



STRATHCONA HOTEL

10302 - 82 AVENUE NW

CITY OF EDMONTON
HISTORIC RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The 1891 Strathcona Hotel was built as a three storey commercial structure with a hipped roof, clapboard siding, and a corner entrance. It is located on the northwest corner of Whyte Avenue and Gateway Boulevard and occupies two city lots in the Old Strathcona Provincial Historic Area. The Strathcona Hotel is significant for its association with the early development of Strathcona, as well as its simple frontier design.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Strathcona Hotel is significant for its association with the development of Strathcona. The hotel was built as a railroad hotel for the Calgary and Edmonton Railway company, across the street from the railway station at the terminus of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway line. The Strathcona Hotel was the first hotel in what would become the Town of Strathcona and thus served as a stopping point for immigrants seeking to establish homesteads or businesses in and around Edmonton. From 1891 to 1904 it was the largest hotel in what would become Edmonton with 45 guest rooms.

The Strathcona Hotel is also significant for its frontier design. Built in 1891, with subsequent additions in 1903 and 1907, the Strathcona Hotel is the oldest wood frame commercial structure in Edmonton. Little consideration was given to exterior ornamentation on frontier buildings, however, the Strathcona Hotel has more than most. The simple classical pediments over the windows and the more elaborate brackets under the eaves give the hotel a late Victorian appearance and would have given the early hotel a sense of stateliness and permanence. This would have been an important design consideration in light of its location in a fledgling community across the street from a train station.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The heritage value of the Strathcona Hotel is expressed in such character-defining element as its:

- + prominent corner location in the Old Strathcona Provincial Historic Area;
- + form, scale, and massing as expressed by its unusual L-shaped floor plan, with two annexes;
- + large hipped roof with sawn cedar roof shingles;
- + fenestration pattern on all three floors of the south and east façades and on the north façade;
- + horizontal exterior wood siding;
- + detailing including exposed decorative brackets and pediments over windows and doors;
- + masonry extension to the north; and
- + prominent corner entrance.



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Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 14585 in May 2007.

Designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in March 2001.

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