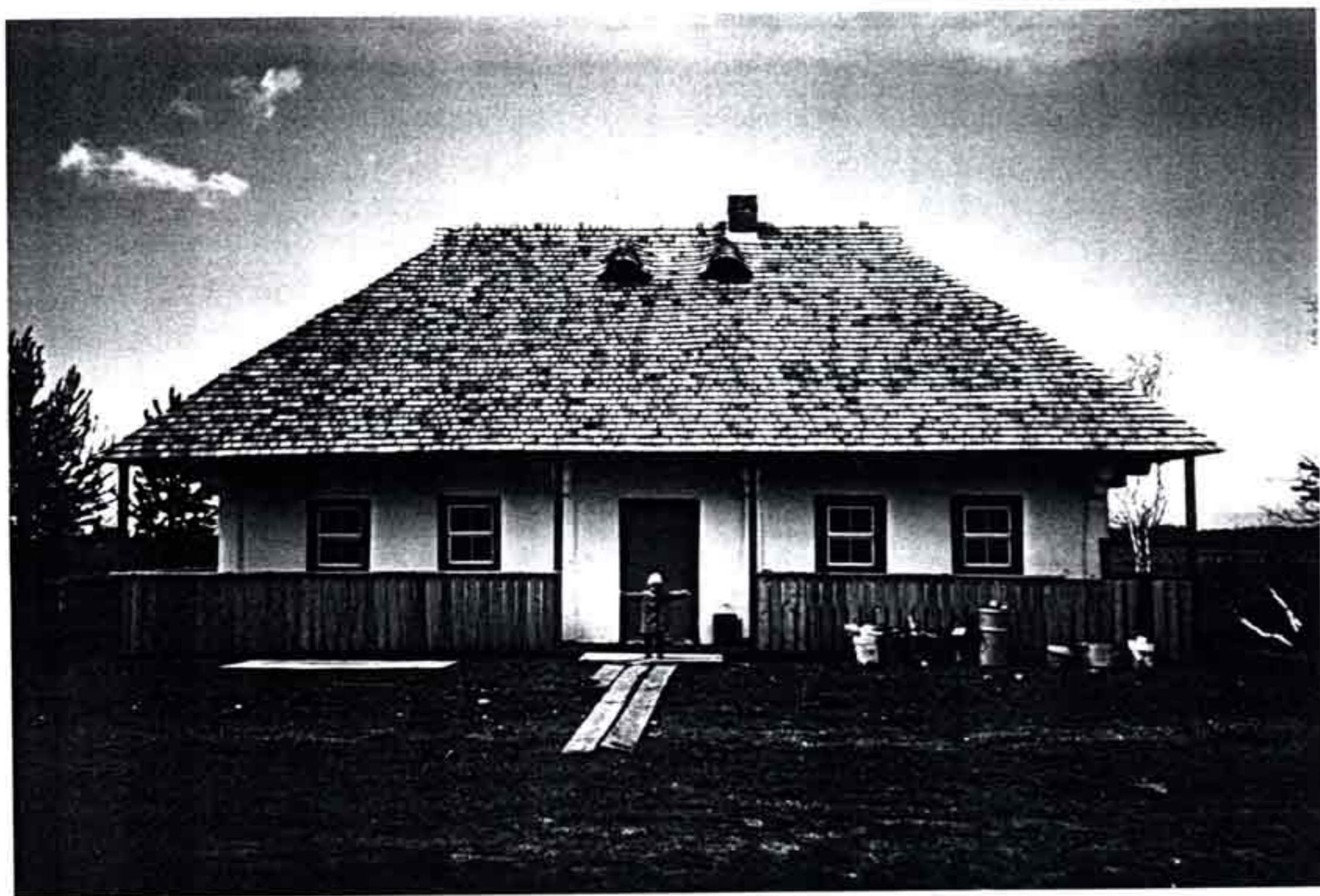


St. Elijah Pioneer Museum
Paulencu House

Pamphlets

1. Early Pamphlet for Paulencu House. c. 199?, 4 pages.
2. Manitoba Heritage Technical Fiche on Paulencu House. c. 199?, 1 page.

