

November 26, 2025

Reference No.: 040896228-006

To: City Council

From: Kim Petrin, Deputy City Manager, Urban Planning and Economy

Subject: **Notice of Intention to Designate the Barker/Myren Residence (11214 - 97 Street NW) as a Municipal Historic Resource**

SUMMARY

This memo initiates the process to designate a historic resource, the Barker/Myren Residence, at the owner's request, as a Municipal Historic Resource in accordance with the *Historical Resources Act*.

CURRENT ACTIONS *(Immediate)*

1. That a Notice of Intention to Designate a Municipal Historic Resource, as set out in Attachment 1, be served on the owners of the property located at 11214 - 97 Street NW in accordance with Section 26 of the Alberta *Historical Resources Act*, RSA 2000, c H-9.¹
2. That the City Manager be appointed to implement matters arising from the issuance of the Notice of Intention to Designate the Barker/Myren Residence as a Municipal Historic Resource, as set out in Attachment 1.

FUTURE ACTIONS *(At least 60 days after the Notice of Intention to Designate is served)*

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the Alberta *Historical Resources Act*, RSA 2000, c H-9, a Bylaw to Designate the Barker/Myren Residence as a Municipal Historic Resource (the "Bylaw") will be brought forward to Council for their consideration.
2. If approved, the Bylaw and corresponding Rehabilitation Incentive and Maintenance Agreement will contemplate funding of up to \$15,393.26 to be provided from the Heritage Resources Reserve to fund City-funded work on the Barker/Myren Residence, as described in Attachment 5.

BACKGROUND

The Barker/Myren Residence is on the Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton, and merits designation under City Policy C450B - Policy to Encourage the Designation and Rehabilitation of Municipal Historic Resources in Edmonton. The building was constructed in 1925, and features Craftsman-style influences.

¹ On November 26, 2019, City Council passed amendments to the City Administration Bylaw, delegating approval of Notices of Intention to Designate (NOI) under the *Historical Resources Act* (HRA) to the City Manager, where the owner consents to the designation of their property. The NOI initiates the designation process under the *Historical Resources Act*; the final decision on designation remains with City Council by way of a bylaw.

On October 15, 2025, the owner completed the application requirements to have the Barker/Myren Residence, located at 11214 - 97 Street NW designated as a Municipal Historic Resource under the provisions of City Policy C450B.

If designated, any future renovation of the Barker/Myren Residence will be required to meet the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

The designation of this property will support its proper restoration and continued protection in the future.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL

If the Bylaw is approved, and upon completion of the project phases as outlined in Attachment 5, the Heritage Resources Reserve will pay the owner up to \$15,393.26 for rehabilitation. The current Reserve balance is sufficient to cover the committed funding, including the Barker/Myren Residence.

The total estimated cost of the restoration work for the project is \$30,786.53. Beyond the \$15,393.26 grant from the Heritage Resources Reserve, the owner is responsible for all costs of the restoration work for the project.

Administration is considering a number of potential heritage designations and projects for the Reserve funds, which will be brought forward for Council approval as required. Based on the current commitments, including the Barker/Myren Residence, the Reserve balance is anticipated to be \$4.5 million at the end of 2025 and \$3.0 million at the end of 2026. The Reserve is funded by the tax levy on an annual basis (\$2.4 million per annum in 2025 and \$2.0 million in 2026).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public engagement was not undertaken as part of this process, as it is not required under the *Historical Resources Act*.

