



STEWART RESIDENCE

10326 - 132 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Stewart Residence is an impressive two-storey Dutch Colonial Revival-style residence situated nearly mid-block on 132 Street NW between 103 Avenue NW and 104 Avenue NW in the Edmonton neighbourhood of Glenora. Set back from the street, the house is easily identified by its rectangular plan with side-gambrel roof, symmetrical design, stucco cladding, nearly full-width shed roof dormer, central entry with pedimented front porch, and single and triple assembly multi-light windows.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Stewart Residence, built in 1929, is an example of the form and quality of residential construction in Glenora during the Interwar period just prior to the Great Depression. The Stewart Residence is situated in the portion of the Glenora neighbourhood subdivided in 1911. This area south of Stony Plain Road, known presently as 'Old Glenora' was the last portion of Glenora to be subdivided by real estate tycoon, James Carruthers and its layout contrasts that of his earlier 1906 and 1907 gridiron subdivisions. The 1911 subdivision followed Garden Suburb design. Garden Suburbs, popularized by Hampstead Garden Suburb in England, were low density residential areas carefully integrated with gardens and/or open spaces. Streets were often curved to convey a more organic feeling and reflected the topography of the land much better than gridded street layouts.

To control the residential, landscaped nature of the community that Carruthers was establishing, he registered a caveat on the title of the lots south of Stony Plain Road that has become known as the Carruthers Caveat. In a day prior to zoning controls, the caveat required significant building setbacks to ensure large front lawns and limited development to low density housing. The caveat helped make Glenora a desirable

enclave for Edmonton's wealthy residents and professionals.

The house was built in 1929 for William F. and Irene Stewart. William, born in Ontario, came to Edmonton as a young man and began work in 1911 with the A. Macdonald Company, a wholesale grocery distributor. In 1915 he married Irene, who had come from New Brunswick and may have worked as a nurse before their marriage. In 1917 William became Edmonton manager of the company, which was renamed Western Grocers the following year. William rose steadily in the company and in 1931 the family moved to Winnipeg when he was appointed Western Grocers' assistant general manager. In 1938 they moved to Vancouver where he joined a British Columbia subsidiary called W.H. Malkin. He finished his career as Malkin's president. Irene died in 1972 and William in 1978.

During the Second World War, George Weston Ltd. took a controlling interest in Western Grocers, which it later rebranded Westfair Foods. Weston's retail chains such as Real Canadian Superstore, Loblaws and No Frills are now ubiquitous across the country. William thus played a role in building the current Canadian grocery landscape.





The scale and design of the Stewart Residence reflects the economic position of the Stewarts and the high standard of construction in Glenora at the time. During the Depression, only a handful of residences were constructed in Glenora with approximately 20 permits issued between 1930 to 1939.

The Stewart Residence is also significant as a highly intact example of the work of notable Edmonton and Alberta architect, William George Blakey (1885-1975). Originally from Sunderland, England, William, with his brother Richard Palin Blakey, received their architectural training under English architect George T. Brown, prior to his immigration to Canada in 1907. After settling in Edmonton, Blakey worked for the Department of Public Works, before joining the firm of Roland M. Lines in 1908, where he designed a range of residential, institutional, and commercial buildings. In 1914, Blakey married Carrie Arnold Thomas, and shortly after their marriage, moved to Ottawa, where he worked as an inspector with the Department of Munitions.

Blakey served overseas with the Canadian Engineers, before returning to Edmonton in 1919. Upon his return, he set up his own architectural firm. Six years later, he entered into a partnership with his brother, the former Provincial Architect Richard Blakey (1879-1963). The firm would evolve over time to include a number of prominent Edmonton architects. William Blakey was hired to design the extant residence in March 1929. The home is a reflection of the architectural styles popular during the inter-war period, styles that were less prevalent following the Second World War with the emergence of new building materials and technology. Blakey embraced the new modern architectural styles, as evident in his own International-style residence on 101 Avenue NW, as well as examples of his work such as the Garneau Theatre and the T. Eaton Co. Store. Blakey remained in Edmonton until his passing in 1975, and was recognized at the time as Alberta's longest practicing architect.

