



CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



IMMIGRATION HALL

10534 - 100 STREET NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

Immigration Hall was built in 1930 as a brick and Tyndall stone two-storey with a full basement institutional structure, identifiable for its classically proportioned symmetrical facade and flat roof. In 1954 a square, two-storey addition was erected on the rear (west) elevation. Like the original building, it has a flat roof and brick exterior with Tyndall stone accents. The structure is situated on two city lots on the corner of 100 Street and 105A Avenue in the neighbourhood of McCauley.

HERITAGE VALUE

Immigration Hall is significant as a federal government building in Edmonton from the inter-war period and as an excellent example of the Classical Revival architectural style.

Edmonton's Immigration Hall possesses design characteristics typical to other urban federal buildings built at the time, including the heavy massing, use of brick and stone, prominent front entrance, central flag pole, symmetrical fenestration, flat roof and cornice.

It is one of three surviving post-World War One Immigration Halls in western Canada, and was the last and most elaborate of a series of immigration halls erected across the Prairies over a 50-year period. Immigration halls were built by the federal Department of Public Works to provide free short-term accommodation for agricultural settlers.

The prominent location of Immigration Hall northwest of the traditional downtown core and adjacent to the former CNR railway yard illustrates how these facilities were strategically constructed near main railway stations to accommodate the influx of new immigrants. The building's ambitious size and design reflect Edmonton's central role within national settlement policy. The building ceased being used as an Immigration Hall in 1951.

Immigration Hall is a good example of the Classical Revival architectural style, and was designed by T.W. Fuller of the Department of Public Works. The Classical Revival style on Immigration Hall has been simplified to its essential elements, including ordered symmetry, minimal ornamentation, and high quality cladding materials.

In 1954 an addition, located on the west side at the rear of was added to the original structure. It was meant to match the original structure, used very similar materials and detailing.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The heritage value of Immigration Hall is expressed in such character defining elements as:

- + prominent corner location;
- + dignified form, scale and massing as expressed by its flat roof, two storey height, ground floor that provides a podium for the building, and symmetrical composition with central entry;
- + use of Flemish-bond, variegated colour combed brick, smooth-faced Tyndall stone and granite steps;
- + continuous sheet metal projecting cornice with simple brick parapet above;
- + double height central entrance detailed in Tyndall stone, with shallow projecting cornice above the entrance doors, a blank panel above, capped with an arched window surround with keystone;
- + fenestration, with the use of double-hung 1-over-1 wooden sash windows, including a segmental arched Chicago window above central entry, regular banks of double-assembly windows, those on the upper floors set between broad, shallow brick pilasters and those in the basement inserted into the Tyndall stone base;
- + wooden flag pole above central entry;
- + 1954 addition that matches very closely the style and details of the original building, but with a large feature window above secondary entry and with slight variations in the fenestration; and
- + interior elements such as its double-height entrance hall with split staircase, use of marble and terrazzo stair and floor finishes.



Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 15253 in September 2009.

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