



CANADA PACKERS CHIMNEY STACK

12403 - FORT ROAD NW

CITY OF EDMONTON
HISTORIC RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Canada Packers Chimney Stack is an approximately 38.7 metre (127 feet) high structure located in the Yellowhead Corridor East neighbourhood. The Chimney Stack is the last surviving remnant of the 1936 Canada Packers Plant and remains as a historical landmark. It is characterized by its terra cotta tile construction, concrete cap and base, and large flue opening.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Canada Packers Chimney Stack is valued for its association with the development of the 1936 Canada Packers Plant on site and the other meat packing facilities in the general area. The majority of the Plant was demolished in 1995.

Construction of the Plant, including the Chimney Stack, began in the midst of the Great Depression. With few employment opportunities available at the time, the development of the new facility was welcome to many in Edmonton who were seeking employment. The Plant complex was designed by Eric R. Arthur, who was head of architecture at the University of Toronto at the time. Arthur was assisted by A.P.C. Adamson, another Toronto-area architect. The official opening was held on November 4, 1936, with Premier William Aberhart and Mayor Joseph Clarke in attendance.

The design of the complex is an excellent example of the International Modernist style. The Plant was awarded a Gold Medal of Merit by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and the Ontario Association of Architects in 1936. A local Edmonton firm, Bird Construction, was awarded the contract for the construction of the Plant, which employed upwards of

400 tradesmen at one point. The peak production years of the plant were focused in the 1950s through the 1970s.

The overall complex included a power plant, refrigeration plant, main abattoir, meat packing areas, a safety and quality testing laboratory, facilities for smoking and pickling meat, cellars for curing hides, and a vegetable oil refining facility. The Chimney Stack itself was fed from three Babcock & Wilcox natural gas-fired boilers that generated steam for the sterilization of equipment, as well as heat for the complex, an innovative approach at the time.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character-defining elements of the Canada Packers Chimney Stack include such features as:

- + mass, form, scale, and style;
- + square terracotta tile construction (referred to as structural terracotta);
- + large flue opening, with some brick elements;
- + concrete cap and base; and
- + structural remnants of foundations from former adjacent buildings of the Canada Packers Plant.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 17259 in July 2015.

