



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street
Edmonton AB T5J 3P4
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Columbia Avenue

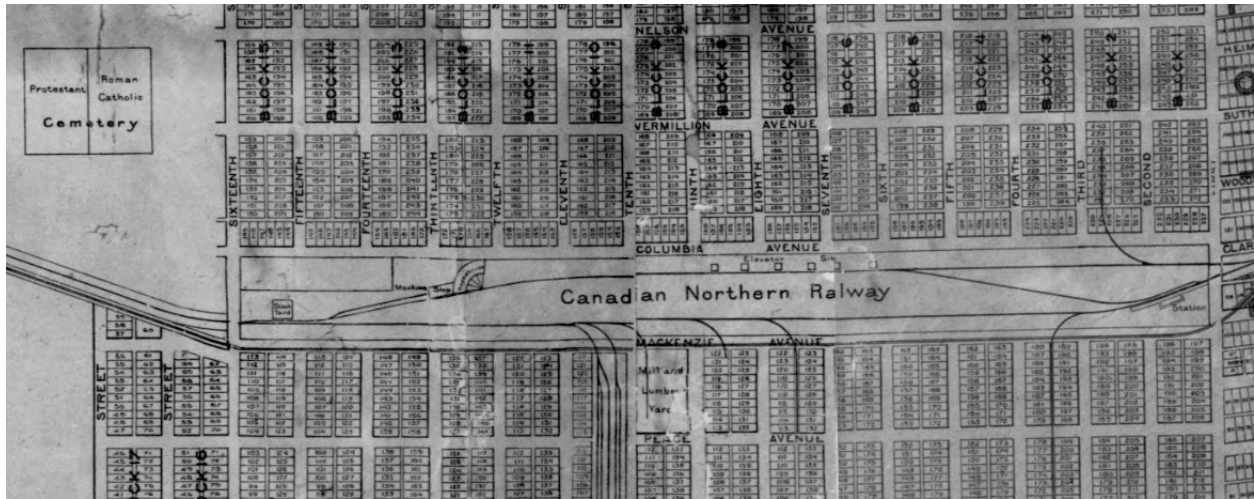


Figure 1: Driscoll's Map of the City of Edmonton, 1908.

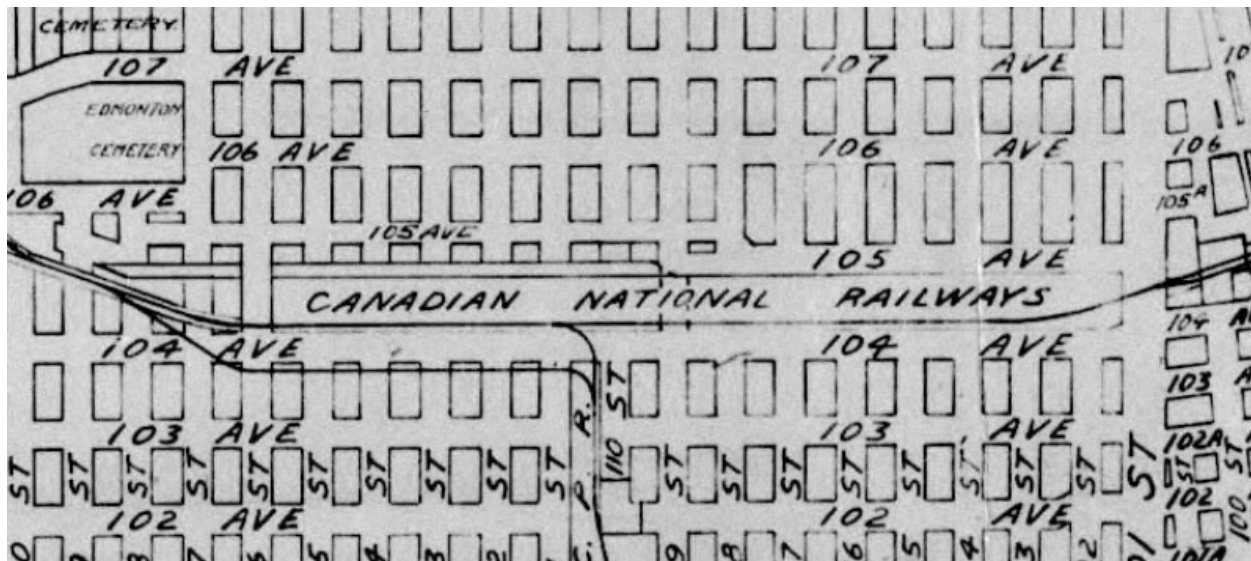


Figure 2: Official Map of the City of Edmonton showing Street Numbers and Names, post 1913.

In 1870, Rupert's Land was sold to the Dominion of Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC); however, HBC retained 3000 acres around Fort Edmonton. A portion of these lands, called the Hudson's Bay Reserves were released for sale to settlers as early as 1881. As these lands were sold, they became part of the town of Edmonton.

Columbia Avenue, the current 105 Avenue, like many downtown historical street names, references one of Canada's major river systems. From historical maps, Columbia Avenue was



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developed and named sometime between 1881 and 1908 (see Figure 1 on the previous page). The first portion of Columbia Avenue ran from the current 101 Street to 116 Street. The remaining section from 116 Street to 119 Street was established around 1912 when the remaining HBC lands were sold by public lottery.

The move to rename Edmonton's streets resulted from the amalgamation of Edmonton and Strathcona. Prior to amalgamation, streets names were the sole creation of realtors. Council determined that the redundant and arbitrary naming of streets would cause confusion as Edmonton continued to grow. In 1912, Edmonton City Council elected to adopt the street numbering system proposed by Mayor William Short. The first map with the new street numbers appears in 1913 and the street renaming process was completed in 1914 (see Figure 2 on previous page).

Edmonton has a legacy of important streets that have retained their historical names – Jasper, Whyte, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Returning 105 Avenue to its former name of Columbia both recognizes its historical past and creates the opportunity to develop a cohesive design theme that will shape its future.

The 105 Avenue corridor runs parallel to the former Canadian National rail yards. By returning the street to its original river name, there is an interesting opportunity to link Canada's river and rail histories. Both river systems and rail systems have been fundamental to the discovery and "opening" of western Canada. As well, they both provide the links that have drawn together Canada's vast range of communities.

This avenue's streetscape will be a connecting element that draws together Edmonton's downtown communities. The corridor will be an important bike and pedestrian route for both commuters and residents. The combination of mixed use, commercial, and residential uses will join the community together and establish itself as a unique place within Edmonton. Like river and rail systems, Columbia Avenue will become the important connecting element between the north side of the City and its downtown core.

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Edited by: Danielle Ferchoff

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CITATION ON FILE

Associated Engineering Ltd. *105 Avenue Corridor Preliminary Engineering Design Study*. Associated Engineering Ltd, May 2006.

Merrily K. Aubrey. *Naming Edmonton: From Ada to Zoie*. University of Alberta, 2004.

Driscoll's Map of the City of Edmonton, 1908 (accessed from Collections Canada on June 27, 2013)

Official Map of the City of Edmonton showing Street Numbers and Names, date unknown (post 1913) (accessed from Collections Canada on June 27, 2013)



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NOTE:

This Map is Conceptual Only,
Not to Scale, and Subject
to Change



**Please zoom in for a closer view of the encompassing area, as
Columbia Avenue runs from 101 Street until 119 Street.*

COLUMBIA AVENUE

Downtown and Oliver Neighbourhoods

August 27, 2013
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