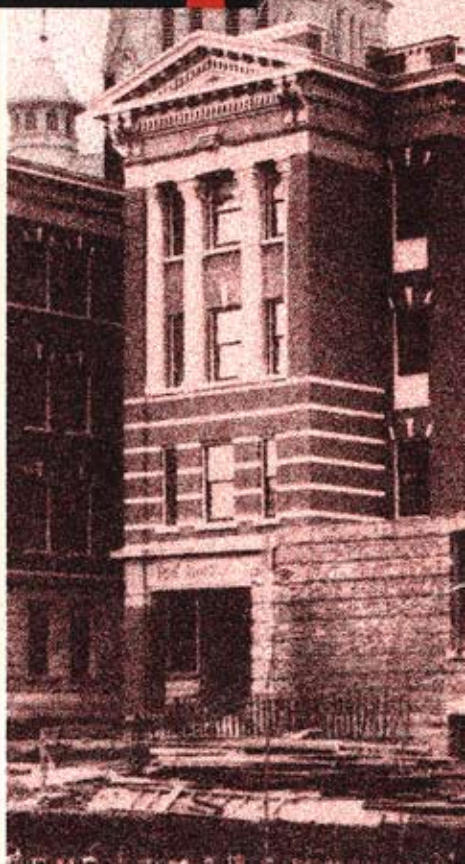


# District of Oliver

Edmonton  
Historical  
Walking  
and  
Driving  
Tour



There are two tours in this booklet:

Oliver West (p. 5) and Oliver East (p.27).

Both tours begin and end at the Lemarchand Mansion (11523-100 Avenue). Parking is available at meters beside the building or in a parkade on the north side of 100 Avenue. Each takes about one hour to complete.

Wherever possible, historic names have been used for buildings, names which often do not correspond to their current owners or uses.

Also, please note that many of the buildings on this tour are privately owned and ought to be viewed only from the street.

# District of Oliver

## Edmonton Historical Walking and Driving Tour

The area now referred to as "The Oliver District", or simply "Oliver", has been part of Edmonton since its earliest days. An 1892 map shows most of the district, from 109 Street to 121 Street between the river valley and 104 Avenue, was within the boundaries of the then Town of Edmonton. Originally, the area west of the downtown was commonly referred to as the "West End". This included not just Oliver, but the areas now known as Glenora, Westmount and Inglewood.

About nine blocks of undeveloped land separated the Oliver District from Edmonton's downtown. This distance encouraged the creation of a distinct community. However, it also separated residents from their places of work, worship, shopping, and entertainment, not to mention family and friends. In its early days, when walking was the most common form of transportation, this distance was



*The Oliver District c.1912. (EA-246-61)*

sufficient to detract from the desirability and, consequently, from the property values of the West End.

Thus, a key to the development of the West End was a physical link with the rest of the city. William Trethewey, the West End's first developer, recognized the need for such a link. In 1903, soon after acquiring a large tract of land in the area from the Malcolm Groat Estate, Trethewey bought the Street Rail Company. He gave the City a \$10,000 deposit as proof of his commitment to create a public transit system. The task proved to be too much for him, however, and Mr. Trethewey lost his deposit, sold his properties, and left town. The City took over, and in November 1908 the Edmonton Radial Railway commenced operations. One of its first two lines went along Jasper Avenue from downtown to 121 Street and back. This link all but guaranteed the success of the Oliver District.

In 1911, a school was built on 117 Street and named for Frank Oliver, an Edmonton pioneer. It became a focus for community activity. In 1922, the West End Community League was formed and began meeting at the Oliver School. Members were soon known as the "public spirited citizens of the district Oliver School". They officially changed their name to the "Oliver Community League" in 1937, and in so doing, unofficially renamed the district.

Frank Oliver is a worthy namesake for this district, even though he was never a resident. A journalist and

merchant, Oliver founded the *Edmonton Bulletin* newspaper, which became popular for his bitingly witty editorials. He championed Western Canada, and fought for "Responsible Government" as a member of the North West Council, and then in the Legislative Assembly which replaced it. He was also Minister of the Interior following his election as MP in the 1896 federal election. Oliver was among Edmonton's first English-speaking settlers. When he arrived, Edmonton was little more than a fur trade fort, with a sparse but predominantly Native, Métis or French-Canadian population in the surrounding area.

Edmonton's fur trade roots gave it a significant French-speaking, Catholic, population. Naturally, the religious orders which served this population also had French origins. Oliver's first major buildings, erected by the French Catholic Church, lent a distinct flavour to the district. In 1886 the Church of St. Joachim was built on 110 Street north of 99 Avenue. A larger brick church replaced this in 1899. In 1895, the Edmonton General Hospital was built a few blocks away. Next, a convent was erected just south of St. Joachim. A rectory for the church at the north end of the block soon followed. In 1905, the Misericordia Hospital was built on 111 Street between 98 and 99 Avenues. The 1914 Grandin School completed the projects of the Catholic Church.

Edmonton continued to expand westward. In 1909, the Lemarchand Mansion was constructed on 115 Street, followed by the Oliver School on 117 Street in 1911.





Streetcar rails on Jasper Avenue looking east at 121 St., n.d.  
(GAI ND-3-2314)

The next year, the Buena Vista was built on 124 Street in anticipation of the Glenora development planned for part of the former Groat Estate further west. Oliver's predominantly French character was diluted as Protestant churches based on English models were built. Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican churches were first located on 116 and 114 Streets, but were rebuilt on a grander scale on 123, 117 and 121 Streets respectively.

Residential construction was unaffected by the French styles characteristic of Oliver's early public architecture. Even prominent francophone residents chose styles common throughout early Edmonton for their homes. The Four Square Style, modified Queen Anne Style, and Bungalow Style were the most popular. Oliver offered a range of housing types: single family dwellings; row houses; duplexes; buildings with a mix of residential and retail; and apartment buildings. An equally diverse group of residents were attracted to Oliver. Millionaires perched their mansions prominently overlooking the valley on Victoria Avenue; middle class houses and workmen's cottages filled the streets behind them.

Oliver was a community with much to offer: easy access to the downtown core, stunning views of the river valley, an excellent elementary school, and the recreational opportunities afforded by Victoria Park and the Golf Links. Frank Oliver's pioneering spirit has been echoed by the leaders of subsequent generations that have resided in the Oliver District. It is not difficult to understand the continuing popularity and success of the Oliver District.

W1. & E1.

## THE LEMARCHAND MANSION

(1909-1911)

11523 - 100 Avenue

## OLIVER WEST TOUR

The Lemarchand Mansion is one of the most beautiful apartment buildings of its age in Edmonton. After all, René Lemarchand's ambition was to erect an

apartment building which would be "*un des plus luxueux dans le genre au Canada*" - one of the most luxurious of its kind in Canada. And so it was. Designed by the Winnipeg architect A.M. Calderon and built between 1909 and 1911, the Lemarchand Mansion cost between \$140,000 to \$200,000. It was spectacularly sited, and established the West End as an affluent neighbourhood and prestigious address.

The interior was elegant: the entrance had bevelled and stained glass, marble flooring, oak panelled walls, and a brass-hooded fireplace. Many special conveniences and comforts were provided, including one of Edmonton's first elevators, and an on-site coal degasifier that produced natural gas for cooking and heating. The H-shaped plan eliminated light shafts - all rooms had an exterior window. Electric dumb waiters made the delivery of groceries or packages easy, and each suite had one or two fireplaces. Concrete floors and brick walls made the building as soundproof and fireproof as was then possible. All this luxury came with a price tag: suites rented for \$40 to \$100 a month, at a time when a workman's wage was about 50 cents an hour.

The exterior of the Lemarchand Mansion is worthy of its interior. The block has four storeys, the upper three of which are red brick. The lower floors are brick covered with cement-based parging to resemble stone. Details include contrasting keystones, an ornate cornice, iron balconies, pillars and pilasters, and triangular pediments. The influence of the French classical revival Beaux-Arts Style can be seen in the grand entry. The first storey portico is surmounted by decorative horizontal bands of contrasting stone and brick. The third and fourth storeys have columns which rise two storeys to another pediment.



*The Lemarchand Mansion under construction c. 1910-1911.  
(PAA B4224)*

The Lemarchand Mansion was a contrast to its setting. Not far away was virtually uninterrupted wilderness, yet this was an essentially urban type of housing. In Europe and some North American cities, apartments provided a popular alternative the single family detached house. The Lemarchand Mansion, with its five, six, and seven room suites, introduced this alternative to Edmonton. It was intended to appeal to upper-income families, not just the couples and singles most apartments cater to.

René Lemarchand came to Edmonton from Paris at the urging of his brother Alphonse, curate of St. Joachim's. When he arrived in 1905, René was prosperous and no longer young. He had been a butler, and allegedly made his fortune from a strange inheritance: a collection of straight razors willed him by his eccentric Parisian employer, who had used a new one every day. Razors could be expensive, and most men owned only a few in their lifetime. One of Lemarchand's ventures was "The Finest Fruits and Fancy Goods Store in Edmonton" selling, among other things, French and English razors. After 1906, he sold his store and invested his money in real estate. An enthusiastic booster, Lemarchand secured funds from the Paris Waiters' Union, *L'Union des garçons de Café*, to build this apartment block. After WW I, Lemarchand visited Edmonton infrequently before his death in Paris in 1921.

The Lemarchand Mansion suffered predictably during the Great Depression in the 1930s. Lower suites were converted to offices after WW II, but many long term tenants stayed on. In 1977, the building was designated a Provincial Historical Resource, and a \$4.5 million

restoration was undertaken. The most significant exterior change was the replacement of the original double-hung windows with single pane sealed units. Today, the Lemarchand Mansion has been entirely converted to offices and shops.

*Follow 100 Avenue west for four blocks.*

W2.

## THE LESSARD RESIDENCE

(1913)

11936 - 100 Avenue

This elegant home is one of the many which once lined Victoria (100) Avenue, making the West End one of Edmonton's most prestigious residential areas. Built in 1913, it has a distinctive round tower, a large attic gable and a front porch. The first storey facade is brick, with arches over the

windows; stucco and timber in the second storey simulate half-timbering. These elements point to the Queen Anne Style.

The Lessard Residence is noteworthy for its builder and first occupant: Prosper Edmond Lessard. Born in Cranbourne, Quebec in 1873, Lessard came to Edmonton in the late 1890s. He worked for Joseph Gariépy, a leading citizen active in the Francophone community, until 1900. In that year Lessard married Joseph's daughter, Hélène, and became his business partner in the firm of Gariépy and Lessard. Later, Lessard struck out on his own in real estate, insurance, loans, and stocks. He was constantly involved in business ventures, like the Great Western Garment Co. Ltd., the Northwest Grain Co. Ltd., and the Northwest Brewing Co. Ltd., to name but a few.

Lessard's public service career began as a school trustee. From 1909 to 1921 he served in the Provincial Legislature as a Liberal, and during WW I he was a captain in the Alberta Rifles. Premier Alexander Rutherford made him a Minister Without Portfolio in his cabinet. In 1922, Lessard was appointed to the Senate in Ottawa.

Lessard was involved in countless political and community groups, from the Young Liberals' Association to the Chamber of Commerce. His interests encompassed the arts, sports, and francophone concerns. With Senator





Car on Victoria Avenue, Lessard Residence at left, c. 1913.  
(GAI NA-1328-64562)

Roy, Lessard founded the weekly Edmonton French newspaper *Le Courier de l'Ouest*. He also promoted French-speaking settlement as president of the *Bureau de la colonisation d'Alberta*. P.E. Lessard was, in short, among the most active and prominent individuals in the early West.

*Continue west.*

W3.

## THE ANNAMOE MANSION

(1914)

11950 - 100 Avenue

The Annamoe Mansion, unlike the grander Lemarchand Mansion, has a principal facade full of windows to take advantage of magnificent river valley views. Despite its more modest scale, the Annamoe has some interesting features. A variety of bricklaying patterns is used

on the front of the three-storey red brick building, creating a textured, two-dimensional effect. White accents the details in the design. Stone provides variety in the brick, and both the window frames and the balconies with their supporting brackets are painted white. The red tile-roofed canopies which span the facade lend a rather Spanish air to this building.

The Annamoe Mansion was named for the town of Annamoe in County Wicklow, Ireland. This was the birthplace of the man who had the apartment building constructed in 1914: Robert Childers Barton.



The Annamoe Mansion c. 1915. (GAI NC-6-2919)

The Annamoe was one of a number of apartment blocks built in the Oliver District before WW I to cater to Edmonton's growing population of white-collar workers. They include the Lemarchand Mansion, the Derwas Court Apartments, the Buena Vista, and the Westminster.

*The Golf Links/Victoria Park vantage point is on the south side of 100 Avenue, across from the Annamoe Mansion.*

W4.

## VICTORIA PARK AND THE GOLF LINKS

(1913)

Viewed from  
100 Avenue between  
119 and 120 Streets

### Victoria Park

After Fort Edmonton was established in 1795, Natives camped here while trading furs. In 1913, the City of Edmonton paid the Hudson's Bay Company \$310,000 for 155 acres in the river valley, including this area. Both a 1907 report by Frederick N. Todd, the landscape architect responsible for the

National Capital Parks System, and a 1912 beautification plan by Minneapolis architects Morrell & Nicholls, had recommended that the City acquire the land to establish a river valley park system.

"City Beautiful" concepts were then popular among urban planners, who were greatly influenced by Frederick Law Olmstead, the landscape architect who designed New York's Central Park and Mount Royal Park in Montreal. Both the Todd, and the Morrell & Nicholls plans drew from these sources.



*Birds-eye view of the Golf Links c. 1920. (GAI NC-6-4901)*

In response to lobbying by prominent Edmonton women, the park's name was changed from Hudson's Bay Park to Victoria Park, in honour of Queen Victoria. The river valley has played an important role in the Oliver District. In the early days, it was used for large public celebrations, and the panoramic views attracted Edmonton's elite. More recently, high-rises overlook the park, and picnic facilities provide an on-site amenity.

### **The Golf Links**

In 1905, Edmonton's first 9-hole golf course was established east of the present links. Construction of the Legislature Building forced its abandonment in 1907, and a new course was laid out in the river valley. The City took over maintenance, and the members-only policy was eliminated. When, in 1912, the City purchased the 9-hole links, it was Canada's first municipal golf course. By 1922, the course was expanded to 18 holes. In 1930, a six-foot coal seam was discovered below the golf course. Fortunately, it was not turned into a mine. By the 1950s, at 27 holes, this was Canada's largest municipal golf course. These extra holes were lost three years later when the Groat Bridge was built.

In its 79 years, the Municipal Golf Links has had three clubhouses and five groundskeepers. Twenty 9-hole games cost \$3.50 in 1919, and \$5.50 in 1950. By the late 1980s a single 9-hole game (during the week) cost \$6.00, but was still available to the general public.

*Follow 121 Street two blocks north.*

W5.

## **DERWAS COURT APARTMENT BUILDING**

*(1913-1914)*

*10146 - 121 Street*

The Derwas Court Apartment Building was planned in 1913 to meet the demand for apartments which had developed in Edmonton's pre-WWI boom economy. Finished a scant two months before the outbreak of war in 1914, it was nonetheless quickly rented. Despite the

income of about \$10,000 per year in rent the property generated by the early 1920s, the owner, Mr. E.D. Baugh, was unable to maintain his financing.



*The Derwas Apartments c. 1917. (GAI NC-6-2908)*

The Derwas was designed by the architect E.C. Hopkins. It has a red brick facade and a rectangular plan. The exterior is restrained, but not devoid architectural details: it features a cornice, contrasting window sills and keystones, and brick pilasters which divide the main facade into five bays. The entrance vestibule, located in the central bay, has set of double doors with a fanlight above, all contained within an arch with a contrasting keystone and voussoirs. On each of the three storeys are four suites, each with a fireplace in the living room, a formal dining room, a balcony, and a single bedroom. The rather small kitchens and bathrooms are illuminated by light shafts.

*Continue north on 121 Street to 102 Avenue and cross to the east side.*



W6.

