

## Heritage Planner's Statement of Significance

### Description of Historic Place:

The 1948 Shop-Easy Grocery is a one-storey wood frame construction commercial building. It has stucco siding with painted brick accents, and a flat roof. The building features a low parapet wall on the south and east elevations, and a distinctive "Shop-Easy" sign on the southeast corner of the building. The Shop-Easy is located on two lots at the northeast corner of 129 Avenue and 116 Street in the Calder neighbourhood.

### Heritage Value:

The Shop-Easy Grocery is historically significant for its association with the development of the Calder neighbourhood and the expansion of Edmonton after the end of the Second World War.

The opening of the Shop-Easy Grocery in 1948 coincides with the second period of residential growth in the Calder community. The original community of Calder originated from the construction of the Grant Trunk Pacific Railway, which located its roundhouse and railway yards in the area, shortly after arriving in Edmonton in 1909. The Village of West Edmonton was established in July 1910, but was annexed into the City of Edmonton a few years later. The Calder Land Company, owned by Hugh Alfred Calder and J.R. McIntosh, began to subdivide the area around 1910. Although some of Calder's houses were built earlier, most were built in the boom period after the Second World War. Generally, newer structures are located in the northern portion of the neighbourhood, while older structures are located in the vicinity of the Calder Railway Yards along 127 Avenue.

The Shop-Easy Grocery was opened in 1948 on 129 Avenue, and formed a continuation of other established commercial uses along this roadway further to the west. It is a surviving example of a type of commercial building often integrated into a residential community, once common in Edmonton, but now difficult to find intact. Commercial uses of this nature were small in scale, and were generally intended to serve the needs of the nearby community.

The Shop-Easy Grocery is architecturally significant as a good example of the Moderne Style of commercial architecture, and is typified by the use of clean, horizontal lines, flat roofs, a projecting canopy along the south and east façades, brick and stucco finishes, a counter-point vertical parapet over the corner entrance and large display windows. The building retains its original sign over the entrance door.

**Character Defining Elements**

The character defining elements as expressed in the form, massing, and materials of the 1948 Shop-Easy Grocery include:

- One-storey commercial structure
- Clean horizontal lines, typical of the Moderne Style
- Flat roof
- Projecting canopy along the south and east façades
- Brick and stucco finishes
- Counter-point vertical parapet over the corner entrance
- Large display windows on the south and east façades
- Original sign over the entrance door