

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 15, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Old Scona School – Approval for Designation as a Provincial Historic Resource

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Michael Ediger, Jyde Heaven, Catherine Luck

RECOMMENDATION

That Strathcona Collegiate Institute, now known as Old Scona School, proceeds with the application for designation as a Provincial Historic Resource.

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Background

On January 16, 2007, The Board of Trustees approved the revised board policy FECA.BP (Appendix I) and administrative regulation FECA.AR (Appendix II), Identification of a Building as a Historic Resource. Old Scona School would be the first school designated under this revised board policy.

To date, two District schools have been designated as Provincial Historic Resources: McKay Avenue School (designated in 1976) and the 1881 Schoolhouse (designated in 1983). There are 20 District schools included in the city's Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton, but buildings included on this list are not protected as are those designated as a Provincial Historic Resource. It is also significant to note that the owners or lessees of a Provincial Historic Resource are eligible to apply for on-going, matching funding, for conservation, through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.

It is important to recognize the contribution our buildings have made to the history of the City and will continue to make to the City. The District should endeavor to protect and preserve buildings, as feasible, even in the event that a building is no longer used as a school. As the city continues to grow, protecting our heritage resources will become increasingly important.

Heritage Value

The heritage value of Strathcona Collegiate Institute lies in its long and distinguished history as an educational institution, including its early service as one of the original hosts of the University of Alberta. It is also significant as an example of a major western Canadian high school of the early twentieth century.

Old Scona School, designed by prominent local architect Roland Lines in 1907, was created to be one of the largest and most sophisticated high schools in the province. The design of the school, described as Edwardian Classical Free Style, blends together Greek, Roman, and Renaissance architecture. The character-defining elements of Strathcona Collegiate Institute, which would be included in the designation, are as follows:

- location in Edmonton's historic Strathcona district;
- exterior features embodying the Edwardian Classical Free Style, including building symmetry, projecting arched entryway, volutes, quoins, a dome, bracketed eaves, arched hoods above the doorways and gables, rusticated stonework, and oculus windows with oversize voussoirs;
- elements of the building that express its historic function as an educational facility, including the "Strathcona High School" engraving and "SC" (Strathcona Collegiate) relief above the front door, fields on both the east and west sides of the building, interior design, and historic classroom spaces;
- elements of the building suggestive of its historic character, including original interior features such as stairs, moulding, trims, flooring, windows, transoms, doors and hardware.

In recognition of its unique architecture and connection with the origins of the University of Alberta, Old Scona School makes for a good candidate for designation as a Provincial Historic Resource and a good precedent for board policy FECA.BP.

JH:gm

Appendix I Board Policy FECA.BP - Identification of a Building as a Historic Resource

Appendix II Board Regulation FECA.AR - Identification of a Building as a Historic Resource

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: FECA.BP

TOPIC: Identification of a Building as a
Historic Resource

EFFECTIVE DATE: 16-01-2007

ISSUE DATE: 24-01-2007

REVIEW DATE: 01-2012

1. The board supports the preservation and enhancement of buildings with historic value when doing so has no adverse impact on the provision of educational services within the building or elsewhere in the district.
 2. The board shall determine whether it will support an application to Alberta Community Development for the designation of a building as a historic resource.
 3. The board shall determine whether it will support an application to the City of Edmonton for the designation of a building as a historic resource.
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Reference(s):

FECA.AR - Identification of a Building as a Historic Resource

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: FECA.AR

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-02-2007

TOPIC: Identification of a Building as a
Historic Resource

ISSUE DATE: 14-02-2007

REVIEW DATE: 02-2012

1. The Planning Department, in consultation with Archives and Museum and Facilities Services, shall give consideration to written requests for designation of a building as a historic resource initiated by any interested party if:
 - a. The building is over 60 years old; or
 - b. The building is less than 60 years old and has special historical significance.
2. Consideration for historic resource designation shall be identified based on the following factors:
 - a. The historical and other significance of the building to the district and the community;
 - b. The potential for impact on the district's further plans for a given building; and
 - c. Any costs (administrative and physical plant) associated with obtaining and maintaining the designation.
 - d. Any restrictions that a historical designation will have on the use, operation and maintenance of the facility, which may include security and occupational health and safety.
 - e. Any opportunities to partner with existing bona fide historical associations.
 - f. Any opportunities to take advantage of grant programs from any level of government or non profit historical foundations or other charitable foundations.
3. The Planning Department makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding which schools the board may support for historic designation.

Reference(s):

FECA.BP - Identification of a Building as a Historic Resource