



CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

METALS BUILDING

10190 - 104 STREET NW

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Metals Building is a rectangular three storey brick rectangular warehouse with a distinctive chamfered entrance façade located on a rectangular corner lot in the heart of the pre-WWI warehouse district.

HERITAGE VALUE

This warehouse, built in 1914 to house a plumbing wholesale supply business, is important as a representative of Edmonton's emerging role as "gateway to the north" and pre-WWI era economic boom. It is equally significant for its association with leading entrepreneurs of that era including owner William Roper Hull, an industrialist, real estate, and meat packing entrepreneur who established the Gurney Standard Metal Company Limited in 1910 which later became Metals Ltd. The Metals Ltd. Boards of Directors included A. E. Cross, James Loughheed, and R. B. Bennet, all prominent in Alberta's business and public life. Metals Ltd. and its successor companies occupied the building until 1954.



The Metals Building was designed by Magoon and MacDonald, a well known Edmonton architectural firm, who also designed Old St. Stephens College, McDougall Methodist Church, and the Public Library. Designs by Herbert Alton Magoon (1863-1941) were influenced by his Chicago architectural training. George Heath MacDonald (1883-1961) worked originally as a draftsman for Magoon and later returned to school and qualified as an architect and Magoon's partner.

The Metals Building displays the competent design approach of Magoon and MacDonald including balanced chamfered entrance way with tripartite second and third-floor windows, cast stone belt coursing, regular patterns of bays and windows, and functional expression of façade for stairways and utility rooms.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Magoon and MacDonald's design approach may be characterized by character defining elements such as:

- + the form, scale and massing of the building;
- + chamfered façade entrance with pairs of double hung windows on the second and third levels;
- + strong solid base plinth with cast stone sill course banding at first floor;
- + the rhythm of windows in the recessed bays between brick pilasters;
- + corbelled brick dentils and metal cornice;
- + jackknife doors with steel flat plate below each door;





- + cast stone panel above the door reading “METALS LTD. ERECTED 1914”;
- + two rose and leaf designs cast in stone on either side of the front entrance;
- + timber door entrance, transom, and sidelights;
- + original painted parapet signs;
- + circular opening or plate at the basement level on the westerly end; and
- + the expression of functional relationships through window place, in particular, the interior stairwell.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 13215 in December 2002.

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