

BYLAW NO. 8-2015

**A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF HOLDEN
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
TO DESIGNATE HOLDEN MUSEUM AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

WHEREAS, Section 26 of the *Historical Resources Act*, RSA 2000, as amended, permits Council to designate any historic resource within a municipality, whose conservation it considers to be in the public interest, as a Municipal Historic Resource; and

WHEREAS the conservation of the Holden Museum, located at 4928 – 50 Avenue, appears to be in the public interest;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Holden, in regular meeting, duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

1. This Bylaw shall be cited as the "Holden Museum Designation Bylaw".
2. The historic resource commonly known as Holden Museum, together with the land on which it is located, being legally described as Plan 3940W, Block 15, Lot 13, is hereby designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.
3. The Holden Museum and its heritage value is specifically described in Schedule "A", which is attached to and is a part of this Bylaw.
4. The Municipal Historic Resource hereby designated in Section 2, and as described in Schedule "A", shall not be removed, destroyed, disturbed, altered, rehabilitated, repaired, or otherwise permanently affected unless the proposed changes to the property are approved by the Village of Holden before the work proceeds.
5. Alterations proposed under Section 4 will be evaluated by the Village of Holden using the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.
6. This bylaw takes effect as of the date of third and final reading.

READ A FIRST TIME this 21st day of December 2015

READ A SECOND TIME this 21st day of December 2015

READ A THIRD TIME and passed this 21st day of December 2015



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer

4928 50th Avenue

Holden Museum



Description of the Historic Place

The 1911 Holden Museum is a rectangular two-storey hall with clapboard siding and corner boards. "DYNAMIC NO. 96 LODGE" is painted on the upper façade around the Masonic Square and Compasses emblem. The building is located at 4928-50 Avenue in the Village of Holden, one half-block east of the Main Street Cenotaph.

Heritage Value

The Holden Museum is significant for its original use as a municipal office, fire hall and public meeting space; for its association with the Freemason's Dynamic Lodge No. 96; and for its Boomtown design.

The Holden Museum is important for its original design as a "town hall". It was constructed two years after Holden's incorporation as a village, and is the earliest known facility where the newly-formed government managed its various responsibilities. The main floor housed the village office, fire hall, and two jail cells. A public meeting place, for entertainment such as dances and silent movies, occupied the upper storey and was accessed by a rear door. This multi-purpose use of the building continued until 1935, when the village office was moved to a private building on Main Street and a new community hall was constructed on 49th Avenue. The building was then sold by the Village of Holden to the local Freemason's lodge; but with an agreement that the Village would lease half of the main floor for continued service of the fire hall and jail cells. The Museum building was the first seat of Holden's local government, accommodated its earliest protective services, and was undoubtedly also a social hub for residents.

The Holden Museum is also valued in the community for its association with the Freemason's Dynamic Lodge No. 96. This organization began meeting in 1917 in the upper floor of the Farrell Block. The death of charter member and long-time mayor Samuel Farrell in 1935 required the lodge to find an alternate meeting place. Their search coincided with changes at the town hall building. Council approved a lease-to-own agreement with the Masons and the village lease for half of the main floor. The Masons settled in and contributed to the long life of the building with renovations throughout the 1940's and 50's. Their upgrades remain as the current interior, and their influence is especially evident in the distinctive compass, circle, and star pattern in the linoleum floor covering of the upper story. Over the years, other local groups also used the main floor for meetings or community needs such as war relief efforts of the Red Cross. The fire hall moved to a new

location in 1950 and the Masons became full owners of the building in 1956. They modified the façade by removing all front windows and the fire hall doors, giving a more closed appearance. The 1980's saw a decrease in membership for the Masons along with increasing costs in upkeep. The Holden Historical Society was offered the facility for use as a museum, with the condition that the Masons be permitted to continue meeting there. The Village took ownership in 1991 with this dual purpose in mind. The Museum opened their doors on the main level in 1992, while the top floor continues to operate as a Masonic Lodge meeting hall, as well as an interesting feature of the museum. The Mason's lengthy history in the community is honoured in the features and preservation of this building.

The Holden Museum building is valued for its boomtown architecture. This style is characteristic of commercial buildings in prairie towns that were hastily settled on narrow lots with mainly wood-frame construction. The square false front concealed the modest building behind it and provided ample area for business signage. As a former town hall, the boomtown design distinguished the Holden Museum building from adjacent housing and gave an impression of progress and importance. The two-storey façade and overhang is original to the 1911 building, and is an important example of early boomtown construction. It provides a visual reminder of the pioneers' efforts to give the newly-established village a sense of significance while providing basic services for the residents of Holden.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Holden Museum building is expressed in the form, massing, and materials, particularly:

- Exterior:
 - The front-facing gable roof;
 - The clapboard siding with corner boards;
 - The rectangular Boomtown front with a shelf overhang;
 - The black painted sign reading "DYNAMIC NO. 96 LODGE" around the Masonic Square and Compasses emblem;
 - The double door opening on the front façade;
 - The concrete foundation; and
 - The pattern, style and construction of all original windows and doors.
- Interior Main Level:
 - The hardwood floor;
 - The donaconna board upper and the varnished plywood on lower walls;
 - The wood-finished ceiling;
 - The wood finishing in the stair well; and
 - The location, size and framing of original jail cells.
- Interior Upper Level
 - The linoleum floor covering with compass points on a rectangular border and stars and circle within the border;
 - The donaconna board upper and the varnished plywood on lower walls; and
 - The donaconna board ceiling.