The Stewart Residence is also valued for its association with its second owners, and prominent business and civic-minded Jewish family, the Samuels. Ralph and Rose Samuels purchased

the Stewart Residence in 1931 or 1932, and owned the home for the next three decades. Ralph (1892-1967), an immigrant from Russia, arrived in Canada circa 1911, settling with his half-brother in Winnipeg. In 1914, Ralph married Rose (nee Israel) and moved to Mundare, Alberta, before moving to Edmonton in 1924. Ralph, with his brother Joseph, bought out the Christie Grant Mail Order House stock at its Winnipeg location and used it to stock stores in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina and Moose Jaw. The department store first opened in Edmonton on Jasper Avenue, before moving to a large location at 10174 - 101 Street NW. Department stores in Alberta first appeared in Calgary in the 1880s, with Edmonton's first department store established by Winnipeg's Hudson's Bay Company in 1905. It was not until the late 1920s that entrepreneurial department stores became more common in Alberta. The brothers would later open three additional stores in Camrose, Innisfail and Stettler under the name J. Lawrence & Co. Both Ralph and Rose were active members in Edmonton's Jewish community with Ralph becoming a charter member of the Congregation Beth Shalom, president of the Talmud Torah, and Rose serving as a life member of the Hadassah-WIZO. Ralph (1892-1967) and Rose (1895-1970), having changed their surname from Chmelnitsky to Samuels in 1940, lived in the residence with their children, until 1960.





The Stewart Residence is further valued as an excellent expression of a Dutch Colonial Revival-style home, a popular architectural style during the 1920s and 1930s. This revival style is rooted in the 18th century Dutch and Huguenot settlements of the eastern United States. Gambrel roof residences became a popular design in catalogue and kit house plans during the early decades of the 20th century. A sub-type of Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival is characterized by its gambrel roof with dormers, rectangular plan, one and one-half or two-storey height, symmetrical design, columns for porches and entries, as well as external chimneys placed at the gable end of the home. A gambrel style roof provided a homeowner with a second floor living space without the financial cost of a traditional two-storey building. All together, these characteristics create an aesthetically-pleasing and functional home. The Stewart Residence exemplifies this style of architecture through its form, scale, massing, gambrel roof with wide shed roof dormers, symmetry, and prominent central front porch.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

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

- + Location nearly mid-block on 132 Street NW between 103 Avenue NW and 104 Avenue NW in the Edmonton neighbourhood of Glenora;
- + Siting on a large lot setback from the street with terraced front lawn;
- + Form, scale and massing;
- + Dutch Colonial Revival design with symmetrical front elevation;
- + Wood-frame construction with concrete foundation;
- + One and one-half storey height with full basement on a rectangular plan;
- + Gambrel roof;
- + Stucco cladding with minimal exterior detailing;
- + Nearly full-width shed roof dormer on front elevation;

- + Pedimented porch with fluted columns and dentillation;
 - + Central entry with decorative sidelights and fanlight windows with storm windows;
 - + Multi-light exterior storm door and six-panel wooden door on front elevation;
 - + Stucco soffits with wood shingle fascia cladding;
 - + Wooden louvres in the gable peaks;
- Fenestration including: single assembly multi-light wooden-sash hopper windows with multi-light wooden storms at basement level; triple assembly 8-over-8 single-hung wooden-sash windows with 4-over-4 single-hung wooden-sash windows on either side and all with multi-light wooden storm windows; single assembly 8-over-8 single-hung wooden-sash windows with multi-light wooden storms; triple assembly multi-light fixed wooden-sash windows with matching wooden-sash storm windows; single assembly rectangle window openings on upper level;
 - + Wooden shutters on either side of upper windows; and
 - + Chimneys including external and internal stucco clad chimneys with corbelled tops.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 21072 in April 2025.

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