



PAA 1964.124
Henderson's Directory 1910
Edmonton, page 257

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA

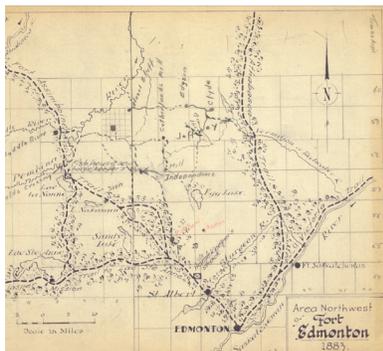
How to Search for Built History in Edmonton

- 1 Locate a property by looking up the street address in an Edmonton *Henderson's Directory* from a year you know the building existed and then work backwards by year until the property is no longer listed.** The directory can provide information about who lived in the house, what their occupation was and whether they owned or rented. Early directories usually do not list the spouse and/or children of the owner or occupant unless they also held paid employment, although spouses were generally listed in directories after the mid 1950s. When researching houses, note that many neighbourhoods now located within the city of Edmonton—such as Strathcona—were once independent cities, entities or part of neighbouring rural counties, and finding houses located in these areas might require a different resource. Note also that before 1914, most Edmonton streets used names rather than numbers. James MacGregor's *Edmonton: A History* (2nd ed. 1975) has a conversion table that can assist in matching the correct street numbers with their former names, as does the 1919 *Henderson's Directory* for Edmonton (page 78). Note that the University of Alberta website *Peel's Prairie Provinces* has digitized and made available many volumes of the Henderson's Directories. For a more comprehensive presentation of place and neighbourhood names in Edmonton, see *Naming Edmonton: From Ada to Zoie* by the City of Edmonton.
- 2 Access fire insurance plans for the city of Edmonton,** which were published intermittently between 1900 and 1966. Fire insurance plans provide information on buildings such as their size, the materials used in their construction and building use. The Provincial Archives of Alberta holds various Edmonton plans from 1907 and 1953 to 1966, as well as plans from the former city of Strathcona for 1899 and 1905. See the Alberta Fire Insurance Plans finding aid in the Sandra Thomson Reading Room for more details.
- 3 Examine old architectural drawings;** the Provincial Archives of Alberta has approximately 175 drawings of Edmonton houses built or renovated between 1912 and 1979. Most of these drawings are from properties located in the neighborhoods of Glenora, Oliver and Westmount. A detailed finding aid for the Edmonton house plans, arranged by street address, is available at the Reference Desk.

To learn about who previously owned a house, you can do a historical title search at the Alberta Land Titles Office located at:

Land Titles Office

John E. Brownlee Building
10365–97 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3W7
PHONE 780-427-2742 | EMAIL lto@gov.ab.ca



PAA 1979.269.72
Area Northwest of
Fort Edmonton 1883.

Note that homesteads were originally 160-acre parcels and so, were likely sub-divided into individual building lots at some point. Once the specific legal land description is known, contact or visit the Provincial Archives of Alberta to do a homestead search for that quarter section. Some of these records (pre-1930) are available to search online through Library and Archives Canada's website.

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