



# ORANGE HALL

10335- 84 AVENUE NW

## CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

Orange Hall, also known as the Loyal Orange Hall #1654, is a one-storey, wood frame institutional building, located in the historic Old Strathcona district.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Orange Hall is significant as one of the oldest surviving public assembly buildings in Alberta and for its role in the early settlement and cultural development of the City of Strathcona. In 1903, a member of Orange Hall participated in the construction of this meeting hall. This Protestant, monarchist fraternal organization helped pioneer settlers bind together as a community and survive in harsh frontier conditions. Developed at a time when churches provided social assistance, such associations provided mutual support to families in need. By 1904, the fraternity included some of the leading citizens of the community. Every year, one of the local high points of the summer was the 'Glorious 12th of July' or Orangemen's Day parade, which took place along Whyte Avenue in commemoration of the 1690 Battle of Boyne. Today, the Orange Lodge operates primarily as a benevolent association, raising funds for children's charities.

Orange Hall is an important local example of vernacular frontier construction. It is a simple wood frame structure with a gable roof, wooden drop siding and unadorned multi-paned windows, typical of utilitarian construction methods of the time.

### CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Orange Hall include its:

- + continuous use as an Orange Lodge for over a century;
- + mid-block location on a cul-de-sac close to the centre of the original civic core of Strathcona;
- + institutional form, scale and massing, as expressed by its simple vernacular design, rectangular plan, and one room interior;
- + steeply-pitched front gabled roof;
- + wood frame construction, including wooden drop siding with corner boards, wooden soffits, and water table boards with angled drip cap; fenestration on the side elevations, with double-hung two-over-two wooden sash windows; and
- + surviving interior features including wooden wainscoting, plaster walls with ceiling coves, wooden doors, wooden window and door trims with corner blocks, hardwood floors, and raised stage central carved wooden arch.

*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 13980 in May 2005.*

*Designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in October 2007.*



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