



July 28, 2023

Infrastructure and Planning Committee
City of Calgary
PO Box 2100 Stn M
Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of the Crawford Residence as a Municipal Historic Resource

Dear Members of Infrastructure and Planning Committee:

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 Crawford Residence, located in the Elbow Park neighbourhood, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

Built in ca1911-14, and designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in 1996, the Crawford Residence is an exceptional Calgary example of Tudor Revival architecture. Built by James Garden, who laid out Garden Crescent and built many of that street's attractive homes, it sits prominently at the corner of Elbow Drive and Garden Crescent. It was one of only a small number of houses constructed in Calgary on the eve of the First World War, and marks the end of this city's first building boom.



Crawford Residence, 636 Elbow DR SW, Calgary
photo credit City of Calgary

The exterior of the house features brick cladding on the first storey and decorative half-timbering with pebble-dash stucco on the second storey. The bricks, said to be of English origin, have a coarse rough-faced finish to simulate hand-finishing, while the pebble-dash stucco—two inches in depth—uses small stones to emulate historical construction techniques. Under the roof, exposed purlins (beams) and rafters as well as jettied gables contribute to the character. Local sandstone was used for the foundation and the first-storey detailing. Other features, such as the curved eave brackets and patterned glazing of the windows, recall earlier stylistic practices and create an uncommon appearance. Such features serve to contrast with the home's integrated advancements, including an attached double garage—one of the first in

Calgary. The interior also retains many original design features, including white oak wainscot, paneling, ceiling cross beams, staircase, built-in cabinetry and tiled fireplace surrounds and hearths.

The first residents and owners of the house were Dr. Thomas H. Crawford and his wife Lauretta. Dr. Crawford built a successful practice in Calgary after arriving in 1902, specializing in obstetrics. He contributed to the profession as the president of the Calgary Medical Association and played an active role in the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Canadian Medical Association.

Crawford also contributed to the community in substantial ways outside of his profession. He was on the first board of directors for Mount Royal College, and was involved with various church and service organizations, including the YMCA, the Boy Scouts and the Masonic Fraternity. He was elected to City Council in 1923 and helped to establish the civic hospitals board. Crawford died suddenly in 1925, during his second term in office, and Mrs. Crawford sold the property the next year.

Heritage Calgary supports designation of this important community landmark and thanks you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Josh Traptow
Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Calgary



Cynthia Klaassen
Heritage Resources Program Manager
Heritage Calgary



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City of Calgary
PO Box 2100 Stn M
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Re: Designation of the Kalbfleisch Residence as a Municipal Historic Resource

Dear Members of Infrastructure and Planning Committee:

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 Kalbfleisch Residence, located in the St. Andrew's Heights neighbourhood, as a Municipal Historic Resource.



Kalbfleisch Residence, 2604 Toronto DR NW, Calgary. Photo credit City of Calgary

The Kalbfleisch Residence, built in 1967, is a bold expression of Modern-style architecture in Calgary and reflects the height of the Modern design movement on the Canadian prairies. The residence expresses this style through a high contrast of planes, volumes and materiality. The external walls are clad in a variety of exterior treatments including glass curtain wall elements, narrow vertical wooden panels and cream-coloured brick cladding. Two full-width balconies with wrought-iron balustrades, delicately echo the planes of the house at the second storey. The balconies are supported by massive, projecting wooden beams, which shelter an inset central wooden door. The neutral palette of materials is balanced with a punch of colour, playfully detailed with the geometric, coloured-glass sidelights of the front entryway.

Prominent local architect, John Hondema, in collaboration with the property's owner, Ray Kalbfleisch, designed the residence in 1965. Kalbfleisch, who purchased the property with his wife Eileen in 1963, was an administrator with the Calgary School Board (CSB) and was responsible for hiring architects to design the large number of schools being constructed during Calgary's postwar boom. Hondema was one of the preferred architects who had designed several school buildings for the CSB. He also designed the Our Lady Queen of Peace Polish Church in 1967-68.

The Kalbfleisch Residence is also valued as a rare example of design adapted to the local geography and climate of the area, as it is situated on a bluff overlooking the Bow River Valley and is fully exposed to the elements. Hondema designed the residence to protect, repel and diffuse the impact of the natural environment to the house.

The Kalbfleisch Residence's dramatic Modern architectural style and unique design adapted to local conditions on the bluff as well as its prominent siting on a bluff highly visible in the St. Andrew's Heights neighbourhood, contributes to its landmark status in the community.

Heritage Calgary supports designation of this important community landmark and thanks you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Josh Traptow
Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Calgary



Cynthia Klaassen
Heritage Resources Program Manager
Heritage Calgary



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City of Calgary
PO Box 2100 Stn M
Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of the Petro-Fina Building as a Municipal Historic Resource

Dear Members of Infrastructure and Planning Committee:

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 Petro-Fina Building, located in the Downtown West Commercial Core, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Petro-Fina Building is a 10 1/2-storey office tower constructed in 1959-1960. The Petrofina company was established by a group of Belgian financiers in 1920 and acquired four Rumanian oil companies that had been confiscated from German owners after W.W. I. The company quickly expanded into other countries, and by 1950 it entered the Canadian market, establishing Montreal-based Canadian Petrofina Ltd. (the refining and marketing subsidiary), and Calgary-based Canadian Fina Oil Ltd. (the exploration and production subsidiary). Canadian Fina Oil established its Alberta foothold in the early 1950s by purchasing the petroleum interests of Max Bell (1912-1972), and lawyer Eric Harvie (1892-1975). Harvie served as a board member for Petrofina, and his son Donald Harvie later headed Petrofina's Calgary-based exploration arm.



Petro-Fina Building as seen from the south-west.
photo credit City of Calgary, 2023

In 1956, Canadian Fina Oil announced plans to build its Calgary office tower. The building was designed by Rule, Wynn, and Rule, an Alberta firm. Canadian Fina originally proposed a six-storey building designed to incorporate a future 4 1/2 storey addition. The company's rapid expansion in western Canada led Canadian Fina to build the entire project at once. On August 3, 1959, Canadian Fina Oil President Trajan Nitescu turned the sod on the construction project.

The building was completed in 1960. Its tenants included a variety of oil companies, oilfield service companies, and professional offices, as well as the Belgian consulate.

Designed in the Modern style, this building's exterior cladding includes sections of curtain wall glazing separated by panels of glazed tile on the main facade with panels of "folded" stone plates to highlight the corners of the building. The main facade storefronts and entrance lobby are articulated by an arcade. The building is finished with an executive penthouse suite which occupies half of the top floor level. The lobby interiors, although renovated, maintain the original floor plan configuration or wall finishes.

Heritage Calgary is delighted that this historic office building will find new use as a residential conversion, and supports designation of this important community landmark. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Josh Traptow
Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Calgary



Cynthia Klaassen
Heritage Resources Program Manager
Heritage Calgary