## THE WEST END TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

(1913)

12019 - 102 Avenue

The West End Telephone Exchange was built in 1913 according to the same design architect Alan Jeffers had drawn up for the North End Telephone Exchange at 10105 - 112 Avenue. The two exchanges were identical, at least on the exterior. Both were rectangular, with a depth at least twice that of their street frontage. Built of brick, and two storeys in height, their most distinctive features were a fanlight in the gable end, and parapets both front and back.



The West Side Exchange c. 1914. (ACD)

The West End Exchange differed from its North Edmonton twin in one significant respect: equipment. The North End Exchange had switches from England, whereas the West End mechanisms came from the Automatic Electric Co. Ltd. of Chicago, Illinois.

The four exchanges comprising the Edmonton Telephone District - the North, West, Central and Southside - were all at or near capacity by 1919 and new lines were desperately needed. By 1921 the Central Exchange was converted to the new two-wire technology, which allowed lines to be switched from the North and West Exchanges.

In 1949 an extension was built onto what was by then known as the Oliver Wire Exchange to meet the ever-expanding need for telephone service. In 1982 the Oliver Exchange equipment was upgraded to digital switching from the old dial equipment. This is particularly

remarkable because it signifies that the Oliver Exchange skipped a couple of technological steps between the dial and digital systems. Today, the digital equipment is housed in the 1949 addition, and the original 1913 building is used for storage.

*Return west on 102 Avenue across 121 Street.*

W7.

## CHRIST CHURCH

(1921)

12116 - 102 Avenue

In 1909, Anglicans from the West End attending downtown churches came to the same conclusion reached by the Presbyterians and the Methodists: it was time to build a church closer to home. The first Christ Church, finally built in 1919, was a plain frame building at 116 Street and

102 Avenue. When it was built, there was more woods than homes in the parish, but soon the West End became more populated, and a larger building was needed. By 1921 two lots at 121 Street and 102 Avenue, the former site of a skating rink, had been purchased.



Christ Church and Christ Church Parish Hall c. 1926. (GAI ND-3-3345)

The pre-WW I land bust, the post-war recession, and the financial problems of congregations which had embarked on ambitious building programs, were a curb on the building plans of the Elders of Christ Church. To economise, the skating clubhouse was converted to a rectory, and architect W.G. Blakey was hired to design a





*Wedding at Christ Church n.d. (PAA B40111)*

relatively modest new church. His partner and brother, R.P. Blakey, designed many of its interior features. The vestry, constructed in 1922, was also a W.G. Blakey design.

Christ Church follows an architectural revival movement which looked to medieval English models for inspiration. This same movement shaped the Robertson Presbyterian and Wesley Methodist Churches, as well as the Oliver School. Unlike these buildings, however, Christ Church is based on rural and domestic models of this architectural style. Humble materials, and a more intimate scale produced a charming and unpretentious parish church.

The church and vestry buildings form a visual unit because their designs relate to and reinforce each other. Both use the same building materials: white stucco with red asphalt tile roofing. They also share architectural forms: both the church and vestry have steeply-pitched roofs with gabled dormers. A bell tower huddles between the apse end of the church, and the jerkinhead-roofed vestry with its oriel window.

Initially, it was not certain that this would be the parish's permanent church "...but the quaint building quickly endeared itself to the hearts of the parishioners". That it was widely popular is demonstrated by W.G. Blakey's 1923 design for the Highlands United Church, which is almost identical to the Oliver church. Christ Church Anglican continues to endear itself to parishioners and Oliver residents alike.

*Go south on 122 Street.*

W8.

## THE 122 STREET RESIDENCES

(1911-1945)

The houses on 122 Street between 101 and 102 Avenues form a streetscape typical in Oliver prior to the first high-rises. They were built in three distinct periods: pre-World War I (1911-1912), pre-Depression (1927-1928), and World War II (1943-1945).

### I. World War II Residences

The four northernmost houses on the east side of 122 Street were constructed in 1943 and 1944. Each is unique, but all share the same vocabulary of the English Cottage Style, part of the English Revival movement early in this century. It attempted to create homes with a "domestic character" using architectural forms and materials such as stucco walls, slate roofs, and imitation half-timbering. Although lacking many of the details which characterised the original movement, these houses have a storybook charm, especially recognizable in number 10149.

### II. The pre-World War I Residences

The first houses on this block were those on the west side. All are one-and-a-half or two storey wood frame structures. Three distinct styles can be seen: 10132 and 10136 are Four Square Style houses; 10124 and 10146, although lacking in Craftsman details, appear influenced by the Bungalow Style; 10126 and 10140 are examples of simple gable-front structures.



*World War II Residences, 1993. (ACD)*

### III. The Pre-Depression Residences

The bungalows on the east side of 122 Street near Jasper Avenue were mostly built in 1927. They follow the same basic design: all have one storey, a rectangular plan, and a gable roof with a gabled front porch. There are variations on that basic configuration: some are faced with horizontal wood siding, one with clinker brick; some have open porches, others are enclosed. The prominent brackets under the eaves are common to all the houses. These bungalows are typical of the more modest homes built during this era.

*Turn west on Jasper Avenue. Go two blocks, and then one block north on 124 Street.*

W9.

## THE BUENA VISTA

(1912)

10133 / 37 / 39 - 124 St.

The Buena Vista is a handsome mixed-use building with street-level store-fronts and apartments on the second and third floors. This building type is popular in densely populated urban areas, but those less subject to population pressures and more oriented to automobile travel, such as Edmonton, have few examples.

Architectural elements express the different roles of the building. Plate glass display windows, signage, and awnings all indicate retail activity. The smaller windows, and the occasional balconet in the upper floors, indicate a residential function. The prominent belt course between



*The Buena Vista at right, 1939. (GAI NC-6-13951d)*

the first and second floors functions as a visual boundary line between the public (shops), and private (suites) portions of the building.

The Buena Vista was designed by the prominent architectural partnership of Magoon & McDonald, who also designed the Wesley Methodist Church (W13). The Buena Vista cost \$24,000 to build, a significant amount in 1912. This cost is reflected in the extensive detailing.

The development of the exclusively residential Glenora subdivision in 1911 prompted the construction of the Buena Vista. Sites close to Glenora which allowed commercial activity were targeted by speculators. One such group was the Riverview Land Company, a six-man partnership which included the Edmonton florist, Walter Ramsay (see E14). It was they who planned and built the Buena Vista as a speculative venture.

In large part, the Buena Vista was successful. It enjoyed almost continuous occupancy: the apartments were popular the clergy from nearby churches, and the main floor was almost continuously occupied as well. The three store-fronts usually included a pharmacy, meat market, and grocery store. Perhaps one of the best-known enterprises was an early P. Burns and Company Meat Market, which was located here for a short time. Painted advertising for the City Grocery No. 2 can still be seen on the south wall of the building.

Despite this measure of success, the Riverview Land Company never realized the profits they had sought. By 1930 the City sold the Buena Vista for non-payment of taxes.

*Go east one block on 102 Avenue to 123 Street.*



W10.

## ROBERTSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(1913)

10203 - 123 Street

In 1909 a collection was taken to build a Presbyterian Church in the West End. Later that year, a white clapboard church was built on 116 Street and named for Reverend James Robertson, the first superintendent of Presbyterian Missions in Western Canada. As the West End

expanded, a larger church was soon needed. Land was purchased and plans for a 1200-seat building were begun. It was then that the Edmonton boom went bust. Only \$31,725 of the estimated \$136,000 cost of the building was raised, and so plans were scaled down. A more modest design used for the Calgary First Baptist Church was purchased and modified.



Robertson Presbyterian Church, n.d. (PAA B3608)

All told, the cost of the land and building came to \$110,386. Even this sum placed the parish under considerable financial strain for the next decade. Not until the 1950s could the parish gather funds for its proposed Sunday school.

Anticipating the merger of Methodist and Presbyterian churches across Canada, Robertson Presbyterian approved a union with Wesley Methodist in 1921. The proposal was declined, but in 1925 the national churches joined to form the United Church of Canada, and the two Oliver United Churches eventually amalgamated in 1970.

The Robertson Church is a fine example of the Gothic Revival Style. Gothic elements include the massing, the architectural forms, and notably, the elaborate and delicate tracery. Built of red brick with contrasting detailing, the church is elegantly proportioned. It has a central gable-roofed hall with a corner bell tower. The entrances are contained within gothic arches, as are the large stained glass windows.

