



# JAMES RUTHERFORD HOUSE

## CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



11701 - 96 STREET NW

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The James Rutherford House was built in 1927 as a single-storey wood frame residence. It is located on a residential street corner and occupies a single city lot in the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood in Edmonton.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The James Rutherford House is significant for its clinker brick construction and its association with modest inter-war infill residential development in the former community of Norwood, now known as Alberta Avenue.

Clinker brick construction is valuable because the bricks were often discarded as waste material unsuitable for construction because they were over-fired, burnt, and misshapen. Builders in Edmonton began to use clinker bricks as early as 1913. The uneven colour and texture of the clinker brick cladding on this particular home produces an earthy texture and relatively unique appearance, as most homes in the Alberta Avenue community dating to this period employ wooden cladding. The continued presence of clinker brick structures like the James Rutherford House are important in preserving one of Edmonton's few regional construction materials.

The historic importance of the James Rutherford House is also due to its association with modest inter-war infill residential development in Norwood. Development between the First and Second World Wars in Edmonton slowed considerably, although there was a surprising amount of residential infill development in Norwood, particularly during the late 1920s and early 1930s. These homes were popular because of the modest detailing, in this case the brickwork and the wooden singles in the gable end,

gave the home some style which afforded the owner a sense of pride and respectability, while the small size made them affordable and easy to heat in the winter. There are many types of infill development that contributed to the character of Norwood, which by the 1950s had become a part of Alberta Avenue.

### CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

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

- + intersecting gable roof in a 'T' pattern and wooden shingles in the gable end;
- + shed roof on the west façade;
- + understated clinker brick exterior including clinker brick rowlock course window sills and clinker brick soldier course lintels;
- + extended eaves;
- + clinker brick chimney; and
- + pattern, style and construction of all wooden windows.

*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 12623 in August 2001.*

