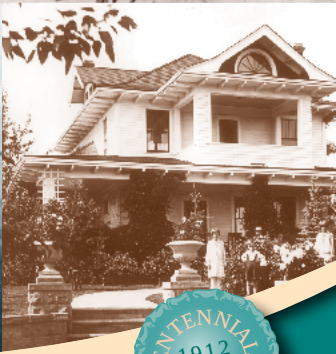




The Highlands

Edmonton Historical
Walking Tour





*Ada Boulevard houses under construction, 1913.
(GAI NA-1328-1136)*

WHEREVER POSSIBLE HISTORIC NAMES
HAVE BEEN USED FOR BUILDINGS; NAMES
WHICH OFTEN DO NOT CORRESPOND TO
THEIR CURRENT OWNERS OR USES.

ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT MANY OF
THE BUILDINGS ON THIS TOUR ARE
PRIVATELY OWNED AND OUGHT TO BE
VIEWED ONLY FROM THE STREET.

A MAP OF THE TOUR ROUTE IS
PROVIDED IN THE CENTRE OF
THIS BOOKLET.

IT TAKES ABOUT 1.5 HOURS TO
COMPLETE THE TOUR.

Cover:

*Gladys and Julia May Griffith in front of Highlands
School, c.1920. (EPSAM)*

Playing Tennis at Magrath Mansion. (HHS)

The Ash Residence, c.1920s. (HHS)



THE HIGHLANDS

The Highlands contains some of Edmonton's best-preserved historic homes and streetscapes. Originally its boundaries were 55 Street, 64 Street, 118 Avenue and the North Saskatchewan River. Conceived during the boom years before WWI, The Highlands was the brainchild of William Magrath and Bidwell Holgate.

In August 1910 the Magrath-Holgate real estate company announced plans for Edmonton's newest "high class" neighbourhood on land east of the city limits. The original of the parcel of land was James Ingram Gullion who was an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company. He homesteaded here in 1877 and lived on the land for at least thirty years. John Alexander McDougall acquired the land in 1888. He filed the first subdivision plan, in June 1911, and it became part of Edmonton that December. In the beginning Magrath-Holgate acted as McDougall's broker, but by 1913 the company had bought him out.

To publicize the venture, Magrath and Holgate launched an ad campaign in the Edmonton Bulletin newspaper. Half, full and two page ads pronounced the superiority of the empty acreage. Fifty dollars in gold was offered as a prize for the best name. The contest ran through September 1910 and, after two days of discussion, "The Highlands" was chosen as the best submission.

The contest was followed up with excursions to The Highlands. The healthful, beautiful setting, the ample size of the lots, and the \$2,500 minimum cost per house (to ensure the quality of the neighbourhood) were major selling points. In addition, connections with the city's street railway, electricity, water and sewer systems were soon to be made. Financing, through the Magrath-Holgate Company, was also available.



Cars at Magrath-Holgate office for tours to the Highlands, c.1910. (CEA EA-160-489)

Unlike Glenora, Edmonton's other early "high class" subdivision, The Highlands was not regulated by legal restrictions. Instead, development was controlled by having buyers take out building permits before purchasing land. The road layout was also different. Promotions for The Highlands described "crescent streets"; this accurately describes Glenora, but The Highlands is almost entirely laid out in a grid pattern.

Edmonton's economy boomed in The Highlands' first years. The city's population rose from 24,000 to 76,972 between 1909 and 1914, and demand for real estate was intense. Over \$35,000 of Highlands lots were sold the first day they went on the market. Magrath and Holgate spent over \$10,000 on improvements before 1912, but by October 1912, The Highlands still had few houses.

In November 1912, the Magrath-Holgate Company tried to turn things around by constructing 24 houses on speculation. On

average, these cost twice the allowed minimum, and totalled over \$105,000, a large sum in those days. In addition, a curling rink, a commercial block, and a small office were built. The number of houses was doubled, but since it had 516 lots, The Highlands was still sparsely developed.

Magrath and Holgate made large personal investments in The Highlands. Their mansions became symbols of the community, but by the time they were finished, the boom economy had gone bust. A world-wide recession in 1913 took its toll on Edmonton, and WWI made things worse. As people left to seek better fortune elsewhere, the real estate market

disintegrated. Large projects like The Highlands School, The Highlands Methodist Church, sewers, and street paving were put on hold. By 1915, foreclosures were common. Businesses and jobs disappeared, and people could not pay their mortgages. By the 1920s, the City was selling properties to recover unpaid taxes. The Highlands' biggest landowners, Magrath and Holgate, were not spared.

The Highlands survived despite its misfortunes to become a tightly knit community. Its streetcar connection and the Gibbard Block shops helped keep it alive. Some houses were divided into suites, and many were rented out. People trimmed their lifestyles, but moved within rather than out of The Highlands. Ironically, The Highlands' strength is at least partly due to its slow growth, stable population, and separation from the main part of the city. Today, the once-bare acreage has mature trees and a mature community that, while looking to the future, still values its past.



1. GIBBARD BLOCK (1913)

6423 - 112 AVENUE

The Gibbard Block has always been part of The Highlands in spirit, if not in fact. Technically, it was just outside the original western boundary of The Highlands. Thus, an amenity was added to The Highlands without compromising its exclusive character.

In 1913 Magrath, Holgate, and William T. Gibbard, president of the Gibbard Furniture Co. of Napanee, Ontario, become owners of this property. The building was named for the latter, even though Magrath had invested more in the venture.

In 1913 the Gibbard Block was described as “the latest idea in architecture, comfort, modern equipment and convenience.” A central gas plant provided cooking fuel, and each suite had a telephone and hot running water “night and day the year round.” Brick from Redcliff, Alberta was used for the exterior. Classical details including pilasters, brackets, a cornice, and contrasting sills and keystones, enriched the Gibbard Block’s appearance.

Insurance salesmen, lawyers, teachers, packing plant workers, ministers, bank clerks,



The Gibbard Block, 1939. (GAI NC-6-13946a)



and policemen lived in the Gibbard Block. Often, they moved to houses in The Highlands. Proprietors of the stores were also often Highlands residents, and sometimes lived in the Gibbard Block itself.

The Gibbard Block now houses a restaurant and Bed and Breakfast. It was recognized as a Registered Historic Resource by the Province of Alberta in 1992.

- *Cross 112 Avenue at the lights, go east two blocks and turn north on 63 Street.*



The Owen Residence, 1929. (GAI ND-3-4520(f))

2. OWEN RESIDENCE (1912)

11227 - 63 STREET

Garnet Meiklejohn, a “Lumberman”, bought this property in 1912. The house became the Dominion Meteorological Service Office in 1914, but Meiklejohn owned it until 1918. The two-storey wood frame structure is clad with wood siding and shingles and has a pyramidal roof and wrap-around verandah. Foursquare style houses just like it can be found throughout Edmonton.

Eda Owen came to Edmonton in 1908 with her husband Herbert, a retired sea captain. They



moved in when he became meteorologist in 1915. Soon after, he left to fight in WWI. Eda took over his duties, and when he died in a POW camp in 1917, she became station manager. Her routine began with 5:40 a.m. readings from the 26 instruments in her front room, back yard, and on the roof. Over one hundred weather stations sent daily reports to Eda Owen in Edmonton. In turn, she sent two daily and one monthly report to Toronto.

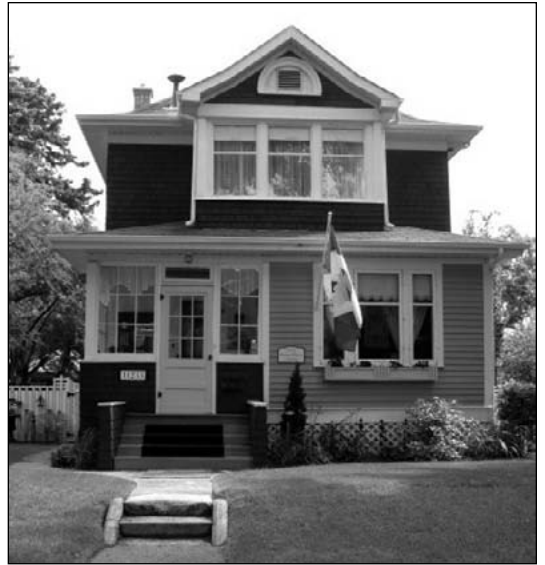
Eda Owen's career as a meteorologist was extraordinary in an era when women – especially married women – were excluded by law from the workforce. Over the years, she developed an international reputation for her work. The weather station attracted visiting academics, explorers and aviators until it ceased operations in 1943 and Eda retired. She died in Calgary in 1957. Eda Owen's story has been included in various exhibitions and a biography entitled *Eda the Weatherlady* was written by her granddaughter Phyllis Patterson.

The house was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1993.

3. BELL RESIDENCE (1912) 11233 - 63 STREET

This residence was built in 1912 by George Gibson, who was the first recorded owner and resident of the home. George was both a carpenter for Nesbitt and Miller and was employed by Magrath and Holgate as a teamster in 1915.

