

First Presbyterian Church

The first place of worship was a log building (35 or 40 feet long by 25 or 30 feet wide) to the construction of which all who were capable of any work contributed their labour. It was built in 1787 on the west side of the East River a short distance from New Glasgow and was located on " a rising ground between the old burying ground and the line of the present railway." This unheated crude building served for 16 years until the frame building located just beyond the fork at the top of the hill on the MacLellan's Brook Road at Irishtown (Plymouth) became the home of the congregation in 1803 and so continued for half a century. It was during this time that the congregation was incorporated as James Church (1834); some of the congregation disjoined and formed the Primitive Church. James Church was opened on MacLean Street, May 30, 1852.

In 1866 nearly one third of the members and adherents left to form Sharon Church.

~~First Presbyterian Church~~ - - edited by J. M. Cameron
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Imagine a high church unsealed on the top with a high gallery (and this was the style of the present century) and high square backed seats. High at the end was perched the pulpit, below this the parson's seat and below that the elder's pew where they all sat together to keep an eye on the congregation. No fire in the winter. Seats were hewn out of large logs. Simple one part singing service from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or later.

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Through these early years the life of the Presbyterian reflected in a great measure the differences of opinions prevalent in the Church of Scotland. The long struggle for civil and ecclesiastical rights of the Presbyterian Church and people as well as the differences of opinion largely on Church Government seemed to be a part of the natural growth of evolution of the greater and finer Presbyterian system as later developed. Eleven different branches of Presbyterianism were finally evolved into the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1875.

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New Glasgow had in early years four Presbyterian Churches.

- (1) James (from which Sharon came)
- (2) St. Andrew's the Kirk (from which St. John's Stellarton came)

- (3) John Knox (the Free)
- (4) Primitive (situated on Provost Street where
the Roseland Theatre now stands
and burned in the big fire of 1874)