*Go north on 123 Street to 103 Avenue, and then east three blocks. Turn south on 120 Street.*

W11.

## ST. JOHN'S SEPARATE SCHOOL

(1939)

10231 - 120 Street

St. John's Separate School opened in September 1939, having been built that summer at a cost of \$20,000. The design, by architect W.G. Blakey (see W7), was planned with future expansion in mind, and had only four classrooms and a central hall which served as an assembly

room. St. John's was intended to relieve overcrowded grade one through six classes at Grandin School (E11).

The school's flat roof, rounded corners, horizontally-banded windows, and glass block are typical of the Art Moderne Style, which had originated in 1925 at the International Exposition of Decorative Arts in Paris. Inspired by the aesthetic of the Machine Age, its bywords were "efficient", "streamlined", and "aerodynamic". The Moderne Style embraced industrial materials such as chrome, bakelite, glass block, stucco and vitrolite.



*St. John's School, 1988. (ACD)*

In proportion and layout, Moderne buildings followed traditional classical models, but traditional ornament was done away with. Essentially a romantic vision of technology, Moderne was most commonly seen in car dealerships, gas stations, cinemas, and other businesses with futuristic overtones. It made its first appearance in Alberta in the 1930s, travelling quickly to even the smallest towns.

St. John's elementary is no longer active because of the shift from single family houses to high-rises in the Oliver District. This change in housing type both caused, and resulted from, a demographic change from families with young children to singles and childless couples. When St. John's was closed in 1983, only thirty students were registered.

*Turn east on 102 Avenue.*

**W12.**

## **BRICK ROW HOUSES**

*(1922)*

*11801-113 - 102 Avenue*

This seven-unit block of row houses was likely built in 1922, and first occupied in 1923. The initial residents included a teacher from the nearby Oliver School, as well as several salesmen, a clerk, and a real estate agent.

These homes have a decided charm. In size, scale and detailing they are cosy, and cottage-like. The red brick



*Row Houses on 102 Avenue at 118 Street, 1993. (ACD)*

gable-roofed units are arranged in a continuous line, punctuated only by gabled dormers and porches with individual doors. The double-hung windows have multi-paned upper sashes, and a railing runs the length of the row. The detailing is all in white, and the total effect is both modest and dignified.

This is just one of several row house developments in early Edmonton. At least two other such developments were built on 102 Avenue, but this is the best-preserved example. Despite being ideally suited to the urban setting, row houses did not, until recently, become a popular housing type in Edmonton.

*Continue east on 102 Avenue.*

**W13.**

## **WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

*(1912)*

*11715 - 102 Avenue*

In the spring of 1907 a member of the downtown McDougall Methodist Church began a Sunday school for children of fellow West End congregation members in her 115 Street home. This quickly proved too small, and a tent was erected on 116 Street and 100 Avenue. Since it was

convenient for West Enders, services began to be held there as well. With cold weather approaching, a small frame church was built on 114 Street north of Jasper Avenue that fall. Once again, the space was outgrown, and a tent was erected outside for the Sunday school.





Wesley Methodist Church c. 1914. (GAI NC-6-891)

Tired of such solutions, and anticipating continued expansion in the West End, land for a larger permanent Sunday school and Church building was purchased.

In 1912 the architectural firm of Magoon and McDonald (see W9) which had designed the McDougall Church, drew up plans for a Gothic Revival Style church and Sunday school. Revival styles were common in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Gothic Revival Styles were especially popular for churches. Unlike Robertson Presbyterian, this building draws on two stylistic sources - the medieval Gothic Style and the domestic architecture of rural England. The Gothic influence can be seen in the pointed arches, buttresses, and tracery. The domestic influence is seen in the decorated vergeboards and half-timbering. Little remains of the stained glass windows, or the polished brass railings and intricately carved oak trim of the interior.

The building cost \$40,000 and was opened January 27, 1913. It was never intended to be a church. This explains the words "Wesley Sunday School" over the door, and the lack of the bell tower most churches had. The church was to be just to the south, on land that had already been purchased. After 1913 a large church was not a sound financial proposition, especially in light of the decline in population which accompanied the hard economic times. The interior of the Sunday school was adapted to seat 450 on the main floor, and an additional 150 in the balcony.

World War I and the Great Depression put an end to plans for a new church. The merger of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches into the United Church of Canada

in 1925 made the amalgamation of the Wesley and Robertson congregations a foregone conclusion. Though discussions had begun as early as 1908, the two churches finally joined only in 1970, as Robertson-Wesley United, and in 1971 Wesley United Church was sold.

Throughout its history, the Wesley Church had a strong presence in the community. During the 1918 influenza epidemic which swept Edmonton, the basement served as a laundry, with members doing the washing for afflicted families. Noteworthy members of Wesley United Church included the famous Canadian suffragette Nellie McClung, who joined the congregation in 1912 and taught women's bible study classes in the 1920s, and the Muttart family, who made major financial donations to the Church.

*Go north on 117 Street.*

W14.

## OLIVER SCHOOL

(1910-1911)

10210 - 117 Street

The Oliver School was designed by Edmonton Public School Board Building Commissioner, George Turner. Construction started in July 1910, and it opened in March 1911, having cost about \$100,000. The first brick school west of 109 Street, Oliver was a showcase of

the amenities of its day - indoor toilets, electric lights, and a sophisticated ventilation system - incongruously sited next to blocks of bush.

This three storey school is designed in the Collegiate Gothic Style, a revival style used for educational buildings across North America in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It illustrates how revival style names were sometimes more colourful than accurate, since, strictly speaking, the Oliver School has Tudor, not Gothic, sources. Decorative stonework forming quoins, finials atop the three cross-gables, large lintels, and separate Tudor-arched and battlemented boys' and girls' entrances enliven the design. The school's elegance is obscured by a 1957 addition on the east elevation.

Interior spaces were organized in the style of the day: the third floor housed the assembly rooms; the first and



Oliver School c. 1912. (GAINC-6-103)

second were each divided into six classrooms large enough for 50 students; the basement had a girls' playroom, and a boys' playroom with a rifle range.

The Oliver School has a distinguished history. It played a significant role in the development and naming of the Oliver district. It has a reputation for academic excellence and has had a number of noteworthy alumni, including publisher Mel Hurtig, provincial cabinet minister Lou Hyndman, Justice Tevie Miller of the Court of Queen's Bench, and federal cabinet minister Judd Buchanan.

*Return to 102 Avenue and go east to 116 Street.*

W15.

## THE 116 STREET RESIDENCES

(1911-1912)

10187, 10181,  
10177 - 116 Street

The three wood frame houses on 116 Street just south of 102 Avenue bear a strong resemblance one to another. All were built around 1911, and all are two-storey wood frame structures with front porches and hip roofs. Some decorative features - such as insulbrick facing (asphalt

sheeting with a masonry appearance), a truncated hip roof, and an oriel window - set these houses apart, but they are essentially the same. They are typical of the frame houses built in the West End, and throughout Edmonton, during the Edwardian era, which were largely swept away by the building boom in the 1970s.

*Continue east on 102 Avenue, turn south on 115 Street.*



The 116 Street Residences, 1993. (ACD)

W16.

## THE 115 STREET RESIDENCES

(1909-1911)

10153, 10149, 10147,

10145 - 115 Street

The construction of the Lemarchand Mansion and the grand homes of Victoria Avenue developed the Oliver District's reputation as a prestigious address. However, not all homes in Oliver aspired to such luxury. These four houses on 115 Street north of Jasper Avenue illustrate the more common types

of residences to be found in the district in its early years.

With one exception, the houses have largely retained their original appearance. That exception is the Gordon Residence at 10145 - 115 Street, which has been stuccoed, and a stone veneer treatment added around the front entrance, a popular practice in the 1940s and 1950s.



The Frederick Residence, 1993. (ACD)



The residents of these houses have included a carpenter, lumber dealer, broker, teamster, telephone inspector, musician, cafe proprietor, farmer, stenographer, musician, elevator operator, clerk, labourer and a widow. Three of the houses experienced stable long-term occupation, with residents staying up to 30 or 40 years. The Frederick Residence at 10149 - 115 Street is the exception. Built in 1909, it is the oldest of the houses, and is likely the tiniest house in the Oliver District. Given the development pressure in the Oliver District, it is remarkable that the Frederick residence still stands to remind us of Oliver's early days, and of the variety of people who shaped its character.