KP/lk

cc: Executive Leadership Team
Aileen Giesbrecht, City Clerk, Office of the City Clerk
Michael Gunther, Acting City Solicitor, Legal Services

Attachments:

1. Notice of Intention to Designate the Barker/Myren Residence as a Municipal Historic Resource - *Historical Resources Act*
2. Location Map of the Barker/Myren Residence
3. Photographs of the Barker/Myren Residence
4. Heritage Officer's Statement of Significance
5. Description of City-Funded Work for the Barker/Myren Residence



Attachment 1

Notice of Intention to Designate the Barker/Myren Residence as a Municipal Historic Resource

HISTORICAL RESOURCES ACT
R.S.A. 2000, cH.-9, as amended, Section 26

TO: Adam Wallace
11214 - 97 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5G 1X1

Notice is hereby given that sixty (60) days from the date of service of this Notice, The Municipal Council of The City of Edmonton intends to pass a Bylaw that the original 1925 structure known as the Barker/Myren Residence and the land on which such structure is located, legally described as:

PLAN RN43
BLOCK 2
LOT 29

EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS

and municipally described as 11214 - 97 Street NW, be designated as a MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE under Section 26 of the *Historical Resources Act*, as amended from time to time.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT the Municipal Council of the City of Edmonton has appointed the City Manager to implement matters arising from the issuance of the Notice of Intention to Designate a Municipal Historic Resource.

DATED this 6th day of January 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Eddie Robar".

Eddie Robar
City Manager



Attachment 1

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The above Notice is addressed to the owner of, or person with a legal interest in, the resource named which the Municipal Council of the City of Edmonton (hereinafter referred to as the Council) intends to designate, by Bylaw, as a Municipal Historic Resource under Section 26 of the *Historical Resources Act*.

EFFECT OF NOTICE

This Notice of Intention protects the historic resource named in it for 120 days from the date it was served on you. During these 120 days **NO PERSON MAY DESTROY, DISTURB, ALTER, RESTORE OR REPAIR A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE OR REMOVE ANY HISTORIC OBJECT FROM IT** unless they have written approval of the Council or person appointed by the Council for the purpose.

The Council or the person appointed by the Council, in its or their absolute discretion, may refuse to grant an approval or may make the approval subject to such conditions, as they consider appropriate.

Although there is no right of appeal as such against designation as a Municipal Historic Resource, you are not precluded at any time from writing to the Council, claiming that the site should not or should cease to be designated. Such claim must demonstrate that the property to be designated is not of architectural or historical significance. The evidence provided to support the claim will be carefully considered.

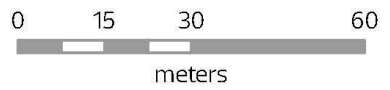
You may also apply by originating application to any judge of the Court of King's Bench for an Order shortening the 120 days of protection.

After 120 days the Notice ceases to have any effect, unless the Council has revoked it sooner, or the court has shortened the period, or unless the Council has passed a Bylaw designating the resource permanently.

