



BUTTERCUP FARM HOUSE

CITY OF EDMONTON
HISTORIC RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

11243 - 58 STREET NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Buttercup Farm House was built in 1912 as a two-storey residence with a side-facing gable roof, a wide gable roofed front dormer, a full-length front verandah and a second storey balcony. It is clad in clapboard siding and wooden shingles and has an attached single car garage. It is located on a residential street and occupies a single city lot in the Highlands, a mature neighbourhood in Edmonton.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Buttercup Farm House is significant for its design and association with the development policies of Magrath and Holgate in the Highlands subdivision.

Built in 1912, Buttercup Farm House is significant for reflecting design principles popular in Edmonton before the First World War. During the first decade of the 1900s residential construction in Edmonton favoured simple designs, natural materials, and minimized decorations.

The practical application of this trend in design is evident in the construction of the Buttercup Farm House. The house features contrasting clapboard siding and cedar shingle cladding, both natural elements readily available at the time. Functional elements which added detail to the house include the scuppers in the verandah and balcony, and the large pillars supporting the shed roof over the verandah. The house also features sculpted rafters under the eaves and similarly shaped brackets under the projecting window on the north elevation reflecting the popular principles of simple design during the era.

The Buttercup Farm House is also significant for its association with the residential development policies of Magrath & Holgate. The Highlands subdivision was established in 1910 by real estate speculators William J. Magrath and Bidwell Holgate as an upscale bedroom community for Edmonton. They primarily subdivided lots and sold them to owners on the condition that the resulting houses have a minimum construction cost of \$2500.

The early homes resulting from this development policy were all similar to Buttercup Farm House, and typically had large square footprints, were two storeys in height, and employed wood frame construction with clapboard and cedar shingle cladding. Buttercup Farm House and homes like it contributed to the sense of sophistication and class sought by early developers in the Highlands neighbourhood. As one of the better surviving examples, the home now makes an important contribution to the character of the neighbourhood.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The heritage value of the Buttercup Farm House is expressed in such character-defining elements as:

- + timber single siding on the first and second levels separated from clapboard siding and corner boards below the ground floor window sill level with a timber belt course;
- + side-facing gable roof with large central gable on the front and rear elevations
- + open verandah, shed roof supported by heavy brick and timber columns with upper brackets. Verandah is wider than the roof with brick columns at each end. Exposed beams and tongue and groove ceiling detail. Lower rail is enclosed with timber siding down to ground level;
- + open balcony on top of the porch with wide trimmed door opening and rail enclosed with timber shingles;
- + off centre wooden front door;
- + exposed rafters and tongue and groove sheathing under the eaves;
- + brick chimney stack;
- + original wooden windows on the front elevation including the double casement window (6 panes each) at the attic level, the 9 over 1 double hung window on the second floor and the three timber sash windows at ground level (9 over 1) wide timber trim;
- + original wooden windows on the east elevation including multi-paned casement and sash windows with wide timber trims;
- + central timber door below bay window on north elevation with wide timber trim;
- + original wooden windows on the south elevation including centrally placed timber sash window (6 over 1) with wide timber trim at the upper level, the casement window (6 panes) with wide timber trim at lower west wall, and the bay window with two timber sash window (9 over 1), shingle siding returns, shed roof, supporting timber brackets underneath and two narrow brackets supporting the roof;
- + original wooden windows on the north elevation including two casement window (6 panes) with wide timber trim at upper levels, casement window (6 panes) with wide timber trim at lower west wall, and bay window with two timber sash window (6 over 1), shingle siding returns, shed roof, supporting timber brackets underneath and two narrow brackets supporting the roof; and
- + interior period mouldings, trims, doors, fireplace and staircase.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 15493 in November 2010.



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