



WESTMINSTER APARTMENTS

9955 - 114 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Westminster Apartments is a three-storey L-shaped Edwardian apartment building. It is located on a double corner lot in what is now known as the Wihkwentowin neighbourhood.

HERITAGE VALUE

The construction of the Westminster Apartments in 1912 by Western Canada Properties Ltd., is associated with speculative investment during the economic boom in Edmonton before WWI. The historic significance of the Westminster Apartments lies equally in the provision of alternative housing and in its patterns of occupancy, which have been an economic and social barometer for the neighbourhood for over eighty years. The Westminster Apartments has a historical association with C.A. Brine, builder and property manager (1912-1948) for the Westminster Apartments Ltd., whose fortune allowed his wife Margaret Hazelwood Gold Brine to be a generous

benefactor of the arts in Edmonton after his death in 1963. The Westminster Apartments also has a long association with the Spillios family beginning in 1948 when George Spillios, a leader in Edmonton's Greek community and proprietor of the city's well-known American Dairy Lunch, purchased the building.

The architectural significance of the Westminster Apartments lies in the distinctive detailing of its brown-red wire cut brick cladding, the decorative use of brick patterns, and glazed surface porcelain tiles on its two street elevations. It is a representative example of an elegant pre-WWI apartment building, which has maintained the full integrity of its historic design and fabric.

The Westminster Apartments is a landmark conspicuous for its massing, finishings, and location on a major route into downtown Edmonton from the river valley. It has sentimental associations for the Wihkwentowin community and historical association with other apartment blocks in the neighbourhood, most notably LeMarchand Mansion, Annamoe Mansion, Buena Vista Apartments, and Derwas Court.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character defining elements of the Westminster Apartments include:

- + form and massing expressed through its corner location;
- + rhythm and patterns of fenestration;
- + corbelling that encircles the building;
- + quoins engaging the principal façades with off-street façades;
- + corbelled belt course on three façades and horizontal banding that wrap the building;
- + glazed porcelain pendants, diamond, and square tiles;
- + metal cornice, decorative rosettes, and stone capped brick parapet;
- + all original features of the main entrance, including Tudor arch transom light, two globe lights, ceramic tile floor, and double oak doors;
- + timber sash windows with multi-paned upper sashes; and
- + tripartite window configurations on the corner apartments and above the main entrance.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 13216 in December 2002.



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