Location Map for the Barker/Myren Residence



Barker/Myren Residence
11214 - 97 Street NW



Photographs of the Barker/Myren Residence



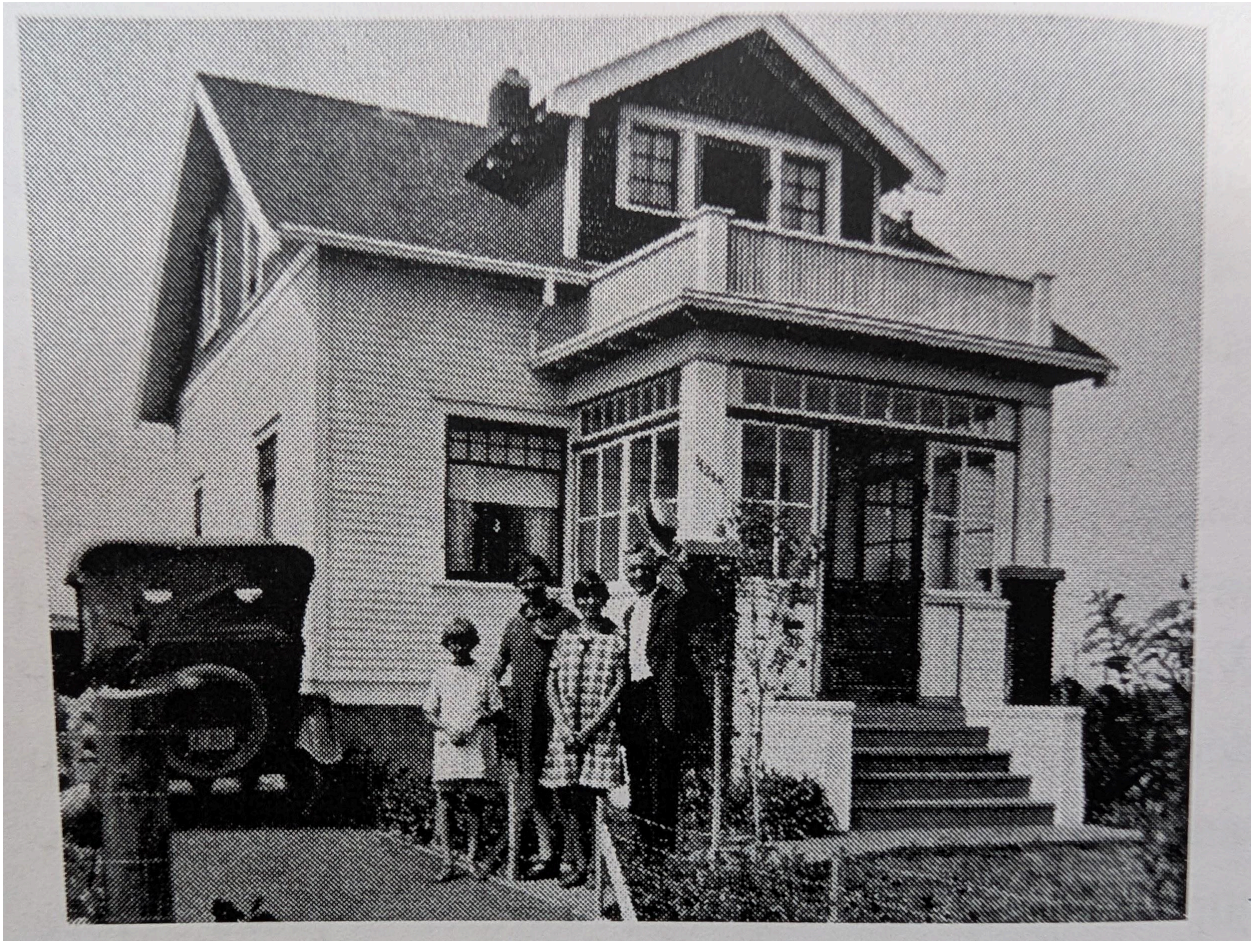
Front (east) elevation of the Barker/Myren Residence.



Rear (west) elevation of the Barker/Myren Residence. The rear contains an enclosed porch addition from 2006, which is not part of the designation.



Side (south) elevation of the Barker/Myren Residence.



Front (east) elevation of the Barker/Myren Residence with the Barker family, circa 1925.

Statement of Significance for the Barker/Myren Residence (11214 - 97 Street NW)

Description of Historic Place

The Barker/Myren Residence is a one-and-a-half-storey residential building located midblock on the west side of 97 Street NW, between 112 Avenue NW and 113 Avenue NW in Edmonton's Spruce Avenue neighbourhood. Built in 1925, the Barker/Myren Residence is notable for its association with early residential development in the Spruce Avenue neighbourhood and for being a former residence of Albertan/British Columbian artist Ron Myren.

Heritage Value

The Barker/Myren Residence is valued for its association with early residential development in the Spruce Avenue neighbourhood, as well as for its association with Ron Myren, an artist known for his oil paintings of Alberta landscapes.

