

Building Heritage

A Newsletter Celebrating the Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton

What This Is...

A newsletter to the owners of properties on the Edmonton Register of Historic Resources. The Register is a list of Edmonton's most significant historic resources, compiled by the Planning and Development Department in 1993.

The Historic Resources Review Panel (HRRP) was established at that time to help keep the Register up to date. This newsletter is one way for the HRRP and the City of Edmonton's Heritage Program Planners to keep in touch with property owners and to provide information on the Register and the HRRP's activities. Welcome and please read on! If you have questions, please contact Duncan Fraser, Senior Planner, City of Edmonton Heritage Program at 496-6105.

Evolution of the Inventory - Adding Modern Buildings to the Register

Symbols, objects that are instilled with value and meaning, are often employed by our culture to define ourselves. As Edmonton emerged as a frontier city at the turn of the century, our identity became firmly entrenched in the urban symbols of the time - our built environment. The early prosperity and optimism of the city was embodied in its diverse collection of classical revival and com-

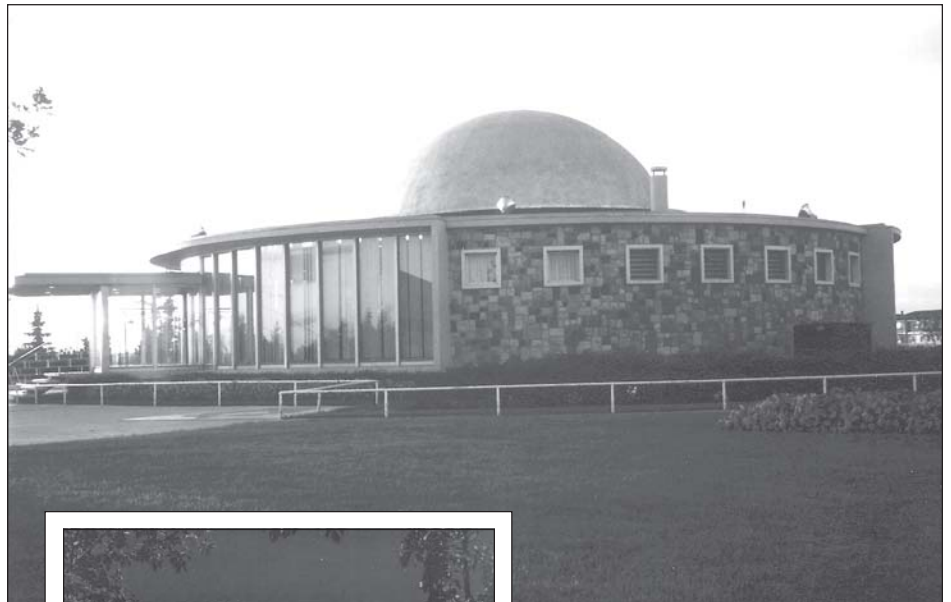
mercial architecture. Recognized in the Register, these historic buildings and structures exist as a reflection of our heritage and progression as a community.

Equally important to our evolution as a city are the post-WWII buildings that constitute the Modern architecture movement in Edmonton. The popularity of Modernism, characterized by unadorned and functional forms, corresponded with Edmonton's rapid growth and urbanization throughout the 1950s and 60s. As a result, the city's built environment was rapidly transformed through various interpretations of Art Deco, Art

Moderne, and International Style Modern architecture.

Although the intricate details and craftsmanship of the Hotel MacDonald or the Gibson Block (also known as the Flat Iron Building) are more recognizable, and perhaps more appreciated today, Modern structures such as the Edmonton Art Gallery and Queen Elizabeth Planetarium remain important symbols of a pivotal stage in Edmonton's history. Recognition of these resources' architectural and historical significance will ensure that their contribution to our development as a city is retained as we continue to redefine ourselves in future generations.

■ Reid Henry



Queen Elizabeth Planetarium,
c. 1979 (above) and
Chancery Hall, 1997 (left)

*Photo credit: City of Edmonton
Planning and Development Department.*

The Rejuvenation of Restoration

For many people, one of the greatest joys of owning an historic house is to restore it to its original condition. It is a time consuming and sometimes frustrating experience, but one that gives a great sense of satisfaction to all involved. One Edmonton house recently restored is the Molstad House, built in 1912 overlooking the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River. As time has gone by, the Molstad farm was subdivided, and the original farmhouse is now surrounded by more recently built housing tracts. And like the farm itself, the house has also been subdivided by subsequent owners.

The current owners, Dr. Walter and Mrs. Jean Kipp, undertook the restoration of the Molstad House while it was still occupied. They chose my company, Richard J. Vanderwell Architect Ltd., to undertake the work necessary to restore the home to its original appearance and splendor. The restoration process itself has taken about five years and six phases to complete.

Historic Resources Review Panel

The Historical Resources Review Panel (HRRP) was established in August 1994 as a sub-committee of the Edmonton Historical Board. The Panel's members, drawn from the community, are charged with the responsibility of reviewing proposed amendments to the Register of Historic Resources and any other proposals affecting historic resources within the City of Edmonton. The Panel also promotes public awareness of heritage resources and related issues.

The Panel provides a pool of professional and technical knowledge to the Historical Board on the historical, architectural, and social aspects of buildings, sites and areas within the City of Edmonton. The Panel is comprised of a minimum of ten individuals from a variety of associations concerned with the conservation of historic sites. At least one member owns property included on the Register and two of the members are appointed by the Edmonton Historical Board. All members volunteer their time and do not receive financial remuneration.

The Panel's responsibilities include: reviewing nominations and/or amendments to the Register of Historic Resources; monitoring and assessing buildings, sites and areas for conservation; and making recommendations to the City of Edmonton Development Officer concerning Development Permits or other permits for Historic Resources on the Register.

The Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton will be updated and expanded as required. The Panel will continue to maintain the Register through amendments, and to promote historic issues in the Edmonton area through this newsletter and other means. Please phone 496-6105 for more information.



Drywall repair inside the Molstad House, 1997



Interior detailing completed on the breakfast area, 1997

Photo credit: Richard Vanderwell

First, we reconstructed the roof geometry to its original appearance. The development of suites in the attic destroyed the shape, scale and form of the roof and so we removed interior partitions and non-original dormers. The second phase was devoted to the exterior restoration of the building. This included brick repointing and restoration, and the salvation of the original double hung windows. The cost of labour for the repair of the windows turned out to be significantly less than the cost of new windows. The north verandah, which had been closed-in, was opened again to the outside, and restored to its original appearance. Period paint colours were carefully selected for the exterior wall shingles, trims, and decorative details.

Restoration in the third phase continued on the exterior. As the farm had shriveled in the past few decades, the outbuildings were also destroyed. The Kipps wished to have a double garage and a structure was designed to be reminiscent of the original out buildings and to coexist with the house itself. This resulted in a red brick, and cedar shingled siding structure, topped with a hipped cedar shingle roof.

A sunny breakfast area, designed to give both visual and direct access to the yard, was added in the fourth phase. Oak trim and maple flooring to match the original materi-

als were used. Period leaded glass doors from Montreal were installed to give access to the trellised verandah.

The fifth phase was the interior restoration - perhaps the most interesting and exciting phase. Gaps between strips of maple flooring were remedied by pulling up the old flooring and re-installing it. This proved to be both successful and cost effective. The floors have not only kept the original materials, but the wood also looks better than new maple. Another effective and cost effective solution was found for plaster repair. A fabric-like material was applied over cracked plaster areas forming a continuous covering, which meant that the old plaster could remain. It was a successful solution and compared favourably to other solutions such as plaster removal and replacement.

Mrs. Kipp chose period wall papers and original hardware to complete the restoration of the interiors. After removing several layers of paint from various light fixtures, the Kipps were delighted to discover that these fixtures were gilded, a finish fairly unusual in Edmonton for that time.

The final phase of restoration, guided by a landscape designer, is currently underway. A white picket fence, similar to what is shown in original photographs, will be built, as well as a bird bath, bird house and cover for the original farm well.

The Kipps were assisted by a generous amount of patience and goodwill from the Molstad family - essential to an accurate restoration of the home. The Molstads provided copies of photographs which were invaluable to the restoration process. In addition, certain family items like the company safe were returned to the house. The Kipps also received financial assistance from the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta for eligible costs of restoration. Molstad House, an 'A' Listed residential building, received Municipal designation in August, 1994 and designation as a Provincial Historic resource, in November, 1996.

■ Richard Vanderwell



SPARE: TWENTY YEARS OF HERITAGE ADVOCACY

The acronym SPARE stands for the Society for the Protection of Architectural Resources in Edmonton. It began life nearly 20 years ago, created by a group of citizens concerned about the demolition of the Tegler Building, a 101st Street landmark. Although many other early buildings had met their demise in the same manner, the much publicized fate of the Tegler Building galvanized this group into action. Edmontonians began to realize that their architectural heritage was in danger of being obliterated.

Since then, many battles to preserve Edmonton's old buildings have been fought, lost and won. From the beginning, SPARE's role has been that of intermediary, educator, and when the situation warranted, as activist. One of SPARE's original demands was the creation of a list of historically, and/or architecturally important buildings in the city. The Register of Historic Resources made that quest a glorious reality.

Today, SPARE offers interested citizens enlightenment through walking tours and visits to the inside of some of Edmonton's most beautiful older homes and buildings. Members of the board conduct presentations for groups on a variety of topics. SPARE also fulfills an advocacy role, sending letters to municipal and provincial governments, attending meetings, serving on other boards, and generally showing support for other similar endeavors - the most recent being the Alberta Main Street proposal for the Jasper East Block. Every year SPARE presents awards to those business persons or homeowners who have recognized that they are stewards of the past and preserve their buildings for the benefit of all Edmontonians to enjoy well into the next millennium. For further information call 448-9671.

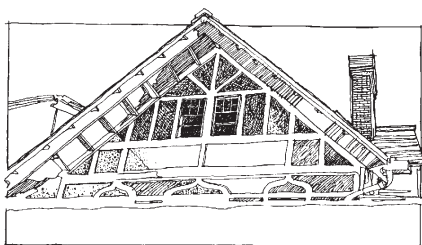
■ Johanne Yakula,
SPARE President



OLDE ENGLISH EGGNOG

• 6 egg yolks • 1 cup granulated sugar • 2 quarts light cream • 1 pint cognac • 1 cup light rum • 6 egg whites • 1/2 cup confectioners sugar

1. In a large bowl, beat egg yolks until thick. Gradually add granulated sugar, and beat until light.
2. Add cream. Beat until well combined. Slowly stir in rum and cognac. Refrigerate covered until well chilled.
3. One hour before serving, beat egg whites until foamy, gradually adding confectioner's sugar, beating well after each addition. Beat until soft peaks form when the beater is raised. Fold into egg yolk mixture. Refrigerate until serving time.



What are the Criteria for Inclusion on the Register?

Applications for heritage designation are evaluated by assessing a resource's:

1 Architectural Criteria

a) Style/Type - Is a building's style representative of the city's significant periods or an example of notable architectural significance? Is the building type associated with a significant industrial, institutional, commercial, agricultural, or transportation activity?

b) Design - Does the building have notable or special attributes of an aesthetic or functional nature? These may include massing, proportion, materials, details, fenestration, ornamentation, artwork, or functional layout?

c) Construction - Does the building have unique or uncommon building materials, or an historically early or innovative method of construction?

d) Designer/Builder - did the building's architect, designer, engineer and/or builder make a significant contribution to the city, province or nation?

2 Cultural History

a) Historical Association - Does the building have a direct association with a person, group, institution, event, or activity that is of historic significance to the city, province, or nation?

b) Historical Pattern - Does the building have direct association with broad patterns of local area history, including development and settlement patterns, early or important transportation routes, or social, political, or economic trends and activities? Included is the recognition of urban street pattern and infrastructure.

3 Integrity

How would changes to the building affect the appreciation of its style, design, construction, or character?

4 Context

a) Landscape/Site - Is an intact, historical landscape or landscape feature associated with the existing building? Does a notable historical relationship exist between the building's site and its immediate environment, including original native trees, topographical features, outbuildings, or agricultural setting? Is there a nota-

ble use of landscaping design in conjunction with an existing building?

b) Neighbourhood - Does the building have continuity and compatibility with adjacent buildings and/or provide a visual contribution to a group of similar buildings?

c) Visual/Symbolic Importance - Is the building important as a landmark structure or have symbolic value to the city, a local area, or neighbourhood?

Applications to have a building placed on the Register may be obtained from the address given below.

Historic Resources Review Panel MEMBER LIST

NAME	Organization/Title
Dorothy Field	Alberta Community Development, Historic Sites Serv.
Lawrence Herzog	Edmonton Historical Board
James Goebel	Edmonton Historical Board
Bruce Ibsen	City Archivist
Helen LaRose	Heritage Sites Committee
Ken Tingley	Historic Resource Consultant
Don McKenzie	Renaissance Development Corporation
David Murray	Architect, Alberta Association of Architects
Richard Vanderwell	Architect, Register Home Owner
Johanne Yakula	President of S.P.A.R.E. (Society for the Protection of Architectural Resources in Edmonton)
Duncan Fraser	Planning and Development Department

We would like to hear from you!

1. Did you enjoy reading the Newsletter? Were the articles informative?
2. Was the format satisfactory?
3. Do you have any comments/ suggestions for the next edition?

Please send your responses to:

The Heritage Planner
The City of Edmonton
Planning and Development Department
2nd Floor, Exchange Tower
10250 - 101 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4
or call Duncan Fraser at 496-6105, Fax 496-6299
or Email at heritage@gov.edmonton.ab.ca



In partnership with the City of Edmonton Planning and Development Department

