



**TOWN OF PINCHER CREEK  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
BYLAW NO. 1614-24**

**A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF PINCHER CREEK IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNATING THE LABEL MANSION 696 KETTLES STREET AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

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**WHEREAS** pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, and amendments thereto, a Council may pass bylaws relating to people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public and services provided by or on behalf of the municipality in the manner that Council considers appropriate, and

**WHEREAS** Section 26 of the Historical Resources Act, R.S.A. 2000, as amended, permits the Council of a municipality to designate any heritage resource within a municipality whose preservation it considers to be in the public interest, together with any land as a *Municipal Historic Resource*, upon giving notice in accordance with the Historical Resources Act;

**WHEREAS** it is deemed in the public interest to designate the heritage resource known as the Lebel Mansion, located at 696 Kettles Street, Pincher Creek, Alberta as a *Municipal Historic Resource*; and

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Town of Pincher Creek has determined that it is in the public interest to preserve the Lebel Mansion and the land upon which the building is situated as a *Municipal Historic Resource*;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Pincher Creek in the Province of Alberta, having complied with the Historical Resources Act, and duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

**1. HERITAGE RESOURCE DESIGNATED AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

The Lebel Mansion is hereby designated as a *Municipal Heritage Resource*, specifically described in Scheduled "A" Statement of Significance and Description of Character Defining Elements and located in the Town of Pincher Creek on the lands legally described as follows:  
PLAN PINCHER CREEK 460B

LOT TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY ONE (231), THE NORTH HALF OF LOT TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO (232), AND LOTS TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY THREE (233) TO TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY EIGHT (238) INCLUSIVE  
EXCEPTING THEREOUT  
THOSE PORTIONS OF LOTS TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO (232) AND TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY THREE (233) WHICH LIE WITHIN SUBDIVISION PLAN 8010360

## **2. PERMITTED REPAIRS, REHABILITATION AND ALTERATIONS**

The designated *Municipal Historic Resource* shall not be removed, destroyed, disturbed, altered, rehabilitated, repaired or otherwise permanently affected, other than in accordance with the terms of Bylaw No. 1614-24 and its attachments.

### **2.1 Regulated Portions (Character Defining Elements)**

No persons shall alter in anyway the Character Defining Elements of the *Municipal Historic Resource* (as enumerated in Schedule "A") without prior written approval.

Intervention of the Regulated Portions of the *Municipal Historic Resource* require review and approval by Council or the Authorized Representatives of the Town of Pincher Creek, and must be in accordance with the terms of the Parks Canada publication: "Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada."

### **2.2 Non-Regulated Portions**

With prior written consent, all portions of the building and property not specifically classified as a Character Defining Element may be repaired, rehabilitated, altered, or otherwise permanently affected.

Intervention and/or alterations of the Non-Regulated Portions of the *Municipal Historic Resource* require review and approval by Council or the Authorized Representatives of the Town of Pincher Creek to ensure that Regulated Portions will not be impacted.

## **3. ADMINISTRATOR; COUNCIL AND/OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES**

Council of the Town of Pincher Creek or the Authorized Representative of the Town of Pincher Creek is authorized and hereby appointed to administer the implementation of any matters arising from the matters set out in Bylaw No. 1614-24 and its attachments.

Authorized Representatives of the Town of Pincher Creek may include:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Director of Community Services
- Heritage Advisor

Or any appointments thereof.

**4. COMPENSATION**

The owners of the Municipal Historic Resource and/or property as described in Paragraph 1 shall accept total liability and hold harmless the Town of Pincher Creek from and against all financial and/or economic losses, suits, charges and claims for compensation or damages in any manner arising from the designation of the resource.

**5. ADOPTION**

Bylaw 1614-14 and amendments thereto is hereby repealed upon third and final reading of Bylaw 1614-24.

This Bylaw shall come into effect on the date of the third and final reading.

**READ A FIRST TIME THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December, 2024, A.D.**

**READ A SECOND TIME THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December, 2024, A.D.**

**READ A THIRD TIME and finally passed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025, A.D.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR 

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

# SCHEDULE A

## Statement of Significance

### LEBEL MANSION

696 Kettles Street

Pincher Creek, Alberta

Owner: Town of Pincher Creek



#### Description of Historic Place

The Lebel Mansion is a 1910 grand brick building located on the crest of the south hill of Pincher Creek. The prominent 2.5 story mansion overlooks the downtown business district and residential areas. The original structure exhibits French Canadian prairie style and Queen Anne influences with its wrap around verandah and columns, the high basement, hexagonal corner towers and bell roofs. It was a residence for only 14 years with the majority of its history being as a hospital and arts centre which expanded the building many times over the years. When designated as a Registered Historic Site in 1976, Lebel Mansion was described as the northwest portion of St. Vincent's Hospital. The east wing of the hospital was removed in 1986 and the Lebel Mansion with its remaining additions now occupies just over 2 of the 7 lots owned by the Town of Pincher Creek. The Mansion is a majestic landmark and is surrounded by landscaped grounds and a historic sandstone, brick and wrought iron fence.

