



November 1, 2021

SPC on Infrastructure & Planning

City of Calgary

PO Box 2100 Stn M
Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of Arthur Bishop Residence

Dear Members of Infrastructure & Planning:



Heritage Calgary, in accordance with its role to advise Council and Administration on heritage matters in the City of Calgary, would like to take this opportunity to support the designation of the Arthur Bishop Residence, located in the community of Crescent Heights, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Arthur Bishop Residence, built in 1912, is a substantial 2½ -storey residence clad in painted lap wood siding. It has a very steep side-gable roof and 2nd-storey front extensions under a cross-gable roof, and an enclosed front veranda with a central front entrance. It sits on a landscaped corner lot within a residential street and neighbourhood.

The house is notable for its use in 1995-2000 as the Black Orchid Manor — one of the few gay-friendly B&Bs in Calgary at that time. It was also the site of many social gatherings, offering a safe, welcoming place for gay men especially. The house was owned by Barry Gagliardi and shared with Ron Scheetz and Don Bastian. Bastian and Scheetz built many interior and exterior improvements, and Gagliardi decorated with antique furniture and stained glass he made.

The three men were influential in Calgary as out, activist gay men at a time when this was both uncommon and risky, personally and professionally. From 2002-13, Sheetz was co-owner of the Calgary Eagle in East Calgary, the city's only Leather bar. The bar welcomed LGBTQ+ and straight patrons and did much fundraising for gay rights and HIV causes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter. Should you or your staff require more information, please contact me at jtraptow@heritagecalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

Josh Traptow
Executive Director
Heritage Calgary



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PO Box 2100 Stn M
Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of McPherson Ranch House

Dear Members of Infrastructure & Planning:



Heritage Calgary, in accordance with its role to advise Council and Administration on heritage matters in the City of Calgary, would like to take this opportunity to support the designation of the McPherson Ranch House located in the community of Signal Hill, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The ca1910 McPherson Ranch House is a two-storey Foursquare-style house clad in red brick featuring a symmetrical façade with prominent centred front entry, a high-pitched, hipped roof with cresting on the ridge, and a full-width verandah with

balcony. The 1235 m2 property is surrounded by expansive gardens and part of a former tree belt of very tall mature trees. The property is situated in the lower Richmond Hill part of Signal Hill, formerly known as Spruce Vale, at the edge of a housing development and just northwest of the Elbow River.

The McPherson Ranch House, located on former McPherson family ranch lands and operated by the family for nearly a century, possesses activity value for its associations with ranching. The lands were first homesteaded by Joseph McPherson (1833-1913) and his wife Jane (nee McIntosh, ca1835-1909) who emigrated in 1856 from Aberdeen, Scotland, first settling at Carluke, Ontario. Encouraged by their friend (well-known Calgary pioneer Colonel James Walker, also from Carluke), the family moved to Calgary in 1883 and in 1884 began raising crops in the Spruce Vale area, six miles southwest of town. By 1886 they also had 15 horses, 45 head of cattle, 5 log stables and a granary. McPherson, who was active in the agricultural society and fair competitions, was known for his purebred Clydesdales; he also owned one of two threshing machines in the area.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter. Should you or your staff require more information, please contact me at jtraptow@heritagecalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

Josh Traptow
Executive Director
Heritage Calgary

#304, 319 10 AVE SW CALGARY, AB T2R 0A5 | 403 805 7084 | HERITAGECALGARY.CA



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Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of Rideout (Mitchell-Sproule) Residence

Dear Members of Infrastructure & Planning:



Heritage Calgary, in accordance with its role to advise Council and Administration on heritage matters in the City of Calgary, would like to take this opportunity to support the designation of the Rideout (Mitchell-Sproule) Residence, located in the community of Upper Mount Royal, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Rideout (Mitchell-Sproule) Residence, built in 1912, is a substantial 1½-storey residence clad in red brick below and wood shingles above. It has a three-quarter-width

inset front veranda, and a side-gable roof with two front cross-gables of uneven lengths with an enclosed sunporch between them. The house has a deep front setback on pie-shaped lot within a block and neighbourhood of substantial single-family houses.

This house was first owned and occupied by Harrison E. Rideout, a contractor, from c. 1912 until his death in 1915. It has since been owned and occupied by just two families. Gertrude Jackson Mitchell bought the house and lived there from 1920 (except possibly 1932) until her death in 1951. She was the widow of Arthur Mitchell, a prominent Vulcan real estate agent who died in 1919. Mitchell was active in women's clubs, the Wesley United Church, and taught in the mid-1920s at Earl Grey School.

It was next purchased in 1951 by John Campbell Sproule, a nationally known geologist, and his wife, Harriet Maude Sproule, and shared with their two daughters. John worked for the Geological Survey of Canada and oil companies. His advocacy for arctic oil exploration led to the founding of Panarctic Oil, a public-private consortium, in 1968. Among many professional honours, an arctic peninsula is named for him. After Sproule died in 1970, his wife stayed until her death in 1994. One of the daughters then acquired and restored the house, making a small side addition.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter. Should you or your staff require more information, please contact me at jtraptow@heritagecalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

Josh Traptow
Executive Director
Heritage Calgary



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Re: Designation of Wright Residence

Dear Members of Infrastructure & Planning:



Heritage Calgary, in accordance with its role to advise Council and Administration on heritage matters in the City of Calgary, would like to take this opportunity to support the designation of the Wright Residence located in the community of Elbow Park, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Wright Residence is a one and one-half storey Craftsman-style wooden-frame house with asymmetrical massing. The home features a front-gabled roof with large triangular wooden brackets. The front

facade of the residence has an inset enclosed porch on one side with an oversized tapered column set on a bellcast pier with wooden shingles. The cozy and inviting home is located mid-block lined with mature trees and other contemporaneous Arts & Crafts style homes.

The Wright Residence, built in 1914, is valued for its association with the early development of the prosperous Elbow Park community, one of Calgary's finest residential developments, and for its association with the Wright Family, one of the earliest and long-time owners of the home and a socially prominent family in Calgary. This section of Elbow Park was subdivided in 1909 as the Rosevale subdivision by pioneer rancher and builder, Felix A. McHugh (1851-1912), after annexation by the City of Calgary in 1907. Rosevale was part of the larger Elbow Park area designed by real estate developer and colourful entrepreneur, Freddy Lowes, whose vision was to create an exclusive residential suburb with spacious lots and exquisite homes situated on the peaceful banks of the Elbow River. The property was sold in 1922 to Annetta (nee Bannerman) Christina Wright and her husband, Joseph Erastus Wright (ca. 1860-1943). The Wrights were early pioneers from Red Deer, both arriving with their families in the 1880s, and were proud members of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Old-Timers Association.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter. Should you or your staff require more information, please contact me at jtraptow@heritagecalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

Josh Traptow
Executive Director,
Heritage Calgary