



BORDEN PARK BAND SHELL

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

7507 BORDEN PARK ROAD NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Borden Park Band Shell is an outdoor covered stage located in Borden Park. The structure is constructed of a concrete arch over a platform, with an apron on the ground level, and a back wall made of fieldstone.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Borden Park Band Shell is significant for its associations with the development of historic Borden Park, its early Modern Style of architecture and association with the City Architect Robert Falconer Duke and Architect W. Pasternak.

The Borden Park Band Shell is an excellent example of a modern purpose-built band shell and attached Early Modern Style ancillary building. The building is typified by the use of a unique arched band shell shape, exposed concrete arched beams with wood interior cladding, acoustic canopy, fieldstone feature wall, concrete steps and a performance platform. Attached to the Band Shell is a wood-clad ancillary building with flat roof. The structure is adjacent to a curvilinear wading pool and stream with a steel bridge, and it is complemented by landscaped amphitheatre seating and a park-like setting.

Borden Park was established in 1906, and named East End City Park. This park was re-named for Sir Robert Laird Borden, the eighth prime minister of Canada (1911-1920), after he visited Edmonton in 1914. In the early 20th Century, the park was highly popular place for people to spend their weekends in. The first Edmonton Zoo was located in Borden Park, as were a popular tea room, rides such as a carousel, roller coaster and tunnel of love.

The entire park underwent a restoration in the 1950s, in which a capital works budget approved by the City Council of the day allocated \$100,000 for Borden Park to address its drainage system, new walks, a band shell and picnic/sports area. The new Band Shell was designed by City Architect Robert Falconer Duke with support from W. Pasternak. Duke is noted as being directly involved with the design of other noted historic resources, including the Glenora Substation, the Rosedale Water Filtration Plant and the Borden Park Lodge and Caretaker's Apartments on the same site of the Band Shell.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character defining elements of the Borden Park Band Shell are expressed in the form, massing and materials of the structure such as:

- + Unique arched bandshell shape, with exposed arched beams;
- + Exposed concrete steps and performance platform;
- + Fieldstone feature wall;
- + Attached wood-clad ancillary building with flat roof;
- + Landscaped amphitheatre seating; and
- + Park-like setting.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 16309 in February 2013.

Visit edmonton.ca/historicresources to learn more

