

# STRATHCONA

HISTORICAL  
WALKING &  
DRIVING OR  
BIKING  
TOUR



# HISTORICAL WALKING & DRIVING OR BIKING TOUR

WALKING TOUR 1  
DRIVING OR BIKING TOUR 2

This booklet contains two tours of the Old Strathcona area of Edmonton, a walking tour and a driving or biking tour. A map of the tour routes is provided in the centre of the booklet. The walking tour takes approximately 2.5 hours to complete, and the driving or biking tour takes approximately 1 – 1.5 hours. Please note that, wherever possible, historical names have been used for buildings, names that often do not correspond to their current owners or occupants. Some of the sites on these tours are private property; in viewing these buildings, please remain in the public areas.



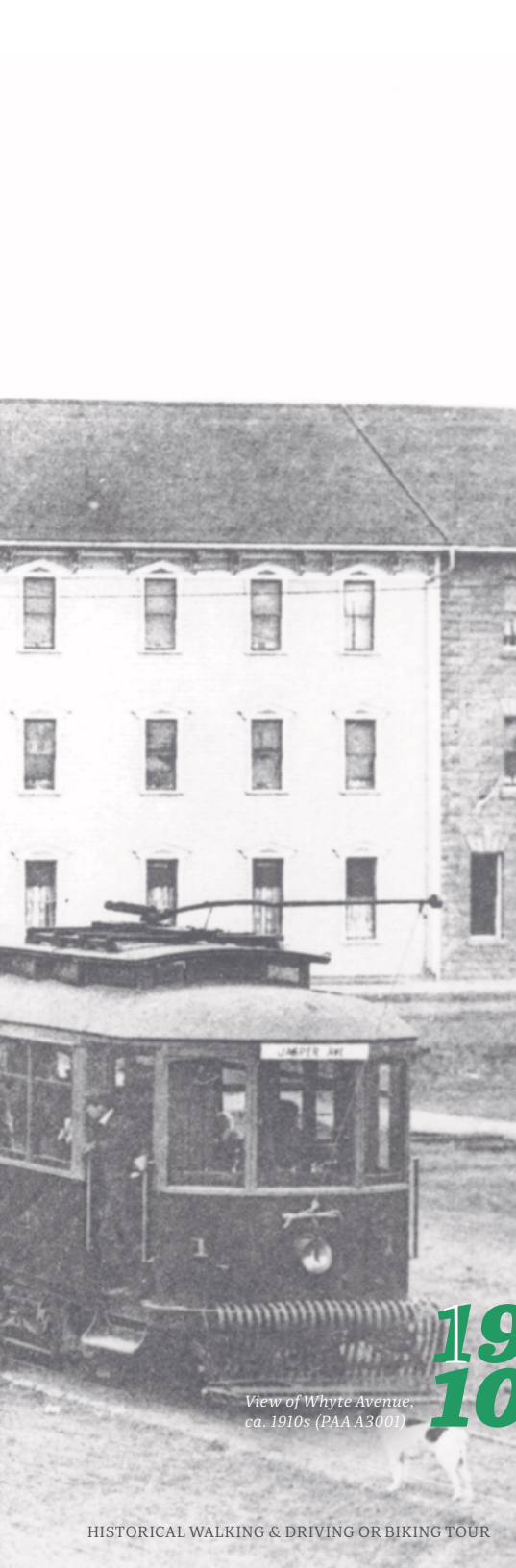
19  
10

*View of Whyte Avenue,  
ca. 1910s (PAA A3001)*



19  
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*View of Whyte Avenue,  
ca. 1910s (PAA A3001)*



View of Whyte Avenue,  
ca. 1910s (PAA A3001)

19  
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# STRATHCONA

## HISTORICAL WALKING & DRIVING OR BIKING TOUR

# T

he area that now makes up the neighbourhood of Strathcona, and the City of Edmonton at large, was originally occupied by various Indigenous groups including the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux. Archaeological investigations indicate that Indigenous populations have inhabited the Edmonton area for thousands of years. Close proximity to the North Saskatchewan River provided many resources, and the river escarpment provided an observation point for wildlife and other people. With the start of the fur trade in the 18th century, European people began to arrive in the area, and soon a flood of people from other nations followed. Indigenous groups were essential to the success of the fur trade, as they scouted, hunted, trapped, and traded with the European newcomers. With the signing of Treaty 6 (1876), with adhesion at Fort Edmonton in 1877; and with Treaty

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RIVER TO REACH EDMONTON, THE C &  
ER COMPANY DECIDED TO ESTABLISH  
A TOWNSITE ON THE SOUTH BANK...

7 (1877) at Blackfoot Crossing, Indigenous people were moved onto reserves and the area in question was taken up for settlement.

Before 1891 the area which was to become Strathcona was largely undeveloped. Private land ownership had only been introduced in Alberta in 1870, and it was not until 1882 that the river lots in this vicinity were surveyed. The sparse settlement that did exist consisted of scattered farms including John Walter's property on the North Saskatchewan River. Walter's ferry provided the only means of crossing the river, and it was by this route that the Hudson's Bay Company's first shipment of supplies from the south travelled through the Strathcona area in 1882 on its way to Fort Edmonton.

Strathcona was brought into being largely through the efforts of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company. Rather than undertake the costly venture of building a bridge across the North Saskatchewan River to reach Edmonton, the C & ER Company decided to establish a townsite on the south bank, with the intention that it replace Edmonton as the commercial centre of the area. To this end, land transactions necessary for the establishment of a townsite took place between the local landowners and the C & ER Company in the spring of 1891. When the railway reached the townsite in July, the land was being surveyed, and by August it had been divided up among the various owners.

The arrival of the railway represented the first of three periods in the growth of Strathcona from its earliest beginnings to its amalgamation with Edmonton in 1912. From 1891 to 1898,

the development of the area was dominated by the influence of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company. Not only did the Company initiate the development of Strathcona by assembling the land for a townsite, it erected the first buildings, including a station, section house, engine house, coal shed, water tank and hotel. It also graded the first roads. The roads the rail company chose to grade were, understandably, convenient to property which it owned. Thus the Town of Strathcona developed its commercial and civic centres along Whyte Avenue and 104 Street, much to the advantage of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company.



*Street scene, Strathcona, 1895 (PAA B5018)*

After incorporation as a town in 1899, decisions made by Strathcona's civic government took a leading role in shaping the community. Brick had been produced in the area since 1881, but it was not until the council passed a fire prevention by-law in 1902 that the first false fronted wood frame buildings typical of Strathcona's business district began to be replaced by structures of brick. The town council took an active, as well as regulative role in Strathcona's development. Through its Public Works Committee the council undertook various street improvements, sidewalk construction projects and drainage works. Additionally, it undertook to provide electric light, water, sewage, and telephone systems.

19  
13

*McIntyre Memorial  
Fountain, ca. 1914  
(GA NC-6-832)*

The third and final phase through which Strathcona passed as an independent community was from 1907, when it was incorporated as a city, to 1912, when it amalgamated with Edmonton. Throughout these years, Strathcona experienced its most dynamic period of growth. The boundaries under the council's jurisdiction were vastly expanded to the west and south. A large number of civic buildings including a city hall, library, hospital, market, and a new fire hall were undertaken, as well as beautification projects such as the creation of parks and boulevards. Public transportation in the form of a street railway system was initiated, and both the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern Railways built new stations in Strathcona. The Dominion Government also contributed, building an armoury and a post office.

AMALGAMATION WITH EDMONTON  
MARKED THE END OF STRATHCONA'S  
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DRAMATICALLY ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

Amalgamation with Edmonton marked the end of Strathcona's independent development. After 1912, growth slowed dramatically on the south side. Edmonton had by that time attracted the lion's share of commercial activity, and though it too was affected by the province-wide economic slowdown, it remained dominant in the area. The misfortune of Strathcona's early merchants is our good fortune today, however, since Whyte Avenue has been preserved as a virtual time capsule of the town's first, vibrant years. The buildings on this tour form a link with the past, giving a glimpse back in time to the beginnings of settlement in Strathcona.



# STRATHCONA

19  
14

*The Princess  
Cinema, ca. 1915  
(CEA EA-519-1)*



WALKING  
TOUR

1

# 1

## STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY(1913)

8331 – 104 STREET NW



As early as 1907, plans were being made for a public library for Strathcona, but circumstances delayed their realisation. First, the newly incorporated city was too busy with the new city hall and market to address the need for a library. Later, a Carnegie grant would have given the community its library, but the City turned it down when the sum offered did not match the scale of the proposed building. Finally, Strathcona got its library in 1913 as part of the Edmonton-Strathcona amalgamation agreement.

THE DESIGN OF THE STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY IS TYPICAL OF THE LARGER EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS IN WESTERN CANADA

The design of the Strathcona Public Library is typical of the larger early twentieth century educational buildings in western Canada. It is predominantly brick, but is embellished with limestone detailing in a very restrained classical style. One of the main features of the design is the string courses which articulate the floor levels and windows. These courses add a horizontal element to what would otherwise appear a rather tall, narrow building. The wide stone cornice and, at the front of the library, a gable with an oculus, break the upward movement of the eye and, in effect, add another horizontal element. A wide stone



Strathcona Public Library, 1914 (GANC-6-1027)

staircase, Ionic columns and curved pediment grace the front entrance and give the building a sense of gravity and dignity suitable to a place of learning. The Strathcona Public Library was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in 2004 and a Provincial Historic Resource in 2006.



GO NORTH ON 104 STREET.

# 2

## KNOX EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH (1907)

8403 – 104 STREET NW



Strathcona's first Presbyterian services took place in the Strathcona Hotel in 1891-92. Then, in cooperation with the Methodist congregation, a wood frame church was erected in 1892. As attendance continued to grow, a larger church became a necessity. The old structure was moved to 10453 – 86 Avenue, where it was converted into a duplex, and a new brick church able to seat 600 was built in 1907.



## CONNAUGHT ARMOURY (1911)

10310 – 85 AVENUE NW

19  
07



*Knox Church, n.d. (PAA B3527)*

By the time this church was built, the Gothic Revival style had long been the preferred choice for denominations of British extraction. The prototype for this style had its roots in the rural village churches of England, and for many new arrivals in Canada the style provided a physical as well as spiritual continuity with their homeland. Pointed arches, steeply pitched roofs, battlements, buttresses, pinnacles, stained glass and gothic tracery are all standard elements of this style which can be seen in the Knox Church. It has a cross-shaped plan with a small cupola at the intersection of the axes, and a handsome square bell tower that has two Tudor-arched entrances in the base. A large pipe organ was installed in 1911, and an assembly hall was added at the rear in 1949.

Knox Church was one of a few large brick churches to be constructed in Edmonton before the boom period of 1911-14. Today it is one of the oldest in Edmonton, and among the best preserved. In 2013, the Knox Evangelical Free Church was designated a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE NORTH ON 104 STREET,  
TURN EAST ON 85 AVENUE.**



The Connaught Armoury was built by the Canadian federal government in 1911, at a cost of \$35,000. It was named in honour of the third son of Queen Victoria, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, Canada's Governor General from 1911 to 1916. The Armoury housed the drill hall, rifle range and regimental offices of the 19th Alberta Dragoons, one of Alberta's oldest mounted regiments, until 1964, when the regiment was disbanded. During the First World War the 19th Alberta Dragoons saw extensive service, fighting at such well-known engagements as Ypres, the Somme and Vimy Ridge.

**IN ADDITION TO ITS MILITARY  
FUNCTIONS, THE ARMOURY PLAYED  
A PART IN STRATHCONA'S SOCIAL LIFE.**



*Connaught Armoury, ca. 1912 (GA NC-6-835)*

THE DESIGN OF THE CONNAUGHT ARMOURY WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SAME FEDERAL OFFICE – THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – WHICH LATER PRODUCED THE STRATHCONA PUBLIC BUILDING (SITE 8).

In addition to its military functions, the Armoury played a part in Strathcona's social life. While awaiting the completion of their church in 1913, the congregation of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Site 38) was permitted to use the drill hall for their services. This same hall was the scene of an annual ball – one of four held in Strathcona each year – hosted by the regiment.

The design of the Connaught Armoury was the responsibility of the same federal office – the Department of Public Works – which later produced the Strathcona Public Building (Site 8). Brick and limestone were used to construct the Armoury, the former for the body of the building, and the latter for the decorative string courses, entrance details and basement storey. In line with its military function, the Armoury appears defensible. The “cannonballs” atop the entry porch and the suggestion of crenellation in the parapet reinforce the military theme.

The oldest such building in Alberta, the Connaught Armoury was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979, and a Municipal Historic Resource in 2007.



**RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO 104 STREET, TURN RIGHT, AND GO ONE BLOCK NORTH TO 86 AVENUE, CROSS TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE AVENUE.**

4

## MCKENZIE RESIDENCE (1907)

8603 – 104 STREET NW



When John James McKenzie arrived in Edmonton in 1887 at the age of twenty-three, he found work as a ferryman on the North Saskatchewan River. In 1891 he struck out on his own and opened a blacksmithing and farming equipment business in the new town of Strathcona. McKenzie was interested in civic affairs, and served on Strathcona's first town council from 1899 to 1903. He was also a member of the school board and mayor of Strathcona in 1904. His interest did not wane after the amalgamation of Edmonton and Strathcona, and he continued to serve on the Edmonton City Council and the Edmonton Public School Board.

**MCKENZIE WAS INTERESTED IN CIVIC AFFAIRS, AND SERVED ON STRATHCONA'S FIRST TOWN COUNCIL FROM 1899 TO 1903.**

This house was built in 1907, and McKenzie is recorded as living here from 1909 to 1923. It is a fine example of domestic Edwardian Classical Revival architecture. Symmetry, restrained classical details and an emphasis on the horizontal are all characteristics of this style that can be seen in the McKenzie residence. Particularly striking are the hipped roof with bellcast eaves and the full width front porch with plain Tuscan columns supporting a second storey balcony. Bay windows flank the front door, and a centrally located dormer window with an arched gable completes the classically balanced scheme.



McKenzie Residence, Oct. 2000 (ACD 00-R149-8)

There are many houses of this type in Strathcona, but few are as well designed or preserved as this one. For many years, the McKenzie Residence housed the Old Strathcona Model and Toy Museum. The residence is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CROSS TO THE WEST SIDE  
OF 104 STREET AND THE  
SOUTH SIDE OF 86 AVENUE.**

5

## HUGH DUNCAN RESIDENCE (1911)

8520 – 104 STREET NW



In 1911, Hugh Duncan moved into the residence at 8520 – 104 Street with his family, consisting of his wife Clara, and their three children; James Edgar, Grace Helen, and Brock Lockhart. Hugh Duncan was a pioneer pharmacist in Strathcona, who owned and operated the Whyte Avenue Pharmacy until his death in 1935.

THE RESIDENCE SERVES AS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A FOURSQUARE STYLE HOME, WHICH WAS TYPIFIED BY THE USE OF SYMMETRY, GENEROUS PROPORTIONS, AND RESTRAINED DETAILING.

Duncan's son, Brock Lockhart followed in his footsteps, graduating from the University of Alberta with a degree in pharmacy, and opening his own practice in the community of Jasper Place. Following the death of his father in 1935, Brock sold his pharmacy and took over his father's Whyte Avenue Pharmacy.

James Edgar joined the 202nd Regiment in Edmonton, at the age of 18. He was transferred to the 50th Battalion and was wounded in the 1917 Battle of Passchendaele. He later returned to Edmonton to study engineering. Grace became a teacher, and taught throughout the province of Alberta. She lived at the residence with her family until it was purchased by the City of Edmonton in the 1960s.



Hugh Duncan Residence, 1978 (CEA EB-30-114)

In 1911, Hugh Duncan commissioned John Sanford to construct this prominent structure, located on the corner lot at 104 Street and 86 Avenue. The residence serves as an excellent example of a Foursquare style home, which was typified by the use of symmetry, generous proportions, and restrained detailing. The house implies status, grace, and civility through its Classical Revival elements.

The residence was part of a grouping of prominent houses that lined 104 Street. Main Street North, now known as Calgary Trail, was the show street of Strathcona, where stylish homes faced the tree-lined boulevard. The residence is associated with the growth, development, and socio-economic values associated with Strathcona prior to World War One. The area was home to affluent, upper-middle class citizens. They were often entrepreneurial and professional families, whose social aspirations are reflected in strong, formal, and stylish architecture, as the Hugh Duncan Residence. The residence was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in 2005.



**CONTINUE WEST ON  
86 AVENUE TO 105 STREET.**

## 6

# CALGARY & EDMONTON RAILWAY STATION (1891)

10447 – 86 AVENUE NW



Strathcona's first railway station was located a short distance to the north of the 1908 CPR Station which will be seen later in the tour (Site 18). It was built in 1891, by the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company, in time to meet their first train in August of that year. Constructed according to a standard plan used along the length of the line (ten of this type were built between Calgary and Edmonton), this station had public waiting



*C&E Station in Strathcona, 1890s (PAAA2996)*

rooms, railway offices and living quarters for the station master. When the new CPR station was erected, the old building was moved to 87 Avenue and converted for use as a house. Moved to this location in 1978, the station deteriorated badly over the following two years, until restoration was impossible. It was demolished in 1980, and the Junior League of Edmonton built this partial replica, which currently serves as the headquarters of that organization.

Like the Strathcona Hotel (Site 19), this station is a simple, solid-looking wood frame building. Tongue and groove siding is used as the exterior finish; a finial on the roof provides the only decorative touch. Interest is added to the station's design by the use of different roof levels and types. The stem of the building's T-shaped plan has one storey and a gable roof; the cross of the "T" has two storeys and a jerkinhead roof; a shed roof annex adds extra space at the rear; finally, a shed roof canopy provides shelter on the platform.

The C & ER station is a good example of the strong, utilitarian architecture that was widespread in frontier areas before style and ornament became overriding concerns.



**GO SOUTH ON 105  
STREET TO 84 AVENUE.**

## MCLEAN RESIDENCE (1896)

10454 – 84 AVENUE NW

**A**rthur McLean arrived in Strathcona from Ontario in 1892. When he wasn't working at his hardware business, McLean was very involved in community affairs. He served as a member of one of Strathcona's first school boards, was elected to the town council in 1901 and 1902, and participated in the establishment of Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Site 37), where he was a vestryman.



McLean Residence ca. 1900 (CEA A96-135)

THERE ARE MANY OTHER WOOD FRAME HOUSES IN STRATHCONA WHICH ARE VARIATIONS OF THE QUEEN ANNE REVIVAL STYLE, BUT THE MCLEAN RESIDENCE IS ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES.

The house McLean built for himself in 1896 is a good example of the most popular style of architecture in late nineteenth century Alberta. Built before the time when brick became the usual construction material for large houses in Strathcona, this wood frame house has many characteristics of the Queen Anne Revival style. It has a varied roofline and an irregular plan; there are two different types of siding – clapboard and fishscale shingles – and fancy “gingerbread” trim. The wrap-around porch completes the scheme.

There are many other wood frame houses in Strathcona which are variations of the Queen Anne Revival style, but the McLean Residence is one of the best examples. The residence is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**GO SOUTH ON 105 STREET TO 84 AVENUE.**

**A PRESERVING THE STRATHCONA DREAM PROVINCIAL HISTORIC AREA PLAQUE 105 STREET – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW**



**CROSS TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE.**

**B STRATHCONA BUILDERS PROVINCIAL HISTORIC AREA PLAQUE 105 STREET – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW**

# 8

## STRATHCONA PUBLIC BUILDING (1913)

10501 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW



Construction of the Strathcona Public Building began in 1911. It was a project of the federal Department of Public Works and was intended to accommodate the community’s post office as well as the offices of the Customs and Inland Revenue Bureau. Various delays were experienced as the project proceeded, causing the citizens of Strathcona to express concern over the priorities of federal building programs. Finally, in 1913, the building was completed.

THE MAIN FEATURES OF THIS DESIGN ARE THE GIANT ORDER PILASTERS THAT RISE THE FULL HEIGHT OF THE TWO-STOREY BUILDING, THE OVERSIZED VOUSOIRS SURROUNDING THE GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS, AND THE CLOCK TOWER WITH ITS PYRAMIDAL ROOF.

The design of the Strathcona Public Building is typical of the federal post office structures of the period. It was similar to, but smaller and more restrained than the post office erected across the river in Edmonton in 1907-10 (since demolished). The main features of this design are the giant order pilasters that rise the full height of the two-storey building, the oversized voussoirs surrounding the ground floor windows, and the clock tower with its pyramidal roof. This Edwardian Classical Revival building is one of the most formal and certainly the most sophisticated of the existing structures in the Strathcona area. The Strathcona Public Building was designated a



Strathcona Public Building, ca. 1912 (CEA EA-507-2)

Provincial Historical Resource in February, 1985. The building is on the Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CROSS BACK TO THE NORTH SIDE OF WHYTE AVENUE, TURN RIGHT AND GO EAST HALF A BLOCK.**

# 9

## DOUGLAS BLOCK (1912)

10442 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW



The Douglas Block was designed by the architectural firm of Wilson and Herral, who also designed the Princess Theatre (Site 14), and the Strathcona Public Library (Site 1). It was built in 1912 for the Douglas brothers, James and Robert, who intended it to be a revenue property. The ground floor could accommodate one or two retail outlets, and the upper floors were designed as apartments. Although called the Douglas Block, it never housed their very successful general store.



The Douglas Block in 1914 (GA NC-6-813)

This block is similar to the Richards Block (Site 10) in that it uses a classical vocabulary, and has the same arrangement of pilasters, cornice and parapet. The use of stone for the pilasters and the central portion of the building served to emphasize the vertical aspect of the design, drawing the eye towards the gable-like feature in the centre of the parapet, which displays the building's name.

The Douglas Block was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in January, 1982, and is listed on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE EAST ON WHYTE AVENUE TO NEXT SITE.**

# 10

## RICHARDS BLOCK (1910)

10422 - 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW



The official opening of the A.H. Richards and Company general store on March 12, 1910, was conducted with style. Special discounts were offered on all items in the store, and an orchestra was in attendance for much of the day. The store, located on the ground floor of the Richards Block, sold a wide range of goods, including clothing, household items, and groceries. Originally, the upper floors



The Richards Block, n.d. (CEA A95-93)

housed offices and meeting rooms, but after 1925 these were converted to apartments.

The Richards family had come to Strathcona in 1893 and were among its earliest merchants. A.H. Richards served as a town councillor in 1906, and his son Thomas was, for some time, Strathcona's only contractor. It was a measure of their success in the community, that they could construct such a substantial building at the then considerable cost of \$30,000. Small wonder they put on such a show for its opening.

The Richards Block is very solidly built, the foundation walls being two feet thick and the superstructure containing steel reinforcement. Classical details embellish the façade and give it a distinguished appearance. The ground level was originally faced in regularly coursed, rusticated sandstone with decorative urns in the same material placed at each end (see photo). The two upper floors are finished with brick that has been laid to imitate coursed stone. Four pilasters included in the fancy brickwork pierce through a wide cornice to reach the top of the height-enhancing parapet. Taken together, these details created a pleasing, balanced effect typical of Edwardian commercial buildings. The Richards Block is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**ACROSS WHYTE AVENUE IS THE CHAPMAN BROTHERS LIMITED BUILDING.**

# 11

## CHAPMAN BROTHERS LIMITED (1901)

10423 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW

**T**

he original occupant of this 1901 wood frame store was the Great West Saddlery Company, managed by Archibald Benjamin Chapman. In 1912, Mr. Chapman bought the company, renamed it A.B. Chapman and Company, and continued making and selling harnesses. After his death in 1918, Archie Chapman's sons changed the company name again, this time to Chapman Brothers Limited. With the advent of the motor car and the tractor, the Chapman harness-making business went into decline. In order to survive, the store's merchandise was diversified to include western wear, and at times half of the premises was let to other businesses.



Chapman Brothers, left, 1924 (GANC-6-11032)

The Chapman family maintained the exterior in essentially its original condition, and it stands as one of the least altered of the remaining wood frame commercial buildings on Whyte Avenue. The boomtown front with bracketed parapet, the arrangement of the multi-paned windows and the location of the doors are all preserved in good condition. Of particular interest is the pressed tin siding, moulded to imitate brick.

This was a popular exterior cladding around the turn of the century, and can be seen on the sides of the building. Chapman Brothers Limited is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE EAST TO 104 STREET.  
CROSS WHYTE AVENUE AND  
GO SOUTH TO 81 AVENUE.**

**C**

**SURVIVING THE HARD TIMES  
PROVINCIAL HISTORIC AREA PLAQUE  
104 STREET – 81 AVENUE NW**



**CROSS 104 STREET  
TO THE EAST SIDE.**

**D**

**STRATHCONIANS AT PLAY  
PROVINCIAL HISTORIC AREA PLAQUE  
104 STREET – 81 AVENUE NW**



**HEAD BACK NORTH  
TO 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE.**

# 12

## TIPTON & HULBERT BLOCKS (1911, 1912)

10355 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE

**B**

oth the Tipton and the Hulbert Blocks were constructed by R.A. Hulbert, a well-known contractor who arrived in Strathcona from Nova Scotia in 1893. He quickly established himself as a prominent member of the community, especially in the land speculation and development business.



## GAINER BLOCK (1902)

10341-43 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE



*Tipton and Hulbert Blocks, ca. 1914 (CEA EA-10-274)*

The Tipton Block was built in 1911, on speculation it would appear, since it was soon sold. J. G. Tipton and Sons, the oldest and largest real estate firm in Strathcona at that time, paid \$40,000 for it in 1912. The main architectural features of this block are the heavy lintels with enlarged keystones above the windows, and the two storey high brick pilasters that rise to the ornate cornice crowning the building.

The neighbouring Hulbert Block was built in 1912, and though it appears very much the same as the Tipton Block, it cost only \$25,000 to construct. It must have been built before the sale of its companion, since they share an internal staircase.

The Tipton and Hulbert Blocks are typical of early twentieth century commercial structures in western Canada. Similar buildings can be seen throughout Alberta where early main street developments have been preserved. The Tipton Block was renovated by the Old Strathcona Foundation in 1979 at a cost of \$400,000. The Hulbert Block was designated as a Municipal Historic Resource in 2016, and the Tipton Block is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE EAST  
ON WHYTE AVENUE**



When John Gainer arrived in Strathcona with his family in 1891, on one of the first Calgary and Edmonton Railway trains, he knew almost nothing about the butchering trade. Having spotted an opening in the market, however, he proceeded to set up shop in a single-storey wood frame building he constructed on Whyte Avenue in 1892. Business went well, and by 1902 it was necessary to replace this structure with the brick Gainer Block. "John Gainer and Company, Butchers and Pork Packers", founded in that same year, continued to prosper, and became one of western Canada's largest meat packing companies.



*The Gainer Block, centre, ca. 1910 (PAA A6328/C)*

The pattern of development illustrated by the Gainer property is typical of early Strathcona. Before 1902, buildings were predominantly of wood. After this date brick was the rule, since the town council passed a fire prevention by-law in 1902 which specified that buildings along Whyte Avenue be constructed in brick. The classical elements used in this building – arches, cornices, and decorative infill

resembling coffering – were very popular in late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings in Western Canada. They could be combined in a myriad of ways to produce a wide range of effects that implied stability, permanence, and prestige. In common with many frontier buildings, a false front, or boomtown front, was added to give the building a larger, more regular and distinguished appearance. The Gainer Block was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in April, 1982, and it is on the City of Edmonton’s Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE EAST  
ON WHYTE AVENUE.**

14

## PRINCESS THEATRE (1914)

10337 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE



The Princess Theatre was designed by the local architectural firm of Wilson and Herral for John McKernan, son of Robert McKernan, builder of the Dominion Hotel (Site 17). When it opened in 1915, the Princess claimed to have the largest stage in Western Canada, and promised a program of “high class moving pictures varied occasionally with high class musical vaudeville or musical concerts”. In addition to the theatre, which occupied the first two floors, there was a billiards room in the basement, and offices on the third floor. The Princess cost \$75,000 to construct and was considered one of the “most complete and beautiful buildings of its kind in Western Canada.”

A large portion of the budget must have been expended on the decoration of the building. Rich materials were used to finish the exterior: marble from British Columbia faced the theatre, ceramic mosaics adorned twin gables in the parapet above a copper cornice, and a large transom above the main entrances featured a stained glass window. The marquee was a later addition. Inside, the ceiling of the theatre was arched and adorned with plaster figures and friezes.



*The Princess Cinema, ca. 1915 (CEA EA-519-1)*

The Princess was the only theatre in South Edmonton until 1940, when two new cinemas opened on 109 Street: the Varscona (built by the McKernan family, now demolished) at 82nd Avenue and the Garneau at 87 Avenue. The Princess continued to operate as a theatre until 1958, after which the building housed various retail outlets. Further renovations ensued, and the Princess was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in May, 1995. The Princess Theatre is also on the City of Edmonton’s Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE EAST  
ON WHYTE AVENUE.**

# 15

## COMMERCIAL HOTEL

10329 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW

T

hroughout the years the Commercial Hotel has received a number of facelifts and additions. The original hotel does not have an exact date of construction recorded, but an annex to the hotel is mentioned in an article in the April 9, 1894 edition of the *Edmonton Bulletin*. There is no record of the materials which were used to construct the hotel, but it was most likely a wood frame building.

In 1904, another wood frame Commercial Hotel replaced the original, and then by 1911, yet another new Commercial Hotel was in the works. According to both the *Edmonton Journal* and the *Strathcona Plaindealer*, the new building would be a “first class hotel in every respect”.



The Commercial Hotel, c. 1970 (COE)

Architects Wilson and Herald designed the new three storey hotel, owned by Stephen Swaboda. The new hotel was built at a cost of \$50,000. In January, 1912, the first section of the new brick hotel was erected at the rear of the old wood

frame structure. Before the construction of the hotel was completed, Swaboda sold the hotel, with the materials for phase two, to Ald. T.J. Walsh. Walsh purchased the hotel from Swaboda for \$46,000 and completed the construction of the new hotel, taking full credit for it in an article which appeared in the 10th anniversary of the *Edmonton Journal*, in November, 1913. The new hotel had a brick exterior, a cement basement, and quite possibly the first skylight ever built in Edmonton, which was located on the third floor.

