

CITY OF ST. ALBERT

BYLAW 16/2009

Being a Bylaw to designate the Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator as a Municipal Historic Resource.

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WHEREAS Section 26 of the *Historic Resources Act* R.S.A. 2000, c. H-9, as amended, provides that a municipality may by bylaw designate any historic resource within the municipality whose preservation it considers to be in the public interest, together with any land on which it is located, as a Municipal Historic Resource; and

WHEREAS the Council of the City of St. Albert has determined that it is in the public interest to preserve the Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator and the land upon which the building is situated as a Municipal Historic Resource;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the City of St. Albert, having complied with the requirements of the *Historical Resources Act*, hereby ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The building known as the Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator, specifically described in Schedule "A" and the lands on which the building is located, being the lands legally described in Schedule "B", are hereby designated a Municipal Historic Resource ("Historic Resource").
2. The Chief Administrative Officer is appointed by Council to administer the implementation of any matters arising out of this designation and, in particular, for the purpose of determining whether a written approval shall be given under Section 3 of this Bylaw.
3. No person shall:
  - a. destroy, disturb, alter, restore, repair or in any way cause changes to the Historic Resource; or
  - b. remove any historic object from the Historic Resource,without the written approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.
4. Except as provided herein, the Chief Administrative Officer, in the Chief Administrative Officer's absolute discretion, may refuse to grant an approval under Section 3 of this Bylaw or may make the approval subject to any conditions the Chief Administrative Officer considers appropriate.

5. In exercising the discretion under Section 3 of this Bylaw the Chief Administrative Officer shall consider The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada adopted for use in Alberta by the Province of Alberta.

## SCHEDULE "A"

### TO BYLAW 16/2009

Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator, 4C Meadowview Drive, St. Albert

#### **Description of Historic Place**

The Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator is clad in sheet metal with an attached drive shed and an office/engine house that is connected to a main structure by a covered walkway. The elevator is located on Meadowview Drive in St. Albert on a 0.8 hectare parcel of land. It is situated adjacent to the Canadian National Railway line and beside an Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator.

#### **Heritage Value**

The Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator possesses heritage value as one of the oldest extant elevators in the province built by one of its earliest grain companies. Grain elevators possess significance as both embodiments of the dominant method of grain storage and transportation throughout most of the twentieth century in Alberta and as icons of the province's social and agricultural history.

The construction of two railway lines to Edmonton - the Calgary and Edmonton Railway in 1891 and the Canadian Northern Railway (CNR) in 1905 - opened up central-northern Alberta to agricultural settlement and spurred the growth of a grain economy in the region. In anticipation on the CNR line being extended northwest, and caught up in the optimism about the area's prospects for development, the Alberta Grain Company built an elevator in St. Albert in 1906 (although the railway line was not extended for another three years). The 30,000 bushel, rectangular, gasoline powered structure is one of the earliest extant elevators in Alberta; indeed, the first elevator of this type in Alberta had been built only 10 years before. Throughout the course of its history, the Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator site was owned by a number of companies who played leading roles in the province's grain economy, including; the Alberta Grain Company, the Alberta Pacific Grain Company, the Federal Grain Company, and the Alberta Wheat Pool. In 1937, the grain elevator was raised vertically in order to increase bin capacity. This was a technique for moving higher volumes of grain before the construction of adjacent annexes become common. Consequently the elevator was able to operate until 1989 when St. Albert was closed as a railway point for grain export.

Grain elevators are singular symbols of the Prairies, reflecting the region's deep economic and social connections to agricultural life and providing striking vertical landmarks against the often-monotonous flatness of the West. Like other grain elevators in Alberta, the Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator was an integral part of St. Albert's social fabric. The site encapsulates a pattern that defines the history of many of Alberta's early communities - the growth of settlement following the arrival of the railway and the construction of grain elevators, the rise of co-operative ethos that changed the nature of grain marketing in western Canada, and the closing of older grain elevators in recent decades as a result of improvements to the province's transportation infrastructure and the development of mass storage facilities for grain. The elevator complex thus represents in microcosm a whole range of changes to the Alberta economy and society during the twentieth century. Together, the Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator and the Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator form an elevator row that is a landmark for the community of St. Albert.

## **Character-Defining Elements**

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator include:

- the scale and massing of the elevator;
- the tall rectangular design expressing its grain handling function, with wooden crib construction, exposed structural members, sloping shoulder design, wood framing and cupola;
- metal cladding of pattern pressed galvanized sheet metal overtop of lapped wood siding;
- in situ components of the grain handling systems, such as the elevator leg and distributor, weigh scale, hopper scale, and drive shed scale bed, control wheel and levers, electric motors, bins, hopper, belts and pulleys for the vertical conveyor belt, wood bins and chutes, and man-lift;
- fenestration pattern;
- prominent corporate signage; and
- spatial relationships between the Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator, the Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator, and the railway line.

**Source: Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture, Historic Resources Management Branch (Files: Des.1723 and Des. 2173)**

SCHEDULE "B"

TO BYLAW 16/2009

PLAN 0625107  
BLOCK 9  
LOT 2

EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS