



OBLATS MAISON PROVINCIALE 9916 - 110 STREET

Description of Historic 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 the district of Oliver in central Edmonton next to St. Joachim Church.

Heritage Value

The Oblats Maison Provinciale is significant for its association with the Les Peres 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 offices and administrative functions, and residential quarters 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. While its renaissance revival architectural influences are restrained, it represents a good example of the style in Alberta.

The Oblats Maison Provinciale is also significant as it served as the rectory for St. Joachim parish, the first Roman Catholic parish in Edmonton. The Parish of St. Joachim rectory provided the administrative home for the parish, and a residence for the Oblats who served the parish.

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 Oliver 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 character defining elements as expressed in the form, massing and materials of the building such as:

- the original Flemish bond brick façades with brick detailing at the corners;
- the central raised pedimented door with arched door entrance and circular fan light above timber doors;

- the brick voussiors and keystone in door arch;
- the parged exposed foundation with basement windows
- the stone banding at the first floor level and second floor level;
- the first floor arched recessed timber sash windows with keystones and precast sills;
- the second and third floor flat arch timber sash windows with keystones and precast sills;
- the patterns of fenestration and window styles;
- the metal cornice with modillions;
- the timber veranda with square posts and detailing at the rear of the building;
- the octagonal cupola and metal cross.

Interior:

The character defining elements as expressed in the original details and finishes such as:

- the vestibule lobby area including wood doors, trims and terrazzo flooring.