The 1913 addition allowed for the accommodation of nearly one hundred persons. Being in close proximity to the C.P.R depot, the Commercial Hotel afforded convenience to the new arrivals. An *Edmonton Journal* article dating back to 1913, states that there is “no better or more modern hostelry in the City”. Since 1913, at least four other additions have been built, and the interior has been renovated several times.

In 1953, an enlarging and renovation program was completed on the Hotel to keep it modern and in pace with the growth of the City. The hotel was extended an additional 40 feet along Whyte Avenue, with a new total of 58 guestrooms. The new facade of the building was finished in red brick, and corrugated metallic finish, and was fitted with large plate glass windows. One of the problems met in the construction was blending of the new section with the older unit. At one point in the building process, some of the facing was torn down and rebuilt so that the two sections would present a continuous line and appear as one building. The Commercial Hotel is on the City of Edmonton’s Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET  
IS THE DOMINION HOTEL.**

# 16

## DOMINION HOTEL (1903)

10324 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE



Robert McKernan, a local pioneer, built the Dominion Hotel in 1903 with profits from his farming ventures. With at least 33 bedrooms, several public parlours, a dining room and a beer parlour, the Dominion was known as one of the most spacious and relaxing stopping houses in Strathcona. At the time of its construction, it was the most ornate building on Whyte Avenue. Nevertheless, when prohibition came into effect in 1916 and the hotel ceased to sell alcohol, the popularity and success of the Dominion dwindled, and eventually it had to close its doors.

In subsequent years, the upper floors of the Dominion Hotel building served as rental accommodation, with various retail stores occupying the street level. Over the years, many alterations were made to the hotel. Before 1976, it had lost its tower and settled on one side. Since then the façade has been restored to its original splendour by the Old Strathcona Foundation. A completely new building, with an extra floor, has been unobtrusively built behind the façade, and today the Dominion Hotel houses a variety of offices and businesses.

**THE DOMINION HOTEL, LIKE MANY VICTORIAN BUILDINGS, OWES ITS STRIKING CHARACTER TO A WEALTH OF APPLIED DETAIL.**

The Dominion Hotel, like many Victorian buildings, owes its striking character to a wealth of applied detail. In this case, three tiers of wooden balconies were, in effect, superimposed onto the facade of an unadorned brick building. The Chinoiserie style of the



*The Dominion Hotel, ca. 1908 (CEA EA-99-1)*

ornate woodwork blends surprisingly well with the French mansard roof surmounting the central tower to produce a unique and striking image. The Dominion Hotel is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE EAST ON WHYTE AVENUE.**

# 17

## ROSS BLOCK (1894)

10309 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE



Constructed in 1894, the Ross Block was one of the first brick buildings on Whyte Avenue, and is now the oldest such structure remaining. Originally, the Ross Block functioned as Strathcona's first hardware, plumbing and tinsmithing business, but after



The Ross Block (centre), 1898 (GA NA-614-23)

1897, when its namesake W.E. Ross acquired it, many other uses were found for the building. The upper floor became Ross Hall, and served as Strathcona's first meeting hall and cultural centre. Touring art exhibits and theatrical productions also took place here. Later, the hall accommodated Edmonton's Masonic Lodge and finally was converted into apartments. Over the years the lower floor was variously a feed store, a restaurant, a clothing store and a nightclub.

The most common building material in early Strathcona was wood. The Ross Block predates the widespread use of brick in the area by about ten years. Another unusual and, for the period, extravagant feature of the building was the very large panes of glass in the arched openings of the street facade. Clearly, this was intended to be a distinctive building. The corbelled parapet, round-headed second floor windows, and massive arches on the ground level suggest the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in the design of this building. The Ross Block is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE EAST ON WHYTE AVENUE TO 103 STREET, TURN RIGHT AND GO SOUTH.**

**E**

**BIRTH OF THE COMMUNITY PROVINCIAL HISTORIC AREA PLAQUE  
103 STREET – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE**



**CONTINUE SOUTH ONE BLOCK ON 103 STREET.**

18

## CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY STATION (1908)

8101 – 103 STREET NW

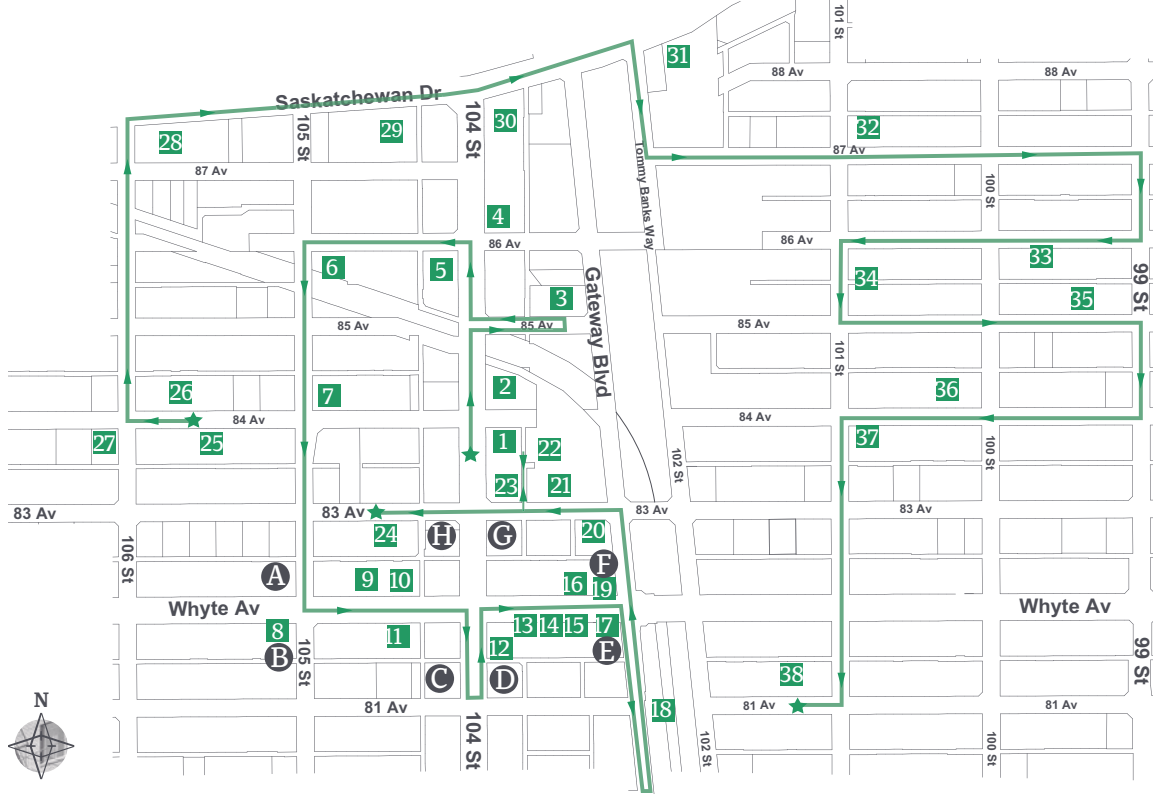


In January 1908, soon after Strathcona was granted city status, the Canadian Pacific Railway opened this picturesque new station. It was built at a cost of \$24,000, and replaced a modest wood frame station erected by the Calgary and Edmonton Railway in 1891 (seen earlier in the tour, Site 6). The new station was much grander than the original and contained amenities not seen before by Strathcona's travelling public, including separate waiting rooms for men and women and a smoking lounge.



Canadian Pacific Railway Station, 1910 (PAA B7047)

Architecturally, the Strathcona CPR station is one of very few urban stations of its kind left in Alberta, and is a good example of a standard CPR station design. Built in the Queen Anne Revival style, the station nevertheless incorporates elements from French and Scottish architectural sources. The large two-tiered hipped roof with wide bellcast eaves has its origins in French architecture, while the



## WALKING TOUR

- 1 Strathcona Public Library (1913)\*
- 2 Knox Evangelical Free Church (1907)\*
- 3 Connaught Armoury (1911)\*
- 4 McKenzie Residence (1907)
- 5 Hugh Duncan Residence (1911)\*
- 6 Calgary and Edmonton Railway Station (replica) (1891)
- 7 McLean Residence (1896)\*
- A Preserving the Strathcona Dream (Provincial Historic Area Plaque)
- B Strathcona Builders (Provincial Historic Area Plaque)
- 8 Strathcona Public Building (1913)
- 9 Douglas Block (1912)

- 10 Richards Block (1910)
- 11 Chapman Brothers Limited (1901)\*
- C Surviving the Hard Times (Provincial Historic Area Plaque)
- D Strathconians at Play (Provincial Historic Area Plaque)
- 12 Tipton and Hulbert Blocks (1911,1912)\*
- 13 Gainer Block (1902)
- 14 Princess Theatre (1914)
- 15 Commercial Hotel
- 16 Dominion Hotel (1903)
- 17 Ross Block (1894)
- E Birth of the Community (Provincial Historic Area Plaque)
- 18 Canadian Pacific Railway Station (1908)
- 19 Strathcona Hotel (1891)\*
- F First Comers (Provincial Historic Area Plaque)
- 20 Crawford Block (1912)\*

- 21 Fire Hall #1 (1910)\*
- 22 Orange Hall (1903)\*
- 23 McIntyre Memorial Park (1989)\*
- G A New City on the North Saskatchewan River (Provincial Historic Area Plaque)
- H Bursting at the Seams (Provincial Historic Area Plaque)
- 24 Strathcona Telephone Exchange (1908)

## DRIVING OR BIKING TOUR

- 25 Strathcona Collegiate Institute (1908)\*
- 26 Bard Residence (1912)\*
- 27 Margaret Martin Residence (1907)\*
- 28 J.J. Duggan Residence (1907)\*
- 29 George Durrand Residence (1913)\*
- 30 O'Brien Residence (1918)

- 31 Ritchie Mill (1893)\*
- 32 A.O. Braman Residence (1912)\*
- 33 Sheppard Residence (1911)
- 34 King Edward School (1912-1913)\*
- 35 Thomas Scott Residence (1912)\*
- 36 John Thomas Radford House (1902)\*
- 37 Holy Trinity Anglican Church (1913)\*
- 38 81 Avenue between 101 & 102 Streets - Arndt's Machine Shop\*

\* Indicates presence of an Edmonton Historical Board Plaque highlighting the building's history.