*Paulencu
Pioneer
House*



How the Cottage was Preserved

At one time there were several of these cottages in the district, notably those owned by the Paulencu brothers, John and George, and the Iftody family. The Paulencu house is the only one of its kind still existing in Canada and, perhaps, North America.

This house sat abandoned on a nearby farm for many years and was saved from demolition through the efforts of a number of local citizens. It was moved to its present location and after many hours of volunteer work was restored to its present condition. Financial assistance was obtained from private donations and from the Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

Future Plans for the Cottage

The next stage of this renovation program will see finishing touches and painting done on the walls, ceilings and woodwork. Efforts will continue to use authentic materials and colors which were present in the original structure. This will be followed by the installation of furniture and appliances which will replicate, to the extent possible, those that existed in

the house during the pioneer years. The final stage will see the placement of mannequins wearing the traditional dress of the Bucovina region during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

With all the original pioneers, except one, now deceased, the original Romanian culture and traditions are gradually disappearing. It is hoped that, by preserving these buildings, this part of the early history of the community will remain alive for present and future generations. The Province of Manitoba recognized the significance of this piece of history and designated the restored church and this project as a Provincial Heritage Site.

The few remaining members of the original pioneer families have contributed much physical effort and financial resources to create these interesting and beautiful attractions for all to enjoy. Any contribution, however small, to help us to continue this project will be appreciated. Thank you for visiting with us and please come back.

*St. Elijah Church Museum
Inglis, Manitoba
R0J 0X0*

History of the Local Pioneers

The Paulencu family arrived in the Lennard community from Voloca, Bucovina in 1904. Bucovina, which was once a province of Romania, was in those days occupied by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Several families from Voloca and other nearby villages decided to emigrate to Canada to take advantage of the free homesteads which were being offered by the Canadian government. Some of these immigrants first settled in the MacNutt district of Saskatchewan (which was then part of the Northwest Territories), but later decided to move across the Assiniboine and Shell Rivers to the Assessippi area of Manitoba. The new community was later named Lennard. The first of these immigrants was Eli Burla, who donated the land on which the St. Elijah Church now stands.

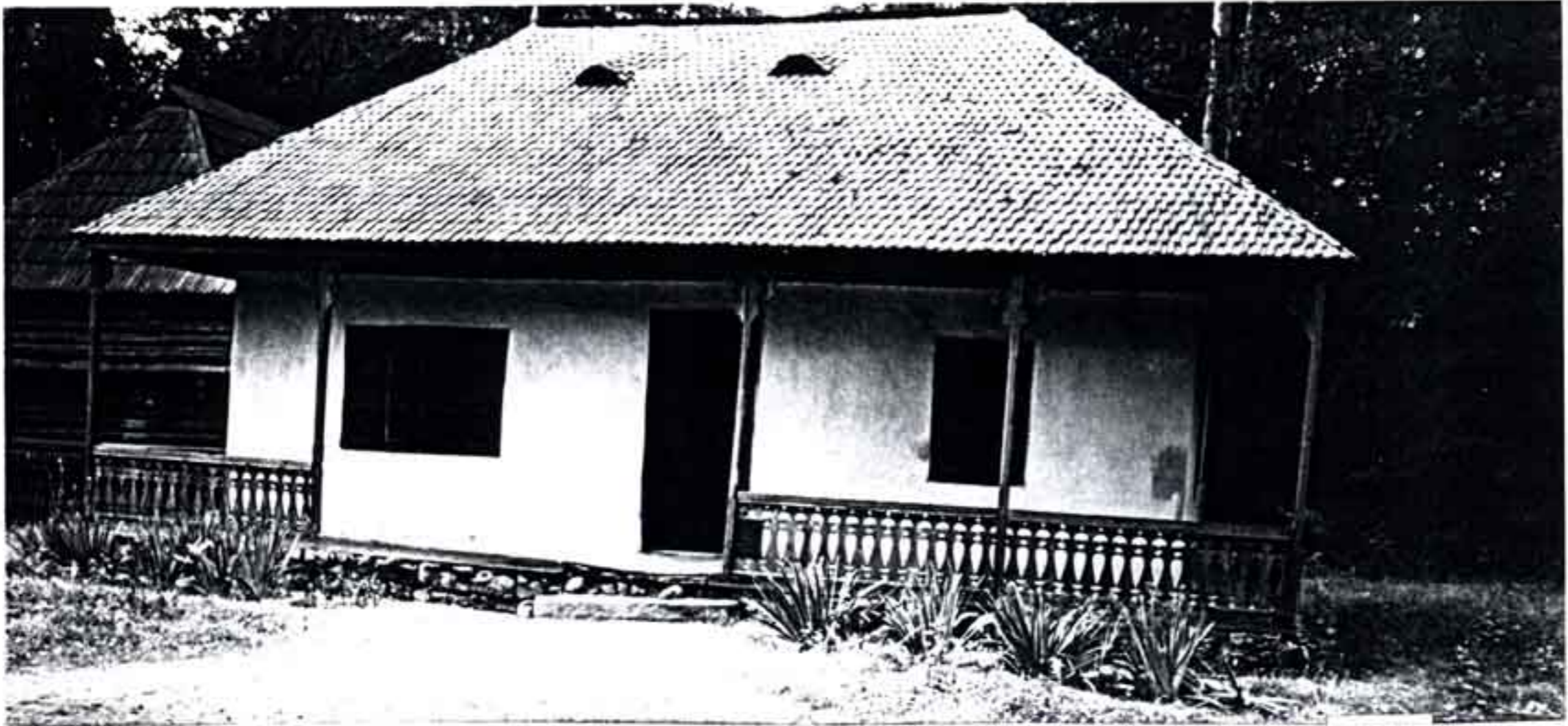
After spending their first one or two winters in rough, sod-covered cabins, the pioneers began to construct cottages, some of which were in the style of those in the villages of northern Bucovina. To the extent possible, these structures utilized local materials, such as logs for the walls, mud and straw for chinking the walls, and stones for

