

Box 1155  
Elk Point AB  
T0A 1A0

March 9, 2012

County of St. Paul  
5015 49 Ave  
St. Paul AB  
T0A 3A4

Dear County Councillors:

The Ferguson Flats Association requests that the County of St. Paul designate Fern Chapel as a municipal historic site under the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program.

Fern Chapel is one of Alberta's few remaining first generation schoolhouses. It was in use as a school from 1914 to 1949. In addition to being a school, it was also used as a community centre. The Ferguson Flats Association eventually purchased the land and building to preserve it for our community. In fact, that purchase is the reason our association was formed. In 2001, an extensive restoration project was initiated to return Fern Chapel to its original condition. Work was completed in 2003. The building is fully furnished with antiques and rich in local history. The public is welcome to view the building by appointment. We are asking for municipal historical designation to ensure that this treasure is preserved for future generations.

At this point in time, all restoration work is complete. Care and maintenance of the building and grounds is performed by dedicated community volunteers. No financial commitment is needed for this site. Should funding be required in the future, designation under this program would allow us to access provincial funding for restoration and preservation of the site.

For more information about Fern Chapel and for assistance in completing the documentation required for designation under the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, please contact our association president, Bruno Kummetz (780-724-2024) or our association historian, Sandra Ockerman (780-724-2353, [sockerman@mcsnet.ca](mailto:sockerman@mcsnet.ca)).

For more information about the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, please see the website [www.mhpp.ab.ca](http://www.mhpp.ab.ca). Questions about the designation program may be directed to Matthew Francis, manager of Municipal Heritage Services (780-438-8502).

Attached find a report submitted to our association by one of our members after a visit from Gary Chen, Heritage Historic Adviser; an excerpt from our minutes authorizing this request; and photos of Fern Chapel.

We look forward to working with the County to achieve historic designation for this site.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Bayduza  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Ferguson Flats Association

Cc Bruno Kummetz, Ferguson Flats Association President  
Sandra Ockerman, Ferguson Flats Association Historian  
Gary Chen, Heritage Conservation Adviser