



## CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

# UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CANADA – EDMONTON BRANCH

10629 – 98 STREET NW

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The 1947 two-storey Ukrainian National Federation of Canada – Edmonton Branch building is a community hall, distinguished by a strongly expressed façade and entrance with Art Deco influences. It is located on the east side of 98 Street, north of 106 Avenue, in the McCauley neighbourhood of Edmonton.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The land that Edmonton was developed on was used by Indigenous peoples for millennia, as the North Saskatchewan River Valley and ravine systems were a source of shelter, travel, trade, materials and food. In 1670, the British Crown gave the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) a charter to trade in Rupert's Land and in the late 18th century, the company established a trading post along the North Saskatchewan called Edmonton House or Fort Edmonton. The company sold Rupert's Land to the Dominion of Canada in 1870. In 1876, the Canadian government signed Treaty 6 with Indigenous leaders in what is now Saskatchewan and the following year Indigenous chiefs in the Edmonton region signed adhesions to the treaty. Edmonton is part of the Métis homeland. The river lot rural settlement pattern established along the North Saskatchewan River in the early 1870s was brought to the Edmonton area by the Métis and a number of the original river lot claimants were Métis.

Colin Fraser Jr., the son of a Scottish HBC employee of the same name and a Métis mother named Nancy Beaudry, was one of the original claimants. He homesteaded near where Canada Place is today, and in the late 1870s when it was believed that the transcontinental railroad would be built near Edmonton, Fraser sold Edmonton's very first town lots out of his unsurveyed and unpatented river lot. In 1881, he sold the

remainder of his river lot to the Reverend Samuel Pritchard, an Anglican minister in Winnipeg who speculated on real estate. Dominion Land Surveyor Michael Deane formally surveyed the river lots in the summer of 1882 and the resulting "Plan of Edmonton Settlement, N.W.T." that was registered in 1883 showed Pritchard as owning River Lot 10.

In October 1882, Pritchard and the people who controlled the two river lots to the east of his hired another surveyor, George A. Simpson, to lay out the properties into town lots. The subdivision plan of River Lot 10, or the "Pritchard Estate" as it came to be called, was not legally registered until 1886. When Edmonton was incorporated as a town in 1892, its northern boundary was established at Rat Creek (where 111 Avenue NW now runs east of 97 Street NW), the northernmost extent of the Pritchard Estate and other subdivided river lots.

As the town grew into a city in the early 20th century, the area northeast of the downtown became a landing zone for new arrivals





and an incubator of social, economic, ethnic, and political developments. Some people came from farms while others were immigrants from places like Scandinavia or Ukraine. Many new arrivals established businesses and churches to serve their religious interests. McCauley, Boyle Street, Alberta Avenue, Parkdale and Norwood have remained blue-collar, working class districts throughout their history.

The Ukrainian National Federation of Canada building is significant for its associations with Edmonton's substantial Ukrainian community. The Ukrainian National Hall was established in 1917 at 9620 - 109 Avenue, becoming an important cultural focus for Ukrainian-Canadian Edmontonians. In late 1918, the Hotel Grand on 107A Avenue and 98 Street was purchased and converted into the Taras Shevchenko Institute, a school for Ukrainian Catholic students. Many of those who attended this school went on to become teachers. William Tomy, first elected as a Social Credit MLA in 1935, was a graduate of the school. The Institute fostered many careers over the years, launching numerous early Ukrainian-Canadian immigrants into the mainstream culture. In 1922, the first Institute closed for lack of funds, but in 1925 reopened in another residence as the Ukrainian Catholic Institute of Taras Shevchenko at 92 Street and 106 Avenue. In 1931, it closed again because of the Great Depression.

Edmonton's Ukrainian community continued to grow rapidly. Historian Peter Melnycky writes that in 1921 it totaled 547, with many working on municipal public works projects, in the numerous lumber camps and mines in the district, or at the Swift Canada Packing Plant. A growing number of Ukrainian shopkeepers and businessmen joined the ranks of Edmonton's commercial community. By 1931, the Ukrainian population had jumped to 5,025. Many lived in Boyle Street and McCauley. Ukrainians who were Catholic (others were Orthodox) gathered at the St. Josaphat Church on 97 Street for events like picnics and other social gatherings. A new St. Josaphat Cathedral, built on the site between 1939 and 1944, was designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in 1983 and as a Municipal Historic Resource in 2015.

