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July 20, 2020

Your Worship and Members of City Council,

Re: Bagshaw Residence, 56 Angus Crescent

Heritage Regina strongly opposes (1) the application to remove the Bagshaw Residence from the Heritage Inventory and (2) the proposed demolition of the property. We believe the conclusions of the Heritage Inventory Evaluation were based on incomplete information. In light of our research, it is our position that the home has great heritage significance and is fully deserving of protection and preservation.

The Bagshaw Residence is significant for a number of compelling reasons. **First**, it has a long association with owner Frederick Bagshaw. A highly regarded Regina lawyer, Mr. Bagshaw began his 51 years in the profession by articling with W.M. Martin (who later became premier and then Chief Justice of Saskatchewan). Mr. Bagshaw was appointed King's Counsel in 1929 and was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his work as enforcement counsel for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board for Saskatchewan during the 1940s. From 1952 to 1958, he was a Police Magistrate (today's Provincial Court judge), retiring at the age of 80. In retirement, Mr. Bagshaw was committed to finding a way to establish a rehabilitation program for alcoholics, the type of "offender" that frequently appeared in his courtroom. He believed alcoholism was a disease that required a medical approach to treatment rather than a legal offence that required a fine or time in jail.

Mr. Bagshaw served as a member of the Canadian army for the entirety of World War I, rising to the rank of Captain. He was a soldier-member of the Saskatchewan Legislature from 1917 to 1921, and was granted a brief leave from his duties overseas to attend sessions of the Legislature in Regina. He ran unsuccessfully in the provincial elections of 1921 and 1938.

Community involvement was important for Mr. Bagshaw. He was an active member of St. Paul's Anglican Church and performed in a number of Regina Operatic Society productions. He worked with the CNIB, was a member of the Great War Veterans' Association/Royal Canadian Legion, and was president of the Victorian Order of Nurses, the Royal Society of St. George and the Canadian Club. He served on the advisory boards of the YMCA, the YWCA and the Maple Leaf Hostel, and was legal adviser for the Girl Guides of Saskatchewan. He served as commodore of the Regina Boat Club and was Honorary Consul of Poland in Regina during World War II. Mr. Bagshaw was a member of the Regina Public Library Board for more than 20 years, receiving an honorary life membership award from the Saskatchewan Library Association in 1965. A scholarship in library science was named in his honour.

The City recognized Mr. Bagshaw's many contributions to the life and work of Regina by naming Bagshaw Place in Whitmore Park after him. In 1967, 8 months after his death, the province named Bagshaw Lakes in northern Saskatchewan in his honour. As a Leader-Post article about the designation stated, "Naming of the feature incorporates his name for all time among the honored place names of the province and honors his work as lawyer, police court magistrate and former member of the Legislature." (source: The Leader-Post, February 28, 1967)

Mrs. Bagshaw was also active in the community. She was a member of St. Paul's Anglican Church, the Canadian Red Cross Society, the IODE and the Women's Musical Club of Regina, and was an honorary life member of the Royal Society of St. George. She was very involved with the Girl Guides organization, helping to establish the group in the city in the early 1920s. She served as the city commissioner for Guides in the late 1920s and became the provincial commissioner in the 1940s. For her dedicated service, Mrs. Bagshaw received the Beaver Medallion, one of the highest national awards in the Girl Guides organization.

Mr. and Mrs. Bagshaw's contributions to the history of Regina, the province and Canada clearly warrant a rating of "high" on the Heritage Inventory Evaluation Form with respect to Criteria 2 namely, the property is "closely connected with a person, social or cultural group, or institution that is of considerable importance to the city, province or nation." (source: Heritage Inventory Evaluation Form Explanatory Notes, page 10) The current rating of "moderate" indicates importance only to the neighbourhood or city.

**Second**, the Bagshaw Residence was constructed in 1913. This makes the home an important part of the historical character of the Crescents neighbourhood. Elements of the home's Craftsman style are well represented in the building, including the large dormer, covered front porch, and multiple-pane double-hung windows. Some of the building's materials, such as the external red brick chimney, remain original to the house and provide insight into the craftsmanship in use at the time of construction.

In addition, the application of the architectural elements make the home's design uncommon in the neighbourhood. This would seem to merit a rating of "moderate" under Criteria 3 of the Heritage Inventory Evaluation Form namely, the property is a "very good example of a style, type, design or technology in Regina or in a neighbourhood, or a good example of a style, type or design that is notably early or rare in Regina or in a neighbourhood." (source: Heritage Inventory Evaluation Form Explanatory Notes, page 10) The current rating of "low" indicates a style, type, design or technology that is *common* in Regina or in a neighbourhood.

It is interesting that although the Statement of Significance for the home notes that the "general condition of the foundation could not be observed," the City of Regina's most current property assessment rates the building's quality as "very good."

The home's designer, Frederick Chapman Clemesha, was a prominent architect in the city during the early decades of the last century. He was the first president of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects and was internationally recognized for his design of a Canadian battlefield memorial installed at St. Julien, Belgium in 1923. A painted plaster version of the soldier's bowed head from the memorial is one of the artworks permanently installed in the rotunda of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building. A study model of the Belgium memorial is also part of the Legislative art collection. The same design of a soldier's bowed head may be found on the cenotaph in Victoria Park. Although the cenotaph work was attributed to a Montreal designer, local architects at the time

denounced it as an “exact copy” of Clemesha’s design—used without Clemesha’s consent. (source: The Leader newspaper, February 12, 1926)

As with Mr. and Mrs. Bagshaw, Mr. Clemesha’s connection to the home would seem to merit a rating of “high” under Criteria 2.

**Third**, the age of the Bagshaw Residence is also significant. Now 107 years old, the property is one of the few remaining homes of its era in the neighbourhood. It is located at its original site on one of the semi-circular streets that defines the Crescents neighbourhood and provides tangible evidence of the influence of the CPR’s original plans for the community and of the later Mawson Plan for the city. The historical homes in the neighbourhood, including the Bagshaw Residence, vividly illustrate the legacy of early citizens who brought beauty and character to their developing city. This aspect makes the Bagshaw Residence an excellent representation of the Capital City Development Theme outlined in the City’s Thematic Framework and Historical Context document and should be reflected in a “moderate” rating under Criteria 6 of the Heritage Inventory Evaluation Form namely, the home “communicates (physically or through documented/oral evidence) an aspect or aspects of history on a neighbourhood scale.” (source: Heritage Inventory Form Explanatory Notes, page 11) The current rating is “low.”

Without the support of the City, the survival of historical, architectural and cultural heritage in our neighbourhoods is not guaranteed. The City has a duty to be an active steward of heritage. It is not enough to have heritage policies that look good on paper but are not consistently or effectively put into practice. In the case of the Bagshaw Residence, the economic prospects of property redevelopment cannot be allowed to discount the value of a home that has great heritage significance. We know very well that every heritage property that is lost in our city is gone forever.

Your responsibility, as members of City Council, is to champion the preservation of significant heritage properties that tell the stories of our shared history and culture. On behalf of Heritage Regina, I urge you to protect and preserve the Bagshaw Residence by retaining its place on the Heritage Inventory and by denying the current application for demolition.

Sincerely,

Jackie Schmidt  
President