★ Indicates start and finish of tours

ARCHITECTURALLY, THE STRATHCONA CPR STATION IS ONE OF VERY FEW URBAN STATIONS OF ITS KIND LEFT IN ALBERTA...

octagonal tower on the building's east side was derived from Scottish sources, perhaps in recognition of the Scottish ancestry of high ranking CPR officers. When combined, these diverse elements created a rather romantic, distinctive image which is today very evocative of Canada's early railway days. The Canadian Pacific Railway Station was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in November, 2003, and a Provincial Historic Resource in October, 2004.



**RETRACE YOUR STEPS NORTH TO WHYTE AVENUE AND CROSS TO THE NORTH SIDE.**

19

## STRATHCONA HOTEL (1891)

10302 – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW



The Strathcona Hotel is the oldest wood frame commercial building on Whyte Avenue. It was constructed by the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company in 1891, and was originally named Hotel Edmonton. Even with additions in 1907 and 1913, the Strathcona could not compete with its grand CPR cousins where size was concerned, but its local reputation could rival any of them. In 1911, the *Edmonton Bulletin*, referring to the Strathcona Hotel, noted that “this city has for years provided first class accommodations and at the present time has one of the best known houses in this section of Canada.”



*Strathcona Hotel, ca. 1903 (PAA B4351)*

Business suffered at the Strathcona during Prohibition, when laws against the sale of liquor were brought into effect. In order to survive, hotels had to find alternative uses for their rooms. For a brief period the Strathcona served as the home of the Westminster Ladies College, but in 1919 it returned, unlike its neighbour the Dominion (Site 16), to its original function. Prohibition ended in Alberta in 1923, giving hotels a new lease on life. The Strathcona survived the crisis and has continued to operate as a hotel to the present day.

The design of the Strathcona Hotel, a rectangular wood-frame structure, is typical of frontier buildings, having only a few details to suggest a particular style. In this case, brackets under the eaves and pediments over the windows and doors give the hotel a classical appearance. The building's simplicity allowed it to be constructed at minimum cost: \$5,000 in 1891; and with the maximum content: 45 guest rooms, a dining room and a beer parlour. New arrivals in Strathcona would probably have found the solid, substantial appearance of the hotel comforting after their journey, and its classical styling and large hipped roof lent an air of distinction to the new streetscape. The Strathcona Hotel was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in March, 2001, and a Municipal Historic Resource in May 2007.



**CONTINUE NORTH ON 103 STREET.**

F

**FIRST COMERS PROVINCIAL HISTORIC AREA PLAQUE  
103 STREET – 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE NW**



**CONTINUE NORTH ON 103 STREET.**

# 20

## CRAWFORD BLOCK (1912)

8222-8230 GATEWAY BOULEVARD NW



Herbert H. Crawford was born in Brampton, Ontario in 1878, and at the age of twenty he moved to Alberta. Crawford remained a resident of Edmonton from 1903, until his death in 1946. In 1906, he married Emily Crow, and the couple had five children together. Crawford was the designer, the builder, and the first owner of the Crawford Block.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Crawford became a successful real estate auctioneer.

He also developed a tent and awning business, and purchased land at 103 Street, north of Whyte Avenue to construct manufacturing, retail, and office space.

In 1912, he constructed the Crawford Block. The building is a well preserved example of Edmonton's commercial architecture from the Edwardian era. Crawford's auctioneer office was located at 8222 – 103 Street (Gateway Boulevard), and his tent and awning business was located next door at 8226. Crawford eventually moved his tent-making business to 10166 Whyte Avenue.

Crawford was also involved in politics, and served as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Strathcona. In 1913, he ran in the provincial election, in the Edmonton South riding, against former premier Alexander Cameron Rutherford. Unexpectedly, Crawford defeated Rutherford. Crawford was re-elected in 1917, but in 1921, Crawford he was defeated.

IN 1912, HE CONSTRUCTED THE CRAWFORD BLOCK. THE BUILDING IS A WELL PRESERVED EXAMPLE OF EDMONTON'S COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE FROM THE EDWARDIAN ERA.

In 1935, Nathan Siegel moved his company, Strathcona Furniture, into the Crawford Block. Strathcona Furniture remained at this location, supplying home furnishing to Edmontonians for three generations, until its closure in June of 1996.



Crawford Block, 1912 (GAI NC-6-266)

The Lalondes bought the Crawford Block from the Siegel family, and they completed extensive rehabilitation work on the building. They turned the main floor into the Artifacts Trading Company, and updated suites on the upper two floors to meet safety and fire codes. The Crawford Block was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in November, 2014, and has since undergone restoration of its façade and construction of a new 5-storey addition on the rear of the building which includes 40 micro-apartments and retail space.



**GO WEST ON  
83 AVENUE.**



# 21

## FIRE HALL #1 (1910)

10322 – 83 AVENUE NW

**S**trathcona's first fire hall, built before 1906, was a wood frame structure, and by 1909 was in need of replacement. The present building was finished in 1910 and was in continuous use until a new fire hall was opened across the street in 1954. The original fire engines were horse drawn, so the hall had to serve as a stable as well as a garage for the engines and a dormitory for the firemen. Fire prevention bylaws were passed in 1902. Strathcona had an exclusively volunteer corps of firemen. During their two-year service period, the fire hall became a second home to these men.



Fire Hall #1, n.d. (PAA B1522)

The architectural interest of this building is concentrated in its facade and its tower. Stone quoins and a wide cornice outline the facade, and the fire engine bays are delineated by oversized voussiors. This use of exaggerated classical elements suggests the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque, a style popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A large pediment-shaped parapet displaying the name of the fire hall originally

completed the facade. Standing 77 feet high, the cupola-topped tower of this fire hall was a landmark in early Strathcona. One of the tallest structures in the town, it housed the hall's alarm bell and drying racks for the fire hoses.

Originally Fire Hall #1, this building became Fire Hall #6 in 1912 as a result of Strathcona's amalgamation with Edmonton. Today, it is the only surviving fire hall from this era in Edmonton, and one of a very few left in Alberta. In 1974, Fire Hall #6 was converted to house the Walterdale Playhouse Theatre. Fire Hall #1 was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in September, 2007, and a Municipal Historic Resource in September, 2011.



**GO NORTH ON THE LANEWAY  
AT THE WEST SIDE OF FIRE HALL #1.**

# 22

## ORANGE HALL (1903)

10335 – 84 AVENUE NW



**L**oyal Orange Lodge No. 1654 was formed in 1895. From that time until the construction of Orange Hall in 1903, meetings were held in members' homes. Some of the community's leading citizens were among the fraternity's founding membership. H.W. Nash, a Strathcona grain buyer, played host to the first meeting. Rev. Robert A. Munroe was the lodge's first grand master. R.W. Pettipiece, the editor of the South Edmonton News, was the first recording secretary. Robert McKernan, later the owner of the Dominion Hotel, organized several Orangemen's parades and was subsequently grand master of the lodge.

## MCINTYRE MEMORIAL PARK (1989)

83 AVENUE & 104 STREET NW



Members in front of Orange Hall, 1912 (CEAEA-63-3)

Every year on the “Glorious 12th of July” the members of the Orange Lodge would parade down Whyte Avenue in honour of William of Orange, a Protestant who became King of England in place of James II, a Catholic. The first such parade held in Strathcona was in 1895 and was composed of 60 Orangemen and a fife and drum corps. By 1904, the group’s membership had grown considerably, and an impressive 2,500 Orangemen from all over Alberta participated in that year’s procession. Originally a partisan group supporting the cause of Protestantism in England, today Strathcona’s Lodge operates primarily as a benevolent association, raising funds for various children’s charities.

Orange Hall is a wood frame structure that remains much as it was built. The land on which it stands was bought for \$150 in 1903 and the hall was built in the same year, largely by the membership. The white clapboard siding was originally painted a dark colour, and the closed-in porch is a later addition. Otherwise the hall is essentially unchanged. Inside, the hall has hardwood flooring, wainscoting, and, at one end, a stage with a podium and carved wooden arch. In 1980, because of the well-preserved interior, the hall was used as the set for a documentary on the life of Alberta women’s rights activist Emily Murphy. The Orange Hall was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in May, 2005, and a Provincial Historic Resource in October 2007.



**RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO  
83 AVENUE, TURN RIGHT  
AND GO WEST.**



McIntyre Memorial Park is named for Dr. Wilbert McIntyre, an early and respected Strathcona physician. He was born in Ontario in 1867 and came west in 1891. McIntyre returned to Ontario to advance his education, but the west must have made an impression on him. In 1902, after completing his medical degree at the University of Toronto, he came back, and settled in Strathcona. Involvement in local politics as Secretary-Treasurer of the Liberal party eventually led to him run in a federal by-election. He emerged victorious, and in 1906 went to Ottawa as the representative for Strathcona, a constituency reaching south to Innisfail and east to Lloydminster. McIntyre married his childhood sweetheart in early 1908 and was re-elected to the House of Commons that same year. The future looked promising, but it all came to a sudden end when he died after a short illness in 1909 at the age of 42.

Public subscription paid for the erection of the original McIntyre fountain in 1913. It was made of bronze, and featured three gas lamps, three drinking fountains for people, two for dogs and one for horses. Located prominently in the centre of 104 Street just north of the intersection with 83 Avenue, the fountain was hit by a number of vehicles over the years, but in 1952 it was completely knocked over when struck by a car. The fountain was not replaced, but another memorial to Dr. McIntyre was erected in Queen Elizabeth Park. The current fountain is a replica of the original



McIntyre Memorial Fountain, ca. 1914 (GANC-6-832)

monument, painstakingly re-created by local craftsmen and funded by donations to the Old Strathcona Foundation. It was unveiled in 1991.

Also in McIntyre Memorial Park is a replica of Strathcona's bandstand. The original had a wandering existence. Historic photographs show it in a variety of locations between 102 and 103 Streets either just north or just south of Whyte Avenue. It was rebuilt here by the Old Strathcona Foundation in 1980 according to plans drawn up by architect Larrie Taylor, with funding provided by the Strathcona Rotary Club.