The Great Depression hit east Edmonton very hard. In 1932, a Relief Committee was set up in the Ukrainian National Home, providing

Christmas dinner for "hundreds of unemployed Ukrainians." That same year, in response to growing societal concerns for Ukrainian-Canadians, a special conference was convened in Saskatoon to develop a constructive program which would be of interest and value to the Ukrainian Canadian community. From this emerged the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada, which adopted several foundational principles to guide and assist the Ukrainian community across the country. The existing branches of the Ukrainian War Veterans' Association of Canada and the Organization of Ukrainian Women of Canada were to become affiliated bodies of the new organization. The Ukrainian National Youth Federation of Canada was also projected as an affiliated body. The provisional executive of the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada was soon formed and the work started with the first branches being organized in Edmonton and Saskatoon in 1932. The soundness of the principles worked out at the conference in Saskatoon was soon proved by an enthusiastic response of the Ukrainian Canadian community throughout Canada.

In 1941, there were about 6,000 Ukrainian-Canadians living in Edmonton and additional facilities were needed to serve the growing Ukrainian population. In 1947, a new Ukrainian National Federation of Canada building was erected at 10629 - 98 Street NW, after the issuance of a 1946 building permit for a "community hall." In 1950, the federal parliament passed an act to incorporate the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada and adopted the building in Edmonton as a formal branch of the organization.

The Ukrainian National Federation of Canada building is significant for its association with Chester Kuc. Born in Edmonton in 1931 to immigrants, Chester was actively involved in the local Ukrainian community and became an excellent musician and learned Ukrainian dance from Vasyl Avramenko, a travelling impresario who popularized Ukrainian dance around the world. In about 1954, Kuc began teaching Ukrainian dance and organizing performances. In 1959, he founded the internationally-recognized Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and in 1969, he and his wife Luba Kuc founded the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company. He taught out of the Ukrainian National Federation building for over 25 years before stepping down from Cheremosh in 1981.





Chester worked for the Government of Alberta, first as a clerk and then as a trial coordinator and supervisor at the Law Courts, but his real passion was in Ukrainian culture. In addition to dance, he became an expert in writing pysanky (intricately decorated egg shells, an important form of Ukrainian folk art) and doing Ukrainian embroidery. The Royal Alberta Museum did an exhibit of Chester's pysanky in 2006. When Kuc died in 2013, the Edmonton Journal's obituary was entitled "Alberta's father of Ukrainian dance."

The Ukrainian National Federation of Canada building is significant for its strongly expressed façade and entrance surround suggesting Art Deco influences. A raised white stucco central frontispiece rises to just above the roofline with its central element raised above the main vertical component, accentuating the verticality of the façade design. Two flanking white stucco window surrounds amplify this impression. Vertical glass block composite windows rising to the upper level of the façade add to the impression. Façade corners, marked by white quoins, contrast with the otherwise brown stucco finish. A mounting point for two flags is located just below the central front window.

The building is also significant as a surviving example of the work of prominent architect Patrick Campbell-Hope. Born in Wadebridge County, Cornwall, England, on February 17, 1908, he emigrated to Canada in 1924. He settled in Edmonton, where he worked for Edward Underwood for six months (1924-25), and as a junior draftsman for the prominent architect William G. Blakey (1924-26). He then joined the prominent firm of MacDonald & Magoon Architects and trained in their office from March 1928 to March 1932. He later attended the School of Architecture at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and became a qualified member of the Alberta Association of Architects in January 1940. He opened his own office in Edmonton in 1940, but suspended his activity in early 1942 in order to join the Royal Canadian Air Force and he served both in Canada and overseas as a Flight Engineer and Flying Officer. After his discharge in December 1945, he re-opened his architectural office in Edmonton and was responsible for the

design of dozens of buildings throughout Alberta. After 1950, he was assisted by several young architects including N.J. Gardener, Bernard Wood, and L.C. Klingbell, all of whom were promoted to full partners in his office in 1959. The office was then renamed as Campbell-Hope, Gardener, Klingbell & Wood Architects. Campbell-Hope died from injuries in an automobile crash near Grande Prairie, Alberta, on October 7, 1962. Other notable buildings designed by Campbell-Hope include St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Strathearn United Church, the 1950 Land Titles Building, Beth Israel Synagogue and the Mill Creek Swimming Pool.

### CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key character-defining elements of the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada - Edmonton Branch building include:

- + Form, scale and massing including its two-storey height;
- + Rectangular plan with a short facade;
- + Stucco walls;
- + Flat roof;
- + Strongly-expressed façade and entrance surround suggesting Art Deco influences;
- + Raised white stucco central frontispiece rising to just above the roofline with its central element raised above the main vertical component;
- + Two white stucco window surrounds flanking the frontispiece, within which are vertical glass block composite windows rising to the upper level of the façade;
- + Rectangular vertical window within the frontispiece above main entrance; and
- + Façade corners marked by white quoins, which contrast with the brown stucco finish.

*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 21410 in April 2026.*

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