

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: HERITAGE DESIGNATION BYLAW
W.J. MATHERS ESTATE "ALTNADENE" - GATE & WALL
6490 DEER LAKE AVENUE (SHADBOLT CENTRE FOR THE ARTS)**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council request staff to prepare a Heritage Designation Bylaw for the W.J. Mathers Estate Gate & Wall to be advanced to First Reading and to a Public Hearing at a future date.
2. THAT Council approve the addition of the W.J. Mathers Estate Gate & Wall to the Burnaby Community Heritage Register – as a ‘Protected’ heritage landmark.
3. THAT Council forward a copy of this report to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for their information.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 2013 March 07, received and adopted the attached report seeking Council authorization to designate the historic W.J. Mathers Estate Gate and Wall as a City Heritage Site.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor R. Chang
Member

| | |
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| Copied to: | City Manager Director Planning & Building Director Finance Acting Director Engineering Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services City Solicitor Acting City Clerk |
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2013 February 26

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 77000 05

SUBJECT: HERITAGE DESIGNATION BYLAW
W.J. MATHERS ESTATE "ALTNADENE"- GATE & WALL
6490 DEER LAKE AVENUE (SHADBOLT CENTRE FOR THE ARTS)

PURPOSE: To seek Council authorization to designate this historic gate and wall as a City Heritage Site.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council request staff to prepare a Heritage Designation Bylaw for the W.J. Mathers Estate Gate & Wall to be advanced to First Reading and to a Public Hearing at a future date.
2. **THAT** Council approve the addition of the W.J. Mathers Estate Gate & Wall to the Burnaby Community Heritage Register – as a 'Protected' heritage landmark.
3. **THAT** Council forward a copy of this report to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for their information.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The W.J. Mathers Estate "Altnadene" was acquired by the City of Burnaby in 1971 which was incorporation into the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts. In 1992, this unique 1912 mansion was designated as a City heritage site to protect its unique character as part of the Deer Lake Park heritage precinct. However, the designation bylaw of the Mathers Estate as a City heritage site did not include provision for the protection of the historic gate and wall surrounding the mansion, given the uncertain future of this heritage feature being partially buried and adjacent to Canada Way.

At its Open meeting on 2011 February 3, Council received and approved a report from the Director Planning and Building which outlined the relocation and restoration of the Mathers Estate Gate & Wall, and recommended:

"THAT Council authorize staff to prepare a Heritage Designation Bylaw for the Mathers Estate Gate & Wall."

To: Community Heritage Commission
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: Heritage Designation Bylaw – W.J. Mathers Estate Gate & Wall
2013 February 26..... Page 2

In 2010, the City received a contribution of \$50,000 from the Province for the relocation and restoration of the gate and walls of the Mathers Estate as part of a comprehensive Burnaby Access Memorandum (BAM) related to the Port Mann/Highway #1 Project and the upgrade of the Kensington Avenue/Canada Way intersection. The project to relocate and restore the gate and wall was substantially completed in 2012. This report outlines the advancement of the heritage protection of the now restored Mathers Estate Gate & Wall, in accordance with Council's direction, through the adoption of a Heritage Designation Bylaw.

2.0 HERITAGE DESIGNATION BYLAW

2.1 Local Government Act – Heritage Designation Bylaw Process

Under the terms of the Local Government Act, provision is made for the designation by bylaw of property that “.... has heritage value or character....” (Section 967). The intention of the designation bylaw is to ensure that any future design changes to the heritage building and site will require a heritage alteration permit that would be considered by Council and reviewed by the Community Heritage Commission.

Section 968 of the Local Government Act specifies the formal procedures to be followed as part of the designation process which includes a Public Hearing, notification of the owners, a report outlining the heritage value of the property, its relationship to the community or Official Community Plan objectives, the effect of the designation upon the use, the condition and viability of the property and the possibility of the need for financial support.

2.2 Required Heritage Information

The following provides the information required under the Act with regard to the above noted requirements.

2.2.1 Heritage Character Statement

The wall and gate of “Altnadene” form an integral part of the heritage character of this historic estate, which was designated as a heritage site by the City of Burnaby in 1992 (Bylaw No. 9807). William J. & Mary Mathers began construction of their estate at Deer Lake in 1912 known as “Altnadene”. The estate was designed by the talented architect and Burnaby resident, Frank W. Macey, who had also designed F.J. Hart's Deer Lake home “Avalon”. Both homes are examples of the unusual Romanesque Revival Style, rarely executed locally in large residential commissions. “Altnadene” is an excellent and rare example of a unique form of this style incorporating in its original design scheme a pyramid roof, a tower with battlements and a series of arched windows. Typical of grand Edwardian country homes, the interior boasted nine bedrooms, nine fireplaces and six principal main floor rooms designed for entertaining guests.

