

CITY OF ST. ALBERT

BYLAW 17/2009

Being a Bylaw to designate the Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator 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 Alberta Wheat Pool 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 Wheat Pool 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 17/2009

Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator, 4B Meadowview Drive, St. Albert

Description of Historic Place

The Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator includes a rectangular traditional wooden elevator with an attached drive shed and an office/engine house connected to the 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 Grain Company Grain Elevator.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator lies in its embodiment of the dominant method of grain storage and transportation throughout most of the twentieth century in Alberta. It also possesses value as an icon of the province's social and agricultural history.

The arrival in Edmonton of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway line in 1891 and the Canadian Northern Railway line in 1905 were essential in opening central Alberta to settlement and establishing the region's grain economy. In 1909, the Canadian Northern (after 1919, the Canadian National) line was extended to St. Albert. Over the succeeding two decades, St. Albert grew quickly. In 1929, the Alberta Wheat Pool (AWP) constructed the agricultural district's largest grain elevator to date, just east of the town's first elevator (built by the Alberta Grain Company in 1906). The AWP was founded in 1923 during the administration of the United Farmers of Alberta (1921-35) and reflected the rise of the cooperative ethos among Alberta's agriculturalists. Like other wheat pools, it sought to maximize returns to farmers by marketing their grain directly to the Central Selling Agency in Winnipeg, providing an alternative to selling through middlemen and the Grain Exchange. The 35,000 bushel elevator built by the AWP in St. Albert in 1929 was derived from the standard plans used by the organization at the end of the 1920s during a period of rapid expansion. It is one of the oldest extant AWP grain elevators in the province. By the mid-twentieth century the AWP had become a major grain marketer, owning more elevators in Alberta than any other company. It acquired the neighbouring Alberta Grain Company Grain Elevator in St. Albert in 1967.

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 Wheat Pool 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 Wheat Pool Elevator and the Alberta Grain Company 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 Wheat Pool 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;
- beveled cedar 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;
- prominent corporate signage; and
- spatial relationships between the Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator, the Alberta Grain Company 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 17/2009

FIRSTLY: PLAN 0625107
BLOCK 9
LOT 3

EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS

SECONDLY: PLAN 0625107
BLOCK 9
LOT 4

EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS