



# MILLER RESIDENCE

11522 - 95A STREET NW

## CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Miller Residence is a semi-bungalow in the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood with Arts-and-Crafts design influences. Built around 1912, the one-and-a-half-storey Miller Residence features a steeply-pitched gable roof with east and west-facing gables, horizontal and shingle wood siding, and a front verandah with three supporting pillars.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Miller Residence is valued for its association with early development in the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood.

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 a charter to trade in Rupert's Land, the enormous area that drained into Hudson Bay, 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. River lots were established stretching north to Rat Creek (where 111 Avenue NW now runs east of 97 Street NW) and it was here that Edmonton's northern boundary was established when it became a town in 1892.

Continued immigration and proposals in 1903-04 for new transcontinental railways created an expectation for new urban growth in Edmonton. In 1904, McDougall & Secord proposed a major new development called Norwood just north of the river lots. Norwood was included in the municipality's boundaries

when it was incorporated as a city later in 1904, and in 1905 Norwood was legally registered as a subdivision. Norwood developed rapidly as a working class suburb and immigrant arrival area and it was here that the Miller Residence was built in 1911-12.

A building permit for the Miller Residence was issued on September 29, 1911. The first resident was Joseph W. Turner in 1912. By 1913, the block that the Miller Residence sat on was nearly completely developed. A number of families lived in the house through the 1910s. Cecil J. Miller moved into residence in 1920 with his wife, Lillie, and their children Velma and Albert ("Bert"). The family lived at the home until 1953. Cecil was an employee of Canadian National Express and was the company's chief clerk upon the time of his retirement in 1948. He and Lillie were active in many organizations including the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Daughters of Rebekah (whose lodge was at 95 Street and 112 Avenue, a few blocks south of the Miller Residence), McDougall United Church Ladies Aid, Orkney Shetland and Caithness Society, CNR Ladies' Bowling Club, and the Canadian Brotherhood of





Railway Employees. Cecil passed away shortly after moving out of the house, in 1954. Lillie passed away in 1966. Velma spent her childhood at 11522 - 95a Street and went on to earn two bachelor degrees (in Science and in Education) and a Master of Education degree at the University of Alberta. She married Ron Rust in 1955 and went on to earn her PhD in 1959 from the University of Illinois. Dr. Velma Rust and her husband then moved to Ottawa, where she worked in public service and lectured at Carleton University. After the Miller family moved out of the house, it changed hands fairly regularly. As of its 2025 designation, the current owners have resided at the Miller residence since 2017, which is the longest tenancy in the past four decades.

The Miller residence is valued for its Arts and Crafts influences, the use of shingles and horizontal wood siding, and for its association with early residential development in the Alberta Avenue area. It is one of several original houses on 95A Street NW, and similar architectural styles can be seen across the street from the Miller Residence.

Design elements include deep soffits and fascia, roof brackets, and an open verandah with pillar supports. The gable roof has a shed dormer with shingle siding on each of the north and south sides. A window on the lower level of the façade has 4 panes, with 1 over 1 sidelights on both sides. There is an oriel window on the façade above the verandah. The soffits, fascia, and roof brackets are original board.

The Miller residence is one of a number of one and one-half storey Arts and Crafts-influenced residences built in the neighbourhood in the first quarter of the 20th century, and therefore demonstrates the popularity of this style in the early days of Alberta Avenue.

## CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key character-defining elements of the east, north and south elevations of the Miller Residence include:

- + Wood frame construction with Arts and Crafts influences;
- + Original horizontal and shingle wood siding;
- + Steeply pitched gable roof with east and west-facing gables;
- + Original roof brackets;
- + Fascia and soffits original and multi-board deep North and south-facing shed dormers;
- + Rectangular window on north dormer;
- + Small rectangular leaded window in lower portion of north dormer;
- + Single window on south dormer;
- + Three-paned oriel window on façade above verandah;
- + Front verandah running the width of facade, with three supporting pillars;
- + Rectangular window of front elevation with four panes and 1-over-1 sidelights on both sides;
- + Window openings on side elevations; and
- + Offset front entrance.

*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 21246 in September 2025.*

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