



WILLIAM BLAKEY RESIDENCE

13526 - 101 AVENUE NW

CITY OF EDMONTON
HISTORIC RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The William Blakey Residence was built in 1946 as a two-storey residence with a flat-roof and stucco cladding. It is located on a residential street and occupies a large corner lot in the neighbourhood of Glenora. The William Blakey Residence is significant for its association with prominent local architect William Blakey and as a representation of the International Style of architecture.

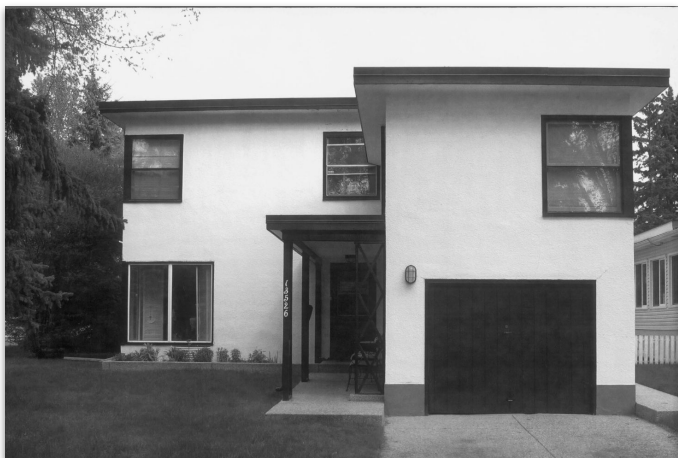
HERITAGE VALUE

The William Blakey Residence is historically significant its association with William Blakey, who designed the home and lived in it from its construction in 1946 until 1971. Blakey was one of the longest practicing architects in Edmonton.

Blakey's prolific career began with his arrival from England in 1907 and lasted until his retirement in 1963, with some of his work being completed in his home studio built above the garage of this residence. Over the course of his career, Blakey had an enormous impact on Edmonton's built landscape, working on a multitude of high-profile buildings, including the Edmonton Journal Building (1920-1921), the Masonic Temple (1930), the T. Eaton Store (1938), the Roxy Theatre (1938), the Garneau Theatre (1940), and the Christ Church (1946).

Blakey was an early proponent of the International Style of architecture, of which his 1946 home is a good example. He began to explore the principles of modern architecture in the mid-1930s, and in 1946 he used the construction of his home to demonstrate his ideas. In 1946 he gave four public lectures on modern architecture, advocating for flat roofs and no basements, ideas which were visible in his own newly constructed residence.

The William Blakey residence is significant as an excellent example of the early use of the International Style in residential construction in Edmonton. This style of architecture is typified by the use of a symmetrical composition, flat roofs with broad, overhanging eaves which emphasize the horizontal massing, relatively smooth unornamented wall surfaces, and corner windows with a horizontal compositional emphasis - all elements which are utilized in the William Blakey Residence.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The heritage value of the William Blakey Residence is expressed in character defining elements such as:

- + prominent corner lot location;
- + form, scale, massing, and asymmetrical composition;
- + flat roofs with broad overhanging eaves which emphasize the horizontal massing;
- + protruding attached front drive garage with studio above and a flat roof which is lower than that of the main house;
- + long entrance portico with ornamental wood supports;
- + relatively smooth, unornamented stucco wall surfaces that extend into the underside of the eaves; and
- + large corner window openings.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 14586 in July 2007.

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