



November 2, 2023

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

Re: Designation of the Cross 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 Cross Residence, located in the Inglewood Community, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

Built in 1891 for civil engineer Matthew Neilson, this residence became the Cross family home in 1899. "Brewery House," as it was known, became a focal point for large dinner parties, polo matches, and other gatherings hosted by the Cross family.



A.E. Cross House ca 1900
Glenbow Archives NA-1586-1

Alfred Ernest Cross (1861-1932) arrived in Calgary in 1884, and worked for Senator Mathew Cochrane before establishing the A7 Ranche near Nanton. After an injury in 1888, Cross retrained as a master brewer, and formed the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company in 1892. He was one of the "Big Four" sponsors of the first Calgary Stampede in 1912, a member of the Territorial Legislature, a leader in Alberta's petroleum industry, and an active community member. In 1899 Cross married Helen "Nell" Rothney Macleod (1878-1959), daughter of North-West Mounted Police Colonel James MacLeod, and prominent social figure in Calgary.

The Cross family enlarged the house and adding a garage to accommodate their changing needs. The prominence of the Cross Residence contrasted with the increasingly working-class character of the community. It recalls the significant influence of the brewery as one of the largest employers in the district, and the Cross family's broader impact on Calgary's economic and social life.



A.E. Cross Residence, February 2006
Photo credit: Alberta Culture and Community
Spirit, Historic Resources Management Branch,
2006

In 1973 the Cross family donated their home to the City of Calgary for use by the Parks & Recreation department, and by the Calgary Horticultural Society. The Residence, with its extensive grounds and gardens located to the north-west, has operated as a restaurant since 1991.

The Cross Residence is one of the few estate homes that remains from Inglewood's early development phase and remains a significant landmark at its prominent corner location at the south end of the "Zoo bridge", and a block away from Inglewood's main intersection of 9 AV and 12 ST SE.

Remarkably, after 100 years it still retains its original form and many of its original features, including decorative scrollwork at

the gables and a widow's walk at the roof peak. Subsequent additions have not detracted from the Residence's historic integrity.

Heritage Calgary is happy to support the designation of this important community landmark as a Municipal Historic Resource. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Traptow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Josh Traptow
Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Calgary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Klaassen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Cynthia Klaassen
Heritage Resources Program Manager
Heritage Calgary



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PO Box 2100 Stn M
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Re: Designation of the Lawless 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 Lawless Residence, located in the Inglewood Community, as a Municipal Historic Resource.



Lawless Residence, Located at 2326 15A ST SE
Photo credit: Heritage Calgary

The 1912 Lawless Residence is a modest, one-storey, foursquare-style house with a high-pitched, hipped roof. Clad in bevelled-wood siding, it features a raised, full-width, enclosed verandah with a centred front entry that faces . The residence fronts 15A Street, a quiet

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residential street with treed public boulevards, landscaped setbacks with mature plantings, and many working-class homes of the same period.

The home is situated close to the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) rail yards, in the historic southeast inner city community of Inglewood, and built on lands that were once homesteaded by North West Mounted Police (NWMP) Colonel James Walker. After the area was annexed to the city in 1907, Walker registered several 'Inglewood' subdivisions; the one where the Lawless Residence was built is the 1910 Plan 1894AC. The Residence is closely associated with the CPR, as its first resident and owner was train engineer William H Lawless (1881-1951).

William Lawless and his wife Jennie owned the property from at least 1910, first living in a tiny temporary dwelling on the site where their first son Clarence (1911-1912) was born. In July 1912 they constructed a larger six-room home. At this time the railway industry was Calgary's largest private employer and central to the city's economy and development.

The Lawless Residence is representative of the working-class nature of this area, and symbolizes Calgary's industrial growth at the beginning of the twentieth century. Heritage Calgary is happy to support the designation of this Residence as a Municipal Historic Resource. 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



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Calgary AB, T2P 2M5

Re: Designation of the Nimmons 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 Nimmons Residence, located in the Bankview Community, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Nimmons Residence possesses symbolic value for its associations with Calgary's golden age of ranching (c1886-1906), an activity which was vital to the city's settlement. The 3-D Bar Ranch was established near Calgary in the mid 1880s when Isabella and William Nimmons purchased a half-section of land from the Hudson's Bay Company. The land's proximity to Calgary markets was advantageous for ranching, lifestyle and real estate. The ranch extended from 17th Avenue to 26th Avenue, and from 14th Street to near Crowchild Trail. The Nimmons family and descendants lived in the house through the 1980s and owned it until the 21st century.



William Nimmons' residence, Calgary, Alberta
Photo credit: Glenbow Library and Archives

William and Isabella (nee Munneck) Nimmons are important for their role as pioneer ranchers, for the contribution of William's quarry and brickworks to Calgary's early construction and for his role in the city's urban development. After his marriage to Scottish-born Isabella in 1883, William emigrated from England to raise his family and establish a ranch outside Calgary's city limits. In addition to his ranching and farming initiatives, Nimmons established a quarry and brickworks on the northwest part of his estate, which was managed by James Oliver, and supplied sandstone for the Lougheed House, Carnegie Library, and many early schools.



Nimmons Residence
Photo credit: Apartments.com

The resource is a community landmark due to its prominent location on a large corner property on a main traffic artery. There are significant views of the city from the resource. According to youngest daughter, Kate McCloy, the ranch house was built "on a hilltop so mother could look out the windows and see the great sweep of the prairie and the village of Calgary in the distance".

Heritage Calgary is happy to support the designation of this important community landmark as a Municipal Historic Resource. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Traptow". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Josh Traptow
Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Calgary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Klaassen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cynthia Klaassen
Heritage Resources Program Manager
Heritage Calgary



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Re: Designation of the Plaza Theatre 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 Plaza Theatre, located in the Kensington Community, as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The Plaza Theatre has been a landmark in the Kensington business district due to its one-of-a-kind function and distinctive appearance, and more broadly within the city due to its popularity and citywide following of movie-goers.

Originally built as a garage in 1928, it was rebuilt as a theatre in 1934-35 in a simplified, vernacular Art Deco style with subtle Spanish Colonial Revival influences.

This design treatment aligned with design employed elsewhere for neighbourhood theatres. The exterior is characterized by its stylized parapets, a smooth stucco appearance, ribbon-motif ornamentation, and a suspended marquee.



Plaza Theatre
photo Credit: CTV News

The Plaza Theatre was the third neighbourhood theatre to be built in Calgary, and was the only theatre located in the Kensington area. It recalls a time when neighbourhood theatres were developed to satisfy the enormous demand for movie entertainment and when each neighbourhood could support a theatre of its own. The Plaza Theatre is Calgary's last operating neighbourhood movie theatre, and the city's only remaining single-screen cinema.

Since the mid-1970s, the Plaza Theatre has contributed to the evolving identity of the Kensington business district as a unique and trendy location attracting customers from throughout the city. Starting in 1977 the Plaza Theatre became a 'repertory' theatre featuring art, foreign, and vintage films, as well as film festivals. This new identity for the Plaza Theatre was promoted through memberships, special events, and a magazine that publicized the Plaza Theatre's schedule along with running film reviews and feature articles. In 1984, some of the theatre's seats were removed to make room for a stage, and until 1998 the Plaza Theatre was city's only live-theatre and movie house combination. In this capacity, it has been one of the city's premier venues for movie-going and a magnet for film buffs and culture-savvy patrons. Today the Plaza Theatre remains a community connector through its offering of movies, food, and drink.

Heritage Calgary is happy to support the designation of this important community landmark as a Municipal Historic Resource. 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