

CITY OF ST. ALBERT

BYLAW 15/2009

Being a Bylaw to designate the Little White School House as a
Municipal Historic Resource.

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 building known as the Little White School House 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 Little White School House, 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 15/2009

Little White School House, 2 Madonna Drive, St. Albert

Description of Historic Place

The Little White School is located midway on a south-facing embankment called "Seven Hill" in downtown St. Albert facing Mission Avenue and the downtown. It has attained the status of a local landmark as a result of its prominent and highly visible location.

Heritage Value

The Little White School, originally known as the Father Jan School, was constructed between 1946 and 1948 to address the problem of overcrowding in the only local school. The Little White School House is significant for its association with the Catholic Church and the early development of an education system in St. Albert, and with the St. Albert Catholic School Board.

The Little White School is significant for its association with Father Alphonse Jan, O.M.I. (1874-1934) who was parish priest of St. Albert from 1926-1930. During this time he was responsible for the revival of St. Albert's history and played a major role in making the Father Lacombe commemorative statue a reality. He worked on the reconstruction of the Father Lacombe Chapel for use as a museum.

The Little White School is significant as an excellent example of simple vernacular two-room school design typical of the numerous small schools that were constructed before and after WW2 to accommodate the growing provincial population.

The Little White School is significant as a local landmark due to its prominent hillside location.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Little White School House include its:

Exterior

- prominent location on a downtown hill facing the Sturgeon River;
- institutional form, scale and massing, as expressed by:
 - its simple vernacular single-storey design and
 - rectangular plan with two classrooms on the main level;
- steeply-pitched cedar shingle hip roofs;
- wood frame construction on concrete foundations;
- lightly-textured stucco finish;
- fenestration on the west, east and south elevations, with double-hung three-over-three wooden sash windows and matching storms;
- basement wood windows and storms;
- entrance double door with transom configuration, and rear exit door flanked by 2 double-hung wood windows;
- brick chimney;
- enclosure for stair from basement on north elevation; and
- painted wood letters and numbers above the front entrance and original bells on the side walls.

Interior

- painted wood letters and numbers above the front entrance and original bells on the side walls.
- typical school layout with 2 classrooms, 2 adjacent offices and a large corridor on the main level, washrooms, mechanical room and multi-use spaces on the lower level;
- hardwood floors;
- wood double-hung windows with painted sashes, clear varnish wood rail and stile doors, clear varnish wood trims and baseboards;
- wood basement windows;
- entrance stair configuration with clear varnish wood treads, dark varnish risers and wood handrails;
- clear varnish wood wainscoting throughout the main level;
- fixed, original classroom furnishings including multiple chalkboards; and
- basement boys and girls washroom configurations with original fixtures.

Source: Little White School Proposed Conservation Plan, David Murray Architect (2008)

SCHEDULE "B"

TO BYLAW 15/2009

PLAN 3159KS
BLOCK 8
LOT 28

EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS
AREA: 0.34 HECTARES (0.84 ACRES) MORE OR LESS