*To return to the Lemarchand Mansion, turn west on Jasper Avenue and then south on 116 Street.*

E1.

## THE LEMARCHAND MANSION

(1910-1911)

11523-100 Avenue

See entry for the Oliver West Tour, W1.

*Go east on 100 Avenue and turn south at 114 Street.*



The Lemarchand Mansion c. 1914. (CEA EA-270-07)

E2.

## THE WESTMINSTER APARTMENTS

(1912-1913)

9955 - 114 Street

Before World War I Edmonton was the land of opportunity, attracting many new citizens. Housing was in great demand. Western Canada Properties Ltd., a development company from the East, seized the opportunity, and had the Westminster built in 1912.

Opened in 1913, it had cost \$65,000 to construct. There were 24 suites, with a variety of options and sizes: one or two bedrooms, with or without a dining room, ranging in size from 660 to 1200 square feet.

At first the Westminster attracted white-collar workers such as clerks and secretaries, as well as managers,



## Oliver West

- W1. The Lemarchand Mansion
- W2. The Lessard Mansion
- W3. The Annamoe Apartments
- W4. The Golf Links/Victoria Park
- W5. The Derwas Apartments
- W6. The West End Telephone Exchange
- W7. Christ Church
- W8. The 122 Street Houses
- W9. The Buena Vista
- W10. Robertson Presbyterian Church
- W11. St. John's Separate School
- W12. The 102 Avenue Row Houses
- W13. Wesley Methodist Church
- W14. Oliver School
- W15. The 116th Street Houses
- W16. The 115 Street Residences

## Oliver East

- E1. The Lemarchand Mansion
- E2. The Westminster Apartments
- E3. The Hugh W. Campbell Residence
- E4. Dubuc Park
- E5. The Kirkhaven
- E6. North Side 99 Avenue Homes
- E7. The Mountafield
- E8. The Misericordia Hospital
- E9. The Hill Houses
- E10. The High Level Bridge
- E11. Grandin School
- E12. The Oblate Provincial House
- E13. St. Joachim Church
- E14. The Ramsay Greenhouses
- E15. The Edmonton General Hospital
- E16. St. Joseph's Cathedral
- E17. Victoria Avenue Houses
- E18. The Dubuc Residence





*The Westminster Apartments c. 1914. (GAI NC-6-816)*

barristers and accountants. By the 1930s, single and widowed women occupied half the suites and today, the building is popular with young professionals and students. Standard blueprints were likely the design source for the Westminster. The building is an L-shaped three-storey structure faced in red brick. Two types of facade treatment are used: wire-cut brick on the street elevations, and utility brick on the rear of the building. Detailing includes projecting brick header courses, used to create pattern and texture on the two primary facades; corbelling which encircles the building just underneath the cornice; belt courses used to separate storeys; and horizontal banding, used on the first storey facades to define window sills and decorative shapes. The Westminster also has glazed porcelain tiles decorating the street elevations, and glazed-surface pendants and tiles on the corners of the building. The entrance is distinguished by a tudor arch transom light, flanked by two globe lights, and double oak doors. A decorated metal cornice completes the building.

*Continue south on 114 Street.*

E3.

## THE HUGH W. CAMPBELL RESIDENCE

(1909)

9934 - 114 Street

Hugh W. Campbell was the first resident and owner of this home. He was an entrepreneur during Edmonton's great land boom, and the rise and fall of his business mirrors those of his fellow capitalists. A clerk in 1899 at McIntosh and Whitelaw Furniture and Undertakers, by 1907

he was the head of Campbell's Furniture Company.

By 1908 his store had grown to occupy 25,000 square feet of the elegant Empire Building on Jasper Avenue, a "...twentieth century mammoth furniture emporium ... that is not equalled, much less surpassed, anywhere in the West". By 1914 Campbell's Furniture Company was no more. The "Campbell Furniture Company" was soon eclipsed by Thomas Campbell's "Campbell's Furniture Exchange", which was established in 1916 and is still in operation across the province under the name "Campbell's Home Furnishings".



*The Hugh W. Campbell Residence, 1993. (ACD)*

This modest two storey house was built in 1909. It is a generously-sized frame building with a hip roof and an offset gable containing an attic window. The exterior is white clapboard siding; the only decorative features are wooden shutters alongside the second storey windows, and a pair of pilasters that frame the front door.

*Continue south.*

E4.

## DUBUC PARK

(1934)

114 Street

Judge Lucien Dubuc (see W17), who was passionately interested in gardening, created this small public park on the crest of the river valley, overlooking Victoria Park and the Golf Links, in 1934.

Today the hundred or so elms and evergreens, the many berry bushes, and the

thousands of bulbs and perennials he had planted on the reinforced slope have naturalized, and only a faint trace of the park remains.

The following newspaper article from 1938 describes Dubuc park in its heyday:

*Steps that turn in a variety of directions, flanked by curbing and narrow flower beds, lead down the slope and terminate in a rustic arch suggestive of the bridges in Japanese gardens. All the stone, iron and material used has been acquired gradually as discovered. There are beautifully marked boulders...dressed stone from old buildings, iron piping, grating and arch supports set up on terraces of fieldstone yield a variety of vista whichever way the eye turns; while from the crest, where rustic seats, tables, a bird bath and such abound, is an uninterrupted view of the river and valley.*

Please do not leave the public roadway - the slope down to the park is extremely steep and hazardous! The park may be viewed either from the road, or the park walkway below.

*Go east one block on 99 Avenue.*

E5.

## THE KIRKHAVEN

(1907)

11229 - 99 Avenue

The Kirkhaven (1907) and its neighbour to the east, the Findlay Residence (1910), are two of the earliest residential structures in the district.

The Kirkhaven is a typical Edwardian wood frame house with two storeys, an



*Horse-drawn buggy in front of The Kirkhaven c. 1914. (GAI NC-6-1286)*



*The Kirkhaven (right) and the Findlay Residence (second from right), c. 1913. (PAA B5001)*

offset gable dormer, shutters and clapboard siding. On the exterior, it is practically identical to the Hugh W. Campbell Residence (E3). The few differences in appearance result from additions made when the house was converted into apartment suites.

The conversion of larger homes in the Oliver District became common practice in the 1940s and '50s, when the North American trend toward suburban development created a mass exodus of families from the inner city. Subsequently, these urban communities were altered to appeal to single people or couples seeking the lower cost and lower maintenance afforded by apartments.



E6.

## NORTH SIDE 99 AVENUE HOMES

(1907)

11212, 11210/11208,  
11204/11202 - 99 Avenue

Although the five residences on the north side of 99 Avenue between 112 and 113 Streets have been altered over the years, they retain much of their original similarity. All are brick, two storey, and have a two-storey bow window topped by an off-centre gable with an inset fanlight, and a second storey balcony

above a first floor porch. Detailing is restrained, largely limited to the stone window sills and brackets under the eaves and verges. Four of the homes are semi-detached, and one is a single family home.



*The Rankine/Hume Residence, 1993. (ACD)*

The North Side 99 Avenue residences once stood on a single parcel which was divided in 1907. They were all built in that year, making them among the earliest in the district.

*Turn south on 112 Street.*

E7.

## THE MOUNTAFIELD

(1905)

9850 - 112 Street

The Mountafield was built and named for Henry Mountafield, a man who led an uncommonly cosmopolitan existence. Born in England in 1867, he graduated from Portsmouth Naval Academy, and obtained a Master's Degree from the London School of Arts. He

spent the next eight years in Japan, then still largely closed to foreigners and cloaked in mystery. His next stop was the Yukon's Klondike Gold Rush.



*The Mountafield (right), c. 1910. (PAA B5006)*

After five years in the north, Mountafield moved to Edmonton, where he was appointed City Auditor in 1905, and later became involved in real estate. He enlisted during World War I, serving with the 19th Alberta Dragoons. A leading cricketer, several of Mountafield's nine children also distinguished themselves in sports. H.R. Mountafield died at the age of 71 in July, 1938.

