



November 1, 2021

SPC on Infrastructure & Planning

City of Calgary

PO Box 2100 Stn M
Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of the Guide-Scout Service Centre

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 Guide-Scout Service Centre, located in the community of West Hillhurst, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Guide-Scout Service Centre, built in 1966-67, comprises a large open lot with a one and one-half storey, Expressionist-style building. The building, distinguished by its cubic box massing set on a smaller poured

concrete box, features minimalist brick cladding and inset vertical windows. A steeply pitched, concave flared roof, reminiscent of a camping “pup” tent and composed of massive curved glulam beams, peeks out from the flat roofline and dramatically projects over a central front entryway at the second storey. The entryway is accessible by a central, wide spanning concrete staircase.

The Guide-Scout Service Centre, built in 1966-67, has several prominent historic values – it is valued as a unique statement of an Expressionist-style building in Calgary; for its masterful design as expressed by its finely executed symmetrical massing, crisp corners and thoughtfully placed materials; and is additionally significant as symbolic of its ties to the national Centennial building program in Calgary in 1967.

Primarily, the Guide-Scout Service Centre has institutional value as the most tangible symbol of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements in Calgary and their joint effort to construct a purpose-built headquarters. The Guide and Scout movements were essential youth organizations in Calgary, which promoted the development of character, ability, and leadership through outdoor activities and community service. The Scouting movement first began in Calgary in 1910 with Girl Guide troops following by 1915. By 1966, there were over 10,000 Scouts and approximately 5,000 Guides in the City.

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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Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of Riley Park

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 Riley Park located in the community of Hillhurst, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

Riley Park is a large 8.23 ha (20.35 acres) Park in the community of Hillhurst. The park dates from 1911 and comprises an ornamental area along 10 ST NW, a wading pool, a large informal curved pathway, and a variety of recreational areas, including cricket pitches.

The heritage value of the park lies primarily in its association with Ezra Riley and William Reader, and the planting design in the park. Ezra Riley was a prominent figure in Calgary's history. Ezra came to Alberta in 1888 to homestead a quarter section of land with his family. By the early 1900s the Riley Family owned over 10,000 acres. Riley was a member of the legislative Assembly of Alberta for the Conservative Party from 1906-1910. In 1910 Ezra Riley subdivided the family land and created the community of Hillhurst. Riley donated part of the land to the City of Calgary to create the park that now bears his name.

William Roland Reader was Calgary's Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries from 1913-1942. This was an important time in the development of Calgary as there was much migration and subsequent construction. Reader's goal was to develop Calgary into a destination of the west. Riley Park was primarily designed and developed by Reader.

The floral/planting design along 10 ST was influenced by the City Beautiful Movement in urban development/planning. The movement supported monumental grandeur and formality to encourage order and harmony. However, most of the park design was influenced more by the picturesque movement where an emphasis was placed more on informal, natural in appearance, and curvilinear design elements.

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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Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of Senator Patrick Burns Memorial Rock Garden

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 Senator Patrick Burns Memorial Rock Garden, located in the community of Hillhurst, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Senator Patrick Burns Memorial Garden is a 1.44 hectare Alpine Rock Garden located adjacent to 10 ST NW on a sloping hillside south of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) campus. The land is

rooted in Calgary history having first been occupied by Thomas E. Riley (1842-1909) who had homesteaded in the area since 1887.

The Senator Patrick Burns Memorial Rock Garden is valued for location, design, and its connection to two prominent Calgarians: Senator Patrick Burns, one of the 'Big Four' financial backers of the first Calgary Stampede, and Alex Munro, Superintendent of Calgary Parks from 1949-1960 and a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. The rock garden was designed in 1956 and constructed using 20,000 sandstone blocks from the mansion of Patrick Burns. The mansion – located at 510 13 AV SW – was constructed in 1901 and was demolished in 1955 to make way for a new entrance to the Colonel Belcher Hospital. The Garden was the last municipal park of its kind to be developed in Calgary.

In England, rock gardens had been popular since the early 1900s and were part of the move away from the artificially 'extreme landscapist' styles of the Victorian period, to more naturalistic styles that celebrated local plants, rocks, and forms. In North America, a similar sentiment was growing amongst gardeners wanting to build viable, less labour-intensive gardens that featured native plants adapted to local climate and elevations. The Calgary Herald's Gardening Book provides helpful insight into Munro's strategy and design for the Burns Memorial Rock Garden.

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