



HARDISTY RESIDENCE

10549 - 126 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

Built in 1913, the Hardisty Residence is a single detached two-storey Foursquare home with a low pitch roof, front-facing gable dormer, wood-clad exterior and front open verandah. It is located on a residential street on a corner lot in the neighbourhood of Westmount. It is significant for its association with pre-First World War development and is representative of the development of the Groat Estates area of Westmount.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Hardisty Residence is significant as an early example of a Foursquare-designed house in the Groat Estates area, part of the broader Westmount neighbourhood. Groat Estates was named for Malcolm Groat, a Hudson's Bay Company employee who once owned the lands in this area after settling in Edmonton. The community's land was annexed to Edmonton in two parts, in 1904 and 1910. During the economic boom prior to the First World War, parts of the Westmount neighbourhood developed rapidly, particularly after the streetcar from central Edmonton was extended to serve the area in 1911. As a result, there is a large concentration of pre-First World War houses in this part of Westmount.

Design elements of the Hardisty Residence include horizontal wood clapboard siding on the lower level and wooden shake siding on the upper storey. The roof is low-pitched with a hipped gable and projecting eaves and verges. There is a front-facing gable dormer, also with projecting eaves. The upper level of the front facade features two double-hung windows, each six-over-six panes. The facade at the main level features an off-centre entrance and a large three-casement window looking over an unenclosed front porch. The three-casement window features one-over-one panes in each casement. The front porch itself features a low-pitch hip roof

with three tapered pillars and off-set entrance stairs that align with the main entrance. The porch is clad with clapboard siding to match the rest of the main level. All of the windows on the building have storms and plain flat trim, with contrasting plain upper lintels. There is a brick chimney located centrally on the roofline, near the rear of the house.

The Hardisty Residence is also valued for its association with the Hardisty family. Richard George Hardisty and Esther (Kelly) Hardisty and their family were the first owners of the house. Richard George was the son of Senator Richard Charles Hardisty, who is notable for being chief factor of Fort Edmonton, the first Métis person to be appointed to the Senate of Canada, as well as the first Senator from the Provisional District of Alberta. The appointment was granted on February 23, 1888, by then-Prime Minister John A. Macdonald.





Richard Charles was married to Eliza McDougall, the eldest daughter of Reverend George McDougall, an early prominent Protestant missionary in the district. The village of Hardisty, Alberta, is named after Richard Charles, as is Mount Hardisty in Jasper National Park and Hardisty School in Edmonton.

Raised at Fort Edmonton, Richard George served as a scout and dispatch rider for government troops during the 1885 Northwest Resistance. He helped organize Edmonton's first hockey club in 1896 and played on the Edmonton Thistle team. In 1897 - 1898 Richard George was part of the North West Mounted Police expedition to find an all-Canadian route to the Klondike gold fields. He took Métis scrip in 1900 and later managed a cartage company. After his first wife died in childbirth, he went to South Africa during the Boer War. During the First World War, he served in France as a Major in the 49th Battalion (Edmonton Regiment) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915-16 and then in an organizing capacity back in Canada. He died in Vancouver in 1943.

Esther Kelly married Richard George in 1908 in Chicago after the death of his first wife. Before their marriage, Esther worked in New York as an advertising manager for Borden's Milk and assistant editor of two medical journals. During the First World War, she served overseas with the nursing service. During the Second World War, Esther applied her publicity experience to the war effort, working with the British Columbia Security Commission and then the National Selective Service, the federal government agency that found workers for factories and other war-related industries. She was part of the effort that encouraged significant numbers of women into paid employment. This has had lasting effects on female labour force participation in Canada and contributed to new family dynamics and other social change. Esther died in 1947.

Richard George only lived in the house from its construction until 1915 when he went overseas with the military. Esther was resident until 1916 or 1917, when she joined her husband in Calgary where he was then stationed.

The house was occupied by Charles Hickey, an agent for the Great West Life Assurance Company, in 1917 and in 1919 by Mrs. A. Hayden. In 1920 it was recorded as vacant. In 1921, Walter Trant, a clerk with the Royal Mail Service, moved into the home and lived there until 1924. George Smiley, an auditor with the Hudson's Bay Company, moved into the home in 1925 and remained there until 1928, when Mrs. E.J. Lomas became the owner. Mrs. Lomas lived in the house until 1957, when Frederick and Edith Moorlend moved into the house.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key character-defining elements of the Hardisty Residence include:

- + Form, scale and massing of the two-storey building;
- + Low-pitch hip roof with projecting eaves and verges;
- + Front-facing gable dormer;
- + Wood-clad exterior, with clapboard siding on the first storey and wooden shake cladding on second storey;
- + Rooftop brick chimney at rear of peak;
- + Concrete foundation;
- + Open porch with low-pitch hip roof and three tapered pillars; off-set entrance stairs;
- + Two double-hung, six-over-six paned windows on the second storey of the east (front) elevation with plain sills;
- + Three-casement windows on front elevation with one-over-one panes on each;
- + Off-set front door; and
- + One-sash storm window with four panes on first storey and storm window with two panes on second storey on north elevation.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 20867 in March 2025.

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