range Road 171 and the Rubuliak homestead on Range Road 170 contain original Ukrainian-style houses with associated outbuildings sited according to principles brought by the settlers from their birthplace in Bukovina. These three homesteads are within the current boundaries of the national historic site.



**Figure 3.8h:** The Ukrainian-style house at the Rubuliak homestead. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**The first and second Cebuliak homesteads and the Rubuliak homestead, with their Ukrainian-style houses and their outbuildings, could be considered to have heritage value as built resources of the cultural landscape.**

In 1906 the current Pakan Church was constructed in what was then the Village of Pakan. This building is the only surviving building associated with Methodist missionary activity at Victoria District.

**Pakan Church could be considered to have heritage value as a built resource of the cultural landscape.**

#### **3.8.4 Decline and Resurgence, 1921 to the Present**

This section of the history of the cultural landscape at Victoria District NHSC was entitled ‘Decline and Resurgence’ because of the devastating effect of the rail line being built through Smoky Lake rather than through Pakan. After the relentless decline of the Village of Pakan to the point of disappearance, the area of the village went into a phase of quiescence that has recently given way to the current phase of development for cultural tourism. However, away from Pakan, in the farmland of eastern and northern Victoria District much of the development associated with the Ukrainian settlers continued through the 1920s.



**Figure 3.8i:** The current building at Ruthenia School was constructed in 1924. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

Ruthenia School was constructed on a site adjacent to the northern part of Victoria District NHSC. It was the second building on a school reserve that was one of the first all-Ukrainian schools in the area.

**Despite the fact that the remaining school building is outside the current boundaries of the national historic site, Ruthenia School could be considered to have heritage value as a built resource of the cultural landscape.**

Although the Goryniuk homestead is built on a quarter section of land just outside the boundary of Victoria District NHSC, the homestead with its Ukrainian style house and outbuildings is a particularly fine example of a type of farmstead site planning that was traditional in the Ukraine. One of the outbuildings contains a traditional brick oven.



**Figure 3.8j:** The Goryniuk house constructed in 1925. [Parks/Villeneuve, 2000]

**Despite the fact that the Goryniuk farmstead is outside the current boundaries of the national historic site, the house and its outbuildings could be considered to have heritage value as built resources of the cultural landscape.**



**Figure 3.8k:** One of the houses on the Osinchuck property that exhibits elements of both traditional Ukrainian design and Canadian construction. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

The Osinchuck homestead off of Township Road 584 contains a series of buildings that show the transition from traditional Ukrainian farmhouse construction to contemporary Canadian house building.

**The collection of houses on the Osinchuck homestead could be considered to have heritage value as built resources of the cultural landscape that demonstrate the transition from Ukrainian to Canadian housing design and construction.**

Pakan Asphodel Cemetery was originally established by a private cemetery company in 1923 and eventually taken over by the United Church of Canada. It is located on a triangular property long Range Road 171a at the boundary of the national historic site. Several early Pakan settlers are buried there including members of the Mitchell and Cromarty families. There is also a grouping of graves for a family of Asian origin. In traditional manner, these graves are oriented toward the country of their birth.



**Figure 3.8l:** Pakan Asphodel Cemetery. The Asphodel is a native prairie wild flower, whose European relative was associated with the world of the dead in Greek mythology. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**Pakan Asphodel Cemetery with its grave markers, orientation and layout, could be considered to have heritage value as built resources of the cultural landscape.**

Throughout Victoria District NHSC there are several commemorative plaques and monuments including the about to be installed HSMBC Plaques. These plaques are indicative of the turn in the fortunes of the area toward cultural tourism.



**Figure 3.8m:** One of several commemorative markers to be found throughout Victoria District NHSC. [Parks/Villeneuve, 2000]

**All of the existing commemorative plaques and monuments within the boundaries of the national historic site could be considered to have heritage value as built resources of the cultural landscape.**

### 3.9 Archaeological Remains

Several of the historic activity areas within Victoria District NHSC have lost most or all of their above ground built resources. These include the former site of the original Methodist mission established by the Rev. George McDougall and his family; all of the buildings of the Hudson's Bay Company's trading post, Fort Victoria, except for the Clerk's House which is still standing; the grist mill on Smoky Creek; parts of the Victoria Trail that are not used today; Pakan Village; and, the steam boat landing and ferry crossings. The original Methodist mission site and Fort Victoria have been the foci of archaeological investigations and have had at least some *in situ* resources identified. Around the Clerk's House there is ground interpretation outlining the foundations of buildings that were located through archaeological excavations. However, all of the above sites are likely to have at least some buried archaeological remains that could be considered to be heritage resources.



