



DELTON GROCERY

12202 - 88 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

Delton Grocery is a one-storey commercial building in Edmonton's Delton neighbourhood. Located at the northwest corner of 88 Street and 122 Avenue, the wood-frame structure is identifiable by its low-pitched gable roof, rectangular plan and boomtown front.

HERITAGE VALUE

Built in circa 1914, Delton Grocery is significant for its association with the early development of the Delton neighbourhood and its representation of early commercial activity integrated into a residential neighbourhood.

The opening of Delton Grocery coincides with the early growth of the Delton community, and an increase in local residents needing convenient grocery services. It is a surviving example of a type of commercial building often integrated into a residential community, once common in Edmonton, but now difficult to find intact. Commercial uses of this nature were small in scale, and were generally intended to serve basic needs of the nearby community.

Delton Grocery is valued aesthetically for its distinctive corner grocery appearance, which is still largely original, despite some introduction of new exterior cladding materials. It features a simple and functional commercial design, including a typical boomtown façade. The one-storey building has a low-pitched gable roof, with flush eaves and verges. Delton Grocery features a commercial design on a rectangular plan, with the short façade of the building facing 88 Street. The one-storey building has a low-pitched gable roof, with flush eaves and verges.

The east (front) elevation is characterized by the boomtown façade and large window openings. It appears that the general fenestration pattern on this façade is largely original, however, the transom window appears to have been removed or covered over at some point in the past, but the lower portions seem to be generally consistent with the 1955 plans. The windows themselves have been replaced. A small window has been introduced on the upper level on the east elevation to accommodate a small living space in the attic level.

The Delton Grocery is valued for its association with Edward Delegare (Del) Grierson, who came to Edmonton in the 1890s while working with the Canadian Pacific Railway. In the early 1900s, Grierson served a number of terms on Edmonton City Council. Grierson owned the Queen's Hotel on Jasper Avenue and 98 Street, and rebuilt the Alberta Hotel in 1903 across the street. Both buildings overlooked what would later be named Grierson Hill along the river valley. In the early 1900s, this road was called Grierson Street. In 1933, City Council re-named it Grierson Avenue, and it has been known as Grierson Hill since 1908.

The first entry of the building in the 1914 Henderson's Directory indicates a "Delton Meat Market" owned by Ada Horne. It was also known as the Cornish Meat and Grocery from the 1930s to the 1950s. It is possible that at some point, particularly during the early years, it may have been used only as a residence. The 1924 fire insurance map shows a store in this location; however, the 1953 fire insurance map shows a larger store in this location. It is possible the original footprint from 1914 was expanded at some point between 1924 and 1953 to create the existing size. It is also possible the original building may have been demolished and rebuilt between 1924 and 1953.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character-defining elements of Delton Grocery include, but are not limited to its:

- + location at the northwest corner of 122 Avenue and 88 Street;
- + form, scale and massing as expressed by its one-storey height;
- + wood frame construction;
- + low pitch gable roof;
- + boomtown façade;
- + single-door corner entrance at southeast corner of building;
- + original fenestration pattern with some original windows on south elevation;
- + bottle glass stucco under existing vinyl cladding; and
- + brick chimney.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 18940 in September 2019.



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