



WALTON L. SMITH RESIDENCE

10822-123 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON
HISTORIC RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The 1914 two-storey Smith residence is a wood frame construction with strong Craftsman design influences. It has horizontal wood siding on the lower level, and wood shingles on the upper levels and façade. The roof is a slightly bellcast, medium pitch gable, with exposed rafters and decorative brackets on the front-facing gable. An offset closed porch with a slightly bellcast gable roof is on the right hand side of the façade. The Smith residence is located on two mid-block lots on a residential street in the Westmount neighbourhood.

HERITAGE VALUE

The one and one-half storey residence is valued aesthetically for its Craftsman design influences. Design elements include the horizontal wood siding on the lower levels of the north and south elevations, and the wood shingle siding on the upper levels of the north and south elevations, and the façade. The upper level of the façade in the gable peak features wood shingles with a fish-scale design in alternate lines. The gable roof is slightly bellcast, has a medium pitch, and deeply projecting eaves. Rafters are exposed, with decorative brackets on the front-facing gable, and on the gable over the front enclosed porch. There are two, two-paneled windows on the upper level of the façade, each in a 12 over 1 arrangement. Above the windows is a flat hood with exposed wood rafters and brackets. A large window is located to the left of the enclosed porch (screened from view), and there is a small multi-paned window to the right of the entrance inside the closed porch.

Windows on the north elevation have moulded wood lintels and sills. The closed porch has a gable slightly bellcast roof with projecting eaves, exposed rafters, and brackets, and wood shingle siding. There is decorative wood paneling above the porch door, and a stylized address marker.

The Smith residence is also notable for its association with prominent educators in Edmonton. The residence was constructed following an application for a building permit at the site on May 14, 1914. Robert W. Hedley, the applicant, was active in Edmonton arts education. Throughout his career, Hedley was the Art Supervisor for the Edmonton Public School Board, director of the Edmonton Museum of Arts, and arts critic with the Edmonton Journal, and a supporter of the Edmonton Museum of Arts. His efforts earned him an Honourary LL.D from the University of Alberta in 1953. Hedley died on November 16, 1965, having never lived in the house he originally applied to build in 1914.





Walton Larue Smith moved into the house in 1921 and lived there until his death on September 28, 1964. Born in 1890 at Comber, Ontario, he moved west to Delburne, North-West Territories (Alberta) in 1904, where he started teaching in a one-room school at Blackfalds at only 17 years of age. He taught in the summer and attended the University of Alberta in the winter to gain his Bachelor of Arts (1915) and Master of Arts (1918). Smith began work as a teacher and then as a principal until 1955, establishing “a provincial record of 48 years of consecutive teaching, except for a year as a private secretary,” according to the Edmonton Journal. Smith was also active in church affairs, and was instrumental in opening many of the United Churches in the city in the decade following the Second World War.

The Smith residence is one of many similar Craftsman Influenced houses built in Westmount in the first quarter of the 20th century, and demonstrates the popularity of this style in the early days of west Edmonton and other prestigious neighbourhoods.



DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The character defining elements as expressed in the form, massing, and materials of the 1914 two-storey Smith Residence include:

- + wood frame construction, with Craftsman design influences;
- + horizontal siding on lower level; wood shingles on upper levels, façade, and porch;
- + wood shingle siding with alternating fish-scale design in front-facing gable peak;
- + slightly bellcast, medium pitch gable roof with deep projecting eaves;
- + decorative wood triangular knee brackets and exposed rafters on roof and on roof of porch;
- + soffits, fascia, and verges in original wood;
- + two, two-paneled windows on the upper level of the façade, each in a 12 over 1 arrangement;
- + projecting roof over upper windows with exposed wood rafters and brackets above upper level windows;
- + closed porch with slightly bellcast gable roof with projecting eaves, exposed rafters, and brackets, and wood shingle siding; and
- + brick chimney.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 18790 in June 2019.

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