Strathcona's first city hall stood in the southwest corner of McIntyre Memorial Park. It was a two-storey brick building with classical details. After Strathcona merged with Edmonton in 1912, it became city offices. In 1948, the building was converted for use as the City Boys Home, a function it served until 1966 or '67, when it was demolished. For several years the land was a parking lot, but plans to restore the fountain and create a park were already being

made by the late 1970s. McIntyre Memorial Park was officially named in 1989, and has become a focal point in the area, especially during the annual Fringe Theatre Festival.



**CROSS TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF 83 AVENUE.**

**G**

**A NEW CITY ON THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER PROVINCIAL HISTORIC AREA PLAQUE 104 STREET – 83 AVENUE NW**



**CROSS TO THE WEST SIDE OF 104 STREET.**

**H**

**BURSTING AT THE SEAMS PROVINCIAL HISTORIC AREA PLAQUE 104 STREET – 83 AVENUE NW**



**CONTINUE WEST ON 83 AVENUE.**

24

## STRATHCONA TELEPHONE EXCHANGE (1908)

10437 – 83 AVENUE NW



The Edmonton District Telephone Company (EDTC) network, of which Strathcona was originally a part, was founded in 1885 by Alex Taylor, Edmonton's first telegraph operator. Telephone service may have been available in the Strathcona area as early as 1889 when Robert McKernan and John Walter requested lines be strung from Edmonton to their homes on the south side. The first documented connection was not made until 1891, however, when the Calgary and Edmonton Railway

station (Site 6) received a phone. By 1895, there were seven phones in Strathcona and in 1901 there were 25. At that time, 24-hour telephone service became available to Edmonton subscribers, but Strathcona remained on the old 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. schedule for several more years.

Late 1904 saw the EDTC purchased by the City of Edmonton and the status of Strathcona's phones, which lay outside the city's boundaries, came into question. The solution of giving Edmonton a franchise to serve Strathcona essentially avoided the problem, but it did allow time for more satisfactory arrangements to be made. In 1905, Alberta became a province and in 1906, a provincial publicly-owned telephone company was created. This company bought Strathcona's existing telephone system from the city of Edmonton in 1908 for \$1,000, and promptly replaced it with an up-to-date system. A new exchange building was thrown up in less than four months to house the new machinery.

**IN 1905, ALBERTA BECAME A PROVINCE AND  
IN 1906, A PROVINCIAL PUBLICLY-OWNED  
TELEPHONE COMPANY WAS CREATED**

Being a government building, it was only natural that the Strathcona telephone exchange be designed by the government architect. In this case that architect happened to be A.M. Jeffers, designer of Alberta's Legislature Buildings. The ground floor and basement of Jeffers' exchange were originally used for equipment and offices, while the second, or top floor provided accommodation for the telephone operator. Later, the living space was converted to house the long distance service when it was transferred to Strathcona from the Legislature in 1911. After four years in Strathcona, the provincial government sold its interest back to Edmonton when the two cities amalgamated in 1912.



*Strathcona Telephone Exchange, 1908 (PAA B4413)*

Over the years, the Strathcona telephone exchange has seen many changes. Originally a two storey brick building with minimal classical detailing – quoins, a cornice, stone lintels and sills – the exchange was altered first in 1926 and again in 1948. Today, it is still possible to see the rear of the original structure, but the front has been removed, and the bulk of the building absorbed by the later exchange. In 1987, Edmonton Telephones opened a Historical Information Centre in this building. In 2004, the Historical Information Centre moved to its current location at the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre. The Strathcona Telephone Exchange is on the Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**THIS SITE MARKS THE END  
OF THE WALKING TOUR.**

# STRATHCONA

*Strathcona Collegiate  
Institute from the north-  
west, 1913 (PAA A2497)*

19  
08

## DRIVING OR BIKING TOUR 2

Since the commercial and civic centre of Old Strathcona is situated on or near Whyte Avenue and is covered in the walking tour, the driving or biking portion of the tour concentrates on the outlying residential and industrial areas. If you follow the driving or biking tour route only, it would be wise to read the walking tour first, as it includes historical details that will add to the driving/biking tour commentary.

# 25

## STRATHCONA COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE (1908)

10523 – 84 AVENUE NW

# B

y January 1892, a school district was formally organized and instruction became available to the children of Strathcona. A one room, wood-frame schoolhouse was built in the autumn of that year but was soon outgrown. It was replaced by the four room brick Niblock School in 1894, located on the south-east corner of 105 Street and 84 Avenue. By the time this second building was demolished in 1906, two other schools had already been built to handle the burgeoning student population, which had reached 1,000. In 1908, the Strathcona Collegiate Institute was built on the site of the Niblock Street School at a cost of approximately \$100,000. It housed the higher levels of the public school system, and from 1909 to 1911 accommodated the University of Alberta on the top floor as well.



*Strathcona Collegiate Institute from the north-west, 1913 (PAA A2497)*

A variety of local and imported materials were used in the construction of the Institute: Strathcona brick for the walls, Alberta bluestone for the foundations, Kootenay marble for

decorative elements, and B.C. fir and cedar for the interior woodwork. The Strathcona Plaindealer reported that Premier Rutherford had pronounced it to be “the finest school building in the province,” a statement which was easy to believe, considering the ornateness of the design. Stone has been used to accent the main entrance, a semi-circular canopy shelters the doorway, and a dome surmounts the third floor above the entrance. Quoins, string courses, sills, brackets and keystones are also highlighted in stone. Large chimneys, metal cresting, triple paned dormers, each with a Palladian central arch, add to the height and dignity of the school. Today, the “Old Scona High School” is Edmonton’s oldest active secondary school. In recent years extensive renovations have been carried out, in large part by the school’s students and staff, to recapture the original charm of the building. The Strathcona Collegiate Institute was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in September 2008, and it is on the City of Edmonton’s Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**THE NEXT SITE IS LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET.**

# 26

## BARD RESIDENCE (1912)

10544 – 84 AVENUE NW

# A

After having resided in Strathcona for only five years, Delmar Bard built what the local press called one of the city’s finest homes. He had begun his career in

## MARGARET MARTIN RESIDENCE (1907)

8324 – 106 STREET NW



*Bard Residence, ca. 1912 (CEA EA-474-53)*

Strathcona in 1907 as an Indian Agent for the provincial government. One did not become wealthy as a civil servant, but Delmar Bard had several investments that enabled him to live in grand style. He owned a butcher shop on Whyte Avenue, and with the income from this business and his government post, Bard was able to invest in various real estate ventures that proved to be very successful.

Bard's house was designed by the Keith Brothers and built at a cost of \$6,500. The home is an archetypal example of the residences of the wealthy in Strathcona. Built of brick, with stone details and a full width porch with a balcony above, the house was crowned with a pyramidal roof and bracketed bellcast eaves. The styling is typical of classical revival designs, but there are several features which distinguish this house from Strathcona's other large brick homes. Attached to the house itself is a spacious flat-roofed conservatory with large windows intended to catch the eastern sun. Located at the back of the lot is a large carriage house with second floor living quarters which has been converted to a garage. Of particular interest was the turntable Bard installed in the driveway – much like those found in railroad roundhouses – which could rotate a vehicle 180° and eliminated the worry of backing onto the street. The Bard Residence was owned and occupied by descendants of Delmar Bard until the 1990s. In 1998, it was designated as a Municipal Historic Resource, and in 2000, the residence was designated a Provincial Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE WEST TO THE END  
OF THE BLOCK. THE NEXT SITE  
IS ON THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF  
84 AVENUE AND 106 STREET.**



The Margaret Martin Residence is representative of the development that took place in the City of Strathcona during the boom years, prior to World War I. It is the first house that was built in the subdivision known as Martin Estate, located in West Strathcona.

Margaret Martin and her husband, David, were pioneers in the neighbourhood of Strathcona, where they acquired a large tract of farmland in 1899. In 1900, David passed away and Margaret continued to live on this farmland with their eleven children.



*Margaret Martin Residence, n.d. (COE)*

Around 1907, the grand house known as the Margaret Martin Residence was built for Margaret and her family. She remained at the residence until 1939, leaving the home in her daughter Edith's care. The Martin children went on to create their own legacy

THE MARGARET MARTIN RESIDENCE IS  
A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A FOURSQUARE  
STYLE HOUSE, WHICH WERE VERY  
POPULAR DURING THE EDWARDIAN-ERA.

28

## J.J. DUGGAN RESIDENCE (1907)

10515 SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE NW

in Edmonton. Grace Martin McEachern became a well-known school teacher. Helen Martin married Cecil Rutherford, the only son of Alberta's first premier, A.C. Rutherford. David Quincy Martin worked for thirty years with the Alberta Liquor Control Board after marrying Lova Shaw, the daughter of H.V. Shaw, proprietor of Edmonton Cigar Factory.

As the population in the area began to grow, the farmland was subdivided into what was called the Martin Estate. At this time, the settlement of Strathcona was split into two socially distinct areas. West of 99 Street, where the Margaret Martin Residence was located, residents were mainly from a business or commercial background. East of 99 Street, residents were generally involved in trades, or employed by the Gainers packing plant or the Canadian Pacific Railway (C.P.R.).

The Margaret Martin Residence is a good example of a Foursquare style house, which were very popular during the Edwardian-era. The residence is an early example of the work of the Magoon, Hopkins, and James architectural partnership. The partners went on to individually become some of the most respected architects in Western Canada. The Margaret Martin Residence is one of the only surviving buildings of their short lived partnership that lasted from 1906 to 1908. The residence was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in April, 2005.



**GO NORTH ON 106 STREET  
TO SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE  
AND TURN RIGHT.**

J

John Joseph Duggan shares with Arthur Davies the distinction of having been elected mayor of Strathcona for more than one term. He arrived in Strathcona in 1891, and through various enterprises – including managing the town's first lumber yard, establishing its first rail yard, speculating in real estate and running several farms – was able to erect this substantial house by 1907 at the then considerable cost of \$8,000. The esteem with which Duggan was regarded by the rest of the community was reflected in the fact that he served as mayor of Strathcona for five years: in 1902 and 1903, and from 1908 to 1910.



