



SHELDON / POWER RESIDENCE

6018 - 111 AVENUE NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The 1914 Sheldon/Power Residence is a one and one-half storey, Craftsman style dwelling. The house is located in the historic Highlands neighbourhood, initially at 6018 Jasper Avenue until it became 6018 - 111 Avenue in 1950.

HERITAGE VALUE

The 1914 Sheldon/Power Residence is valued for its association with the early development of The Highlands neighbourhood and its Craftsman influenced design.

The Highlands neighbourhood area was once referred to as the “lower settlement” in the 1880s, and was owned by three Hudson’s Bay Company employees. The land was bought in 1888 by businessman J.A. McDougall and developed by Magrath, Holgate and Company in 1910. A 19-year-old law clerk, S. Loughlin, suggested the winning name of “The Highlands,” and awarded \$50 in gold. Magrath and Holgate began marketing the area as Edmonton’s newest “high class” neighbourhood, with its beautiful setting on the banks of the river, large lots and minimum house cost of \$2,500 to ensure a high standard of living. The Sheldon/Power Residence represents a period of rapid economic expansion and unbridled optimism for future development in Edmonton. Lavish new suburbs such as the Highlands were an attempt to provide an element of upper class taste to the now burgeoning city of Edmonton.

While Edmonton’s population grew rapidly at this time, only a few houses were actually built by 1912. Despite their enthusiasm and personal investment, a world-wide recession hit Edmonton in 1913. Coupled with the onset of

the First World War, the real estate market collapsed. Despite this, the community’s amenities continued to attract development over time.

The Sheldon/Power Residence is significant for its Craftsman influenced architecture. Design elements include the wood shingle siding on all four elevations. The roof is a low-pitch, side-facing gable, and features deep projecting eaves and verges, with knee brackets and a slight bellcast curve. The front facade is dominated by a large gable dormer with a tripartite window on the front and single window openings on the sides. All windows are in a 8-over-1 configuration. The lower level of the facade features a large, open verandah with slightly asymmetrical windows and an entrance relative to the verandah arrangement. The lower level features a 10-over-1 window on the east side and a 12-over-1 window on the west side. The open verandah is supported by four tapered columns and open railings. The lower portion of the foundation is clad in rusticated pre-cast stone around the dwelling. The west elevation features original windows in a variety of configurations, including a bay window with a shallow shed roof and a brick chimney.

The residence is first associated with Carleton and Bessie Sheldon, who relocated to Edmonton from the United States in 1913. The Sheldons obtained a \$3,500 building permit in 1914 for the house, and moved in by 1915. Carleton started as a general manager for the Western Foundry and Machine Co., of which William Magrath was vice-president. While Carleton was general manager, the foundry made shell casings used by Canadian Forces in France during the First World War. Carleton was named business manager of the Humberstone Coal Company in 1916. In 1922, he started working for Coal Sellers Ltd., but





left in 1932 to start his own company, the Sheldon Coal Co. The Sheldon Coal Co. continued to operate after his death in 1943, until 1951. Bessie Sheldon lived in the home until 1949.

The property had many owners until Michael and Nancy Power purchased it in 1957. Michael was president of M.K. Power & Co., an insurance brokerage. At a difficult time for women in the business world, Nancy involved herself first in insurance and then commercial property investment and management. She is remembered for renting to people when no one else would, and was well known and loved by her tenants, whom she visited often. Nancy was also an advocate within politics and the arts. She worked for decades with the Liberal Party both locally and nationally, and served her community through the Highlands Community League and founded the Highlands Historical Society. She was active with the Board of Family Service Association, and served on Canada's National Capital Commission. She was a founder, board president and supporter of Theatre Network and served on Canada's National Theatre School's Board of Governors, efforts that led to the Sterling Award for "Outstanding Contribution to Theatre in Edmonton" in 2009. Nancy lived in the home until her passing in 2019.



CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key character-defining elements of the Sheldon/Power Residence include:

- + form, scale and massing;
- + wood frame construction with Craftsman design;
- + side-facing gable roof with a low pitch;
- + wood shingle cladding on all four elevations;
- + deep projecting eaves and verges, with a bellcast curve and knee brackets, wood soffits and fascia;
- + large gable dormer on front facade, with wood shingle cladding and projecting eaves and rafters;
- + tripartite window on the front of the dormer with single windows on each side, in an 8-over-1 format;
- + double window on the east side (in a 10-over-1 arrangement), and a single window on the west side (in a 12-over-1 arrangement) on lower level of facade;
- + asymmetrical arrangement of windows and main entrance door relative to the verandah;
- + open verandah, supported by four tapered columns with open railings and a wide staircase;
- + main front entry door with sidelights on each side;
- + rusticated pre-cast stone cladding on lower portions of verandah and at foundation level;
- + original fenestration patterns;
- + large bay window with shallow shed roof on west elevation;
- + small, shed roof addition on the north elevation; and
- + large brick chimney on north elevation.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 20038 in May 2022.

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