



CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

HECLA BLOCK

10141 - 95 STREET NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Hecla Block consists of a three-storey Edwardian-style residential building with basement on a prominent corner location on an arterial street in the Boyle Community, on the eastern edge of Edmonton's historic downtown core.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Hecla Block represents Edmonton's first generation of apartment buildings, noted for not having ground floor commercial space. Located on what was the edge of the city in the Boyle Community, it was built for Edmonton's blue-collar, working class. The building served a growing demand for residential accommodation during the pre-WWI construction boom and is an indicator of the densification of residential areas at this time.

Value is also found in its association with the development of the Boyle Community, one of Edmonton's older settled neighbourhoods. It was once a location of a number of large-scale institutional, commercial and residential buildings fundamental to the development of the city. The Hecla Block has become an important landmark along what formed the eastern residential edge of Edmonton's historic business district. The building has remained a prominent landmark to this day.

The building is additionally significant for its architecture and building materials. Edwardian in style, the use of wire-cut red brick in this building is rare where pressed

red brick was the more prevalent choice in the community. There is a strong ordering of windows on the principal façades that reflect the interior layout of the building and its residential use. Its Edwardian-era architecture is exemplified with architectural details standard at its time of construction.

Hardie & Martland designed the building and are significant for having designed a number of other similar commercial and residential buildings in Edmonton both before and after the Hecla Block. Martland went on to become the City Architect in 1919.

The Hecla Block is also significant for its association with John Johnson, a builder responsible for some sixty-five houses and two apartment buildings in this area of the City. The Hecla Block also represents a nod to Johnson's Icelandic heritage, named after Mount Hecla, the largest and most well-known volcano in Iceland. The Johnson family was active in this area for almost 25 years.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The Hecla Block's Edwardian-era architecture and unique appearance are generally expressed in the following elements:

- + prominent corner location;
- + form, scale and massing;
- + fenestration, consisting of a regular repetition of sash, one over one, windows with tall lower sashes;
- + the use of wire-cut red brick;
- + cast stone sills, and decorative accents;
- + arched, cast stone building name pediments on the two corner façades;
- + arched pressed metal entrance canopy;
- + rusticated concrete basement; and
- + stone banding, quoins and detailing in lintels and between windows.



Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 12130 in November 1999.

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