*Sketch of Duggan Residence, ca. 1908 (CEA EA-267-102)*

Even in 1907, Saskatchewan Drive was a prestigious address. The elite of Strathcona chose Saskatchewan Avenue, as it was then known, as the site for their homes. John Gainer, proprietor of Gainer Meats and the Gainer Block; J. Douglas of Douglas Brothers and the Douglas Block; R.R. Buchanan, manager of the Bank of Commerce; J. Lavell, a lawyer; and S.Q.



O'Brien, a successful lumber merchant, were among Duggan's neighbours over the years.

In keeping with the status of the area, Duggan built his large house of brick. The style he chose was Queen Anne Revival with restrained classical detailing, such as the contrasting sandstone sill, quoins, and keystones present in the two round attic storey windows. The wooden front porch features Doric columns that support a verandah roof and balcony. A tall, hipped roof with two projecting gables completes the composition.

J.J. Duggan lived in this house until 1931. During the Second World War, it was converted to a duplex, but was restored to its original condition in 1978 by the Alberta Association of Architects. In August, 1982 the J.J. Duggan Residence was designated a Provincial Historic Resource, and in May, 2013, it was designated a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE EAST ON  
SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE.**

# 29

## GEORGE DURRAND RESIDENCE (1913)

10417 SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE NW



The Durrand family was an entrepreneurial and professional family, representative of the types of families that were populating the City of Strathcona in the early twentieth century. George Durrand was a local businessman and manager of Durrand Sand Co., a family business located at 8130 – 103 Street. It is believed that it was started



*George Durrand Residence, 2002 (COE)*

by George's father, William, and also included George's two brothers, Duncan and William Jr.. The Durrand family is further known for its contracting business, which was responsible for the construction of this residence, and was well known in historic Edmonton and Strathcona.

The George Durrand Residence was later owned by Harold Gould MacDonald, noted Edmontonian and founder of the H.G. MacDonald Company, a contracting company still in existence and now known as Christenson and MacDonald. MacDonald lived at the residence until 1923.

In 1913, when the George Durrand Residence was built, the economic climate was generally optimistic. It was heightened locally by the recent amalgamation of the cities of Edmonton and Strathcona in 1912, as well as the construction of the High Level Bridge, in 1911. This confidence was reflected in the grand architecture of the home.

The house is part of a significant grouping along Saskatchewan Drive. It is a prominent Edwardian structure with classical revival design elements and a strong use of symmetry. A grand entrance with an arched, open front entry porch and decorative supporting brackets in the roof soffit, are some of the many details that reflect the home's formal and stylish architecture. The George Durrand Residence was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in May, 2002.



**CONTINUE ALONG SASKATCHEWAN  
DRIVE, JUST PAST 104 STREET.**

# 30

## O'BRIEN RESIDENCE (1918)

10311 SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE NW



When S.Q. O'Brien built a wooden bungalow on Saskatchewan Drive, he was creating a precedent. Brick had previously been the material of choice, and classically inspired style the rule for the homes of Strathcona's most prominent citizens. O'Brien's choice reflected a trend away from brick for residential construction, due undoubtedly to his involvement in the lumber trade.



Bard Residence, ca. 1912 (CEA EA-474-53)

For the first few years after he arrived in Strathcona in the late 1890s, S.Q. O'Brien worked as a teacher. In 1901, however, he established a lumberyard at 103 Street and 80 Avenue. By 1902, he had built an office, fenced the yard, and had sufficient business in Strathcona to warrant the full time employment of a team for deliveries. In 1918, O'Brien built his home on Saskatchewan Drive, but he did not long enjoy it, since he left Strathcona under a cloud in 1921, having been accused of attempting to corner the lumber market.

Bungalows became popular in North America between 1900 and 1920. Typically, such houses had a large roof with the gable at the side rather than the front of the house, creating a large verandah, as seen in the O'Brien House. The second floor shed roof dormer windows are also common to this style. In contrast to the formal classical revival styles, the "California Bungalow" used rustic finishes such as shingles, random rubble masonry and art glass windows to create an informal effect.

The O'Brien Residence was unusual as both a wood frame house among brick buildings and as an early example of the Bungalow style in Edmonton. Within a few years, however, this type of house began to appear in neighbourhoods throughout the city. The O'Brien Residence is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**GO ONE BLOCK EAST, TURN RIGHT (SOUTH) ON TOMMY BANKS WAY (103 STREET). THE NEXT SITE IS LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF TOMMY BANKS WAY AND SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE.**

# 31

## RITCHIE MILL (1893)

10170 SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE NW



Robert Ritchie arrived in Strathcona from Ontario early in 1892. Within a year, he had built and began operating a flour mill on this site near the end of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway line. Business was good, and Ritchie added elevators to his mill in



*The Ritchie Mill, ca. 1908 (CEA EA-267-103)*

1895 and 1902 to handle the increasing volume of grain being processed. In addition to his business interests, Ritchie was very active in local politics. He served as an alderman, a school trustee, a justice of peace, and in 1906 was elected mayor of Strathcona. In 1912, Ritchie sold the mill to the Northwest Mill and Feed Company, which operated it as a flour mill until 1948.

The original mill was three storeys high and built of brick and stone. The majority of the later additions were built of wood with metal siding. There was no architect for the Ritchie Mill. Rather, it is an industrial design that developed from the function of the building. Nevertheless, the form of the structure leaves a pleasing aesthetic impression, with its large, simple masses and unbroken surfaces.

The Ritchie Mill was one of the first mills in western Canada to be equipped with steam-powered steel rollers. These increased both the range of flours which could be milled, and the quantity which could be produced. Today, the mill is one of a few nineteenth century industrial buildings left in Alberta, one of even fewer agricultural buildings left in an urban setting. It is also the oldest extant flour mill in Alberta and possibly the earliest such building of its kind in Canada. The Ritchie Mill has been restored by the Old Strathcona Foundation, and was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in May, 1979. It was later designated as a Municipal Historic Resource in September, 1997.



**CONTINUE SOUTH ON TOMMY BANKS WAY (103 STREET); TURN LEFT ON 87 AVENUE. CONTINUE EAST AND CROSS 101 STREET.**

## A.O. BRAMAN RESIDENCE (1912)

10046 – 87 AVENUE NW



Adalbert O. Braman was the first listed owner of this house. Braman was born in the United States in 1875 and came to Edmonton in 1913. He married Lou Braman, and together they had a son, Martin Braman.



*A.O. Braman Residence, 2014 (COE)*

Built in 1912, the A.O. Braman Residence is an excellent example of the Foursquare style, which was popular in Edmonton around the turn of the 20th century. The exterior of the building's main floor is finished with clinker brick, which is now considered quite rare. Clinkers were bricks that were over-fired, causing them to become harder and darker in colour than regular bricks, and to exhibit colours of green, gold, and brown. The over-fired bricks were often misshapen and discarded as unusable, but those that held their shape were sold at a discount, as seconds. The A.O. Braman Residence was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in July, 2014.



**CONTINUE EAST ON 87 AVENUE TO 99 STREET. TURN RIGHT (SOUTH) ON 99 STREET AND THEN RIGHT ON 86 AVENUE.**

# 33

## SHEPPARD RESIDENCE (1911)

9945 – 86 AVENUE NW

The early Canadian west was full of opportunities for those who knew how to take advantage of them. William Henry Sheppard was such a person. Having left his home in Ontario at the age of fifteen, Sheppard worked first on the railroads, then as a contractor, and finally as a hotelier before arriving in Strathcona in 1894. Soon afterwards he opened the Hotel Raymond, which was considered not only one of the best hotels in Strathcona, but in all of western Canada. In 1896, Sheppard expanded his operations by buying the Strathcona Hotel, and his success in the hospitality business enabled him to branch out into other areas, including mining, brewing and real estate.



*Sheppard Residence, Oct. 2000 (ACD 00-R149-15)*

Carrying his business acumen into the political arena, Sheppard served on Strathcona's Town Council in 1899, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1908, and 1909. In addition, he ran for and was elected to the position of mayor of Strathcona in 1906. During his term in that office, Sheppard

was instrumental in changing Strathcona's status from that of a town to a city. Later, he served on the committee that considered the question of amalgamation with Edmonton.

When William Sheppard built his 86 Avenue home in 1911, he had long been established as one of Strathcona's leading citizens. This large, dignified residence was designed to reflect that status. Like many other large houses of the period, it is built of brick in a classical revival style. An interesting feature that sets this house apart is the semicircular bow of the front porch. The columns of this porch support a large second floor balcony, and a widow's walk surmounts the pyramidal roof. Wide bracketed bellcast eaves; a pair of gabled dormers; stone lintels and sills on the windows; brick quoins; and a semicircular window in the west gable, complete the attractive symmetrical design of the Sheppard Residence. The house has been restored and was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in December, 1981.



**GO WEST ON 86 AVENUE TO 101 STREET. TURN LEFT (SOUTH) ON 101 STREET.**

# 34

## KING EDWARD SCHOOL (1912-1913)

8525 – 101 STREET NW



Originally known as Grandin Street School, King Edward School was designed and built in 1913 by the Edmonton Public School Board Building Commissioner, George Turner. The Highlands School was later



King Edward School, c. 1915 (CEA EA-43-63)

built to the same plan. King Edward School was the first school in the city which used reinforced concrete, and was characterized by the city's first ground floor auditorium.

Built at a cost of \$180,000, the school included 17 classrooms, playrooms, and baths, deeming it a social centre school. Its enrollment peaked at 862 pupils in 1926, as Edmonton's south side was rapidly expanding. However, the lure of the suburbs in the face of an aging city core forced the fortress-like King Edward School to close its doors in 1984.

The school's military air is enhanced by its central tower and a false roofline punctuated with battlements and rifle slots. Sand stone accents the brick with some ornate curvatures on the tower, and sculptured embellishments are featured over the front entrance. The school presents a striking front foyer, with oak-paneled walls, latticed windows and doors, and a terrazzo floor leading to the marble stairway.

