



To Your Worship and Members of City Council,

In 1911, Walter Hill and E.D. McCallum selected land on the corner of Albert Street and McCallum Ave, as well as the corner of Hill Avenue and Albert Street, to construct two beautiful houses. These houses would set the tone for the new subdivision of Lakeview and establish the vision of a newly created city. These homes mark the collective legacy of our city founders who had the forethought of a city built on the principles of urban planning. The intent to introduce beautification and monumental grandeur to the city was known as the *City Beautiful Movement*. One of the houses constructed under this vision, located at 2930 Albert Street, was the Cook House.

Built in 1929, this castle-like structure at 3160 Albert once shared Albert Street with many other noteworthy and elegant homes and is one of the few remaining architect-designed grand buildings of its era. These homes were lived in by important civic pioneers and leaders, and many of these homes were equipped with ballrooms, servant's quarters, billiard rooms and prized architectural features such as grand staircases, minstrel galleries, double facing pocket doors, large fireplaces, fine moldings and rare wood species such as gum wood and walnut.

In the early 1900s, Albert Street and College Avenue were Regina's grand boulevards on which the wealthy built their homes. The Cook House made it possible for the artist, the poet, the philosopher and people of science to apply their crafts and enhance everyday life. This house employed woodworkers, stained glass artists, stonemasons, iron forgers, carpet weavers, boiler masters and countless other craftsmen practiced in what were then cutting-edge technologies. The Cook House was meant to inspire dreams of what the neighborhood, and the city, could be. The demolition permit for the Cook House is not an act of renewing our city; it is a strike against the current state of our city's heritage, our endowments and our important architectural identity.

Heritage Regina believes that it is possible in modern times to create great urban communities which offer all the services and amenities that residents need but this vision has been eroding over the decades. We believe this permit would destroy an important city landmark, set a dangerous precedent for future demolitions and forecasts the loss of our city's earlier aspirations.

Regina is an iconic city unlike any other in North America. From the jewel that is Wascana Park (the largest urban park in North America), the architectural accomplishments that dot the

Cathedral neighborhood, to the grand homes of Lakeview that inspire conversation and pride in Regina's citizens. These elements symbolize a time when quality and artistry was not relegated to the gallery but could be found all around us. The effort to replace any of these historic legacies undermines over a century of effort from hardworking citizens, craftsman, designers, politicians, philosophers and visionaries who believed the city could be so much more than just a collection of buildings and roadways. Regina has always "punched above its weight." From the vision of our leaders in the 1900s to those in recent history including projects such as the 'Big Dig', the Downtown Revitalization efforts and more recently, the College Avenue Campus Restoration project. All of these provide examples that the determination and foresight of our past and present leaders, and it is your charge as civic leaders to protect the vision of those that came before you for the sake of those who will come after you.

Many of our historic buildings from the Travelers Building to Lang's Café, the old Gingerbread City Hall to, most recently, the 1930 City Light and Power Sub-Station no. 2 have been lost to neglect and policy. Architecture was once considered an art of the divine and its destruction nothing short of blasphemy. The loss of a building such as the Cook House, a building constructed for the very purpose of demonstrating what Regina can become, would be a devastating strike to Regina's historical community and an irreplaceable loss to all our citizens who take pride in where we call home. We need to set a statement that heritage, from the smallest memorial to the tallest structure, is important to our city and needs to be respected through conservation and preservation. A concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a vital link to our cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational and economic legacies – this make us who we are.

Following the recent loss of another historically significant building on Albert Street, the city took a bold step and made a commitment to review the current policies on designation, including the identification of historically significant buildings. Heritage Regina fully supports this review but must firmly stand in opposition of any attempt to demolish yet another historical property before this review and new policy is complete. Not only does the current assessment by the City's Heritage department identify the Cook House as a significant property, it is believed any new method of identifying heritage properties would find its loss an irreplaceable mistake. The Cook House is perfectly suited to attain both Heritage Designation and to access the current Heritage Property Incentive Program.

Heritage Regina believes our best choice is restoration instead of replacement. We believe, much like our city founders before us, that our future is bright, prevailingly cultural and architecturally beautiful. Heritage Regina does not, in the strongest of terms, support the demolition of the Cook House and we ask that you share the support and reject the permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'S'.

Jackie Schmidt

President, Heritage Regina