



JOHN L. LANG APARTMENTS

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

9908, 9910, 9912, 9914 - 112 STREET NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The John L. Lang Apartments were built in 1907 as a two and one-half storey building with a hipped roof, clapboard siding, front porch and a central balcony on the second floor. It is located on a single city lot in what is now known as the Wīhkwēntōwin neighbourhood.

HERITAGE VALUE

The John L. Lang Apartments is significant for its association with the theme of working-class residential development in Wīhkwēntōwin and is part of one of the few remaining contiguous streetscapes of homes of this era in the community.

Built in 1907 as a duplex by carpenter John L. Lang, the John L. Lang Apartments is valued as an example of working-class residential development in Wīhkwēntōwin. One of Edmonton's earliest communities, Wīhkwēntōwin had a diverse population, and was home to people of a range of socio-economic backgrounds.

The John L. Lang Apartments is representative of the more modest housing developments for working-class residents in Wīhkwēntōwin. The easily built simple frame design, inexpensive wood cladding and sparing use of brick made this home an affordable option for residents of modest means. Furthermore, the multi-dwelling design was more typical of housing for lower income Edmontonians, differentiating it from the nearby brick mansions on Victoria (100th) Avenue, and contributing to the heterogeneous character of the neighbourhood.

Following the disastrous influenza epidemic in 1918, the Misericordia Hospital needed more room for beds and bought this property and the neighbouring property to house nurses and sisters. The house remained a nurse's residence until the Misericordia built a new residence in 1938. During its years as a Nurses Residence, the houses were also occasionally rented to others between 1929-32.

The 1938 conversion to a 4-plex was a continuation of the theme of modest working-class development in the neighbourhood and reflected a common trend in Wīhkwēntōwin of converting larger homes into multi-family residences.

The houses on this street form one of the few remaining contiguous streetscapes of older homes in Wīhkwēntōwin, along with the adjoining heritage homes from the same era on 99 Avenue. These multifamily and less opulent residences have become relatively rare in the Wīhkwēntōwin context and help retain a tie to the original middle-class and working-class roots of the area.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key character defining elements of the John L. Lang Apartments include:

- + symmetrical proportions;
- + hipped roof;
- + timber clapboard siding and timber detailing;
- + central veranda and raised porch;
- + recessed front doors with a decorative bracket and post on either side;
- + upper doors onto deck which match those below;
- + porch on corner portions of each apartment on rear façade;
- + parged concrete at basement level to resemble blocks and separated from the siding above by a timber belt course;
- + parged chimney stack above roof;
- + timber paneled doors (two panels at the lower level with glazing above) with transom lights above;
- + timber windows at each level with two double hung sash windows with 9 over 1 profiles;
- + two picture windows at ground level that are linked with one long timber sill and lintel detail;
- + tower windows and doors have wide wooden casing with decorative crowns;
- + openings have wide wooden casing with decorative crowns, except the upper window where the top portion merges into the frieze board that sits below the eave;
- + pattern of fenestration; and
- + interior timber trim and moulding.



Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 14663 in November 2007.

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