



RICHARD FOOTE RESIDENCE 9704 - 106 STREET

Description of Historic Place

The Foote Residence is a two and a half storey brick-clad Edwardian-era version of a Four-square building. It is located on the north side of 97 Avenue on 106 Street, just to the east of the grounds of the Alberta Legislature.

Heritage Value

The Foote Residence is valued for its association with an early Edmonton builder and architect, Richard E. Foote. Foote was representative of many people important in the early era of the construction industry. With Nathaniel Purcell, he owned a substantial contracting business and eventually designed and built important structures such as Edmonton's first Civic Block. He served on City Council and worked for the City Architect's Department later in his life. The house was his residence in 1907, and then from 1911 until 1916.

The Foote Residence is also significant as an excellent elaborate example of the Four-square style, which became popular during the Edwardian era. Derived from American Colonial and Classical Revival architecture, it was typified by the use of symmetry and classical detailing.

The Foote Residence is also significant as a symbol of the social change occurring in Edmonton after the turn of the century. The residence's grand proportions and attention to detail befits the entrepreneurial and professional



classes, which emerged rapidly after the city was confirmed as Provincial Capital in 1906. Its location, facing the river flats where working-class neighbourhoods were established previous to its construction, provided an anchor to the up-scale neighbourhood that developed in proximity to the nearby Legislature grounds.

The Foote Residence is also significant for some of its tenants, who illustrate the range of middle class and professional individuals who shaped Edmonton in the years following the rapid economic and political change of the period immediately after 1900. They included one of the earliest important scientists and civil servants in Alberta, Dr. Daniel G. Revell, Provincial bacteriologist, who resided here from 1908 to 1910 and was involved in teaching, research, criminal investigations and medical practice and study throughout his life. John McLaren, business manager for the Edmonton Journal, lived here in 1917, and is another such prominent individual associated with this aspect of community growth.

Character Defining Element

Character defining features of the Four-square style are key elements of the character of the Foote Residence and include its:

- form and massing;
- hipped with flat top, metal-clad, bellcast roof;
- projecting two-storey square bay at the front with gabled roof;
- brick cladding with rusticated concrete work on the ground floor;
- open full-width front verandah with pediment over entry;
- decorative cornice on verandah;
- corbelled chimneys;
- double-hung wooden-sash windows with pointed arch muntins in upper sashes;
- curved two storey bay window on the south façade;
- scroll-cut eave brackets.

