

Re: Historical Buildings in Burnaby

On May 28, 1973, Council during discussion of a proposal to relocate a building to Heritage Village requested that consideration be given to the development of a catalogue that would contain particulars on buildings in Burnaby that have historical significance. Council expressed the opinion that such a catalogue could be useful as a guide when future acquisitions or demolition of such buildings are considered.

In a report that Council received on June 25, 1973, the Executive Director of the Century Park Museum Association advised as follows:

"Following a meeting of the Executive of the Century Park Museum Association held on June 18, 1973, I am directed to advise you that this Association agrees to consider the preparation of a catalogue of buildings in the Municipality that are deemed to have historical significance.

No specific planning has yet been formulated, but the Association proposes to consider ways and means by which a catalogue, including descriptions and photographs of buildings deemed to have historical significance, can be compiled to assist in the consideration of preservations or acquisitions that may from time to time be recommended."

The Executive Director now advises that an ad hoc committee meeting was held on February 14, 1974 to consider the manner in which the preparation of a catalogue of historically significant buildings should proceed. The committee heard from Dr. E. Gibson of Simon Fraser University who is presently working with three students on grant-supported, in-depth classification and cataloguing of historic buildings and sites in the lower mainland. Dr. Gibson's effort has to date resulted in the cataloguing of 188 buildings and sites, 20 of which are located in Burnaby. It is anticipated that this project will not be completed for at least another year. The Director in his minutes points out that "Information from it will not be in usable form until the whole (project) is completed, but it may be possible, from what has already been gathered, to assist the proposed Municipal project by supplying addresses and locations of Burnaby buildings of interest".

It was generally agreed at the meeting that the Committee requires a clearer definition from Council as to the type of inventory that should be developed, including the detail and depth of information that is required, and the extent to which Council will commit funds toward this endeavour.

In the opinion of the Manager, the 1974 Provisional Budget does not permit an allocation of funds for the preparation of a comprehensive inventory. It would be difficult to recommend such an allocation even in the best of times in view of the fact that Dr. Gibson's inventory, when completed, could conceivably provide us with most, if not all of the historical information that is desired. It would be prudent for the Municipality to wait for Dr. Gibson to complete his research project, rather than to allocate funds for what could very well represent a duplication of effort.

If Council feels that an interim inventory should be prepared, this could be done at relatively small expense, e.g., an itemization consisting of a description, polaroid photograph, location and a recommended disposition (relocation, demolition or preservation on site) for each building listed. The Building Department could use this simplified type of inventory to make the Museum Association aware of any applications or permits that would change the status of a building that appears on the listing. The Association could subsequently conduct a more detailed study on an individual basis, in much the same manner that the Coach House on Kingsway at Royal Oak Avenue was studied individually and in some considerable detail in May, 1973.

Continued ...

Re: Historical Buildings in Burnaby Cont'd.

The ad hoc committee is scheduled to meet again on April 4, 1974.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Century Park Museum Association and the Chairman of the ad hoc committee be advised as follows:

THAT Municipal funds are not available for the specific purpose of comprehensively classifying and cataloguing all historical buildings in Burnaby; and

THAT Dr. E. Gibson be requested to make his comprehensive research inventory on historical buildings in Burnaby available to the Museum Association when it is completed; and

THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Century Park Museum Association, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the ad hoc committee.