



WILLIAM O'LEARY RESIDENCE

CITY OF EDMONTON
HISTORIC RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

10544 - 126 STREET NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The William O'Leary Residence, built in 1913, is a one and one-half storey home with a side-facing gable roof, large paired gable-roofed dormers, a full-length verandah, and clapboard siding. It is located on a residential street and occupies a single city lot in the neighbourhood of Westmount. The municipal designation applies to the exterior of the building only.

HERITAGE VALUE

The William O'Leary Residence is significant for its association with early residential development in the neighbourhood of Westmount and its roof design. The William O'Leary Residence was built in 1913 and is significant as part of initial development in Westmount, one of Edmonton's oldest neighbourhoods. The community of Westmount was subdivided in 1903

and the area developed quickly as homes were built to house Edmonton's rapidly growing population. By 1913, when the O'Leary Residence was erected, most of the homes in the area had been built. The community at the time was characterized by two-storey wooden homes with open front porches and a twenty-foot setback from the street. Homes in Westmount at the time also typically had clapboard or lap siding, decorative trim, and wooden shingles, and all homes employed wooden windows. The William O'Leary Residence reflects these common elements and is representative of the early development in this historic community.

The William O'Leary Residence is valued for the distinctive design of its roof. Located on a mature street among homes of a similar age, the home was intended to fit the streetscape, as apparent in the wood cladding and construction, and two-storey height. However, the O'Leary Residence was designed to stand apart from its neighbours through the incorporation of a side-facing gable roof and paired gable dormers with matching gable over the central front entrance. Easily the most distinguishing feature of this home, the roof and dormers create a design unique in the community of Westmount and make an important contribution to the character of the area.

The home is also valued for its association with its owners, including the original owner William O'Leary a grain dealer who purchased the home in 1905. Another notable resident was Dr. David Dunn, Chief Medical Inspector for the Edmonton Public School Board, who acquired the home in 1922.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

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

- + the side-facing gable roof;
- + the form, scale and massing as expressed by its two-storey height;
- + the timber lap siding and detailing;
- + the cedar-shingled band located between two intermediate belt courses between the first and second floor;
- + the paired walled dormers with paired tripartite wood sash single-hung windows with storms and sash windows with 1-over-1 configuration;
- + the cedar shingles in the peaks of the gables of the paired dormers and the centre gabled entrance to the verandah;
- + the front verandah with solid railings, four square columns and centre entrance to the verandah with angled railings;
- + the intermediate wood supports for summer screens;
- + the off-centered wood door with a large oval window;
- + the corner bay window of the south façade that extends to the rear, comprised of single-hung wood sash windows with 1-over-1 configuration;
- + the pattern, style, and construction of all original wooden windows; and
- + the brick chimney.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 14468 in February 2007.

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