**Figure 3.9a:** This site of a former ferry crossing, seemingly bare, is likely to have buried resources that could be important for understanding the cultural landscape. [HCD/Latremouille, 2006]

**The following sites have archeological remains, or are likely to contain archaeological remains, that could have heritage value within of the cultural landscape:**

- **the former site of the original Methodist mission;**
- **the former site of Fort Victoria;**
- **the grist mill on Smoky Creek;**
- **parts of the Victoria Trail that are not used because of re-routing of the roadway;**
- **the former site of Pakan Village;**
- **the former steam boat landing, and the ferry crossings.**

## 4.0 REFERENCES

- Beeston, E.K., 1889. "Inspection Report [for the Hudson's Bay Company], Victoria Post 19/20<sup>th</sup> September, 1889".
- Cebuliak, Steve, n.d. "Ruthenia School District #2408 1911-1950" in *Our Legacy: History of Smoky Lake and Area*.
- Cebuliak, William and Steve, n.d. "Dimitri and Dokitsa Cebuliak" in *Our Legacy: History of Smoky Lake and Area*.
- Dick, Lyle, 1987. *A History of Prairie Settlement Patterns 1870 - 1930*. MRS 307. Ottawa: HSMBC.
- Dickason, Olive Patricia, 1996. *Canada's First Nations, A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Forsman, Michael R. A., 1985. *The Archaeology of Victoria Post 1864-1897*. Edmonton: Archaeological Survey of Alberta, Manuscript Series No. 6, Alberta Culture, Historical Resources Division.
- Geiger, John Grigsby, n.d. "River Lot Three, Victoria Settlement History / Land Use History".
- Hohol, Demjan, 1985. *The Grekul House: A Land Use and Structural History*. Occasional Paper No. 14. Edmonton: Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture.
- Hurt, Leslie J., 1979. *The Victoria Settlement: 1862-1922*. Edmonton: Alberta Culture, Historic Sites Service.
- Jackson, J.B., 1980. *The Necessity for Ruins, and Other Topics*. Boston: University of Massachusetts Press.
- Maryn, Sonia, 1985. *The Chernochan Machine Shed: A Land Use Structural History*. Occasional Paper No. 12. Edmonton: Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture.
- Maryn, Sonia, 1985. *The Chernochan Machine Shed: Ukrainian Farm Practices in East Central Alberta*. Occasional Paper No. 13. Edmonton: Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture.
- Melnycky, Peter, 1997. *A Veritable Canaan: Alberta's Victoria Settlement*. Edmonton: Friends of the Victoria Historical Society.
- Mitchell, Frank E., 1974. *A History of Pioneering in the Pakan District*.

Parks Canada, 1994. *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*. Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services Canada.]

Ponich, Rev. D. M., 1971. "Autobiographical and Historical Account of Settlement in the Pakan and Smoky Lake Areas". Typed Manuscript.

UNESCO/ICOMOS Expert Group, 1995. World Heritage Convention Operational Guidelines, February 1995.

Victoria Home Guard Society, 1999a. *Application to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada*. September 15, 1999.

Victoria Home Guard Society, 1999b. "Victoria Rural Historic Designation Submission Sent for Ministerial Approval". *Smoky Lake Signal*, December 15, 1999.

Villeneuve, Lynda, 2000. *Victoria Settlement, Alberta* (translation). Ottawa: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Submission Report 2000-51A.

Wilkins, F.W., 1887. *Field Notes of Wesleyan Methodist Mission Surveys N.W.T.* Ottawa: Dominion Land Survey, November 1887.

**Appendix A:**  
**Aerial Photos: 1920 to 2000**