Indigenous use and settlement

The land that Edmonton was developed on was used by Indigenous peoples for millenia, as the North Saskatchewan River Valley and ravine systems were a source of shelter, travel, trade, materials, and food. In the fur trading era, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) established a fort on the north side of the river. When the HBC sold its vast Rupert's Land territory to the Dominion of Canada in 1870, it retained reserve lands around its trading properties, including a 3000 acre reserve around Fort Edmonton that became known as the Hudson's Bay Reserve. In 1876, the Canadian government signed Treaty 6 with Indigenous leaders in what is now Saskatchewan and the following year Indigenous chiefs in the Edmonton region signed adhesions to the treaty. Edmonton is also part of the Métis homeland. The river lot rural settlement pattern established along the North Saskatchewan River in the early 1870s was brought to the Edmonton area by the Métis and a number of the original river lot claimants were Métis.

What is now the Spruce Avenue neighbourhood featured stands of trees and wetlands prior to settlement. The upper portion of Rat Creek, later filled in, drained the area eastwards towards Kinnaird Ravine into the North Saskatchewan River. The Hudson's Bay Reserve covered most of the area, but the portion of the neighbourhood between 97 Street and 101 Street was outside of the reserve, part of a quarter section surveyed as part of the Dominion Land Survey.

Residential development

In 1905 local businessmen John McDougall and Richard Secord subdivided this land east of the reserve and north of the historic river lots as the Norwood Subdivision. Lots

in the subdivision were primarily 33 feet wide and intended for working class homes for the rapidly growing city. McDougall served as mayor of Edmonton both before and after establishing Norwood, and after his second mayoral term he served as an MLA in the Alberta legislature. The Central McDougall neighbourhood and John A. McDougall School are named after him. Secord served as an alderman in the Town of Edmonton and then as a North-West Territories MLA. In this capacity he introduced the bill that incorporated Edmonton as a city in 1904. The Secord neighbourhood and École Richard Secord School are named after him. More recently attention has been drawn to the fact that McDougall and Secord speculated on Métis scrip. Scrip were coupons for settlement land issued to Métis people in exchange for extinguishing their Indigenous land claims. Speculators, however, took advantage of the scrip program, often convincing the Métis to sell their scrip certificates in ways that financially benefitted the speculators but further impoverished Métis families.

The road now called 97 Street was originally surveyed as a range road in the Dominion Land Survey work of the 1880s. Presumably because it headed north towards the Sturgeon River, it became known as the Sturgeon Trail. In their Norwood Subdivision, McDougall and Secord called it Sturgeon Road. They planned for it to be a prominent route into the city from the north by establishing a 116 foot wide road right-of-way for it when all the other streets in the subdivision were only 66 feet wide. This width is what allows the treed median in the section of 97 Street that runs past the Barker/Myren Residence. Soon after the subdivision, City officials renamed the road Namayo Avenue, the name of the connecting road to the south, to facilitate wayfinding. Namayo (now more commonly spelled Namao) is an anglicized version of the word namêw (ᑎᑦᑦ), meaning “sturgeon” in Plains Cree. In 1914 almost all street names in Edmonton were changed to numbers.

In 1912 the Hudson’s Bay Company subdivided the northern portion of its reserve following City Beautiful design principles and began selling lots. Very little development occurred in the area before the local economy fell into deep decline beginning in 1913. When development picked up again after World War I, proximity to streetcar lines on 95 Street and 111 Avenue resulted in development along 97 Street and 101 Street.

Charles and Mable Barker moved from their home in Westmount (which is also now a designated Municipal Historic Resource) to 11214 - 97 Street NW in 1925. A permit had been issued for the house, valued at \$3000, in April 1925. The Barkers raised their family there and owned the house for fifty years. They had two daughters, Audrey and Claudia, as well as a son named Winston, who sadly passed away at the age of 24 in 1939. Charles died in 1969, and Mabel continued to live in the house until her passing in 1971. Audrey kept the house until 1976, when it was sold to Ronald and Joan Myren.

