

Heritage Planner's Statement of Significance

Description of Historic Place

Constructed in 1948, the Blue Cross Animal Hospital is a two-storey, Moderne Style, wood frame commercial building with pebble dash stucco and stacked bond concrete block exterior. The building features a complex plan, which speaks to its original use as a full service small animal hospital that included operating rooms, X-ray equipment, kennels and isolation wards. The building is located at the intersection of 97 Street and 111 Avenue in the neighbourhood of McCauley.

Heritage Value

The Blue Cross Animal Hospital is significant as the first purpose-built small animal veterinary hospital in Edmonton. It was built to the highest standards of the day, providing full service for sick, diseased, or injured animals. Dr. Alex J. Rattray built the hospital when Edmonton's rapid growth following the Second World War resulted in a corresponding increase among small pets in the city. The Blue Cross Animal Hospital is testament to evolving cultural perceptions in relation to pets and their proper care in the post-war period.

The Blue Cross Animal Hospital is valued for its Moderne Style as expressed in its simple, unadorned stucco exterior, flat roof and contoured glass block walls flanking the central entrance. At the time of its construction, the building's distinctive design would have served to showcase the Blue Cross Animal Hospital's progressive approach to veterinary medicine.

Character Defining Elements

The character defining elements as expressed in the form, massing, and materials of the 1948 Blue Cross Animal Hospital include:

- Pebble dash stucco and stacked bond concrete block exterior
- Flat roof over the central building, with lower flat roof over the former kennels and carport
- Central vertical frontispiece rising from the entrance at grade to just above the roofline
- Horizontal signage band above the first storey
- Concrete landing and steps with metal railing
- Contoured glass block walls flanking front entrance
- The pattern, style and construction of all original windows and doors
- Attached carport with structural element composed of a laminated beam bevelled at each end with 2 steel tube posts.