Lawrence (Lorne) H. Bell, his wife Jenny and sons moved from Montreal to Edmonton where he worked for the railway. A gifted machinist by trade, he and a partner started a successful business known as "Edmonton Auto Parts."



Bell Residence, 2010. (HHS)

In 1921 Lorne and Jenny and their two sons moved into this Foursquare house. In 1937 he and his eldest son Alexander were killed in a car accident on the way back from an industry conference in Chicago. Jenny continued to live in the home with her son James Douglas after her husband's death. James met and married Eunice and she moved into the home where they in turn raised their own family. The Bells sold the house in 2000.

The house is a good example of the many Foursquare homes that dot Edmonton's early housing stock. It has a pyramidal roof, a flared gable over an enclosed balcony, and is clad in wood siding and shingles. The original front porch was enclosed in the late 1920s – a common occurrence due to Edmonton's cold winters. The interior features many original details, including plaster medallions, burlap-inset panels capped by double plate rails in the dining room, and original French doors and windows.

The Bell Residence was added to the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources in 2009.



Atkinson Residence, 2010. (HHS)

4. ATKINSON RESIDENCE (1912) 11234 - 63 STREET

The Magrath-Holgate Company took out a \$4,500 building permit for this house in November 1912 and commissioned the architect Ernest Morehouse, to design it. Although alterations have been made to this home they have not obscured the Foursquare style of the Atkinson Residence.

Dr. William Atkinson came to Edmonton with his family from Ontario in 1912. They moved into this house in 1913 and purchased it in 1915. In addition to his downtown medical practice, Dr. Atkinson provided medical services to the nearby Swift's packing plant, several coal mines, and insurance companies. An office for night emergencies was located to the right of the front door.

Perhaps Dr. Atkinson's proudest achievement was his term as a Conservative MLA from 1930 to 1935. He spoke in favour of medicare, but did not have a chance to put his theories into practice. It has been suggested that the Social Credit government which followed was strongly influenced by Dr. Atkinson's ideas.



After 30 years, the Atkinsons sold this house. Of note among more recent owners is Allan H. Wachowich, who lived here from 1969 until 1991. Wachowich was appointed District Court Judge in 1979 at the tender age of 39. Later, he was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench, and in 1993 was made Associate Chief Justice of that Court.

5. DUNSMORE RESIDENCE (1912) 11248 - 63 STREET

The lot on which this house now stands was part of the quarter section purchased by John A. McDougall in 1888. In 1912 the lot was purchased by Robert Dunsmore who was employed as a "collector" for a local law firm. Records suggest that J. Magrath had the home built. Dunsmore lived in the home until 1915.

The house's most notable resident, Charles May, lived here in 1917. May, born on June 30, 1858, was a native of Ireland. The family moved to Canada and settled in Ontario. May was first a farmer then a carpenter and builder. In 1902 he moved to Edmonton and put his skills to work. He became a successful real estate speculator by



Dunsmore Residence, 2010. (HHS)



buying vacant lots, building homes and selling them for a good profit. As a contractor he was involved in building the first CNR station, the Bank of Montreal, the Hudson's Bay store, the Provincial Penitentiary and the home of Frank Oliver just to name a few. May was elected to city council in 1903 and in 1906 became Mayor of Edmonton. He was a member of the Edmonton Exhibition Association and a Mason. He was also uncle to the well known WWI flying ace and bush pilot Wilfrid Reid "Wop" May.

The Dunsmore Residence has had many owners in its lifetime. In its first 80 years the house had 11 owners. It was purchased as a revenue property in 1946 and converted into suites. Between 1913 and 1979 Henderson Directory records more than 30 different families!

In 1978 David and Clare King purchased the home. David was the Conservative MLA for Edmonton Highlands from 1971 to 1986. In 1972 he was successful in introducing a Bill to repeal the Sexual Sterilization Act of 1928. He was Legislative Secretary to Premier Peter Lougheed (1971-1976), Minister of Education (1979-1986), and Minister of Technology, Research, and Telecommunications (1986). The Kings renovated the home to its current state.

David's father, Reverend Albert E. King, was the minister at the Highland's United Church in the 1950s and they lived in the manse next to the church on 64 Street.

- *Go west two blocks on 113 Avenue.*

6. GIMBY RESIDENCE (1913) 11248 - 65 STREET

Anyone who recalls Canada's Centennial in 1967 will recognize the Gimby name. In that year, Bobby Gimby was Pied Piper to Canada's children, and made the Centennial theme song, "CA-NA-DA", familiar across the country.



Gimby Residence, 1993. (ACCS)

The Gimby Residence was built in 1913 for Charles and Marian Gimby, Bobby's grandparents. Charles, at one time a rancher, operated Gimby and Coburn Ford Service and General Repair during the 1920s, when auto sales in Edmonton were booming.

Charles and Marian's niece, also named Marian, was a familiar face in the neighbourhood. Born in Saskatchewan in 1903, she came to Edmonton with her parents in about 1912. She attended the University of Alberta, and received an MA in History from Oxford. Marian had a long teaching career, was very active in the Alberta Teachers' Association, and became its first female president in 1951.

In 1929 the Gimbys sold their house and two lots to Andrew Millar, the Provincial Chief Inspector of Mines. They built another home on their third lot, next door at 11242 - 65 Street. In 1933 Gimby retired, and the family left Edmonton in 1934.

Like the Gibbard Block, the Gimby Residence was just outside The Highlands' original boundaries. The Gimby Residence stands out as a large Foursquare style house on three lots in an area typified by small houses. It cost \$3,500 and more similar to homes in The Highlands than its immediate neighbours. The original Gimby Residence has had few owners, a fact which has helped it retain its original



character. The verandah has been removed, but otherwise the Gimby Residence is in nearly original condition.

- *Retrace your steps east one block on 113 Avenue.*

7. HIGHLANDS UNITED CHURCH (1927)

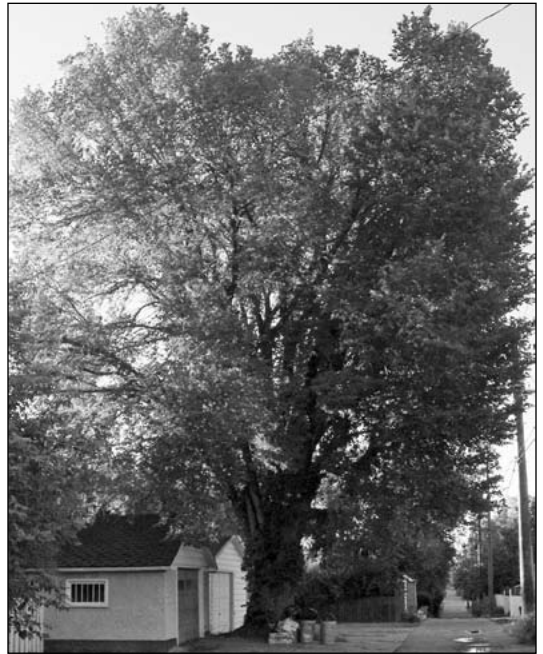
11305 - 64 STREET

Highlands Methodist, the first church on this site, was erected in less than two months in 1913. It was a wood frame building clad with white clapboard with no special features that showed it was a church. At \$3,000, it cost less than most Highlands houses. Though probably intended as a temporary building, it was not replaced until 1927.

The Gothic Revival style Highlands United Church designed by architect W.G. Blakey was very similar to his 1921 Christ Church Anglican in Edmonton's Oliver district. The steeply-pitched roof with cross gables, hip-roofed entrance porch, and the exterior stucco and half-timbering recall traditional English parish churches. Inside, scissor trusses supporting the roof and stained glass windows lining the walls continue the style of the exterior.



The Highlands United Church, 1930 (HHS)



American elm behind Highlands United Church, 2006 (HHS)

Two notable additions have been made to The Highlands United Church. A window of stained glass fragments collected from bombed European churches by Highlands minister Rev. T.R. Davies during WWII was installed in 1948. In 1953 a new entrance was built at the south end of the church. Consequently, the 1927 church can best be seen from the sides of the building.

- *Go north on 64 Street.*

8. McLUHAN RESIDENCE (1912)

11342 - 64 STREET

Marshall McLuhan, born in Edmonton in 1911, lived here with his parents from 1912 to 1918. He received a Ph.D. from Cambridge in 1934, and taught English at various U.S. colleges



The McLuhan Residence, 1929. (HHS)

before settling at the University of Toronto in 1944. His main interests were language and perception, and how the mass media manipulates them. He coined the phrase “the medium is the message”, and was known for his views on television. Marshall McLuhan died in Toronto in 1980.

Herbert and Elsie McLuhan, Marshall’s parents, purchased this land in August 1912, having already received a permit to build a \$3,000 house on it. The home was designed by Nesbitt & Morehouse and built by Bailey & Berry. In line with its Craftsman Bungalow style, the McLuhan Residence appears almost rustic. The exposed beams, cast concrete foundation, low-pitched roof, and large front porch columns are typical of the style.

The McLuhans moved to Winnipeg but they owned this house until 1923 when Gladys Griffith, a teacher and assistant principal at



Highlands School bought the house. In 1928 she sold the house to her sister Julia May and her husband Walter Husband. Before moving into the McLuhan Residence, Husband lived in suite #2 of the Gibbard Block. He was salesman for the National Drug and Chemical Company. His brother, Herbert Husband, was proprietor of The Highlands Drug Store in the Gibbard Block from 1926 until 1944. Walter Husband sold the McLuhan Residence in 1956; he died in 1980 at the age of 89.

- *Go north on 64 Street to 114 Avenue.
Turn east and go two blocks to 62 Street.*

9. HIGHLANDS SCHOOL (1913-1920) 11509 - 62 STREET

The formation of the ‘Edmonton Highland School District’, actually Beverly School District #2922, was announced in September 1910, just a few days before lots in The Highlands went on the market. Two wood frame school buildings – one a standard plan “Cottage School” – were erected that fall.

When The Highlands joined Edmonton in 1911, the developers and the City agreed to build a new elementary school. A bid of \$144,440 for the building was accepted in August 1913. WWI intervened, however, and construction stopped at the first floor. To cope with growing enrolment, another wood structure was built near the Cottage School, and the first floor of the new school was used after 1916.

The Highlands School was finished in 1920, at a total cost of \$210,722. Upon completion, the second floor served as Edmonton’s first teacher’s college until 1923. Highlands was expanded to include intermediate grades in 1928, and in 1964 it was converted to a Junior High School to deal with the “baby boom” population.



Highlands Cottage School, 1914. (GAI NC-6-760)



Gladys and Julia May Griffith in front of Highlands School, c.1920. (EPSBA)

The Collegiate Gothic style Highlands School is a twin of the King Edward School in Strathcona. Both were designed by School Board architect, George Turner. A steel and concrete structure underlies the brick and stone exterior. The crenellated parapets and central tower, oriel window over the main entry, and Tudor arches over many of the windows and doors are characteristic of the



Highlands School, 1922. (GAI NC-6-9009)

style. Despite later additions, the school's main façade retains its original character.

- *Continue south on 62 Street.
Cross 112 Avenue at the lights.*

10. CHOWN RESIDENCE (1912) 11141 - 62 STREET

At \$4,800, the Chown Residence was the most costly of the four houses on Grace (62) Street built by Magrath-Holgate. The architect was listed as "Owner", but Ernest Morehouse probably designed the Foursquare style home.



The Chown Residence, 1914. (PAA)



Russell Chown came to Edmonton from the Magraths' home town, Belleville, Ontario, in 1912. Interestingly, 116 Avenue was originally Chown Avenue. Russell joined his parents and siblings, who had established Chown Hardware in Edmonton in 1906. He became secretary-treasurer of the company, and managed one of the two stores. On December 31, 1913 he purchased this house from Magrath-Holgate, just one block from his brother Leroy's home at 11145 - 63 Street.

In 1913 Edmonton suffered a severe economic downturn, as did Chown Hardware. Despite the security Russell Chown provided by re-mortgaging his home in 1915, Chown Hardware was liquidated in May 1916. All the Chowns, except for Russell and his family, left Edmonton.

In spite of repeated attempts to work and stay in Edmonton Russell's fortunes did not improve. In 1924 he and his family left the city. The Chown Residence also suffered a decline. It had cost Russell Chown \$7,000, but by 1916 its value was \$4,300. In 1922, Magrath-Holgate foreclosed on Chown's mortgage, and in 1924 the house was converted into two suites, resulting in some unfortunate interior alterations. Only in 1946, when it sold for \$8,000, did the Chown Residence regain its 1913 value.

The Chown Residence was recognized a Registered Historic Resource by the Province of Alberta in 1993.

11. HUMPHREYS RESIDENCE (1912) 11142 - 62 STREET

This was the first Highlands property to receive a City of Edmonton building permit. It was issued to the Magrath-Holgate Co. in March 1912, three months after The Highlands was annexed. Herbert Baker paid only \$1,500 for the



Humphreys Residence, 1946. (HHS)

property in August 1912. He had gotten a \$5,000 mortgage in July, probably to pay L.A. Webb, contractor, to build the \$3,500 house.

Baker moved out in 1914, and, in 1916, rented the house to Horace Leonard Humphreys, a teacher, and later Principal of McCauley School. Humphreys bought it from Baker in 1922. When Humphreys died in 1936, the house again became a rental property. Nathan Eldon Tanner, a Provincial MLA and Minister of Land and Mines during the 1930s rented it from 1937 to 1939.

Humphreys' daughter, Erica, married Adrian Magrath in the mid-1940s. They lived downtown for several years, but then moved to the house next door to the Humphreys Residence, 11136 - 62 Street.

The Humphreys Residence has changed very little over the years. A Foursquare style house with minimal decoration, its diamond-paned upper window sashes and the wide bracketed eaves give the house a touch of whimsy. Recently, extensive renovations have been undertaken. Of note is the verandah, which replicates the original, with an addition around the side. In 1993 the owners of the Humphreys Residence received an award for their reconstruction from the Society for the Protection of Architectural Resources in Edmonton (SPARE).

- *Continue south on 62 Street.*

12. BURY RESIDENCE (1912)

11122 - 62 STREET

Ambrose Upton Gledstanes Bury was born in Ireland in 1869. He received an MA degree from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1890 and came to Edmonton in 1912. A lawyer in Ireland, Bury registered as a lawyer in Alberta in 1913. After an unsuccessful bid to be an MLA in 1921, he served as a city alderman (1922-25), mayor of Edmonton (1927-29), MP for Edmonton East (1925-26, 1930-35), and district court judge (1935-44).

Of his thirty-four years in Edmonton, Bury lived here for twenty-seven. He purchased the house in 1939, having rented it since 1919. When Margaret, his wife of forty-nine years, died in 1946, Bury sold the house and left Edmonton within a month.

Louis W. Heard lived in the Bury Residence from 1946 until 1984. Born in Saskatchewan in 1909, he became well-known during his eighteen years as a Social Credit MLA from the 1940s to the 1960s. He died in 1987 at age 78.

The \$3,600 Bury Residence cost much more than most Edmonton homes in 1912. However, it was the least costly of the twenty-four homes in The Highlands for which Magrath-Holgate received building permits in November, 1912. Stucco obscures the original details, and changes to the porch have altered the front of the house.

- *Continue south on 62 Street.*



Bury Residence, 1993. (ACCS)

13. MARGARET MARSHALL RESIDENCE (1914)

11119 - 62 STREET

Mary Tardrew purchased this lot and gave it to Katharine Tardrew in 1914, likely as a wedding present. Katharine and her new husband William Pring Williams received a \$2,000 permit in July, 1914. By 1916 they had moved out and the house became a rental property.

Margaret Marshall began renting it in 1928, bought it in 1931 and owned it until 1952. She was a widow, and probably worked for a living. Between 1939 and 1941 she was an “inspector city relief”, an “investigator city hall” and a “lady officer.” Before that, from 1927 to 1938, she worked with the Edmonton Journal Sunshine Society, including four years as President. Picnics and drives in the country were arranged for poor children, and benefit hockey games, raffles, and Christmas toy and food drives were undertaken to help supply the needs of less fortunate Edmontonians.

The Margaret Marshall Residence is located on the smallest lot in The Highlands and is an excellent example of an Arts and Crafts bungalow. Its cottage-like appearance is created by its low foundation, wide bracketed eaves and shingle exterior finish.

- *Continue south to 111 Avenue, turn west.*



Margaret Marshall Residence, 1993. (ACCS)

14. COACH HOUSE (1913) 6229 - 111 AVENUE

In early 1913, when Bidwell Holgate received a permit to construct a \$10,000 garage with living quarters and William Magrath obtained a permit for a similar \$6,000 structure, garages usually cost from \$100 to \$300. Even in The Highlands, houses rarely exceeded \$5,000. The Holgate garage, which matched the house, was demolished in 1962, but the Magrath garage – known as the Coach House – still stands, albeit much changed in size and style.

Ernest Morehouse, architect of the Magrath Residence, also designed the garage. Like the mansion, it has a wood frame with a brick veneer exterior. Details, such as hoods and modillions, link the structures stylistically. For formal arrivals, the Coach House could be reached from Ada Boulevard via the mansion's covered drive-through porch, or porte cochère. More discreet entries could be made directly to the garage from 111 Avenue.

Harry Cox, the Magrath's chauffeur, lived in the Coach House from 1914 until 1924. After 1925 the living space was rented out. Ada Magrath finally parted with the Magrath Residence and the Coach House in 1933. It then



The Coach House, right, 1913. (GAI NA-1328-64530)



The Coach House, 2010. (HHS)

became the property of the City of Edmonton, and later of the Ukrainian Catholic Bishop. Most of the original estate remains with the Magrath Residence, but parts, including the Coach House, were sold.

The Coach House became owner-occupied in the late 1940s. The two west-facing parking bays were probably replaced with large windows after that date. In 1990, architect Robert Spencer designed an addition which matches the original so well that only a line in the slate of the roof indicates the extent of the 1913 garage.

- *Retrace your steps east along 111 Avenue.*

15. GRIERSON RESIDENCE (1912) 6124 - 111 AVENUE

This house is named for Robert Walter and Allie Grierson, who bought it in 1916. R.W. Grierson was the younger brother of Edmund Grierson, the namesake of Grierson Hill and Grierson Church on 82 Avenue.

When R.W. Grierson started out in 1910, real estate was a good way to earn a living. By the mid-teens, however, the economic slump and WWI had made things much more difficult. Grierson continued in real estate, though the



The Grierson Residence, 1914. (PAA)

activities of his firm were interrupted during the 1930s. He last appeared in the city directory in 1940, but his wife, Allie, kept this house until 1972.

The \$4,300 Grierson Residence was part of Magrath-Holgate's November 1912 development push. It was an important part of the streetscape on Jasper Avenue, as 111 Avenue was then known. The large properties on Ada Boulevard – especially the Magrath and Holgate Mansions – gave the houses on the north side of 111 Avenue river valley views, setting them apart from the rest of The Highlands, and giving them prestige second only to Ada Boulevard addresses.

Although The Highlands had wider lots than elsewhere in Edmonton, the houses could still be quite one-sided. In contrast, the Grierson Residence has a wrap-around verandah, corner tower, swept dormer and Palladian windows, creating a distinctive design on two sides. Its proportions are less vertical, and details less profuse than textbook examples, but the Grierson Residence is closest to the Queen Anne style of any home in The Highlands.

The Grierson Residence was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1984.

- *Continue east on 111 Avenue.*



16. SHELDON RESIDENCE (1914) 6018 - 111 AVENUE

In June 1914, Carleton G. Sheldon obtained a \$3,500 building permit for this lot, and by 1915 he was installed as the first resident. American by birth, Sheldon moved to Edmonton in 1913, and became general manager of the Western Foundry & Machine Co., of which William Magrath was vice-president. While Sheldon was general manager, the foundry made shell casings used by Canadian Forces in France during WWI.

In 1916 Sheldon became the business manager of the Humberstone Coal Company. After 1922, Sheldon worked for Coal Sellers Ltd., but in 1932 he started his own company: Sheldon Coal Co. He remained in the coal industry until his death in 1943; Sheldon Coal lasted eight years longer. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Sheldon seems not only to have weathered the Great Depression of the 1930s, but to have prospered.

The exterior of the Sheldon Residence is among the best preserved in The Highlands. The broad sweep of the low-pitched gable roof,



The Sheldon Residence, 1914. (HHS)



the wide steps to the full-width verandah, and the prominent central gable make this a good example of a Craftsman style bungalow. Other Craftsman features include exposed rafter ends, the shingled exterior finish, the wide bracketed eaves, and the rusticated stone finish of the concrete foundation. The Bungalow style was already popular in the United States – especially California – but was quite new to Edmonton in 1914.

- *Continue east.*

17. MACKENZIE RESIDENCE (1912) 6010 - 111 AVENUE

This house was built in 1912 by Magrath Holgate & Co., at a cost of \$4,000. Its two-and-a-half storey gambrel-roofed design was unique in The Highlands. Extensive renovations were carried out after 1926. Most prominent among these changes was the replacement of the full-length front verandah with a small porch, and the replacement of the second storey sleeping porch with an open balcony.

Until 1922, the house was a rental property owned by one of Magrath's companies. The most prominent tenant, Kenneth W. Mackenzie, lived here from 1916 until 1922. Mackenzie had become the first mayor of the newly incorporated



The Mackenzie Residence, 1926. (HHS)



City of Edmonton by acclamation on December 5, 1904. He reluctantly served for one year, after being drafted by some of the city's most prominent citizens.

Born in Ontario in 1862, Mackenzie worked on the family farm until an injury at age twenty caused him to return to school. He progressed from grade three to a teacher's certificate in just two years. After graduating from the University of Toronto in 1893, Mackenzie moved west. He arrived in Edmonton in 1895 to be principal of College Avenue High School. In 1898 he opened a book store, and helped establish Edmonton's public library.

When the Holgates were forced to move from their Ada Boulevard mansion, they purchased this house in 1922. This followed the local pattern of moving within The Highlands. Bidwell Holgate died in 1928, but Mrs. Holgate stayed another three years before returning to Ontario. She retained the property until 1938, at which time it was purchased by Dr. T.H. Field, son of James W. Field (see #21), who remained until 1951.

The stone retaining wall at the front of the property contains a marker with the home's former address: 6010 Jasper Ave.

- *Turn north on 60 Street.*

18. WARD RESIDENCE (1912) 11125 - 60 STREET

A \$4,600 permit for this house was taken out by Magrath-Holgate in November, 1912. The first occupants of the bungalow, considered modern at the time, were Muriel and Edward (Harry) Ward. Originally from Hamilton, they came to The Highlands in 1913 by way of Morinville, where Harry had a hardware store. In Edmonton, he worked at Alberta Marble & Granite Co. from 1913 to 1923. After fourteen years with the James Ramsay Co. department



The Ward Residence, 1993. (ACCS)

store, he returned to the stone business with the Independent Memorial Company.

The Wards began living in this house in 1914 but, due to a difference of opinion with Magrath and Holgate over conditions of the purchase, only gained title in 1916. Despite the bumpy start and continuing disputes with the city over taxes, Muriel stayed until 1974, though Harry had died in 1949.

The imposing, even monumental, street presence of the Ward Residence results from the combination of the sloping roof and the pediment above the second floor recessed balcony. Few changes have been made to the Ward Residence: a two storey bay window has been added to the north side; the roomy attic is now living space; and a two-storey garage designed to harmonize with the house was added.

- *Retrace your steps south on 60 Street.*

19. HOOSON RESIDENCE (1912) 11119 - 60 STREET

William Knight Hooson arrived in Edmonton in 1911. In 1916, he and a partner set up an insurance business, the Hooson-Racey Co., and in 1919 he branched out on his own with The



Hooson Company. The Hoosons moved into this house in 1932, and purchased it in 1943.

Like its neighbour (#18), the Hooson Residence was produced by the Magrath-Holgate Co. development initiative of November 1912. Interestingly, Magrath-Holgate did not obtain title to these properties until six months after the building permits were issued. The title contained 45 lots, upon only four of which the company built homes. Of the 45 lots, only two had sold by 1915, and those without houses.

As the economy deteriorated, many Magrath-Holgate Co. holdings were foreclosed on or seized for non-payment of taxes. By the early 1920s, their Highlands empire was in a shambles. The Hooson Residence was one of the few they retained. In 1924 it was bought by Mabel Holgate, who owned it until 1940. The house had six tenants before 1932, when the Hoosons moved in, including Kenneth W. Mackenzie (see #17) who lived here in 1922-23.

Two features distinguish the Hooson Residence from its neighbours: its wide bellcast eaves, originally with decorative brackets, and the partially glazed wrap-around verandah. Continuity of occupation has contributed to the good state of preservation of this house. New siding has covered the original shingle and wood cladding, but the character of the Foursquare style Hooson Residence is still largely intact.

- *Continue south to 111 Avenue and turn east.*



The Hooson Residence, 1993. (ACCS)

20.

TAYLOR RESIDENCE (1948)

5629 - 111 AVENUE

According to the Henderson's directory, this home was owned and occupied by E. Mel Taylor, managing director of Bond Construction. He lived in the home with his wife until 1951 when they sold the house to Harry Patriquin and his wife Fanny. Harry was a partner in Patriquin, Duncan, McClary, McClary and King chartered accountants and auditors.

This building is significant for its extensive use of glass block as a construction material. Glass blocks were first used in construction in the 1880s but they did not gain significant popularity until the 1930s when machines enabled their cheap and easy production. Several houses in The Highlands feature glass block as a detail, especially around entrances, but not to this extent. This unusual use of construction materials is highly visible from the street and is unique in The Highlands.

This house was added to the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources in 2009.



The Taylor Residence, 2006. (HHS)



The Field Residence, 1993. (ACCS)

21.

FIELD RESIDENCE (1912)

5610 - 111 AVENUE

James Williamson Field came to Edmonton in 1914 and moved into this house in 1915. It was yet another of the Magrath-Holgate houses developed in November 1912. At \$4,000, it was one of the least expensive of their houses, although well above the \$2,500 Highlands threshold.

In 1915, Field became the first proprietor of The Highlands Cash Grocery, subsequently Field's Cash Store, in the Gibbard Block (#1). In 1920 he left to open a pharmacy in another part of town. Field did not change his home address however, and he died in this house in 1933 at the age of 75. His daughter, Ethel Field, stayed on in the house until her death in 1975.

Ethel Field was born in Ontario, where she received her education and began her teaching career. In Edmonton she taught over a thirty year period at schools in Beverly, North Edmonton, and The Highlands. She is best remembered as an artist and art teacher.

The Field Residence, like the Grierson Residence (#15), has Queen Anne style elements. The pyramidal dormer roof, elaborate second



storey gable above the front door, large brackets, wide eaves and vertical proportions all point to this style. Beneath these decorative elements however, is a Foursquare style house similar to many others in The Highlands.

- *Continue east on 111 Avenue to 55 Street and turn south. At Ada Boulevard turn west.*

22.

DAVIDSON RESIDENCE (1912)

5650 ADA BOULEVARD

At an estimated \$10,000 the Davidson Residence was the most extravagant speculative house erected through Magrath-Holgate's November 1912 development push. Except for the Gibbard Block (#1), it was the most expensive building the company erected in The Highlands. Probably designed by Edward Morehouse, it exhibited a number of design features including wide eaves, an expansive verandah, a large second storey balcony, vertical proportions, a variety of finishes, and Palladian windows.

Stella Ritchie bought the house in 1913. In the souring economy of the time, however, financial difficulties caused the house to revert back to Magrath-Holgate in 1919.



The Davidson Residence, 1913. (GAI NA-1328-2999)

In 1924 the home became the property Isabella and Adam Davidson. Adam James Davidson was born in Ontario in 1864. In 1912 Davidson arrived in Edmonton, having first lived in Calgary for a few months. In 1920, along with his brother-in-law, he was involved in Magrath's Western Foundry & Machine Co. Ltd.

In the 1920s Davidson purchased a mine, located just east of The Highlands in the Beverly district, which he later leased to the Magrath-Holgate Company's Bush Mines Ltd. Clearly, business and personal associations in The Highlands could be very closely related. As he gradually retired from mining, Davidson set up a cattle farm in the Beverly area, and eventually served as the President of the Provincial Holstein Friesian Breeders' Association. He, in conjunction with his brother in law, was instrumental in the development of Beverly as a community.

The Highlands was an ideal home for the Davidsons, offering a pleasant suburban setting and easy access to the city, only a short distance from their farm. When he died in 1945 at the age of 81, Davidson was still a "farmer", and had a herd of 69 purebred Holstein Friesians. It was around this time that multiple tenants began to occupy the home. To provide more living space, half the verandah was enclosed, as was the second floor balcony, resulting in the configuration visible today.

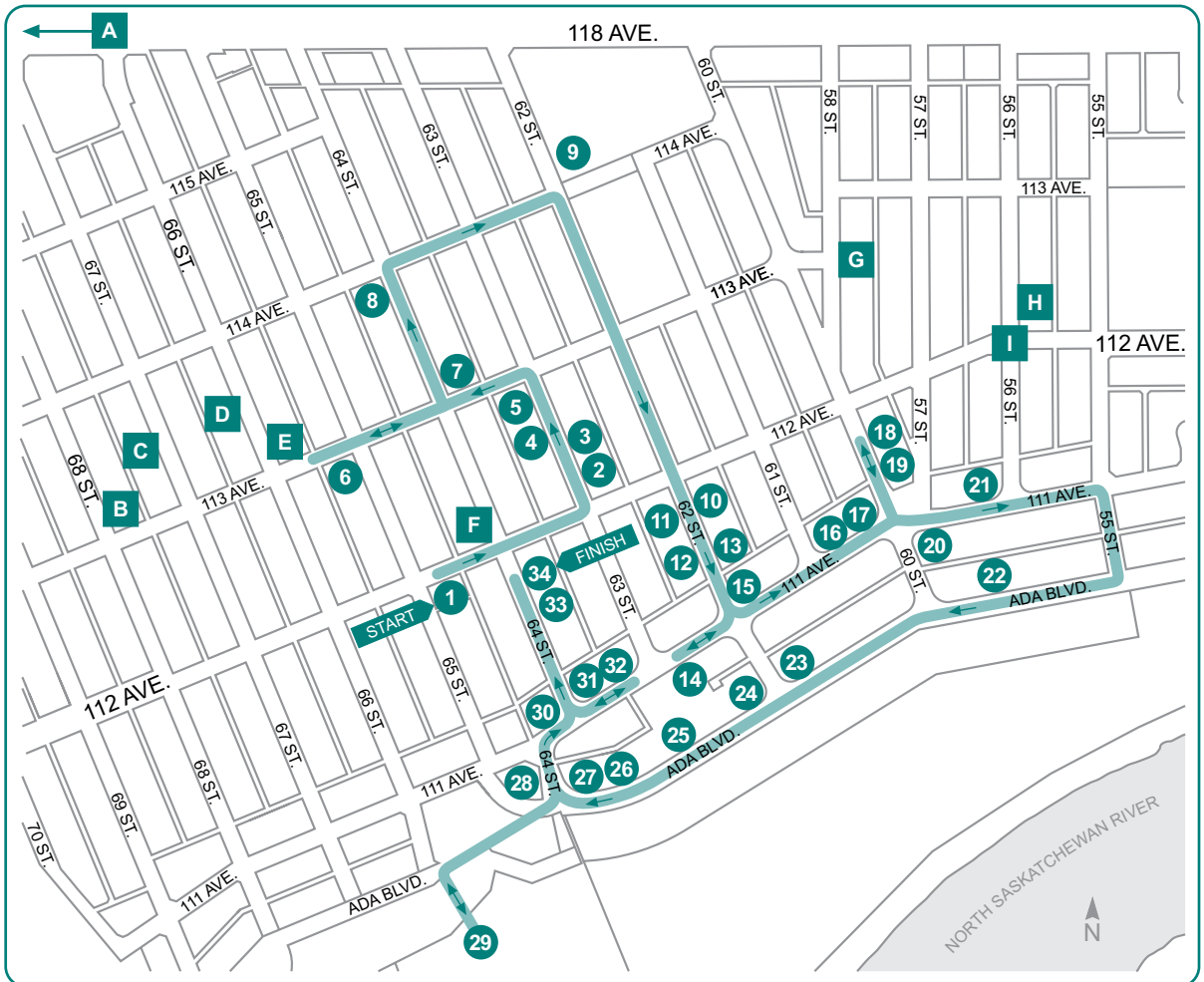
- *Continue west on Ada Boulevard.*

23.

MITCHELL RESIDENCE (1936)

6128 ADA BOULEVARD

Two themes predominate in the long life of Frederick John Mitchell: politics and sports. One of Edmonton's longest-serving Aldermen, he spent 24 years on City Council, from 1941 to 1964. He was Deputy Mayor for many years, and



Highlands Walking Tour

1. Gibbard Block
2. Owen Residence
3. Bell Residence
4. Atkinson Residence
5. Dunsmore Residence
6. Gimby Residence
7. Highlands United Church
8. McLuhan Residence
9. Highlands School
10. Chown Residence
11. Humphreys Residence

12. Bury Residence
13. Margaret Marshall Residence
14. Coach House
15. Grierson Residence
16. Sheldon Residence
17. Mackenzie Residence
18. Ward Residence
19. Hooson Residence
20. Taylor Residence
21. Field Residence
22. Davidson Residence
23. Mitchell Residence
24. Holgate Residence
25. Magrath Residence

26. Ash Residence
27. Baker Residence
28. Jackson Residence
29. Highlands Golf Course
30. William Brown Residence
31. Van Allen Residence
32. R.C. Marshall Residence
33. Ernest Brown Residence
34. Morehouse Residence

Worth a Look

- A. Edmonton Northlands
- B. Log House
- C. 67th Street Eclectic Houses
- D. Spanish House
- E. Green Residence
- F. Rose Residence
- G. Buttercup Farm House
- H. Gabby Haas Residence
- I. Heritage Tree Avenue



The Mitchell Residence, 2010. (HHS)

in 1958, he acted as Mayor for five weeks after the resignation of William Hawrelak. Mitchell excelled in tennis, and finally quit playing his second sport, badminton, at the age of 84.

Mitchell was born on December 4, 1893 in Stratford, Ontario, and moved to Edmonton by 1914. He joined the Oliphant-Munson Collieries, later the Sterling Collieries, where he remained for thirty years. This lot was seized from Magrath-Holgate for tax arrears in 1922. In 1936, Mitchell bought it from the City for \$650 and built this house that same year. When Mitchell died on December 25, 1979 at the age of 86, it was still his home.

The Mitchell Residence faces west, with large windows on the ground floor for the best views of the river valley. Its main point of interest is the hexagonal entrance tower with its nearly conical roof. The house has a picturesque, fairy-tale quality, a reaction, perhaps, to the harsh realities of the Great Depression. A wing consisting of an additional garage bay and bedroom on the second floor was recently added on the north side of the house.

- *Continue west on Ada Boulevard.*



24. HOLGATE RESIDENCE (1912) 6210 ADA BOULEVARD

Bidwell Holgate is remembered as the quieter partner in Magrath-Holgate Co. Ltd. He was born in Ontario in 1877, came to Edmonton in 1908, and bought out Magrath's original partner, J.H. Hart, in 1909. Holgate's timing couldn't have been better; Edmonton's real estate market was expanding at a phenomenal rate. After 1913, however, successful speculation was nearly impossible. Holgate's fortunes suffered, but unlike some of his contemporaries, he was not ruined.

Before the boom went bust, Holgate made large investments in The Highlands. In addition to purchasing lots and erecting houses on speculation, he invested heavily in his own home. Initially to cost \$19,000, Holgate eventually spent \$49,000 on his Ada Boulevard property, including \$10,000 for a garage with living quarters. The 1912 building permit listed Nesbitt & Morehouse as the architects, and Holgate as his own contractor.

The style of the Holgate Residence is drawn from several sources. Half-timbering points to Tudor Revival style, whereas the wide eaves,



The Holgate Residence, 1913. (GAI NA-1328-64527)



expansive verandah, and low-pitched gable roofs show an awareness of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's design ideas. The influence of the English Arts and Crafts movement, which relied on traditional materials and skilled artisans, can be seen inside the Holgate Residence. Leaded glass, wood panelling, built-in oak cabinets, murals, and ceiling decorations, both painted and in plasterwork relief, make the interior luxurious.

In 1920, the Holgates moved to a more modest home on 111 Avenue (#17). Contrary to local lore, the mansion was not seized for taxes, but was bought by an investment company in January of 1920. The Campbell family rented it for twenty-one years, and then the Holgate Residence was again owner-occupied. Holgate retired in 1923, and died suddenly in 1928 at the age of 50 while being treated for diabetes.

The house has remained a single family home with its character intact, but the estate which surrounded it has eroded over the years. A large portion passed to the City of Edmonton in 1959, and in 1962 the garage was demolished.

The Holgate Residence was renovated several times before 1983, but the changes – except those made to the kitchen – were generally sensitive to its character. The house was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1987.

- *Continue west on Ada Boulevard.*

25. MAGRATH RESIDENCE (1912) 6240 ADA BOULEVARD

William J. Magrath was well known in Edmonton. He was senior partner in the real estate firm of Magrath-Holgate & Co. Ltd., brought industry to Edmonton, owned a baseball franchise, and had political aspirations. Born in Ontario in 1870, Magrath married



Magrath Residence, 1913. (GAI NA-1328-64529)

there in 1894, but like many, he was drawn to the West. In 1904 he and his family came to Edmonton on the first train from Battleford, Saskatchewan.

From 1904 until 1912, the West was good to Magrath. He started a real estate company, was president of several manufacturing companies, was active in the Methodist Church, was first president of the Alberta Curling Association, and had a Western Canada Baseball League team.

J.H. Hart became Magrath's partner in his real estate firm in 1906. The next year, Hart was bought out by Bidwell Holgate, and Magrath-Holgate & Co. Ltd. was launched.

In 1912, Magrath and Holgate announced they had "quit business life" so Magrath could pursue "political ambitions." He ran for mayor as a "progressive candidate" on a platform promoting industry, development, civic utilities, and openness in government. When he placed second in a three-way race, Magrath ended his political career and his retirement.

The Highlands was the most ambitious of the many subdivisions undertaken by Magrath-Holgate. It came to be symbolized by the Magrath Residence on Ada Boulevard. Several acres originally surrounded "the most elegant private residence in the city of Edmonton."



Giant order classical columns across the main façade and a colonnade curving around the verandah and porte cochère are the most striking features of architect E. W. Morehouse's design. The tile roof, wide cornice, and hoods above the windows reinforce the classical theme. The home's exterior was originally intended to be solid brick, however Magrath economized by building of wood with a brick veneer. It was still not cheap, however. In total, the house and garage cost \$76,000 – a fortune when it was completed in 1913.

Inside was “every conceivable modern convenience”: central heating, electricity, a swimming pool in the basement, burglar alarms on all the doors, telephones in every room, and a switch in Mrs. Magrath's sitting room that controlled every light in the house. Luxurious materials were used, including mahogany, oak, Italian marble, Czechoslovakian crystal, hand-painted silk and linen, plasterwork, built-in cabinets with leaded glass doors, and elegant furnishings acquired in Europe by Ada Magrath.

Unlike the Holgates, the Magraths did not leave their Ada Boulevard home willingly. After the economy soured in 1913, Magrath's business activities focused on minimizing his losses. His ventures were cut short when, at 51, he died in 1921. Ada Magrath held onto the house until 1931; the City of Edmonton bought it in 1933 for only \$1,050. She then lived in more modest Highlands homes, often with her son Adrian, until she died in 1941.

The house stood vacant until 1937, when suites were rented. Finally, in 1949, the Ukrainian Catholic Archbishop of Edmonton moved in, and the Diocese purchased the property in 1953. Since then the house has been sold and has reverted to being a private home. In 1975, the Magrath Residence became the first Edmonton building to be designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

- *Continue west on Ada Boulevard.*



The Ash Residence, c.1920s. (HHS)

26. ASH RESIDENCE (1912) 6256 ADA BOULEVARD

William Thomas Ash and his family were the first occupants of this house in 1913. Mr. Ash, along with his brother Sidney, established the prosperous downtown ‘Ash Brothers Diamond Hall’, in 1907. In addition to manufacturing “artistic jewellery”, they sold diamonds wholesale and provided watchmaking services.

Ash purchased the house in 1921, and sold it a short three years later, moving to Edmonton's Oliver district. In 1927 the house was bought by Matilda Singer, wife of Philip, a Singer Sewing Machine Co. salesman. She retained title until 1962.

The house cost \$7,500 to build, and as with the other Magrath-Holgate residences of November 1912, the architect was probably E.W. Morehouse. It is, essentially, a large Foursquare style design, a hybrid of the Ada Boulevard mansions and more modest Highlands homes. Of note is the wrap-around verandah, which shades the south facing main floor windows from the sun and adds dignity to the design. The cast concrete blocks supporting the verandah were moulded to resemble rough chiselled stone.



The interior of the Ash Residence has been renovated in recent years, but the exterior has been retained.

- *Continue west on Ada Boulevard.*

27.

BAKER RESIDENCE (1927)

6274 ADA BOULEVARD

Herbert Baker was born in Yorkshire, England on December 10, 1866. He came to Canada in 1882 and moved to Edmonton as Northern Alberta Manager of Massey Manufacturing Co. in 1910. Baker retired in 1925, and served as a City Alderman from 1927 to 1933.

An early and consistent investor in The Highlands, Herbert Baker owned several homes in the subdivision. In 1913, this Ada Boulevard lot cost Baker \$2,000. It stood empty until this house was constructed in 1927 at a cost of \$6,000. Since then, the Baker Residence has been much altered. Few features are left that hint that this home was once a Craftsman bungalow.

- *Continue west on Ada Boulevard.*



Baker Residence, 2011. (EPDD)



28.

JACKSON RESIDENCE (1930)

6420 ADA BOULEVARD

When Arthur Jackson first came to Canada, he moved to Pincher Creek where his family opened a hardware business called Jackson Brothers Hardware. Arthur C. Jackson moved to Edmonton and had this home built by local contractor Fulton X. Fredrickson at a cost of \$4,200. The original permit was for the development on 2 ½ lots; Permit #514.

This house was completed in 1930, which makes it one of the few homes that were built after the stock market crash of 1929. Little development took place in The Highlands thereafter until the 1940s.

This property was significantly linked to the lot immediately to the northwest. Arthur Jackson had his 2 ½ lot parcel subdivided so he could build a larger home for his family. The original house was retained to use as an investment property. Both properties remained in the family for four generations. In 1992 the home was purchased by its current owner.



Jackson Residence, 2010. (HHS)



Some alterations have taken place, but the Jackson residence has retained its defining character. Early photographs indicate the house may have had a garage which initially had barn-style doors that opened outward.

- *Continue west on Ada Boulevard to the entrance of the Highlands Golf Club.*

29. HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE (1929) 6603 ADA BOULEVARD

The Highlands originally had lots on the steep slope of the valley and across the flats to the river's edge. Most were not developed however, and eventually passed to the City of Edmonton. In 1929 an agreement between the City and the newly-created Highlands Golf Club allowed the construction of a \$20,000 golf course and clubhouse on the site.

Original officers of The Highlands Golf Club included H.H. Parlee, President; Dr. Atkinson (#4), Vice President; W. Brown (#30), Secretary-Treasurer; and R.C. Marshall and H.L. Humphreys (#11), Directors. Prizes given out by the Club commemorate these men.



*Highlands Golf Course & Clubhouse, c. 1950s.
(PAA PA203/2)*



The first sod was turned May 7, 1929, by Mayor A.U.G. Bury (#12). He emphasized that the course be available to people “of modest means”, not just the rich. He noted that the golf course was “...one of the few good things which have been made possible by the evil of the slump which we suffered in the years just ended, and which threw into the possession of the city the lands without which such developments would have been possible only at a prohibitive cost.”

The Highlands Golf Course has experienced many changes. The Highlands Scenic Drive was built along its northern edge in the 1930s, but was later closed. In the mid-thirties, tunnels of the Premier Coal Mine beneath the fairways caused depressions to appear. Although the mine closed in 1937, cave-ins continue to this day. Nine holes were added to the course, to a total of eighteen holes. Perhaps the most drastic change was the construction of the Capilano Freeway in the 1970s right through the middle of the course.

- *Those who wish can follow the path down to the Clubhouse. Return along Ada Boulevard to 64 Street. Walk north one block to 111 Avenue, turn east.*

30. WILLIAM BROWN RESIDENCE (1927) 11108 - 64 STREET

William Brown's first house, at 11304 - 64 Street, received the fourth building permit issued by the City for The Highlands. Brown, either alone or with his father-in-law Cephas Sisson, developed several properties in The Highlands over the next few years. In total they built nine homes, all on 64 Street. Of these, three were homes for either Sisson or Brown, and seven were speculative ventures.