The Mountafield was one of the first houses to be built in the district. Designed by architect in V.E. Wize in 1905, the home cost \$2,550. It has a number of unusual original features, the most distinctive of which are a mansard roof, common in eastern Canada - especially Quebec - but quite rare in the West, a four-columned front porch, and an unusual centre window on the second floor topped by a pediment dormer with a fanlight.

*Cross to the east side of 112 Street. Continue south on 112 Street and then go east into the Eric Cormack Centre.*

E8.

## THE MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL

(1905-1969)

111 Street between  
98 and 99 Avenues

Little remains of the original Misericordia Hospital. The main body of the hospital that once connected the remaining scattered buildings was demolished in 1972.

The original building was a very handsome example of Second Empire Style architecture. The French

influence was unmistakable in the galvanized metal mansard roof and decorative iron cresting. Asymmetrical, the building hinted the direction of further expansions.



*The Misericordia Hospital c. 1906. (PAA OB559)*

Harmonious additions, made in 1922 and 1939 by architect Edward Underwood, resulted in a long symmetrical building with two identical wings flanking a four-storey central tower. The last additions, designed by the architectural firm of Rule Wynn and Rule in 1940 and 1952, contrasted sharply to Underwood's. Although of brick, neither their shape, size, windows, or decorative detailing fit the established pattern and symmetry of the previous structures. Unlike the earlier additions, which aesthetically completed the original building, the Rule Wynn and Rule additions constituted essentially separate structures.

In 1961 the hospital board purchased land for a new, larger, hospital and by 1969 the old building was abandoned.



*The Misericordia Hospital, n.d. (PAA OB560)*

Once an integral element of the French community centred around the parish of St. Joachim, the Misericordia Hospital was the result of negotiations between the St. Albert Diocese and the General Council of Misericordia Sisters in Montreal. Unlike the Grey Nuns, the Sisters of the Miséricorde had not come to establish a general hospital, but rather, a "Refuge for the Unfortunate, Maternity Hospital and Orphan Home". The provision of obstetrical care was always the prime focus, despite later expansions into general medical services.

A School of Nursing, opened in 1907, became the major source of labour for the hospital: in 1923, with 175 beds, there was a staff of 21 sisters, 6 graduate nurses, 1 druggist, 17 maids, 12 male employees, and 74 student nurses. The students were paid according to their seniority: \$5, \$6, or \$7 per month respectively for first, second, or third year. They worked twelve hour shifts, the day shift being 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and had a half day off each week. Room and board was provided, but students paid for uniforms, medicines and books. The little free time left from ward duties was occupied by lectures. In the 1930s the pay scale, already meagre at less than half of what comparable institutions were paying, was rolled back by one dollar per month for all students. On April 1, 1933 there was a brief strike by student nurses from 7:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. to protest their work conditions. Requests included late leave four nights per month, and a one hour break during their twelve hour shift. The administration threatened to replace the students with graduate nurses, and did not meet either demand.



Student nurses found a variety of ways to cope with their demanding lifestyle. One of the more colourful was to sneak out to go dancing, escaping via a tunnel connected to the power plant, and returning in the wee hours of the morning. Today the power plant is all that is left of this tale.

*Continue through the grounds of the Eric Cormack Centre to the corner of 98 Ave. and 111 Street. Go south on 111 St.*

E9.

## THE HILL HOUSES

(1909-1910)

9720, 9716, and  
9712 - 111 Street

Known locally as the Hill Houses, the three houses located on the crest of the hill at 97 Avenue and 111 Street have been landmarks since Oliver's earliest days. These three "sisters" now appear merely similar; originally they were identical. Each features a two-and-a-half storey

facade, with an offset attic gable and a truncated hip roof. Although hidden by veneer or siding, all are clad in red brick with contrasting stone string courses, sills and lintels. The verticality of their design has been obscured, as have the open porches and second storey balconies that once defined the front entrances.



*The Hill Houses. (CEA EA-246-64)*

The first, and most interesting of the three is the Mackay Residence, at 9720. It was owned for 41 years by the pioneering Mackay family: first Mrs. Jane Mackay, and then Miss Ethel Mackay. Dr. Mackay, Jane's husband, lead a remarkable life as one of the Canadian West's first



*Dr. and Mrs. Mackay and their children at Fort Chipewyan c. 1890's. (PAA B6988)*

permanent doctors. Born in Scotland in 1836, W.M. Mackay became a doctor in 1859, and was hired by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1864. A medical pioneer as well, he was taught by modern medicine's founders: James Lister, who revolutionized surgical survival rates with the discovery of antiseptics; and Sir James Y. Simpson, who discovered the use of chloroform anaesthesia.

Dr. Mackay's obituary stated that "he occupies a worthy place in the pages of history among that noble band of adventurers who helped to place the west on the map". For many years he travelled from Fort to Fort, between Hudson's Bay and the Rocky Mountains, going wherever he was needed most. It was a life full of hardship and privation, demanding great courage, personal sacrifice, and the ability to improvise under difficult circumstances. His experiences are the stuff of which legends are made. Indeed, there is an extraordinary story that Dr. Mackay once skated 200 miles, from Grouard to Edmonton, in order to handle a medical emergency on home-made skates made from hardwood blocks and metal files.

His wife Jane, who served as nurse, helpmate, and mother to their eight children, lived through it all. She was born Jane Flett at Pierre House, a Hudson's Bay Company post, the daughter of James Flett, chief factor at Fort MacPherson, and his Native wife. It was common practice for European fur traders to take Native wives, for not only were European women scarce in the North West, but Native women could better face the challenges and hardships of such a life, and provided a bridge between European and Native populations. Jane married William Mackay in 1874, at the age of 17, 21 years his junior.

After a lifetime in the north, Dr. and Mrs. Mackay finally settled in Edmonton with their family in 1898. Their house stood near McKay Avenue School, which was named in Dr. Mackay's honour. Dr. Mackay died in February 1917 at age 80, and Jane Mackay in 1947 at age 89. Though their deaths mark the end of the pioneering era, the pioneering line continued. Before Jane Mackay died, her great-granddaughter was born, the product of four generations of Mackays and McDougalls, two of the great pioneering families of the Canadian West. Few could equal such a pedigree in the 1940s.

*View the next site from 97 Avenue, or go south into the park towards the bridge.*

E10.

## THE HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE

(1910-1913)

109 Street

The High Level Bridge links Edmonton, and the Legislature, with Strathcona, and the University of Alberta. It is also "mile zero" of the Alaska Highway, the physical and psychological link between the "Great North" and the "Lands of the South".



*The High Level Bridge under construction c. 1910. (CEA EA-13-1)*

At 2800 feet in length and 156 feet in height, the High Level Bridge is second in size in Alberta only to the Lethbridge High Level Bridge. Men worked on it, day and night, from August 1910 until September 1913. The final cost was approximately \$2,000,000 and three workmen's lives. On the third of October, 1912, fifty steelworkers walked off the job. Their demands included



*U.S. Military Police Alaska Highway patrol, 1943. (PAA B1456/1)*

a 9-as opposed to 10 - hour working day at 50 cents per hour, a raise of a nickel. The strike was brief, and no records could be found as to whether or not their demands were met.

At the time it was built, the High Level Bridge was unique in the West for the variety of traffic it carried: it accommodated rail traffic on the upper deck, and two-way traffic with streetcars and automobiles below. In 1980, it was made one-way southbound for automobiles. The City contemplated painting the bridge gold in 1967 in honour of Canada's Centennial. In 1980 pumps, piping, and sprinklers were installed on the east side of the bridge to form a huge waterfall. They are occasionally turned on in the summer, and every year on July 1 for Canada Day celebrations.

*Go north on 110 Street, continuing just past 98 Avenue.*

E11.

## GRANDIN SCHOOL

(1914)

9844 - 110 Street

Grandin School is another reminder of the strong French community in the parish of St. Joachim. Nuns of the *Fidèles Compagnes de Jésus* order arrived in October 1888 to teach and found a convent. The first classes were conducted in their convent, with fifty to sixty students taught by two

sisters. With Edmonton growing, the facilities were soon inadequate. Bishop Grandin donated six lots, school trustees acquired another five, and after one year of





*Grandin School n.d. (PAA OB575)*

contruction, Grandin School opened in time for the 1915 school year. Still staffed by Sisters from the convent, instruction was provided in both English and French. Originally an elementary and junior high school, Grandin is now an elementary French immersion school.

