

**TOWN OF BASHAW**

**BY-LAW 730-2011**

**BY-LAW NO 730-2011 BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE MAJESTIC THEATRE AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE.**

**WHEREAS** Section 26 of the Historic Resources Act R.S.A. 2000, c.H-9, as amended provides that a municipality may by by-law designate any historic resource within the municipality whose preservation it considers to be in the public interest, together with any land on which it is located as a Municipal Historic Resource; and

**WHEREAS** THE Council of the Town of Bashaw has determined that it is in the public interest to preserve the building known as the Majestic Theatre and the land upon which the building is situated as a Municipal Historic Resource.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Town of Bashaw having complied with the requirements of the Historical Resources Act, hereby **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the building known as the Majestic Theatre, specifically described in Schedule "A" and the lands on which the building is located, being the lands legally described in Schedule "B", are hereby designated a Municipal Historic Resource (Historic Resource).
2. The Chief Administrative Office is appointed by Council to administer the implementation of any matters arising out of this designation and in particular, for the purpose of determining whether a written approval shall be given under Section 3 of this By-Law.
3. No person shall:
  - a. destroy, disturb, alter, restore, repair or in any way cause changes to the Historic Resource; or
  - b. remove any historic object from the Historic Resource without the written approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.
4. Except as provided herein, the Chief Administrative Officer, in the Chief Administrative Officer's absolute discretion, may refuse to grant an approval under Section 3 of this By-Law or may make the approval subject to any conditions the Chief Administrative Officer considers appropriate.
5. In exercising the discretion under Section 3 of this By-Law the Chief Administrative Officer shall consider The Standards and Guideline for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada adopted for use in Alberta by the Province of Alberta.

6. This By-Law shall take effect on the date of final passing.

**READ** a First time this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN MANAGER

**READ** a Second time this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN MANAGER

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT** given for  
a third reading this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN MANAGER

**READ** a Third time and  
finally passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN MANAGER

**TOWN OF BASHAW**

**SCHEDULE "A"  
TO BY-LAW 730-2011**

*Majestic Theatre, 5112 - 50 Street, Bashaw*



Majestic Theatre Building



Main Theatre



Lobby



Upstairs Office

### Description of Historic Place

The Majestic Theatre is one and one-half storey theatre with clapboard siding, a front-facing gable roof, and boomtown front with a signboard reading "MAJESTIC THEATRE". It is located on Main (50<sup>th</sup>) Street near the northeast edge of Bashaw's commercial district.

### Heritage Value

The Majestic Theatre is significant for its association with still and motion picture entertainment in Bashaw, and for its Boomtown design.

The Majestic Theatre is an important building in Bashaw with still and motion picture entertainment. Town founder Eugene Bashaw partnered with Mrs. Ella Wing to build the theatre in 1915, and in addition to numerous community functions it hosted travelling magic lantern shows. The Theatre was sold to Tom Stranatka in 1921 and converted into a silent picture house renamed "Majestic Theatre, Home of Good Pictures". The theatre showed films such as the *Last of the Mohicans*, *Mysterious Rider*, and *Jesse James*, and introduced Bashaw residents to American popular culture and the cult of the cowboy. The theatre had difficulty paying taxes in the 1920's but the Secretary Treasurer of the Town of Bashaw filed caveats for tax recovery on the property, ensuring that the theatre would continue to serve as a community hub. The theatre was bought by John Malaniuk in 1928 and sold shortly thereafter to J.R. Whitney, who used it primarily as his real estate office but would occasionally show films in the building. In 1939 the Roman Catholic Church purchased the building to use as a social service centre. J.R. Whitney bought the theatre a second time in 1940, and then modernized it to accommodate the new technology of motion picture entertainment. When Joseph Dick purchased the Majestic Theatre in 1945 he renamed it the "Dixy", and the theatre continued to provide cinematic entertainment to the people of Bashaw and the surrounding area until 1984.

The Majestic is an important part of Bashaw's built heritage for its Boomtown design. Boomtown architecture is more commonly associated with the 1900's and 1910's in Alberta, but it continued to be a popular style for commercial buildings well into the mid-twentieth century. The boomtown front increases the building's presence on the street and provides a large surface area for signage. The Majestic Theatre is believed to be last remaining Boomtown style theatre in Western Canada. Its wood frame construction and inherently rural 'frontier' design were practical and visually familiar to local residents. The building had a flat floor with moveable wooden chairs so that it could host dances as well as magic lantern shows, travelling theatre, silent films, and eventually films with sound. The building has received numerous renovations since it was first constructed, particularly when it was given a stucco finish between 1940 and 1944, and when the front facade received a Moderne facelift sometime between 1946 and 1951. In 1998 the Friends of the Majestic Theatre was formed to restore the building to its pre-1930's condition - a task completed in 2004. Bashaw's Majestic Theatre was designated as a Registered Historic Resource by the Province of Alberta in 2000, underscoring its significance to the Town of Bashaw, and to the province as a whole.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The character defining elements as expressed in the form, massing, materials of the 1915 one and one-half storey Majestic Theatre include:

- The front-facing gable roof
- The massing
- The location on 50<sup>th</sup> Street, near the core of Bashaw's commercial area

Source: Bashaw - Highway 21 Heritage Inventory Project, Robert Buckle, Heritage Collaborative Inc., November 2009

Any development or alterations affecting the Majestic Theatre shall respect and conserve the heritage value and character defining elements identified in the statement of significance in accordance with the General Guidelines for Conservation and as recommended in the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

Non-character defining elements of the building (the "unregulated portions") being all other portions of the building not specifically identified as a Character Defining Element, may be rehabilitated, altered, repaired or otherwise permanently affected in any manner provided that such rehabilitation, alteration or repair does not impact on the regulated Character Defining Elements and Heritage Value. Any development or alterations affecting those unregulated portions of the Majestic Theatre must be consistent with the General Guidelines for Conservation and Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. Any development or alterations of any portion of the Majestic Theatre shall be undertaken in a manner that is sympathetic to the regulated Character Defining Elements and Heritage Value of the historic place.

**TOWN OF BASHAW**

**SCHEDULE "B"  
TO BY-LAW 730-2011**

*Majestic Theatre, 5112 - 50 Street, Bashaw*

PLAN 2627 AC  
BLOCK 13  
LOTS 5 & 6

EXCEPTING THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS