



ARMSTRONG BLOCK

10125 - 104 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Armstrong Block consists of a four-storey mixed use brick building on a city lot. It is located mid-block on 104 Street, an area in downtown Edmonton that served as the city's warehouse district.

HERITAGE VALUE

The 1912 Armstrong Block is significant because of its association with the early development of Edmonton's warehouse district, an area of downtown that accommodated the city's industrial and warehousing needs until 1913. Reginald and Louis Armstrong, printers by trade, had the building constructed in 1912 on speculation to accommodate the massive demand for warehouse space at the time. The Armstrong Block is one of a collection of surviving, important warehouse area buildings that attest to the rapid expansion of the city prior to WWI.

The Armstrong Block is architecturally significant as a prominent example of an Edwardian-era combination of commercial and residential functions that incorporates high-quality materials and construction. The lower portions of the building were designed for the needs of wholesale businesses while the upper floors were subdivided into apartments and office, which was an

unusual combination of occupancies for the time. The structure is steel frame for all floors, which was also relatively unusual for the time since most Edmonton residential structure did not use steel framing past the first floor.

The Armstrong Block is also significant because of its association with designer David Hardie (1882-1930), who designed the \$88,000 building for the Armstrong brothers. Hardie joined the Alberta Association of Architects in 1920, and in partnership with John Martland (1878-1957), designed a number of other similar commercial and residential buildings in Edmonton.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The Edwardian-era architecture of the building is expressed in character-defining elements such as:

- + form, scale and massing;
- + red pressed-brick façade construction with projecting brick pilasters that are rusticated at the ground floor level;
- + cast stone detailing, including horizontal stone bands, sills and lintels;
- + central double-door entrance with elaborate arched cast stone lintel composition; and
- + fenestration, including three rows of wood double-hung windows at the second, third, and fourth-floor levels on all four.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 12621 in June 2001.

Designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in September 2003.

Visit edmonton.ca/historicresources to learn more