The two storey brick building is sober and symmetrical in its styling. The front is faced with pressed red brick, and is remarkable for the almost continuous row of windows on each storey. Contrasting stone is used for lintels and sills, as well as for belt courses. Raised brick provides textural and decorative detailing, being used to create horizontally-banded pilasters and decorative detailing between the first and second storeys. An impressive entrance reached by a handsome set of stairs is topped with a balcony and parapet with a flagpole. The original ten classrooms were added to in 1954 and 1962.

*Continue north past 99 Avenue on 110 Street.*

E12.

## THE OBLATE PROVINCIAL HOUSE

(1935)

9916 - 110 Street

The *Maison Provinciale* is located directly south of the Church of St. Joachim, a site which early photographs indicate had once been used as a graveyard. The proximity of the Oblate Provincial House to the church illustrates the ties between the Order and the parish. The Oblates were

given the land by the Diocese in 1927 on the condition that they finance the building themselves, and that Lit



*The Oblate Provincial House, flanked by the Convent (left) and St. Joachim (right) c. 1937. (PAA OB618)*

provide accommodation for the St. Joachim clergy, since the parish Rectory had previously been converted into the diocesan Grand Seminary.

The Provincial House is a three storey red brick building of classical, rather sober, styling. Most prominent are a hexagonal cupola with a large cross finial and a pedimented entrance porch consisting of an arch with accented voussoirs and two globe lights. Arches with keystones are repeated on the main floor above the windows, and a belt course defines the first storey and continues the line of the entrance pediment.

The Oblate Provincial House and the St. Joachim Church are all that remain of the original "Mission Block" buildings. The Rectory and the Convent of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, built in the late 1890s, were both demolished in the late 1970s. The group had been an eloquent testimony to the strength of the French-Canadian presence in early Edmonton.

E13.

## ST. JOACHIM'S CHURCH

(1898-1899)

9928 - 110 Street

The current Church of St. Joachim is the fourth Edmonton building to bear that name. The first was a house-chapel built in Fort Edmonton in 1859. The second, a frame church near Stony Plain Road that stood between 1876 and 1886, was replaced by a wooden church

erected on the same lot as the current church.



St. Joachim Church (right) with Rectory c. 1927. (GAI ND-3-3507a)

By 1896 it was clear that the third building was too small for its growing congregation, and so the handsome sum of \$16,000 was collected from subscriptions, bazaars, and donations, and by 1898 construction was under way. The first services in the new church were held December 8, 1899.

The subsequent economic boom in Edmonton again increased the size of the parish congregation. By 1910 the 500 seat church was again too small. A large influx of English-speaking parishioners led to the creation of the parish of St. Joseph in 1917. Both congregations continued to worship at St. Joachim's until 1925, when the English group moved to the newly-completed crypt of St. Joseph's Cathedral (E17).

St. Joachim's was founded by the Order of *les Oblats de Marie Immaculée* (O.M.I.), a Quebec-based religious order, and so it not surprising that the building is very similar in style to 19th century Quebec churches. The most distinctly French-Canadian features are the galvanized metal roof of the brick building, the three-towered facade, and *œil de boeuf* window (literally, a bull's eye window). Arches are decorated with prominent keystones and voussoirs. The interior is richly finished with carved wood and Italian marble and plaster altars.

*Go north to 99 Avenue, then west to 111 Street.*

E14.

## THE RAMSAY GREENHOUSES

(1905-1944)

100 Avenue & 111 Street

From 1905 until 1944 the northeast corner of this intersection was occupied by the Ramsay Greenhouses. The first in the province, they were an Edmonton landmark and, until 1920, were the largest greenhouses in western Canada. Eventually ten greenhouses, with over 40,000 square

feet of glass and three miles of steam pipes, covered an entire acre.

Walter Ramsay created a demand for greenhouse flowers such as roses, carnations, and lilies, where there had been none before. He introduced the concept of using out-of-season hothouse flowers to Alberta, carving a niche for himself and all subsequent florists. The ambitious enterprise supplied cut flowers, house plants, garden plants and shrubs, and included a downtown outlet.



Ramsay's Greenhouses c. 1910. (GAI NC-6-902)

Walter Ramsay was born near London, Ontario, in 1870 and moved to Alberta in 1899. A teacher, he served as principal of the McKay Avenue and Queen's Avenue schools. Hobby gardening sparked Ramsay's greenhouse business, which by 1905 had grown to the extent that he was able to resign from teaching. Ramsay continued to be interested in education however, serving as the Chairman of the Edmonton School Board for two terms. The Ramsay Greenhouses were demolished in 1944.

*Go north on 111 Street to Jasper Avenue.*



E15.

## THE EDMONTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

(1895 - Present)

11111 Jasper Avenue

In 1894 Edmonton's pioneer surgeons petitioned the Sisters of Charity (the Grey Nuns) to come and establish Edmonton's first hospital. The Montreal head office assigned Sisters Marie Xavier and Gosellin the task, and by July 1895 the hospital was built, and they were ministering to Edmonton's sick.

The first Edmonton General Hospital faced south on Victoria Avenue, had 36 beds, and was described as "the largest, most substantial and most costly building in Edmonton." It was a handsome three storey brick structure with sun porches in each corner, a hip roof capped by a belfry, and hip dormers on each of the four sides. Decorative detailing included corbelling, string courses, and voussoirs over the windows. The total cost, in 1895, was a staggering \$30,000.



*The Edmonton General Hospital c. 1895. (PAA B3796)*

Edmonton continued growing, and the hospital right along with it. Pictures taken in 1910 show a harmonious - but not identical - brick three storey addition more than double the size of the first building. The addition was opened on June 24, St. Jean Baptiste Day, 1908, and was the design of the architect J.A. Senecal of Winnipeg and R. Percy Barnes of Edmonton. In 1928 a 200-bed wing was added to the structure. Five major expansion programs have since followed, obliterating all traces of



*The Edmonton General Hospital c. 1910. (CEA EA-1-46)*

the earliest buildings. By 1957 only a few of the original 1895 walls remained, and even these had been extensively remodelled. This, the first hospital in Edmonton, is an institution which continues to change in response to the needs of the city.

*Go west on Jasper Avenue to 113 Street.*

E16.

## ST. JOSEPH'S BASILICA

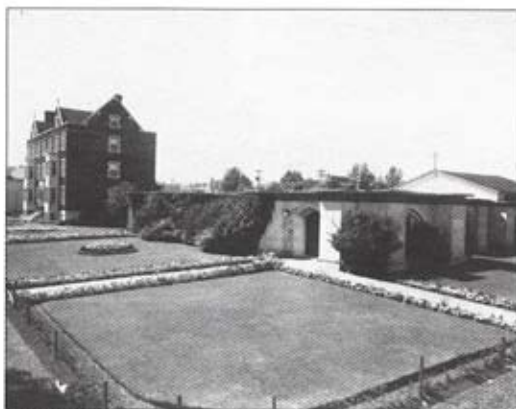
(1924-1963)

10044 - 113 Street

Although Roman Catholic Archbishop Emile Légal formed the parish of St. Joseph in 1917, services for the English-speaking congregation continued to be held at St. Joachim's (E13) until 1925. Construction of St. Joseph's was not completed until 1963. This long delay was due to

faltering prosperity, with first the post-WWI recession, and then the Great Depression. Despite designation in 1917 as Edmonton's Cathedral parish, construction only proceeded in 1924 after a fundraising campaign spearheaded by the parish of St. Joachim. By 1925 the crypt church was finished, and services held, but there were no funds to build the church superstructure designed by Edward Underwood. In 1961, Montreal architect Henri Labelle and his Edmonton associate Eugene Olesky developed the final design for the cathedral.

St. Joseph's Cathedral was designated a basilica, a church of a higher order, in recognition of the Pope's 1984 visit - the first Roman Catholic Church west of Manitoba



*St. Joseph's Cathedral Crypt Church (Rectory at left), c. 1940.  
(GA1 ND-3-8574)*



*St. Joseph's Cathedral c. 1965. (CEA EA-10-532)*

granted such an honour. "Basilica" is also the architectural term for a building type used in ancient Greece and Rome which was later adopted by early Christians for their churches.

