



OBLATS MAISON PROVINCIALE

9916 - 110 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Oblats Maison Provinciale is an L-shaped three and a half-storey brick building with a cupola. Built in 1935, it occupies one and a half city lots in what is now known as the W̱hkw̱w̱nṯw̱in neighbourhood, next to St. Joachim Church.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Oblats Maison Provinciale is significant for its association with the Les Pères Oblats de Marie Immaculée Territoires de Nord Ouest, the first Catholic missionaries in the Canadian West. It served as their headquarters for the Ecclesiastical Province of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Built in 1935 it provided space for the office and administrative functions and the residential quarter for the priests and administrators connected with the headquarter functions of the Ecclesiastical Province of Alberta and Saskatchewan. It was in continuous use for this purpose until 1997.



The Oblats Maison Provinciale is also significant as it served as the rectory and administrative home for St. Joachim Parish, the first francophone Roman Catholic parish in Edmonton. While its Renaissance Revival architectural influences are restrained, the building represents a good example of the style in Alberta.

The Oblats Maison Provinciale is a local landmark and one of a number of buildings that formed part of the area known as the “Mission Block”. Built on land acquired from the Hudson Bay Company in 1886, the mission’s location, near central Edmonton, was chosen for its proximity to Edmonton’s emerging francophone population. The principal buildings of the Mission Block, the Oblats Maison Provinciale, the St. Joachim Church, St. Joachim Rectory, and the Convent of the Faithful Companions of Jesus manifested a substantial religious presence in the district of W̱hkw̱w̱nṯw̱in in downtown Edmonton. St. Joachim’s Church and the Oblats Maison Provinciale are the only surviving buildings of the Mission Block.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The heritage character of the Oblats Maison Provinciale is expressed in character defining elements such as its:

- + form, scale and massing;
- + original Flemish bond brick façades with brick detailing at the corners;
- + central raised pedimented door with arched entrance and circular fanlight above the timber doors;
- + brick voussoirs and keystones in the door arch;





- + parged exposed foundation with basement windows;
- + stone banding at the first-floor level and second-floor level;
- + patterns of fenestration and window styles, including arched recessed timber sash windows with keystones and precast sills on the first, second, and third floors;
- + metal cornice with modillions;
- + timber verandah with square posts and detailing at the rear of the building;
- + octagonal cupola and metal cross; and
- + the interior vestibule lobby area including the wood doors, trims, and terrazzo flooring.



Source: Provincial Archives of Alberta

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 13774 in August 2004.

Designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in October 2001.

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