At \$4,500 this house was the last and most costly house Brown erected. The permit was issued in February 1927. Brown was his own



contractor, and both Brown and Sisson lived here from 1928 until 1931, the last year Sisson is listed in the city directory. In 1932 Brown moved to 11127 - 64 street, one of his own development projects. In the next thirty years, Brown moved three more times, but always within The Highlands. He was last noted in 1963.

Brown sold 11108 to Anna Love in 1932. Her husband, Everett Love, was prominent in the Alberta dairy industry. He was on the Executive Committee of the National Dairy Council of Canada, and President and Managing Director of Woodland Dairy. According to the December 1931 edition of the Canadian Dairy and Ice Cream Journal, Love is credited with leading a campaign against the importation, sale or manufacture of oleo (margarine) in Canada. The Loves lived in the home until 1948.

The William Brown Residence is one of only a few Highlands houses faced with brick. The clinker brick, in combination with the stucco finish, the jerkinhead roofline, the design of the windows, and the large entrance porch, create the impression of a traditional English cottage.

The William Brown Residence has had only a few owners since the 1930s. Its good state of preservation indicates both that its qualities are appreciated, and that it has been cared for.

- *Continue east on 111 Avenue.*



William Brown Residence, 2011. (EPDD)

31.

VAN ALLEN RESIDENCE (1927)

6326 - 111 AVENUE

George Harold Van Allen moved to Edmonton in 1908 at the age of 18. He studied law at the University of Alberta and was admitted to the bar in 1916. Between 1923 and 1924 Van Allen was Counsel for the Alberta Government before the Royal Commission on grain freight rates. He won a decision for the province which would be in effect until the 1990s. The fact that court cases are not held behind closed doors today is also in part thanks to this brilliant litigator.

Van Allen had a successful law practice. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales was an early client and Francis Winspear a protégé. Among many friends were Wop May, Nellie McClung, and Charles Campbell (publisher of the Edmonton Journal), and neighbours, H.H. Parlee, and K.C., and R.C. Marshall. Van Allen was an avid photographer and accomplished athlete. As President of Highlands Golf Course in 1930, George had improvements made to the course using workers on relief.



Van Allen Residence, 2010. (HHS)



Van Allen was also a Liberal MLA from 1935 until his death in 1937. He was one of the few voices of opposition that fought against the tide of the immensely popular, newly elected Social Credit party.

Van Allen bought this newly-built home in 1927 after his marriage to Ruby Traer. The Van Allen family continued to live here until 1940 when Ruby and the children moved to Vancouver to be near her family.

The house is architecturally significant for its use of large aggregate stucco finish known as pebbledash and its use of clinker brick. It was added to the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historical Resources in 2009.

32. R.C. MARSHALL RESIDENCE (1912) 6318 - 111 AVENUE

No building permit is recorded by the City of Edmonton for a house on this site, possibly as a result of an error in the placement of the building. In 1912, C.L. Freeman obtained a permit to construct a house on lot 16, block 1 of The Highlands subdivision. This house, first occupied by C.L. Freeman, rests on lot 17.



*Robert Marshall Residence, 1913.
(GAI NA-1328-64529)*



Robert Marshall Residence, 2010. (EPDD)

Herbert Baker bought this property in 1914, and lived here from 1915 until 1928, when his Ada Boulevard house (#27) was completed. Baker sold to Robert Colin Marshall, who stayed until his death in 1962. Marshall came from Calgary, where he had been elected an Alderman in 1917, and Mayor in 1919. Moving steadily up the political ladder, he was an MLA from 1921 until 1926. In Edmonton, Marshall did not enter politics, choosing instead to pursue a business career. He was a partner in Crown Paving Co. Ltd., where he had started working in 1915, and in Alberta Concrete Products Ltd., until 1961. Both firms were “closely connected with the road and structural development of the city and province for several decades.”

The Marshall residence was quite different originally. It was a large Foursquare style house with wooden siding and a large verandah across the front. Plain in comparison to many of its neighbours, it had a minimum of decorative elements. This plainness lent itself well to remodelling in the Moderne style. To accomplish this transformation, a two-storey addition was made to the front of the house and the exterior was faced with stucco. A full Moderne style effect was not achieved, however, since the addition and the main house do not have flat roofs.

- *Return along 111 Avenue to 64 Street, turn north.*

33. ERNEST BROWN RESIDENCE (1912) 11149 - 64 STREET

From 1919 to 1921 this was the home of photographer, historian, painter, and museum operator, Ernest Brown. Born in England at Newcastle-on-Tyne, he came to Edmonton in 1904. Once here, he purchased an established photo studio and all the photographs he could. In 1914 he claimed, without much exaggeration, "If it's an old photograph, it's mine."

Brown took Alberta's first X-rays in 1906. He also produced a number of paintings. In the 1930s he operated the Brown Museum on 97 Street, where he featured his collection in The Birth of the West Exhibition. He had visitors from "Ireland to India", as well as thousands of school children. Most of Brown's photographs are now housed at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Brown died in 1951 at the age of 71. In 1973 his life was the subject of an award-winning Filmwest film entitled Ernest Brown, Pioneer Photographer.

This house was built in 1912 for Clyde Dunham, according to designs by architect



Ernest Brown Residence, 2011. (EPDD)

E. Kean. At \$2,600 it just exceeded the area's \$2,500 cost requirement. Ambrose C. Faulkner purchased the house in 1914, but left for Saskatchewan in 1915. He retained ownership, however, and rented the house out to John W.H. Williams. Faulkner returned to Edmonton in 1945, and lived here until 1961.

The Ernest Brown Residence may be the most rustic house in The Highlands. Its low profile, shingle siding, wide overhangs and large brackets below the eaves suit a cottage in the country, not a formal house in town.

34. MOREHOUSE RESIDENCE (1912) 11153 - 64 STREET

Ernest William Morehouse, more than any other architect, influenced the early development of The Highlands. From 1912 until 1915, permits show he designed thirteen buildings in The Highlands, and as Magrath-Holgate's in-house architect, may have designed up to thirty more. His most prominent designs were the Gibbard Block (#1), the Holgate Residence (#24), and the Magrath Residence (#25).



Morehouse Residence, 2011. (EPDD)



Born in Chatsworth, Ontario in 1871, Morehouse trained as an architect in Toronto, starting as a contractor. After 1892, Morehouse lived in Chicago, Chatham, and Detroit, where he studied manufacturing buildings. When he came to Edmonton in 1910 it was to design and oversee the erection of a factory.

Morehouse first set up a design and contracting firm in partnership with Arthur Nesbitt, but in 1912 he struck out on his own, gaining local prominence. He served on the council of the Alberta Association of Architects in 1917, and four years later was its vice president. Morehouse left Edmonton in 1929 to return to Detroit, where he died in 1937.

Morehouse designed this \$4,500 Foursquare style house for himself in 1912. Sheathed in wood siding with corner boards, it has a bay window shaded by a hip-roofed verandah, and a glassed-in balcony centred above the main steps. The vertical emphasis of the design is reinforced by the dormer centred in the hipped roof.

Inside, the Morehouse Residence was well appointed. Bevelled glass, woodwork, brass fixtures, and stencilled patterns on the walls were among the aesthetic touches. A switch in the master bedroom which controlled all the upstairs bedroom lights recalls the Magrath Residence. The Morehouse Residence is of a type favoured by moderately well-off Edmontonians before WWI. It remains in a good state of preservation, inside and out. The Morehouse Residence was recognized as a Registered Historic Resource by the Province of Alberta in 1987.

- *Turn left on 112 Avenue to return to the start point at the Gibbard Block.*



WORTH A LOOK

As you walk or drive throughout the neighbourhood you may notice plaques on many of the houses. These are part of a program initiated by The Highlands Historical Society to promote the history and architecture of this community. The cost of the plaque is shared by the homeowner and the City of Edmonton Heritage Conservation Unit in the Planning and Development Department. Each plaque provides the year the house was built, its first owner and occupation.

The Highlands is full of historical gems beyond the boundaries of this walking tour. The following are worth a look.

A. EDMONTON NORTHLANDS 73 STREET & 116 AVENUE

Edmonton Northlands began its 114 year history in 1879 as the Edmonton Agricultural Society. It was the first local body with legal status in the Northwest Territories, and dealt with all civic issues until Edmonton was incorporated



A day at the races, 1914. (GAI NC-6-65871)



as a town in 1892, at which time Society Vice President Matthew McCauley became mayor.

In 1910 the Society, renamed The Edmonton Exhibition Association, relocated its annual summer fair from Rosedale to its current site on what was then the eastern edge of town. The location was less than ideal since the ground was low and often muddy. In the winter of 1911 the swampy area known as Kirkness Lake was filled in with 5,000 yards of river gravel. Then the development of “The Grand Design”, which included construction of the Grandstand, Manufacturers’ Building, and Livestock Pavilion, later known as Edmonton Gardens, was begun. Although something was always going on at the Exhibition Grounds, it was in the summer when the fair was in progress, with its midway and shows of livestock and produce, that activity reached its yearly peak.