To: Community Heritage Commission
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: Heritage Designation Bylaw – W.J. Mathers Estate Gate & Wall
2013 February 26..... Page 3

The landscape of the estate featured a landmark granite capstone wall and wrought iron gate surrounding the front garden and terraced lawns of the mansion. The overall architectural intention was to reference medieval English estates by surrounding the ‘castle’ with a stone wall with gated entrances. The stone material for the construction of the wall was quarried from large ‘glacial erratic’ granite boulders found on the property. The highly decorative wrought iron gate was designed and made by artisan James A. Blair, a Scottish blacksmith employed by the Westminster Iron Works in 1912. The design for the “double” driveway gate was featured in the company’s original catalogue as “Design No. 152”. These gates are a very unusual and rare example of their type and are some of the most elaborate surviving examples in the City (see *Attachment 1*).

The Mathers Estate originally included four sections of elaborate granite walls and decorative iron gates. The construction of Deer Lake Avenue in the 1980s required the dismantling of portions of the granite walls. The capstones were salvaged and relocated to the museum’s storage facility. Past road improvements to the Canada Way/Kensington intersection further encroached and buried sections of this heritage feature, including the landmark iron gate and the carved granite post with the estate’s name “Altnadene”.

Based on the findings of the Heritage Conservation Study completed in 2005, the historic piers and gate were found to be in fair to good condition but were in an extremely vulnerable location. As part of the Council approved restoration project, the granite piers and valuable iron gate were relocated to a new location adjacent to Deer Lake Avenue at the base of the historic driveway that leads to the mansion’s former “porte cochere” entrance. This approach has ensured the long-term conservation of this key component of the site’s heritage landscape and enhanced the property as a gateway to Deer Lake Park. The completed works associated with the gate and wall are shown in *Attachment 2*.

2.2.2 Compatibility of Conservation with Community Plan and Adjoining Land Uses

Planning for the conservation of heritage resources is outlined in Burnaby’s Official Community Plan (OCP). Burnaby has established a goal “to provide opportunities for the increased awareness and the conservation of the City’s unique natural, cultural, archaeological and built heritage.” The conservation of this heritage landmark feature is considered compatible within the adjoining W.J. Mathers Estate and well-developed neighbourhood context in the Deer Lake Park heritage precinct.

The subject City-owned site is zoned P3 – Park and Public Use District which provides for the location, preservation and development of public land to serve the educational, park and recreational needs of the City. The retention, conservation and designation of the gate and wall surrounding the Mathers Estate, a designated heritage property, through a designation bylaw will support these goals and add another significant heritage landmark to the City’s list of protected heritage properties. The Mathers Estate Gate & Wall is an important neighbourhood landmark and its preservation provides another opportunity to retain and interpret the early history and heritage of Burnaby.

To: Community Heritage Commission
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: Heritage Designation Bylaw – W.J. Mathers Estate Gate & Wall
2013 February 26..... Page 4

2.2.3 Condition and Economic Viability of the Property

Relocation and restoration of the gate and wall was undertaken and completed in 2012. The ongoing care and maintenance of this landscape feature will be managed by the City as part of its civic heritage assets.

2.2.4 Possible Need for Financial Support to Enable Conservation

The gate and wall are owned by the City of Burnaby. Given the completed restoration works, no further improvements or significant maintenance requirements are expected to be required in the near to longer term. Any regular repair and maintenance, as required, would be provided under established operational budgets. Under the proposed designation, the City will ensure the heritage character of this City heritage site would be protected and conserved as part of its ongoing program of civic stewardship of its heritage landmarks.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The designation of the gate and wall surrounding the W.J. Mathers Estate through a Heritage Designation Bylaw would provide an opportunity to preserve and add another significant heritage resource to Burnaby's Heritage Register. The proposed bylaw will acknowledge the importance of the gate and wall as one of the key elements that define the heritage character of the Mathers Estate "Altnadene" and protect its heritage value as part of the City's standard stewardship practice for City-owned heritage sites. Once the gate and wall are protected by bylaw as a "heritage site", it will have all of the legal protection as authorized under the Local Government Act. Any future proposed changes to its location or design would require Council approval of a Heritage Alteration Permit. With Council approval of the recommendations of this report, the subject bylaw would be advanced to a Public Hearing at a future date.



Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

JW/HL:sla
Attachments

cc: City Manager
Director Finance
Acting Director Engineering
Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Solicitor
Acting City Clerk



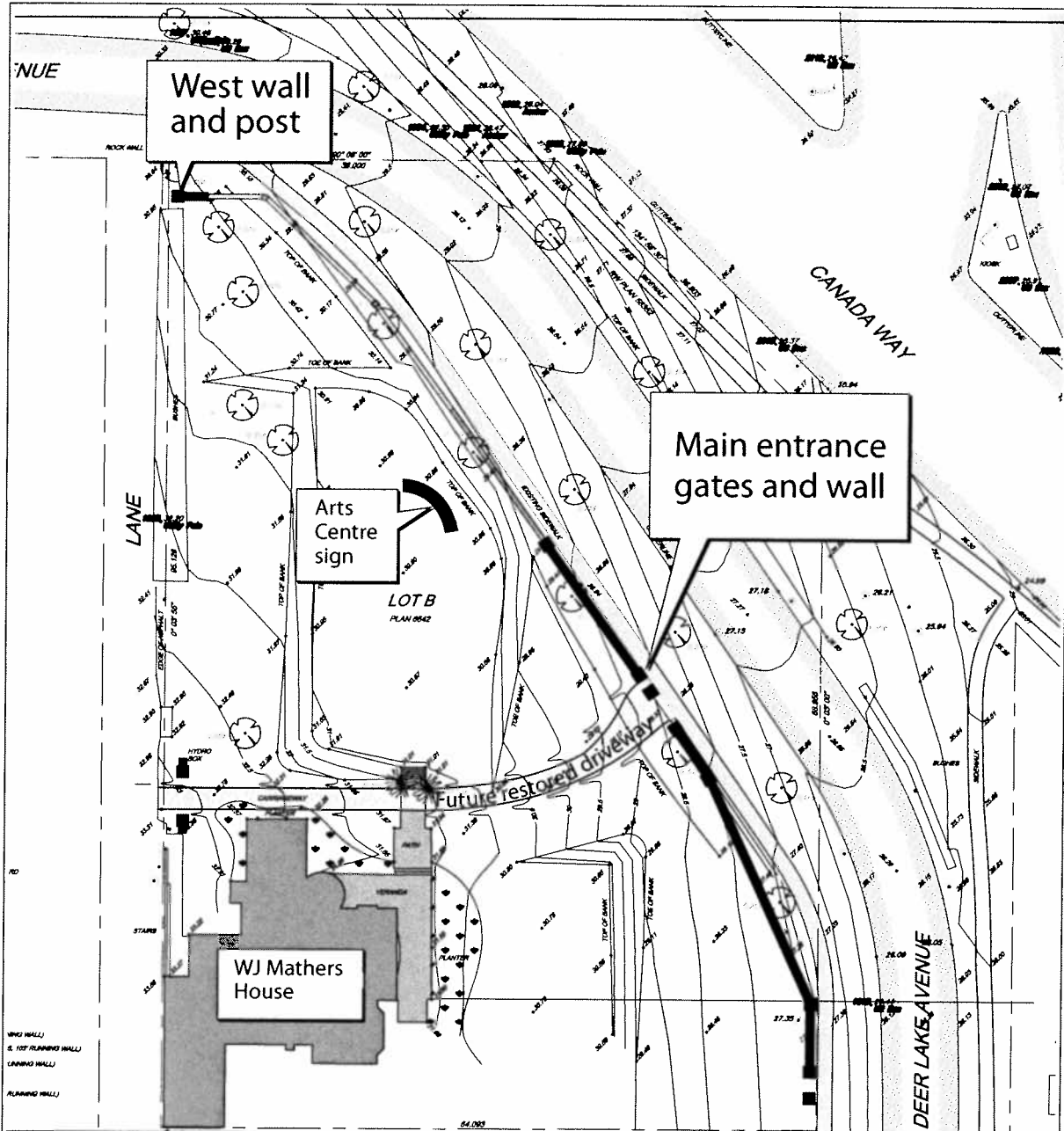
Attachment 1

**W.J. Mather Estate "Altnadene"
Gate and Wall**

6490 Deer Lake Avenue



PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
2013 02 26



PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT



DATE:
2013 02 26

SCALE:
nts

DRAWN BY:
rcn

**6490 DEER LAKE AVENUE
WJ MATHERS ESTATE "ALTANADENE"**

Proposed Gate and Wall to be protected
by the Heritage Designation

Attachment 2