#### Heritage Value

Lebel Mansion was the home of Timothee Lebel (1857-1935) and his family. Timothee Lebel was one of the earliest and most influential businessmen in the history of Pincher Creek. Born in Cacouna, Quebec, he migrated west in 1881. Shortly after his arrival in Pincher Creek in 1884, he set up a small store in partnership with Tom Hinton. Later Charles Kettles bought out Mr. Hinton's interest in business and the firm of T. Lebel and Company was formed in 1894.

The primary general mercantile store was located on Main Street and in 1904 an impressive three story sandstone structure was built to accommodate the expanding business, becoming one of the main trade centres in southern Alberta. Two smaller stores were also operated in Beaver Mines and Brocket. Mr. Lebel retired as the active manager in 1905 but retained ownership of the business and building. In 1915 a massive fire destroyed much of the building and merchandise but undaunted, Timothee Lebel rebuilt the store. The business was operated until 1924 when Mr. Lebel retired from business life and sold both the building and business to the Webster Brothers. Timothee Lebel served as a private banker, loaning out money to many struggling families and extended a hand to many newcomers to the area.

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In 1886, Mr. Lebel's fiancé, Miss Marie Hortense Chasse, also from Cacouna, Quebec came west and they were married in Fort Macleod in 1887. Their first home was located on the south side of Main Street, being directly across from the family's store. In 1908 Mr. Lebel decided to build a new home and bought the land on the crest of the south hill, directly across from the Catholic Church. This was the former site of Father Lacombe's Hermitage in Pincher Creek, built in 1885. From 1909 – 1910, the impressive 1500 square foot brick mansion was constructed at a cost of \$22,305.21. The mansion included a basement, second story and attic with a decorative wrap around verandah that overlooked their three storey sandstone store. The impressive staircase to the second floor was made of oak and the floors used hard maple. An innovative cable communication system connected the Mansion with the store a block to the north – attached to the cable was a basket where family messages were sent back and forth between the two massive landmarks.

Mr. and Mrs. Lebel lived in the mansion along with their adopted daughter Marie Blanche until the residence was sold for \$10,000 in 1924 to the Roman Catholic order Daughters of Jesus (les Filles de Jesus) for use as a general hospital. The Lebel family moved to a smaller frame house to the south and east of the mansion. Mr. Lebel passed in 1935 at age 77.

The first administrator of the hospital was Mother Mary St. Vincent de Paul. In 1927 the first wing, providing for a chapel, was added to the mansion with subsequent additions built in 1935 (an obstetrical ward to the south of the chapel), 1940, 1950 and 1955. From its beginnings as a hospital, the doors were opened to the sick and suffering and many babies were born there. Patients were cared for by the Sisters and the Oblate Fathers assisted by bringing spiritual comfort. In 1974, the St. Vincent's Hospital became a government owned building and named Pincher Creek Health Care Centre with only one sister remaining on staff. After the new Pincher Creek municipal hospital was built in 1983, the Town of Pincher Creek purchased the building for \$1.00. The Lebel Mansion portion of the building was then leased to the Allied Arts Council. The east hospital wing (1950 addition) was removed in 1986 and the remaining Lebel Mansion has served as an arts and cultural centre for nearly 30 years. In 2006, a staircase addition to the



south east of the building was constructed to better access the third floor.

Mr. Lebel was a leading pioneer merchant and a community leader serving on Pincher Creek Town Council and on St. Mike's Separate School Board. He was a prominent in the local French Canadian community in the Pincher Creek and Beauvais Lake districts and a well-known businessman throughout a large area of southern Alberta.

The Lebel Mansion is one of the earliest and best examples of residential design in Pincher Creek. It also represents a period of growing commerce as well as the French Canadian and

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Catholic influences that helped to build the community of Pincher Creek. The unique architecture of the exterior of the building and its long history of use over time makes it an important historic resource for Pincher Creek.

### Character Defining Elements:

The character defining elements of the Lebel Mansion include:

- Prominent location overlooking the town.
- French Canadian and Queen Anne influences in verandah columns, high basement and corner towers and ornate details.
- Brick construction.
- Square layout of the original mansion with bell roofs.
- Two and a half story height building with irregular additions.
- Shingled roof.
- Flat transom window over original front door.
- Two gothic windows (chapel).
- Sandstone lug sills.
- Balconet on second floor.
- Main floor open wrap around verandah with columns and decorative railings.
- 1 shed dormer and 4 hip dormers.
- Unique cresting feature on roof top.
- Original brick chimneys.
- Historic fence on north and west side of property with sandstone base, brick pillars and ornate wrought iron metal railings.

