



R. G. J. SMITH RESIDENCE

9824 - 92 AVENUE NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The R. G. J. Smith Residence consists of a one-and-a-half storey wood frame home in the middle of a residential street in the historic Strathcona neighbourhood.

HERITAGE VALUE

Built in 1913, the R. G. J. Smith Residence is valued for its modest Craftsman-style architecture. A popular form of domestic architecture during Edmonton's early growth period, the Craftsman-style was highly influential for smaller houses built in Edmonton between 1910 and 1930. The Craftsman influence on this home can be seen in the use of clapboard siding and cedar shingles - natural materials that were both readily available and that shift away from mass-produced building elements that were characteristics of the Craftsman movement. The simple design with few architectural details, as well as the side-facing gable roof, were also common traits of the Craftsman-style in Edmonton at the time.

The R. G. J. Smith Residence is significant for its association with its builder, James Turner. Turner also built four neighbouring heritage houses on this street during the same pre-WWI period of frantic construction and land speculation. Turner is also noted as the building of three other heritage houses located one block north, on 93rd Avenue. Listed as the original owner in 1914, R. G. J. Smith was a reporter for the Edmonton Journal.

The R. G. J. Smith Residence is also significant for its association with the pattern of early residential development in the community of Strathcona, one of south Edmonton's oldest settled neighbourhoods. Strathcona was established in 1891 with the arrival of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway and was a separate city until it was amalgamated with the city of Edmonton in 1912.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The heritage value of the R. G. J. Smith Residence is expressed in such character defining elements as its:

- + form, scale and massing;
- + side gable roof configuration on the main house with wood soffits;
- + timber siding and exterior detailing;
- + two exterior brick chimneys on the east and west elevations;
- + shed roof dormer with porch and multi-paned windows on three sides;





- + enclosed front verandah, with three large six-paned wood windows, two wood doors at opposite sides, and double six-paned windows on the sides;
- + verandah trim detailing including corner boards, timber strips, angled wood lintel detail above the windows and the doors, profiled window sill belt course and wide timber belt course above grade level;
- + timber trims around the windows;
- + space inside the verandah, which includes a square bay and timber sash window as well as an off-centered front door, all with timber moulding and trim surround;
- + concrete block foundation above grade; and
- + interior former living room area and detailing such as the timber mouldings and trim, wooden columns, and benches in the inglenook in the square bay window.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 14606 in June 2007.

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