

Statement of Significance for the Nye Residence

Description of Historic Place

Constructed in 1914, the Nye Residence is a modest, Craftsman-influenced, one-and-a-half-storey house located on a double lot in the Edmonton neighbourhood of Highlands. The home is one of the earliest examples of residential development in the area.

Heritage Value

The Nye Residence is significant for its association with early residential development in the Highlands. It was one of the first homes built in the eastern part of Highlands in an area that was once a separate subdivision known as Mount Royal Park. Mount Royal Park was subdivided in 1912, near the end of the real estate boom that Edmonton experienced prior to the First World War. When the Nye Residence was constructed in 1914, Mount Royal Park was largely undeveloped and it would remain that way until the 1940s when Edmonton's economy finally recovered from the downturn caused by the First World War and then exacerbated by the depression. The Nye Residence is a rare and well preserved example of early twentieth century residential development in the eastern part of the Highlands.

The Nye Residence is significant for its association with the Nye family, who lived there from 1914 until 1935. Frank and Harriet Nye moved to Edmonton from Grand Rapids, Michigan in search of opportunity. They raised their two daughters, Barbara and Marjorie, in the residence. After working for an office supply company for some time, Mr Nye founded his own business, F.A. Nye Co., running a bookstore and gift shop on Jasper Avenue. In 1922, Nye partnered with W.F. Miller to form the Nye-Miller Co. Ltd, an office supply distributor which grew to have a presence throughout western Canada and still exists today as the Miller Office Group.

The Nye Residence is significant for its modest Craftsman influenced design. Despite its small scale and having no running water or electricity when it was first constructed, the Nye residence features elements that are common to the much grander Craftsman Style homes in the Highlands including wide bell-cast eaves, a full-width front porch and central tripartite window on the ground floor. The residence has remained largely unchanged aside from a small addition that was built off the rear in the 1930s and the introduction of indoor plumbing and electricity.

Character-defining Elements

Key character defining elements of the Nye Residence include:

- Form, scale, massing
- Front gable roof with wide Bell-cast eaves
- Unenclosed full-width porch with hipped roof and square columns
- The pattern, style and construction of all windows and doors
- Brick chimney on north elevation
- Cedar clapboard siding