



KINGSTON POWELL BUILDING

10277 - 97 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Kingston Powell Building is a two-storey wood-frame commercial and residential building, located at the southeast corner of 103 Avenue, facing 97 Street, Edmonton's historic main street.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Kingston Powell Building is representative of commercial buildings that sprang up along Edmonton's main thoroughfares, such as Namayo Avenue. Built in 1907, it is characteristic of the buildings that were erected in the busiest time of the pre-World War I boom in Edmonton. Namayo Avenue was a significant commercial location in Edmonton in that period and remained so until the 1920s and 30s when the commercial core moved west.

The site has significance for its association with Kingston Powell, a farmer turned business property owner, who was listed as owner and architect for the property. Kingston Powell was a very early settler in the Edmonton area, present during the Riel Rebellion. Powell is representative of the group of early settlers who initially farmed but later chose to invest in the construction of urban buildings.

The Kingston Powell Building is also notable for its architecture as an early Edwardian-era example of a building

using prefabricated materials, such as the pressed metal siding with stone imprint still present on the building, to represent classically-inspired decorations that were popular at the time. It is representative of the economical utilitarian structures most often found in the early commercial area, most of which are now demolished and has value as one of a small number of surviving examples. It originally provided both commercial and living space, with stores at the ground level and residential accommodations above.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The Boomtown commercial style of the Kingston Powell Building is represented by character defining elements such as:

- + form, scale and massing;
- + minimal setback from the street;
- + timber construction and symmetrical façade;
- + pressed-metal siding with ashlar stone pattern imprint;
- + large wood-framed retail storefront windows on two elevations with recessed front entrance;
- + wood cornice detail at roof level and wood cornice and sign band above storefronts;
- + courses of decorative banding in and below the cornices; and
- + a regular repetition of wood double-hung windows in the upper level.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 13214, in December 2002.

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