



# BRENNAN RESIDENCE

## CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



13612 - 103 AVENUE NW

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Brennan Residence is a one-storey brick residence located on a corner lot in the Glenora community. The residence is set back from the street and situated on a large lot with a laneway to the west of the residence. The elegant Arts and Crafts style house possesses a rectangular plan with front projection, brick exterior, hipped roof, enclosed porch with front projection, brick exterior, hipped roof, enclosed porch with front-gabled roof and multiple wooden-sash windows.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The 1921 Brennan Residence is significant for its lengthy connection with the Brennan family and as being one of only a handful of extant early houses constructed along Stony Plain Road, an early transportation route into downtown and west out of the city. James Edmund Brennan (1892-1949) began renting the house from the builder, Lester Newton Allyn, in 1922.

Allyn purchased all 20 lots from Block 94 in the 1906 Glenora Subdivision developed by Montreal real estate mogul, James Carruthers, in 1910, with the intention of developing the lots and taking advantage of the city's 1910s real estate boom. Although lots ran parallel to Stony Plain Road, Allyn constructed the Brennan Residence on three lots facing Stony Plain Road instead of 136 Street.

With the initial development of the community focused to the southeast, the Brennan Residence was one of the first to be built north of Stony Plain Road in Glenora. Having been first surveyed in the early 1880s, Stony Plain Road served as an important thoroughfare for farmers transporting goods from the Stony Plain district to downtown Edmonton. The house was one of only a handful of residences situated along Stony Plain Road. Long-time owners James and Ina Brennan purchased the house circa 1929 after renting for several years and would maintain ownership until 1987. The Brennans' 68-year ownership has resulted in the residence retaining an exceptional degree of integrity.

The Brennan Residence is further valued as an early and elegant expression of a modest Arts and Crafts-style residence in Glenora. The home exhibits many of the key tenets of Arts and Crafts architecture, an extremely popular architectural style in the 1910s and 1920s in Edmonton. This style of architecture emerged in England at the end of the 19th century as part of the Arts and Crafts Movement, which was established in response to the increased industrialization and mass production of consumables. Neighbourhoods were frequently destroyed to accommodate factories, unemployment increased, and the decline of skilled trades resulted. The Arts and Crafts movement advocated a return to functional design and ornamentation through quality craftsmanship.





Arts and Crafts style houses typically possessed functional floor plans with highly crafted details, minimal exterior ornamentation, use of a variety of natural materials, and abundance of windows connecting exterior and interior spaces. The Brennan Residence exhibits this architectural style through its one-storey height, brick and shingle exterior, open soffits with exposed rafter tails, front-gabled front projection, minimal exterior details such as plain pointed bargeboards and cornice boards, and single and double assembly multi-light windows permitting light to flood the interior.

### CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key character-defining elements of the Brennan Residence include:

- + Location on a corner lot on 103 Avenue NW with laneway bordering its west side in the Edmonton's Glenora neighbourhood
- + Siting on a rectangular lot with deep setback facing Stony Plain Road
- + Form, scale and massing as expressed by its one-storey height, rectangular plan with hipped roof; projection with front-gabled roof on south façade, enclosed front porch
- + Wooden-frame construction including: parged foundation; red pressed brick with red mortar, joints blackened with charcoal; wooden shingles in gable peak on front projection; and concrete sills
- + Arts and Crafts-style elements including: multiple fenestration openings; multiple exterior cladding materials; projecting eaves and verges; cornice boards; pointed bargeboards; open soffits with exposed rafter tails; and enclosed front-gabled porch with closed balustrade
- + Original fenestration such as the single-hung wooden-sash windows and wooden storm windows
- + Red brick chimney



*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 21015 in February 2025.*

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