



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

Oliver is an older inner city neighbourhood, located immediately west of downtown, and bordered to the south by the River Valley and to the west by 124 Street. It was once known as Edmonton's "West End," but was renamed in the 1950s after pioneer citizen Frank Oliver.

Development in Oliver began during the 1880s when several institutional structures were built. The General Hospital and the original Misericordia Hospital were joined by numerous churches, several schools and a cloister. Residential development was firmly in place prior to World War I with infill or remnant parcels occurring in the 1930s. At the time, the southern and western portions of Oliver formed one of Edmonton's more fashionable residential areas with many large homes and tree lined boulevards. Smaller, less ornate homes were built on infill sites, but primarily in the northern portion of Oliver.

Although most of the early development was single-detached homes, the neighbourhood was also the location of several apartments. During the late 1950s, Edmonton was in the midst of a sustained period of growth and the demand for dwelling units of all types increased. Oliver, close to Edmonton's downtown and its burgeoning supply of jobs, became an attractive area for apartment redevelopment and many of the original single-detached homes were replaced. Today, Oliver has become a densely populated neighbourhood with a strong commercial element threaded throughout.