Charles Barker was born in England in 1887 and immigrated to Canada in 1906. Mabel (née Ashwell) was born in Strathroy, Ontario in 1882. The two were married in Strathroy in 1912 and soon after moved to Edmonton, where they spent their early years as a family in Westmount. In 1925, they built and moved into the house on 97 Street NW. Charles was in the hardware business until his retirement in 1957. In her memoir, *Lilies of My Field*, Charles and Mabel's daughter Claudia Bain details the early days of living at 11214 - 97 Street NW: "there were many vacant lots and fields near our house... Dad would often take us for a walk in the sunny fields just west of our home. This was typical prairie: dry grass... willow bushes, and a wide blue sky." Bain's memoir also notes that the front porch was originally open, but was glass-enclosed soon after the Barkers moved in. The family lived in a shack on the lot while the house itself was being constructed.

Spruce Avenue's name comes from the original name for 114 Avenue. A school established along 114 Avenue in 1917, just three years after the elimination of Edmonton's street names, was called Spruce Avenue School and that name became associated with the surrounding community. The original development of Spruce Avenue was concentrated on 97 Street and 101 Street. Development in Spruce Avenue picked up during the Second World War, thanks to its proximity to Blatchford Field, and some of the neighbourhood's lands were used for infrastructure such as hospitals and administration buildings. The northeastern portion of the Hudson's Bay Reserve was replotted following the Second World War, after which time the Spruce Avenue neighbourhood was more fully built out.

Ron Myren

Ronald Myren (1937-2000) was born in Galloway, British Columbia, and studied at the Alberta College of Art (now Alberta College of Art and Design). He worked at the Edmonton Art Gallery (now the Art Gallery of Alberta) from 1966 to 1980 in various roles. Myren was a landscape artist, known for his paintings of landscapes around Alberta. Much of his work was done with oil paints and showcased the area west of Edmonton. Myren's brushwork was a distinguishing feature of his work, creating the feeling of density and lushness. He also tended to work with a reduced field of vision, offering a different relationship between the viewer and the landscape. Myren had several solo and group exhibitions throughout Canada over the course of his career, from the 1960s through to the late 1990s. His work is a part of several permanent collections throughout Edmonton and Alberta. Myren also taught drawing and painting for several years at the Edmonton Art Gallery and University of Alberta Extension Department. He lived at 11214 - 97 Street NW for nearly two decades, from the early 1970s until 1994. He lived at the home with his wife, Joan Myren, and their son.

The Barker/Myren Residence is a one-and-a-half storey residential dwelling with a medium-gable roof and centre dormers on the front and back of the residence. The Craftsman-influenced building is clad in horizontal wood siding and has original windows, some with six-over-one panes and some with twelve-over-one panes. The storm windows are also original. The Barker/Myren Residence also has a central enclosed front porch with a balcony on the upper floor.

The house appears to have been designed by the Barkers, and bears resemblance to a previous home the family lived in, at 10834 - 125 Street NW (also a designated Municipal Historic Resource).

Character-defining Elements

Key character-defining elements of the 1925 Barker/Myren Residence include:

- Form, scale, and massing
- One-and-a-half storeys
- Craftsman design influences
- Medium-gable roof
- Gable dormer with projecting eaves on front elevation leading to a balcony
- Shed dormer on rear elevation
- Projecting eaves with wood soffit, exposed rafters, and plain frieze
- Projecting verges with wood soffit and plain frieze
- Horizontal wood siding
- Six-over-one-paned windows with two-by-two storm windows
- Plain flat window trims with lintel
- Enclosed centre front porch with multi-light transom windows
- Central brick chimney

Description of City-Funded Work for the Barker/Myren Residence

Phase	Description of City-Funded Work	Estimated Cost	Amount Allocated
1	Roof: roof replacement	\$17,487.75	\$8,743.88
2	Siding: repairs to wooden siding and trim as needed	\$2,730.00	\$1,365.00
3	Windows: repair and replace as needed	\$5,880.00	\$2,940.00
4	Engineering Report: foundation assessment	\$1,890.00	\$945.00
5	10% Contingency	\$2,798.78	\$1,399.38
	TOTAL	\$30,786.53	\$15,393.26