St. Joseph's is a large building in keeping with its stature as the church of the Archbishop. It is 142 feet wide, 265 feet long and 90 feet high, and seats up to 1229 people. Tyndall stone is used for the exterior, and a synthetic stone is used for the interior in order to subdue sounds. The exterior is a contemporary interpretation of medieval Gothic architecture, while the form and simplicity of the interior betrays the influence of earlier Christian basilicas.

*Go south one block to 100 Avenue.*

E17.

## THE DUBUC RESIDENCE

(1912)

11302 - 100 Avenue

The two storey red brick Dubuc Residence was the home of Judge Lucien Dubuc from 1912 until 1956. Built by a Belgian contractor, it features solid masonry construction two bricks deep. The home has a second storey balcony and bow window, an attic dormer, and bracketed soffits. Neither the shingled enclosure surrounding the front porch, the awning, or front steps are original. Despite these later changes, the essence of the early home can still be glimpsed.



*Victoria (100) Avenue, looking west from 113 Street, c. 1910.  
Dubuc Residence at far right. (PAA B4973)*

Lucien Dubuc, son of Manitoba Chief Justice Sir Joseph Dubuc, came to Edmonton to practice law in 1900. By 1920 he was appointed to the district court bench, the beginning of a judiciary career which culminated in his appointment as Chief Justice of Northern Alberta. In 1924 he became the first judge in Alberta to allow proceedings in French.

Lucien Dubuc's father-in-law, a prominent Montreal businessman, was director of the University of Montreal, Notre Dame Hospital, the Provincial Bank of Canada, Crédit Foncier, and the National Gallery in Ottawa. Dubuc was similarly active in community affairs: among other things, he was a member of the University of Alberta Board of Governors, became involved with the Edmonton Museum of Arts, and assisted in the



acquisition of artifacts for the University of Alberta collection. He died at St. Joseph's Hospital in March 1956 at the age of 78.

*Go east on 100 Avenue as far as the alleyway, then return west on 100 Avenue.*

E18.

## VICTORIA AVENUE RESIDENCES

(1907 - 1913)

11215, 11219, 11223,  
and 11229 - 100 Avenue

These four homes illustrate the large and elegant homes once found on 100, formerly Victoria, Avenue. The residents have included doctors, lawyers, bankers, and managers. Each house has had long-term residents, indicating a stable neighbourhood.

The Charles Barry Residence (11215) was built in 1912-13, and is Tudor Revival in styling. The exterior is stucco, with woodwork resembling half-timbering in the apex of the two-storey gable which dominates the front facade, whose visual weight is reinforced by two bow windows on either side. Additional tudor detailing is provided by the multi-pane windows in the front door, the upper sashes of the bow windows, and other smaller sashes.

Originally part of a single parcel, the three most westerly homes were likely built by William Allen in 1907-08, who also divided the lots. The houses all bear an unmistakable resemblance to one another; all are wood frame, two-storey Four Square structures, with a hip roof and dormer. Each has a front porch, as well as the same type of siding and distinctive brackets on the soffits of the overhanging eaves.

The Weinlos/Friedman Residence at 11219 - 100 Avenue was bought in 1926 by Eisig (Isaac) and Lea Weinlos. It remained in their family until 1982, some 56 years later. Their five children, as well as their numerous grandchildren, have distinguished themselves through their community service. Their son Morris became Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff at the Misericordia Hospital, and established the still-extant Weinlos Clinic. Son Harry became a senior surgeon at the Misericordia and also opened a clinic. In addition to serving as an alderman for



*The Weinlos/Friedman Residence, 1993. (ACD)*

four terms, Morris served on the board, or was president, of many organizations, including the Edmonton Exhibition, the Police Commission, the Edmonton Symphony (he was a founding member of the Opera Society), the John Howard Society, and the United Way, as well as the Beth Israel Synagogue, to name but a few. Harry was given an achievement award for humanitarian service by the Province of Alberta and an Outstanding Citizenship Award from the Junior Chamber of Commerce. In 1976 the city named a section of a Millwoods subdivision in honour of Harry and Morris Weinlos, and today a school also bears their name.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Sisters of Charity Convent at 11229 - 100 Avenue also has a claim to fame. Briefly, between 1915 and 1918, it was the home of Robert and Nellie McClung, a famous early women's rights activist. She was also involved in the temperance movement, sat as a Liberal MLA from 1921 to 1926, taught, was a published author, served as a Canadian representative to the League of Nations, and was the first woman to sit on the board of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

*To return to the Lemarchand Mansion, go west on 100 Avenue to 116 Street.*

## GLOSSARY

### *basilica*

an oblong building with an apse at one end and two parallel rows of columns dividing the main hall into a wide central space, or nave, with two narrow spaces, or aisles, on each side.

### *Beaux-Arts Style*

a classically-inspired style originating at the *Ecole des Beaux Arts* in Paris, France. Monumental in scale and formal in design, this style was particularly suited to and popular for government and bank buildings.

### *bellcast*

eaves which flare outwards in a bell shape.

### *bungalow*

a one-storey house, or a multi-storey house with a roof sloping towards the front and back, with a large overhang creating a verandah at the front.

### *Classical Revival Style*

a style inspired by ancient Greek and Roman buildings. It is characterized by form and symmetry, and uses elements such as columns and pilasters.

### *Collegiate Gothic Style*

a style popular for educational buildings in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It was based on the tradition of medieval English colleges such as Oxford and Cambridge.

### *corbelling*

a projection or series of stepped projections in masonry or brick built out from a wall to support the eaves of a roof or some other feature.

### *cornice*

a projecting decorative band at the top of a building. Can be of wood, stone, plaster or pressed metal.

### *dentils*

a series of tooth-like blocks found below a cornice.

### *finial*

an ornament which is situated at the top of a roof gable, spire, etc.

### *Four Square Style*

a house with cubic proportions, a pyramidal roof and classically-inspired details.

### *frieze*

the decorated band along the upper part of a wall, immediately below the cornice.

### *Gothic Revival Style*

a style based on the building forms of the Middle Ages in Western Europe, often recognized by the use of pointed Gothic arches.

### *hipped roof*

a roof which slopes in four directions.

### *jerkinhead roof*

a roof in which the end of a gable roof is cut off by a secondary slope forming a hip.

### *keystone*

the wedge-shaped stone at the top of an arch, sometimes enlarged for decorative purposes.

### *mansard roof*

a double-sloped roof. The upper slope has a low pitch, while the lower is steeply pitched.

### *oriel window*

a window projecting from an upper storey.

### *parapet*

a low wall at the edge of a roof.

### *pediment*

the triangular end of a gable roof, or a triangular element resembling it.

### *pilaster*

a pier or pillar projecting slightly from a wall.

### *portico*

a roof supported by columns, usually attached to a building like a porch.

### *Queen Anne Style*

an eclectic late-Victorian style with varied rooflines, rich detailing, and generally vertical proportions.



### *quoins*

enlarged stones at the corners of a building for decoration or reinforcement.

### *Second Empire Style*

a style originating in France in the late 19th century. Mansard roofs are a characteristic feature.

### *string course*

a horizontal band of stone or brick which encircles a building.

### *tracery*

a pattern of interlacing ribs in the upper part of a Gothic window.

### *Tudor Revival Style*

a style of architecture characterized by half-timbering, flattened (pointed) Gothic arches, shallow mouldings and extensive panelling.

### *tyndall stone*

a type of limestone from Tyndall, Manitoba.

### *verge board*

a board, often decorated, on the projecting ends of a gable roof.

### *voussoirs*

the wedge-shaped stones or bricks composing an arch.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

### **Alberta Community Development**

Historic Sites and Archives Service

8820 - 112 Street

Edmonton, Alberta

T6G 2P8

Telephone: 431-2300

### **S.P.A.R.E.**

8331 - 104 Street

Edmonton, Alberta

T6E 4E9

Telephone: 439-2797

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## PRODUCTION CREDITS

### **Dorothy Field**

Project Coordination  
Production Supervision  
Editing

### **Monika Dankova**

Writing  
Research

### **Judy Larmour**

Research

### **David Leonard**

Research

### **Judy Armstrong**

Graphic Design

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