



CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



GIBSON BLOCK

9611 - 101A AVENUE NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Gibson Block, also known as the Flatiron Building, is a large wedge-shaped four-storey brick building constructed for commercial use at the eastern edge of Edmonton's pre-WWI commercial core.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Gibson Block is valued as a rare example of a commercial building following the 1902 prototype of a flatiron building, so named for its distinctive triangular shape. The building design, with Chicago style influences, balances the vertical emphasis of pilasters and windows with the horizontal presentation of the continuous glass shop fronts and first storey and fourth storey cornices.

Developed by William Gibson, the Gibson Block characterizes the historic wave of prosperity and opportunity at the height of the commercial boom in pre-WWI Edmonton. Originally built to provide first-floor retail space and offices on the remaining floors, the building's use has evolved with Edmonton's changing

economic fortunes and has included office, retail, and for a significant part, the well known Turkish Baths, which closed in 1978.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key character defining elements of the Gibson block include:

- + massing and form of the building, in particular, the triangular shape;
- + Chicago style influences such as the brick bays, the continuous glass shop front at street level and the entablatures and cornices on the first level and top of the building;
- + design elements such as the decorative square motif in brick and concrete, the restored amethyst prism glass, the cornice medallions, the stairwell windows on the north façade, including the fourth storey brick semicircular arch;
- + the curved windows at the toe of the wedged shaped building;
- + the south façade semicircular wooden archway main entrance with keystone design, including the doors and globe lights;
- + recessed storefront entrances and ceramic tiles on the south façade; and
- + the sash window openings, one over one, with cast stone sills.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 10621 in May 1994.

Designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in May 1994.



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