

Heritage Officer's Statement of Significance for St. Luke's Anglican Church

Description of Historic Place

Constructed in 1958, St Luke's Anglican Church is a modest Early Modern Style, concrete block building, located in the Holyrood neighbourhood. The church includes a large addition to the north of the sanctuary housing the present western entrance and parish hall, which shares the same Early Modern Style of the church. While the addition was designed in 1962, it was not constructed until the early 1970s.

Heritage Value

St. Luke's Anglican Church is significant for its architecture as an example of Early Modern Style ecclesiastical design. In the period following the Second World War, new materials and construction techniques resulted in architectural design breaking free of past constraints and embracing new expressive forms. While still informed by ecclesiastical design principles which emerged during the medieval period, Modernism resulted in a dramatic evolution in church architecture. The Early Modern architecture of St. Luke's Anglican Church is expressed in the exposed precast concrete structure which forms the roof of the sanctuary, the concrete block masonry units in the structure which are arranged to create symmetrical patterns and textures, and the simple concrete block bell tower.

St. Luke's Anglican Church is significant for its association with notable Edmonton architect, Kelvin Crawford Stanley. Stanley practiced in Edmonton between 1948 and 1964, designing several significant public buildings including the former Edmonton City Hall, the former Edmonton Post Office and the Paramount Theater. Between 1965 and 1967 he worked as the Director of Structures for Expo 67 in Montreal, following which he was hired as the Chief Architect for the Federal Department of Public Works in Ottawa.

St. Luke's Anglican Church is also significant for its association with the development of the Edmonton neighbourhoods of Holyrood, Strathearn and Bonnie Doon. In the period between the end of the Second World War and 1960, these south side neighbourhoods developed rapidly as major economic growth, the post-war baby boom and increasing access to automobiles resulted in many Edmonton families seeking housing in the suburbs. St. Luke's was constructed to serve the spiritual needs of these emerging suburban communities.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of St. Luke's Anglican Church include its:

- form, scale and massing
- moderately sloped gable roof
- exposed precast concrete structure forming the roof of the sanctuary
- concrete block infill that is arranged to create symmetrical patterns and textures
- folded plate roof canopy over the entrance and south facing windows
- style design and construction of all windows
- concrete block bell tower
- stylized sign structure designed to resemble praying hands framing the name of the church and a cross