

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**  
**FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL**

**ITEM NUMBER: 15**

**DATE: August 15, 2006**

**STAFF: Karen McWilliams**

**SUBJECT**

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Second Reading of Ordinance No. 114, 2006, Designating the Reinholt/Mitchell House, 509 East Myrtle Street, as a Fort Collins Landmark Pursuant to Chapter 14 of the City Code.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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Ordinance No. 114, 2006, which was unanimously adopted on First Reading on July 18, 2006, designates the Reinholt/Mitchell House as a Fort Collins Landmark. The owner of the property, Robert Mitchell, is initiating this request.

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

## FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 26

DATE: July 18, 2006

STAFF: Karen McWilliams

### SUBJECT

COPY

First Reading of Ordinance No. 114, 2006, Designating the Reinholt/Mitchell House, 509 East Myrtle Street, as a Fort Collins Landmark Pursuant to Chapter 14 of the City Code.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading. At a public hearing held on June 14, 2006, the Landmark Preservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend designation of this property as a landmark for its historical and architectural significance to Fort Collins.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The owner of the property, Robert Mitchell, is initiating this request for Fort Collins Landmark designation for the Reinholt/Mitchell House. The building is judged to be both architecturally and historically significant under Fort Collins Landmark Standards (2) and (3). The Reinholt/Mitchell House has tremendous architectural significance to Fort Collins as a rare and locally distinctive example of Prairie-influenced 20th Century Vernacular architecture, with very good integrity. Additionally, the residence is an excellent illustration of the elaborate work of noted Fort Collins master mason Leroy "Roy" Nye.

### BACKGROUND

On August 18, 1924, Anna Nye received a permit for a four room brick house, to be constructed on the center fifty feet of Lot 13, Block 166. The cost for building the single-story brick dwelling was projected to be \$3,000. Anna Nye was the wife of master mason and contractor LeRoy "Roy" Nye. A Fort Collins native, Roy Nye was born in 1884, on his parent's homestead near Arthur's Rock. Over a career that spanned more than fifty years, Nye designed and constructed many residences and several of Fort Collins' commercial and municipal buildings, including the addition to the Carnegie Library (now the Fort Collins Museum), the Camp Collins monument and the fountain, both located at the old Power Plant, and a portion of the water facility up the Poudre Canyon.

Nye constructed the Reinholt/Mitchell House as a distinctive example of Prairie-influenced 20th Century Vernacular architecture in Fort Collins. The "four room and garage Spanish-type cottage" is a one story, square-plan brick dwelling with a symmetrical facade, on a high foundation. It features a unique roof design incorporating vertically projecting, rectangular piers or parapets at the walls' corners and centers, and flanking the front porch. Substantial wooden shed-roof awnings, supported by wooden knee-braces, are located over windows and entries. The main entry is a wide

central bay, accessed by a wide four step brick stoop. Windows and main entry side lights feature elegant multi-light patterns influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Exemplifying Nye's skill as a master mason, three different brick types were utilized in the home's construction: a dark brownish brick for the foundation/above grade basement level, and for the main entry stoop; black-speckled yellowish colored brick, for the band between the basement and the main level, as well as for the slipsills and to cap the parapet piers; and smooth red brick for the exterior walls. Attached to the rear of the house is a lower height flat-roof brick extension, originally serving as a garage. This portion of the dwelling was remodeled into habitable space in 1998 and in 2004. The owners intend to renovate this remodel to create a more historically compatible appearance for the altered space.

The home's first owners were Martin and Elta Reinholt. Employed by the federal government, Martin Reinholt moved to Fort Collins in 1923, working with Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming to acquire data on area ranches. In the mid-1930s, Martin's work with the government led to assignments in other states, and the Reinholts leased the home during these years. When Martin retired in 1949, the Reinholts returned to Fort Collins, moving back into their East Myrtle Street property. The couple resided here until Martin Reinholt's tragic death in an auto accident in 1961. For the next forty years, the residence served principally as rental property. The new owner of the residence is Robert Mitchell. Robert came to Fort Collins in 1996, when he opened European Motor Cars Inc. with his eldest son, John Mitchell. Robert and his wife Suzanne both grew up in historic southern cities, fostering their interest in historic architecture and preservation. Attracted by the unique design and historically important features of this Myrtle Street residence, the couple plans to rehabilitate and restore the property.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 6, 2006 of the Landmark Preservation Commission Recommending Landmark designation of the Reinholt/Mitchell House, 509 East Myrtle Street.
2. Landmark Preservation Commission staff report dated June 14, 2006.

COPY

ORDINANCE NO. 114, 2006  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
DESIGNATING THE REINHOLT/MITCHELL HOUSE, 509 EAST MYRTLE STREET,  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO, AS A FORT COLLINS LANDMARK PURSUANT TO  
CHAPTER 14 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 14-2 of the City Code, the City Council has established a public policy encouraging the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of landmarks within the City; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution dated June 14, 2006, the Landmark Preservation Commission (the "Commission") has determined that the Reinholt/Mitchell House has individual significance to Fort Collins under Landmark Designation Standards (2) and (3), for the dwelling's tremendous architectural importance to Fort Collins as a rare and locally distinctive example of Prairie-influenced 20th Century Vernacular architecture, with very good integrity, and its significance as an excellent illustration of the elaborate work of noted Fort Collins mason Leroy "Roy" Nye; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has further determined that said property meets the criteria of a landmark as set forth in Section 14-5 of the Code and is eligible for designation as a landmark, and has recommended to the City Council that said property be designated by the City Council as a landmark; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the property has consented to such landmark designation; and

WHEREAS, such landmark designation will preserve the property's significance to the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the recommendation of the Commission and desires to approve such recommendation and designate said property as a landmark.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

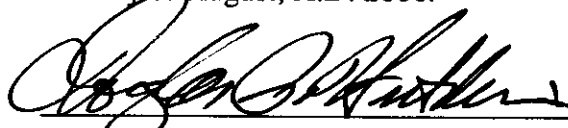
Section 1. That the property known as the Reinholt/Mitchell House and the adjacent lands upon which the historical building is located, in the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado, described as follows, to wit:

COMMENCING 80 FEET EAST OF NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 13,  
BLOCK 166, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO;  
THENCE SOUTH 50 FEET; THE EAST 60 FEET; THENCE NORTH 50 FEET;  
THENCE WEST 60 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING  
also known as 509 East Myrtle Street

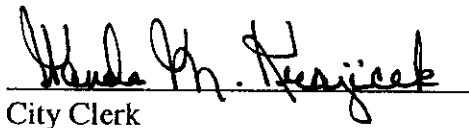
is hereby designated as a Fort Collins landmark pursuant to Chapter 14 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins.

Section 2. That the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines for the treatment of historic properties will serve as the standards by which alterations, additions and other changes to the buildings and structures located upon the above described property will be reviewed for compliance with Chapter 14, Article III, of the Code of the City of Fort Collins.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 18th day of July, A.D. 2006, and to be presented for final passage on the 15th day of August, A.D. 2006.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 15th day of August, A.D. 2006.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk