

Heritage Officer's Statement of Significance for the Stein Residence

Description of Historic Place

The 1912 Stein Residence is a one and one-half storey, Craftsman-style residential building, constructed on a rectangular plan with a long facade. It has horizontal wood siding on all four elevations. The roof is a low-pitch, side-facing gable, with projecting eaves and verges, knee brackets and original wood soffits and fascia. The facade features a large open verandah with decorative posts, and a dormer with a gable roof. The house is located on the west side of 125 Street, north of 110 Avenue, in the historic Westmount neighbourhood. At the time of its construction in 1912, the house address was 1622 25 Street.

Heritage Value

Built in 1912, the Stein Residence is valued for its association with the early development of the Westmount neighbourhood during Edmonton's population boom prior to the First World War. The Westmount community is believed to have been named after the Westmount neighbourhood in Montreal, and is bounded by Groat Road, 111 Avenue, 121 Street and Stony Plain Road. Homes in Westmount were often constructed without a buyer in mind, a new concept at the time. Many lots were purchased by speculators who had acquired property from the Hudson's Bay Company when it opened its Reserve for sale in 1912. Lots in the area appealed to many young professionals, including doctors, lawyers and educators, many at the beginning of their careers. New houses in Westmount tended to be large clapboard homes, with dining rooms, fireplaces, large kitchens and wrap-around verandas, often with Craftsman style influences. A global depression devastated the Edmonton real estate market in 1913, and development in Westmount fully took hold only after the Second World War.

The Stein Residence is further valued as an early and excellent example of the Craftsman architectural style. Craftsman design, which emerged from the Arts and Crafts movement, emphasizes horizontal lines, with low-pitched gable (triangular) roofs that extend far out past the home's exterior walls, often with exposed beams or rafters. Craftsman homes often showcase hand-worked local materials with decorative elements such as brackets, lintels and rafters, and typically include features like open verandas and roof dormers. Design elements of the Stein Residence include the horizontal wood cladding on all four elevations, from the foundation up to the gable peaks. The roof is a side-facing gable with a low pitch, and features deep projecting eaves and verges with knee brackets. The front

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elevation is dominated by a large gable dormer, which is clad in wood shingles, and features projecting eaves and rafters with knee brackets. The dormer has a large window opening, with two sets of double windows, each with nine panes. The lower level of the facade features a large, open veranda, which is supported by three decorative tapered columns at either corner. The veranda rails are closed, and are clad in horizontal wood siding. The lower portion of the veranda is clad in rusticated pre-cast stone. The lower level of the facade features a tripartite window on the south side in a 9-over-1 arrangement. The window and the main entrance on the north side of the facade each have a decorative lintel.

The south elevation features original windows in a variety of configurations, all with a decorative wood lintel. There is a small open porch with a door towards the rear of the house, with tapered columns and closed railings, similar to the main veranda on the front elevation. A large brick chimney is located towards the front of the house. The north elevation also features a number of original windows in a variety of configurations, all with a decorative wood lintel.

The residence was built for Joseph and Jennie Stein and their young daughter Ruth, who moved into the home in 1913. At the time, Joseph was a salesman for the Hamilton Milne Company. Jennie's parents, George and Harriet Roberts, lived with the Steins in the home. George Roberts was a well-known building contractor in Edmonton at that time. After his time at the Hamilton Milne Company, Joseph worked as a salesman for many years, joining companies like the Pennant, the Edmonton Brewing and Malting Company, Great West Saddlery and the Great Western Garment Company. The Stein's daughter, Ruth, left home in 1939. George Roberts passed away in 1932, and Harriet Roberts died in 1940. Joseph passed away on Christmas Day in 1944, leaving Jennie as the sole occupant of the home. She rented out rooms in the house for several years until her passing in 1968.

Between 1974 and 2011, Lance White owned and lived in the home. A professional engineer, White represented Ward 4 on Edmonton City Council between 1983 and 1992, and then was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta from 1993 to 2001.

Character-Defining Elements

Key character-defining elements of the Stein Residence include:

- Form, scale and massing as expressed by its one and one-half storey height
- Wood frame construction with Craftsman design

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- Location on the west side of 125 Street, north of 110 Avenue, in the Westmount neighbourhood
- Side-facing gable roof with a low pitch
- Horizontal wood cladding on all four elevations
- Deep projecting eaves and verges, with knee brackets and wood soffits and fascia
- Large gable dormer on front facade, with wood shingle cladding and projecting eaves and rafters
- Window on the front of the dormer with two sets of double windows, each with nine panes
- Asymmetrical arrangement of windows and main entrance door relative to the veranda
- Open veranda on lower level, supported by three tapered columns at either corner
- Closed railings on the veranda, clad in horizontal wood siding
- Rusticated pre-cast stone cladding on lower portion of veranda
- Tripartite window on lower level of facade in a 9-over-1 arrangement
- Original windows on north and south elevations
- Decorative wood lintels on all windows and doors
- Small open porch with a door towards the rear of the house on south elevation, with tapered columns and closed railings
- Large brick chimney located towards the front of the house on south elevation