



# WILLIAM LOWES RESIDENCE

9837 - 84 AVENUE NW

CITY OF EDMONTON  
HISTORIC RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

## DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The William Lowes Residence is a two-storey Foursquare style home, is located mid-block in the Strathcona neighbourhood. The building is distinguishable by its square shape, rusticated stone masonry construction, low-pitched hipped roof, hipped dormers, single-assembly windows and corner quoins. The building is sited towards the front of the property, quite close to the adjacent public sidewalk.

## HERITAGE VALUE

Built in 1913, the William Lowes Residence is significant for representing the diversity of residential development in the Strathcona neighbourhood during the early twentieth century.

The residence was constructed at a point of economic recession after the amalgamation of Strathcona and Edmonton and a surge in land speculation. While similar in size to other residences in Strathcona, the William Lowes Residence features a rare rusticated concrete block construction. This type of construction was widely used until about 1930 as a less costly alternative to brick. Rusticated concrete blocks were often manufactured on-site with portable block-making machines. These machines had interchangeable face plates to create the desired surface texture for an individual project. In addition to the common rock-face, there were also plates to cast blocks with scrolls, wreaths and faceted edges, similar to those seen on the William Lowes Residence.

The structure is also valued for its Foursquare design. This style of residence was favoured in Edmonton at this time due to the simplicity of its design and the economical use of interior space. This residence features many of the typical design elements of Foursquare buildings, including a square plan, low-pitched hipped roof, single-assembly windows and a generally symmetrical façade. The building also features a restored open verandah. The east and west elevations feature hipped dormers that are clad in wood shingles. The south elevation features a prominent pediment gable with wood shingles. A brick chimney is located at the rear of the building on the west elevation.

William Lowes, his wife Hannah, and daughter Hazel were the first residents of the home, taking ownership in 1913. Various employed as a contractor, motor mechanic and chauffeur, Lowes served as a private with the 194th Battalion (Edmonton Highlanders) of the Canadian Infantry in the First World War, after volunteering in March 1916. Lowes' fate in the war is unknown; however, he is no longer listed as a resident of 9837 - 84 Avenue NW after 1918. From that point on, the residence was occupied by a number of citizens over the years, including Thomas Stinson (a barber at the Strathcona Barber Shop), Father Seymour Tackaberry (Rector with St. Peter's Anglican Church), Arthur Perry (driver with New Method Laundry), Joseph Radstaak (a clerk with Gainers), and Louis Kadatz (retired).





## CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character defining elements of the William Lowes Residence include such features as:

- + Foursquare design;
- + low-pitched hipped roof;
- + hipped dormers with wood shingles on east and west elevations;
- + pediment gable with wood shingles on south elevation;
- + rusticated stone masonry construction;
- + single-assembly windows with concrete plain slip sills and plain concrete lintels;
- + concrete keystones over windows and main entry;
- + square bay window on west elevation;
- + original fenestration pattern;
- + corner quoins;
- + shallow eaves with plain soffits;
- + off-set main entry; and
- + off-set brick chimney at rear.



*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 17590 in April 2016.*

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