Alberta Culture and Tourism has observed that the style is more closely related to that of a monastery than to any building of military function. Its architectural heritage is derived from Collegiate Gothic institutions of higher learning in England, which became a popular style for North American schools and military academics. King Edward School is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**CONTINUE SOUTH ON 101 STREET AND TURN LEFT (EAST) ON 85 AVENUE, JUST PAST 100 STREET.**

35

## THOMAS SCOTT RESIDENCE (1912)

9938 – 85 AVENUE NW



After the amalgamation of Edmonton and Strathcona in 1912 there was a wave of development, and new subdivisions were on the rise in Strathcona. Realtor Thomas L. Scott took advantage of the opportunities to develop. He purchased lot 27 of block 94, and hired contractor W.M. Leppard to construct this wood frame Foursquare house, almost identical to the neighbouring house.

**UPON ITS COMPLETION IN 1912, SCOTT HIMSELF WAS THE FIRST RESIDENT OF THE HOUSE. BY 1913, HE HAD SOLD THE RESIDENCE TO WIDOW ELLEN WALKER.**

Upon its completion in 1912, Scott himself was the first resident of the house. By 1913, he had sold the residence to widow Ellen Walker. Three years later, in 1916, James Strang, manager of Strang and Company moved into the residence, and remained here for one year. The next occupant was Daniel E. MacDonald, the new Superintendent of Buildings with the Alberta government. The MacDonald family remained at the residence until 1960, when it was taken over by his daughter Edie. Edie lived in the house with her family for the next 30 years.

The Thomas Scott Residence is typified by the use of symmetry and classical detailing. It has a hipped roof with a central brick chimney and a front gable over the projecting two-storey front bay. A full-width, open verandah and a full-width



Thomas Scott Residence, 2001 (COE)

second floor balcony are featured on the façade of the residence. The Thomas Scott Residence was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in April, 2000.



**CONTINUE WEST ON 85 AVENUE TO 99 STREET AND TURN RIGHT (SOUTH). TURN RIGHT (WEST) ON 84 AVENUE.**

36

## JOHN THOMAS RADFORD HOUSE (1902)

10008 – 84 AVENUE NW

J

John Thomas Radford and his wife Annie were early residents of Strathcona who had come from Winnipeg. They lived here, as early as 1899. Throughout the early 1900s large numbers of settlers with modest means moved to Edmonton and the surrounding areas and resided in humble homes, similar to the John Thomas Radford House.

The 1901 and 1902 census identified Mr. Radford as a farmer. He kept a team of horses in a barn on the lane, and it is believed that he kept cows, and planted a crop on the land beside the house.

Mr. Radford later became a businessman and a politician. He was elected to the Strathcona Council in December 1910, as part of the amalgamation slate, where he voted to unite Strathcona with Edmonton. It was sawmill owner, John Walter, who signed Mr. Radford's nomination forms.

Mr. Radford had the current residence built in 1902 by C. Yeager. The construction date was documented due to a court case heard in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories Northern Alberta Judicial District. Mr. Radford and his builder, Mr. C. Yeager, were being sued by Frank Marks, a plasterer. Mr. Radford and Mr. Yeager counterclaimed the suit, and were represented by Strathcona lawyers, Rutherford and Jameson. Alexander Rutherford later became Alberta's first Premier. In 1933, Mr. Radford died in the residence, and his funeral was also held there.



John Thomas Radford House, circa. 2010 (COE)

The modest home is a reminder of the early development in Strathcona that occurred long before the discovery of oil at Leduc brought prosperity to Alberta. Drawn to the west to farm, settlers built modest homes, known as Homestead Style houses. A simple rectangular one storey home, with a gable roof running front to back, was typical of the style of homes built on small urban lots in Alberta, which before 1918 were often only 25 feet wide. Throughout the 1900s, such houses were common in the growing towns and cities of the prairies.

One of the key defining design characteristics of the Homestead Style, visible on the John Thomas Radford House, is the wood cladded exterior with a front facing gable. The original front verandah of the residence was replaced with a front porch at a later date. There are few buildings remaining in Edmonton from this early period that maintain as high a degree of integrity as the John Thomas Radford House. The house represents the early architectural style and residential development that took place in the neighbourhood of Old Strathcona. It was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in May, 2010.



**CONTINUE WEST  
ON 84 AVENUE.**

37

## HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH (1913)

10037 – 84 AVENUE NW



After a delay of six years, Holy Trinity Anglican Church was officially opened in October 1913 by the Bishop of Calgary. This building was begun in 1906 as a replacement for a wood frame church constructed in 1893. Economic circumstances brought the project to a halt in 1907, just after the basement had been dug. A roof was erected over this as an interim measure, and services were held in this temporary building from 1901 to 1912, when construction was resumed.

Like the Knox Church on 104 Street, Holy Trinity Anglican Church is modelled on Gothic English country churches. The clinker brick exterior finish of the church heightens the rustic feeling of the design. Pointed arches, buttresses and



*Holy Trinity Anglican Church, n.d. (PAA B3513)*

crenellated parapets are among the few details which distinguish this as a Gothic Revival Style church, a design which was the one most often employed in Anglican Church architecture in the province. The popularity of the Gothic Revival Style for Anglican church design was largely due to the fact that the style was identified in the nineteenth century by the Church of England as the one which best suited its religious teachings. Holy Trinity Anglican Church was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in May, 1983, and is on the City of Edmonton's Inventory of Historic Resources, meaning that it is eligible to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.



**TURN LEFT (SOUTH) ON 101 STREET  
AND GO THREE BLOCKS. TURN  
RIGHT (WEST) ON 81 AVENUE.**

38

## 81 AVENUE BETWEEN 101 & 102 STREETS



The Strathcona historical walking and driving/biking tours have given details of many large public and private buildings associated with important people, government bodies and commercial enterprises. This last section of



81 Avenue between 101 and 102 Streets, Oct. 2000 (ACD 00-R149-27) Arndt's Machine Shop (arrow), 2005 (COE)

the tour illustrates the fact that Strathcona's development also depended on the efforts of a large number of people whose names never appeared in the papers or in any history books.

There were never more than a few houses on this street – a lumber yard occupied the greater part of the block on the south side of the street, and the north side was largely undeveloped. The majority of the older shops and warehouses remaining on this block were built in the early 1940s, but the wood frame building at 10139 – 81 Avenue is possibly a vestige of the lumber yard, and may date from before the turn of the century.

It was not unusual for prairie towns to have sharply defined residential, commercial and industrial areas. Typically, railroad tracks divided the town in half, with industrial areas located on the leeward side, so that smoke and fumes would not blow over the residential areas. In Strathcona this is not the case, as all types of development are found on both sides of the tracks. Many factors contributed to this arrangement, including geography, politics, and patterns of investment. Strathcona was a city that offered many opportunities, and some were able to reap large profits from its rapid growth. Many more did not “make it big”, but, then as now, settled in Strathcona for its unique ambience.

### **ARNDT'S MACHINE SHOP** 10138 – 81 AVENUE NW

In the years during and following World War Two, a great deal of industry relating to transportation and resource development

ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DATE OF CONSTRUCTION AVAILABLE FOR THE ARNDT'S MACHINE SHOP BUILDING, IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED CIRCA 1940.

occurred across northern Alberta. There was a focus on this in Edmonton, particularly around the railway station in the Strathcona neighbourhood. Metalworking was an essential component of this industrial development. Manufacturing industries took advantage of the region's agricultural potential and timber resources, as well as the onsite deposits of clay and coal in the Strathcona regions. The streetscape along 81 Avenue reflects the switch from residential buildings to light industrial.

Although there is no date of construction available for the Arndt's Machine Shop building, it is believed to have been constructed circa 1940. Long term owner, Ted Arndt, first purchased and developed the land in the 1920s as a blacksmith shop. He operated a blacksmith shop on the site until the 1940s, when the business became known as Arndt's Machine Shop. Arndt likely benefitted from the oilfield development resulting from the Leduc oil strike in 1947, permitting Arndt to build this new shop in the late 1940s.

The large one-storey industrial building reflects Moderne influences. The corner pilasters and the parapet conceal the arched corrugated steel barrel roof common to industrial buildings; this design is a modern variation on the commercial boomtown front design. The simple utilitarian design was inexpensive to build and suited its light industrial use. Modernistic architecture, as reflected in Arndt's Machine Shop, was established in Edmonton throughout the 1930s and 1940s. Arndt's Machine Shop was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in May, 2009.



**THIS SITE MARKS THE END OF THE DRIVING/BIKING TOUR.**



# GLOSSARY

**BAY WINDOW** an angular or curved projection of an exterior wall that contains windows

**CHINOISERIE** Western imitations or evocations of Chinese art, especially popular during the Victorian era

**CORBELLING** a projection or series of stepped projections in masonry or brick built out from a wall to support the eaves of a roof or some other feature

**CORNICE** any projecting decorative moulding along the top of a building, wall or arch.

**EDWARDIAN STYLE** a style popular during the reign of King Edward VII of the United Kingdom, from 1901 to 1910. This style is typically less ornate than high or late Victorian Architecture

**FACADE** the front or main face of a building

**FOUR SQUARE STYLE** a house with cubic proportions, a pyramidal roof and classically-inspired details

**FRIEZE** the decorative band along the upper part of a wall, immediately below the cornice

**JERKINHEAD ROOF** a roof form in which the top of the end of a gable is cut off by a secondary slope forming a hip

**MODERNE STYLE** a late type of the Art Deco architecture and design that emerged in the 1930s. Characteristics include curving forms, long horizontal lines, and sometimes nautical elements

**OCULUS** a circular opening or window in a wall or at the apex of a dome

**PALLADIAN WINDOW** a three-sectioned window; the centre section is round arched, and the slightly shorter and narrower side windows are flat headed.

**PINNACLE** a steep pyramidally or conically shaped decoration crowning spires, buttresses, the angle of parapets, etc.

**QUOINS** stones at the corners of a building usually employed as decorations or for reinforcing the edge of the wall.

**TONGUE AND GROOVE SIDING** exterior finish consisting of boards that fit together by means of interlocking projections and indentations.

**TRANSOM WINDOW** the upper part of a window divided from the lower by a transom, or horizontal bar of wood or stone.

**TUDOR ARCH** a flattened gothic or pointed arch.

**WAINSCOTING** wood panelling on the walls of a room, often only on the lower part of the wall.

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*Cover image: Tipton and Hulbert Blocks, ca. 1914 (CEA EA-10-274)*



CANADA 150

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