

BYLAW # 2009 – 758

A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF MANNVILLE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, ENACTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNATING THE VILLAGE TREASURES BUILDING AND SITE AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE “**VILLAGE TREASURES HISTORICAL DESIGNATION BYLAW.**”

WHEREAS Section 26 of the Historical Resources Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, cH-9, as amended, permits Council to designate any historic resource within the Village of Mannville whose preservation Council considers to be in the public interest, together with any land in or on which it is located as a Municipal Historic Resource.

AND WHEREAS a Statement of Significance (attached hereto as “Annex A”) has been prepared and accepted by the owner and the Council;

AND WHEREAS the preservation of the Village Treasures building and site, originally constructed as the Manville[sic] Trading Store, appears to be in the best interest of the residents of the Village of Mannville and surrounding area;

NOW THEREFORE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF MANNVILLE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. “Village Treasures located on Lots 3 and 4, Block 3, Plan RN87, municipally located at 5009 - 50th Street in the Village of Mannville, is hereby designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.”
2. This designation will be registered against the title in conjunction with an executed agreement between the Village of Mannville and the property owners stipulating associated terms and conditions.
3. This Bylaw comes into effect on the date of third reading.

Read a first time this 16th day of December, 2010.

Read a second time this 16th day of December, 2010.

Given a third reading and finally passed this 27th of January, 2010.

Margaret Hatch

Mayor

Candace Dueck

Chief Administrative Officer

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ANNEX A

Statement of Significance **Village Treasures**

Description of Historic Place

Village Treasures, originally constructed as the Manville [sic] Trading Store, is an early twentieth-century, one-storey building situated on two lots in the Village of Mannville. It anchors the intersection of the south end of Main Street and Railway Avenue (50th), now having civic address 5009 – 50th Street. The false-front structure with low gabled roof features an original tin ceiling and an exterior of concrete blocks crafted on site.

Heritage Value

Like many other mid-eastern Alberta communities, Mannville came into being as a result of the construction of the Canadian National Railway's (CNR's) line through the region in the early 1900s. The townsite was surveyed by the CNR during the summer of 1905. By the end of 1929, there were many businesses and a population of 390 in the Village of Mannville. The 1930s brought the Depression and a number of properties were forfeited to the Village due to taxes being in arrears. It was during these difficult times that Julius Spevakow built his store on main street - the Manville [sic] Trading Store. Other businesses started up in the years that followed, inspired by his success.

The construction of the building between June and September 1935 was quite unique, with the use of concrete blocks and a tin interior roof. The concrete blocks were made on site by hand. A wooden mould was used to form three blocks at a time. The mould had a hole in its side to accommodate a metal rod which would run horizontally through the blocks. The mould was filled with concrete mixture, and then set aside to dry in the sun. When the blocks were dry, there remained a hole in each of them through which a metal rod was threaded, thus reinforcing the walls as they were built. The blocks have an interesting protruding design, which is unique to this building. The tin roof is also unique in that it was crimped in order to seal it, which would have required special knowledge and tools. The original roof and concrete blocks are still extant.

The store was a general store, carrying everything from hardware supplies to clothing. There were groceries, canned goods, candy, and fabrics, as well as many other sundry items. While there were other general stores in Mannville, Mr. Spevakow catered specifically to the immigrant population, as he was proficient in more than five languages. Many customers did their business with Mr. Spevakow because he could speak their native tongue. During the depression, Mr. Spevakow bartered with his customers, and his wife was very generous in donating clothing to the poor. Edmonton Produce would come and purchase produce directly from the farmers. These farmers were given a chit (voucher), which they could then redeem at The Manville Trading Store. Mr. Spevakow would bring in clothing and groceries on consignment from Edmonton for his customers. The store became a common meeting place and source of supplies for many people in the surrounding area. The store's existence carried many local families through the depression and kept them in the area.

Even though his family moved to Edmonton in 1950, Mr. Spevakow continued to run the store until the mid 1960s. Having passed through several owners and various uses, the store was purchased in 2007 by the owners of Village Treasures, a quilting and fabric store who wish to preserve its historic characteristics.

Sources: Trails to Mannville: A History of Mannville and District, Mannville and District Old Timer's Society, 1985. Oral interviews with current owners, who collected some of their information from interviews with Mannville residents. Oral interview with Robert Spevakow, son of Julius.

Character-defining Elements

The character-defining Elements of the Manville Trading Store include:

- its prominent commercial location and current use as a retail business anchoring main street;
- features of the building envelope demonstrating its unique and historical construction, including the concrete blocks of the exterior walls (made on site), and the tin roof;
- elements of the building that express its historic function, including the "Robin Hood Flour" advertisement painted on the south exterior wall, framing for the original signage over the main entrance, and large display windows with recessed entrance and transom at the top.