



Re: COOK RESIDENCE: City Council Special Meeting - Friday February 25th, 2021

The Architectural Heritage Society of Saskatchewan firmly supports Heritage Regina, and the many concerned neighbours residing in the Lakeview community, in the preservation of the historic Cook Residence at 3160 Albert Street.

We agree with the City of Regina that the Cook Residence is a site of architectural, historical, cultural and aesthetic value. We congratulate the City of Regina for designating the Cook Residence as a Municipal Heritage Property, on October 29, 2019.

People live in our Lakeview community for a reason. They believe that well-preserved historic neighbourhoods are important features of communities they prefer to inhabit. They know that conservation and adaptive reuse of historic properties means livable neighbourhoods and good quality of life.

Rehabilitation stimulates the local economy. It creates tax revenue and good jobs. It also reuses existing materials, reduces landfill, and limits impact of new infrastructure on your budget.

In *Early Domestic Architecture in Regina*, an exhibition at the MacKenzie Art Gallery, 1982, Director Carol Phillips said: "... something ominous is happening. The unique sense of place that was Regina is disappearing and looming in the future is an anonymous city (...where redevelopment is) turning Regina from a smaller beautiful city to the most ordinary of late twentieth century developments." Now, almost 40 years later, with no additions to the Heritage Holding list since 1989 (only losses), we must acknowledge that a sustainable city must respect and preserve the materials and craftsmanship of our built environment. Our domestic neighbourhoods are our history and our heritage: they give us joy, visually, daily, to deepen our love for our city.

At the Regina Planning Commission, Mr Lien said that he purchased the Cook house, on the Heritage Holding List, for demolition. He implied that the Cook house is in disrepair, as did anonymous commentators on the City survey, who said that the Cook house is run down.

The photos in *Appendix A*, from December 2019 when the former owners moved out, will show the exceptional craftsmanship of the spacious, immaculate, and well-maintained interior of the Cook House.

As Heritage Regina's Jackie Schmidt said, the Cook House " was born from the labours and the love of woodworkers, stained glass artists, stonemasons, iron forgers, carpet weavers, boiler masters and countless other craftsmen, some who continued age-old traditions, and who practiced what were cutting-edge technologies. One of the interesting aspects of the Cook House is that its interior construction used wooden pegs instead of nails, a technique that is both functional and decorative - and unique."

Look at the space and look at the details. We no longer build houses like this. We should not demolish a well-built landmark Heritage house. We should honour the memory the Cooks, the Malones, and the Kramers - all the families who made significant contributions to build the City of Regina.

The Architectural Heritage Society of Saskatchewan firmly supports the Regina Planning Commission recommendation to deny the application to amend Bylaw 2019-7 (which would have allowed the removal Heritage Status); to deny the application to rezone the property for a condo development of 16 Dwelling Units, and to deny the application to close a portion of Hill Avenue.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Mah  
for Architectural Heritage Society of Saskatchewan

























