

## **DESIGNATION OF THE BATTALION NUMBERS AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report recommends designation of the Battalion Numbers as a Municipal Historic Resource under Section 26 of the *Alberta Historical Resources Act*. The Parks business unit, which is the steward, has formally requested Municipal Historic Resource Designation.

The Battalion Numbers site comprises a series of white-painted fieldstones arranged in the formation of the numerals 113, 51, 151 and 137. Originally placed in 1915-16, the stones are situated on a 3.9-hectare parcel on the south-facing slope of Signal Hill, in southwest Calgary. The Battalion Numbers symbolize Calgary's role as home to the second largest military training centre in Canada during the First World War.

The opportunity to legally protect and conserve this landscape will allow for the continued use and enjoyment for generations to come.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the SPC on Planning and Urban Development recommends that Council give three readings to the proposed bylaw to designate the Battalion Numbers as a Municipal Historic Resource.

### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DATED 2015 JULY 17:**

That Council give three readings to **Proposed Bylaw 34M2015**.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

No previous Council direction.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Battalion Numbers (address: 3020 Signal Hill Dr. S.W.; and with a short legal description of 9011331;1;7MR) is listed as a "City-Wide Historic Resource" on Calgary's Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources. The Battalion Numbers merit protection due to their heritage value as outlined in Attachment 1 to this report. Photographs of the Battalion Numbers are shown in Attachment 2.

Beginning with the designation of Central Memorial Park in 2012 December, the Battalion Numbers continue the *Cultural Landscape and Strategic Plan* goal for Administration to designate their historic resources.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battalion Numbers is in 2016 and The City of Calgary Parks business unit, as owner and steward of the site, requested designation as outlined in Attachment 3.

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### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

Designation of the Battalion Numbers legally protects the property and ensures that any future changes align with best practices in heritage conservation. The proposed bylaw is attached (Attachment 1).

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

The City of Calgary Parks business unit, as the steward of these properties, agrees with the contents of the proposed bylaw.

### **Strategic Alignment**

The City of Calgary *Cultural Landscape and Strategic Plan* (2012), states that The City of Calgary Parks Department will secure designation for each cultural landscape.

The City of Calgary MDP supports the conservation and protection of Calgary's historic resources.

The City of Calgary *2020 Sustainability Direction* sets forth an objective for Calgary to become a "diverse and socially inclusive city that respects its heritage and the arts," as well as a strategy to "support the preservation of Calgary's historic resources".

The City's *Calgary Heritage Strategy* (2008) recommends that identified historic resources should be protected by designation bylaws, when possible, to ensure their preservation.

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

#### **Social**

Historic resources connect us to our past, our future, and to each other. They provide places of learning and places of understanding for all Canadians.

Cultural landscapes are unique sites that connect Calgarians with the past and the purpose of conserving cultural landscapes is for their continued use and enjoyment. They provide people with the opportunity to learn about Calgary's history, and this helps citizens to develop an understanding of their community. They help to tell the story of how Calgary developed; and how Calgarians lived. Cultural landscapes are vital to contemporary society. They contribute to great communities by enhancing character, distinctiveness, vibrancy, identity and sense of place.

#### **Environmental**

The preservation of historic places capitalizes on the energy investment in the original landscape and structures.

#### **Economic (External)**

The Battalion Numbers add character and visual interest to the community which makes economic investment in the area an attractive prospect. Designation will ensure these attributes are protected and the resulting security will promote high-quality investment in the areas around the park. Also, tourists and residents are attracted to areas with historic resources.

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**Financial Capacity**

**Current and Future Operating Budget:**

None

**Current and Future Capital Budget:**

None

**Risk Assessment**

None

**REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The City of Calgary as owner of the properties, and the Parks business unit as their steward, have formally requested Municipal Historic Resource Designation. Protecting Calgary's historic resources is an identified objective of The City, and is particularly important for City-owned properties.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **Proposed Bylaw 34M2015**
2. Photographs of Battalion Numbers
3. Request to Designate: Letter from Property Owner