foundations. Lumber for the roof and floor was obtained from spruce logs cut down in a nearby area on the western fringe of what is now Riding Mountain National Park. These logs were sawed into boards at local sawmills. Only the windows, nails, shingles and lime had to be purchased.

Family Life in the Cottage

Because of the large size of families in those days, efficient use had to be made of these relatively small residences. The Paulencu house, which was constructed in 1906, was once home to a family of ten. When the children arrived, a bedroom was constructed for them in one half of the attic. The other half was used for food storage and as a smoke house. Meat and fish were hung on wooden poles suspended from the ceiling. The smoke came from a wood stove on the main level through a pipe opening in the chimney. As the family grew, a bed was usually added in the kitchen. The importance of spiritual values to the family is reflected in the religious carving which adorns the hand-planed beam in the great room.

A Bucovina cottage now situated at the Village Museum in Bucharest, Romania.





- SITE NAME:** John Paulencu Romanian Folk-house
- SITE LOCATION:** SW24-23-24W, Lennard District, R.M. of Shellmouth
3 miles north, 1/2 mile west of Inglis, Manitoba
- OWNER:** St. Elijah Pioneer Church Museum
c/o Barry Sawchuk, R.R.#1
Inglis MB R0J OXO
- DESIGNATION:** Provincial Heritage Site designation on March 1, 1993 by the
Honourable Bonnie Mitchelson, Minister of Culture, Heritage and
Citizenship

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Paulencu house is the only known surviving Romanian folk-house in the Province of Manitoba. It was constructed in 1906 by John and Mary Paulencu under the guidance of carpenter Alexie Slusarchuk. It was occupied by the Paulencu's and their family of seven children until approximately 1960 when it was vacated permanently. Three other, nearly identical homes, were constructed on the adjoining homesteads by relatives and friends of the Paulencu family, but none have survived.

The Paulencu family (widow Dominica Paulencu, two sons John and George and daughter Marina), arrived in Canada in 1899 from Crnogitz, Romanina, then a part of Bukovynia, a province of the great Austria-Hungarian empire. After briefly settling near Wroxton, Saskatchewan the family relocated to Lennard, Manitoba where a small Romanian enclave was developing. The Paulencu house, not surprisingly, shares stylistic similarities to the houses constructed by Manitoba's Ukrainian-speaking immigrants who also hailed from Bukovynia. The Paulencu house, however, is larger and somewhat more ornate than its Ukrainian counterpart, possessing interior ceiling beams decorated with hand carved religious symbols and a full second storey. In the frontier community in which it was built, the Paulencu house undoubtedly was considered a very substantial home.