When the fair moved to its present location in 1910, there were very few residences in the vicinity. Before long developers recognized the potential of the area. The ties between Edmonton Northlands, as the Edmonton Exhibition is now known, and the surrounding communities have their roots in these early days. Some of the grand houses erected in The Highlands were home to prominent citizens who helped build Edmonton Northlands to its present stature.

B. LOG HOUSE (1936)

11305 - 68 STREET

Built in 1936 this residence is significant due to its unusual log construction. This form of construction is rare in the area and is one of only a handful of examples in the greater Edmonton area. Built in the waning days of the Depression when Edmonton was experiencing little growth, the choice of material reflected the availability of labour and the need for inexpensive and available materials. Well known for its



Log House, 2006. (HHS)

significance as a community landmark, “the log house” has been a long recognized reference point for Highlands residents.

C. 67TH STREET ECLECTIC HOUSES (1948)

11322, 11326, 11328 - 67 STREET

There is a group of three similar one-and-a-half storey homes on this street connected with high, decorative garden walls. Eclectic is the description that comes to mind when trying to ascribe a style. Each has unique features but they have certain things in common, such as flat roofs, sculpted portals, flowing stucco railings leading to the front door and open front porches.



11326-28 67 Street, 2010 (HHS)



The rain caps over the front windows and diverse array of decorative stucco add to these design elements giving these homes a unique character.

D. SPANISH HOUSE (1930)

11326 - 66 STREET

This residential home was built in 1930. It is significant as a rare example of what is referred to as Spanish Eclectic or Pueblo Revival in some style books. It is the only such example of this kind of detached single family dwelling in The Highlands. The design elements that give it this unique quality include the red tile gable roof, the white stucco interior, the attached portal on the north side of the front façade, the large 20 light front window and the three protruding logs over the central window on the front façade.



Spanish House, 2000 (HHS)

E. GREEN RESIDENCE (1913)

11305 - 66 STREET

The Green Residence is a good example of a side-gabled, one and one-half storey Craftsman style home. The home includes



Green Residence, 2011 (EPDD)

common Craftsman design elements such as: a combination of wood shingles and wood siding on the gable end walls, wide eaves with large decorative brackets, a mixture of window sizes and shapes, and the extension of the main roof over the front porch. More unusual features of this home are the full-length enclosed front porch and the offset front door.

Along with their eldest three children, George G. Green and Alice Laura Green arrived in Edmonton from Brownsburg, Quebec in 1910. George, a carpenter by trade, purchased the partially constructed home and completed it himself in 1913. Three additional children were born in the home making it a lively hub of activity for such a modest dwelling.

Originally an open sleeping porch, George enclosed the front porch himself when their eldest daughter fell ill and Highlands' Dr. Atkinson ordered her to bed rest in an isolated area to recuperate. In 1929, after a neighboring home burned to the ground, the Greens and the Deane family to the north split the lot between them, resulting in a fifty foot wide lot for each family. Still needing to accommodate their growing family, the Greens eventually also purchased the home to the south of them. Both homes remained in the Green family until 1962, after both George and Alice had passed away.



The original Green Residence subsequently became a rental property for almost forty years and was nearly demolished due to its dilapidated condition before the current owners purchased it in 1998 and spent the next eight years lovingly restoring it.

F. ROSE RESIDENCE (1924)

11212 - 64 STREET

This Craftsman bungalow retains its clinker brick chimney-fireplace, windows, rafter ends, and uniquely patterned shingled exterior. It was built in 1924 by Julia May Griffith, a single 22 year old teacher at Highlands School. William Brown likely designed and constructed it. The same year, it was sold to William and Lillian Rose. William was a bookkeeper at Hayward Lumber and later the Beverly Coal Mine. The Roses passed away in the late 1940s and the home was subsequently occupied by Lillian's sisters, Ethel and Ivy Sinclair, until the late 1970s. Restoration began in 1997 and this home is now on Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources.



Rose Residence, 2008 (EPDD)



G. BUTTERCUP FARM HOUSE (1912)

11243 - 58 STREET

The Buttercup Farm House is located in what was once known as McDougall Heights, later part of the development of Magrath-Holgate. Initially the house, built in 1912, was by itself in a large open field. It was occupied for the first time in 1918 when auctioneer Clyde Smith moved to the community. The Smiths kept a small barn in the back as well as a flock of chickens and a cow called Buttercup. The small park across the street is officially known as Buttercup Park. This house has been well loved, and over its entire life it has only had three owners.

Buttercup Farm House is significant because of its Arts and Crafts design features: the continuous shingle wood shingle wall cladding, open front porch with offset front door, exposed roof beams on all four façades, bay windows, balcony over the front window and double hung windows. It was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in 2010.



Buttercup Farm House, 2010 (HHS)



H. GABY HAAS RESIDENCE (1951) 11207 - 56 STREET

Gaby (Gabriel) Haas was born in 1920 and is best known as a musician, composer and arranger, Gaby produced 57 albums and 60 singles. Gaby was a favorite of both CKUA and CFRN radio listeners and became well known for his famous saying, “Lets Polka!” He composed over 100 waltzes, polkas and country tunes. Gaby headlined concerts and dance dates throughout North America and appeared on television programs such as ‘Don Messer’s Jubilee’, ‘Cross Canada Barn Dance’ and ‘Polka Party’. Gaby starred in 1955-69 on ‘Chuckwagon’, and 1956-71 on ‘The Noon Show’ (later known as ‘Eye-Opener’) and 1969-74 on ‘Country Music’, all broadcast on CFRN TV. Haas also operated an Edmonton record store, “The European Music Shop”, and was part-owner (and a featured performer at) several of the city’s restaurants. Gaby Haas lived here from 1958 to 1974.



Gaby Haas Residence, 2010 (HHS)



I. HERITAGE TREE AVENUE 56 STREET BETWEEN 111 AVENUE AND 113 AVENUE

Heritage Tree Avenue, on 56 Street from 111 Avenue to 113 Avenue in The Highlands is well known for its magnificent canopy of trees. The streetscape is featured in the book *Heritage Trees of Alberta*, published in 2008. The canopy spread is created by American Elms which were planted in 1957. The trees add to the distinctive character of The Highlands and are particularly beautiful in the fall. The streetscape is commemorated with three plaques.



Heritage Tree Avenue, 2010 (HHS)





GLOSSARY

Arts & Crafts style a style originating in 19th century England which emphasized hand-crafted traditional designs.

bellcast eaves which flare outwards in a bell shape.

classical architecture inspired by ancient Greek and Roman buildings.

clinker brick over fired brick with textured surfaces.

Collegiate Gothic style a style popular for educational buildings in the 19th and early 20th centuries which was based on the tradition of medieval English colleges such as Oxford and Cambridge.

cornice a projecting decorative band at the top of a building. Can be of wood, stone, plaster or pressed metal.

Craftsman Bungalow a one-storey house, or a multi-storey house with a roof sloping towards the front and back, with details which are, or appear to be, handcrafted or rustic.

crenellation a notched parapet.

Foursquare style a house with generally cubic proportions, usually with a pyramidal roof and classically-inspired detailing.

gambrel roof a roof which has two slopes, or pitches, one gentle and one steep, on each side of the ridge-line.

giant order columns or pillars two or more storeys in height.

Gothic Revival style a style developed in the 19th century, based on medieval models, often recognized by the use of pointed Gothic arches.



half-timbering a medieval method of construction. An exposed timber-frame wall filled in with rubble or brickwork, or one which appears to be constructed in this way by applying surface decoration.

hipped roof a roof which slopes in four directions.

hood a small roof projecting from a wall above a window or door.

jerkinhead roof a roof in which the top of the end of a gable roof is cut off by a small hip roof.

keystone the wedge-shaped stone at the top of an arch; may be enlarged for decorative purposes.

Moderne style a streamlined style popular in the 1930s and 1940s, characterized by rounded corners, smooth walls and geometric motifs.

oriel window a window projecting from an upper storey.

Palladian window a three-part window with a round-arched central opening and smaller side openings with flat lintels.

pediment the triangular end of a low pitched gable or a triangular element resembling it.

pilaster a shallow pillar projecting only slightly from a wall.

Queen Anne style an eclectic late-Victorian style with varied rooflines, rich detailing, and generally vertical emphasis in proportions.

swept dormer a dormer which appears as a swelling in a roof.

Tudor Revival style a style characterized by half-timbering, flattened pointed (Tudor) arches, shallow mouldings and extensive panelling.



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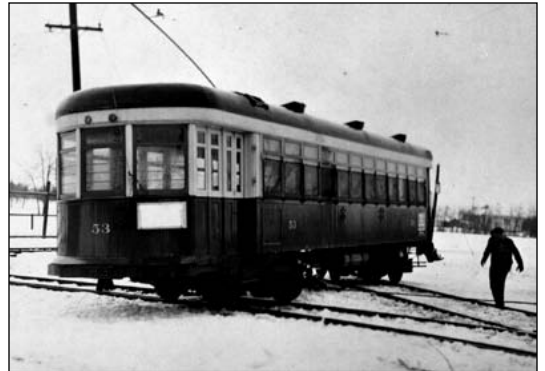
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Highlands street car, 1940. (CEA EA-160-616)



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