

From River Lots to Suburb:
The Morris Family Farm and the Founding of Fulton Place



Fulton Place Community League
(Heritage Committee)

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Preface:

Edmonton's Fulton Place community is typical of many North American residential neighborhoods built during the mid-1950s. From the outset the modestly priced and sized houses attracted young families. Over time, schools, places of worship, sports fields and recreational amenities, retail shops, seniors' residences and green spaces were added. The population has ebbed and flowed as generations have come and gone, but the area continues to attract families – many staying for decades. Once considered suburban, Fulton Place and the adjacent neighborhoods of the Hardisty district are now referred to as mature.

Given this description is applicable to hundreds of neighborhoods in towns and cities across Alberta, what secrets from the past could such a locale possibly harbour? As it turns out, more than one might think. For example, the oldest in-situ structure in Fulton Place is the former Morris family farmhouse believed to have been built during the First World War.¹ Just prior to the war, the Morris family attempted to create a housing sub-division on their land. Had this venture succeeded, parts Edmonton's Hardisty district, including Fulton Place, would be known by the names Ridgeway Park, Crescent View and College Heights.

The following narrative traces the emergence of the Fulton Place neighborhood, beginning with the Dominion Land Survey of Edmonton Settlement in 1882-83. This document's primary purpose is to provide context for several other components of the "River Lots to Suburb" arts and heritage project that includes oral histories, digitization and reproduction of a heritage mural, and photo-documentation of the Morris (Bishop) farmhouse. These materials will be made available to the public in accordance with the terms of the financial support provided to the Fulton Place Community League via an Edmonton Heritage Council *Living Local* grant (2014).

What is a River Lot?

Edmonton began as a Hudson Bay Company (HBC) fur trading post. Established in 1795, the post was reputedly named for – Edmonton, Middlesex, England – the hometown of a clerk serving at the post.²

¹ The City of Edmonton's Edmonton Maps, Assessments (by address) website stipulates the date of construction is 1924, but we know this not correct; an exact date of construction has not been determined. City of Edmonton, <http://maps.edmonton.ca/map.aspx?lookingFor=Assessments\By%20Address> (type in the specific address to access data).

² Howard Palmer with Tamara Palmer, *Alberta: A New History*, p. 13.

The HBC gave up its claim to Rupert's Land in 1869, receiving in exchange from the Canadian government, 300,000 British pounds and reserve lands adjacent to its trading posts.³ The sale of the Rupert's Land charter accelerated the emergence of settlements across western Canada. With the exception of the Red River (now Winnipeg) in Manitoba for the first time, non-indigenous peoples living in the West began establishing communities beyond the protective constraints of the Company's forts. People settling in the Edmonton area staked out long, narrow parcels of land, of varying sizes, called river lots.⁴ This type of land holding afforded each owner river frontage, necessary for the transport of goods and supplies, and access to water for personal, industrial and agricultural uses.

River lots ranged in size from several dozen to several hundred acres, and in the case of those at Edmonton, they measured upwards of a mile or more in terms of depth from the river's edge. This practice of private land holding was first used in Quebec in the early 1600s and appeared in the West at the outset of the 19th Century.⁵ The lack of uniformity (in size and shape) and the absence of the legal registration of these land holdings contravened the Dominion Lands Act of 1872, a key piece of legislation associated with the dominion government's National Policy. The Act called for the uniform survey of the "prairies" creating 160 acre plots, or quarter sections, each measuring one half mile by one half mile. Four quarters equaled a section – one mile by one mile, and thirty-six (36) sections made up a township – six miles by six miles.⁶

When Dominion land surveyors began working their way across the west, marking off township grids, they were initially instructed to disregard any existing land claims, notably river lot holdings. The government argued the implementation of the Dominion Land Survey system was necessary for a controlled, organized method of land distribution and registration, and the settlement of the region. Ignoring existing river lot land holdings quickly led to frustration, anger, protests, conflicts and the loss of lands. By the early 1880s, government officials began to re-think their strategy and agreed, in some circumstances, to incorporate existing river lot settlements into the new uniform system.

³ The name Rupert's Land applied to those territories falling within the drainage basin of Hudson's Bay; this included most of present-day Alberta.

⁴ John F. Gilpin, *Edmonton, Gateway to the North: An Illustrated History*, p. 14.

⁵ "Seigneurial System," by Jacques Mathieu (August 25, 2013); revised by Maude – Emmanuelle Lambert, (September 10, 2014), in *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/seigneurial-system/>.

⁶ The National Policy called for populating the west with homesteaders, thereby thwarting American expansionist ambitions, and creating a trans-national economy, notably a marketplace for goods manufactured by eastern Canadian companies. Palmer, page 50.

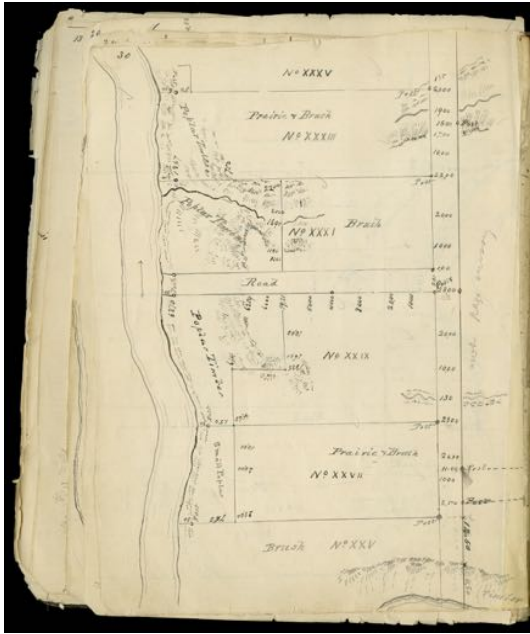


Figure 1: Sketch from surveyor's field note book depicting Edmonton Settlement River Lots 25 - 35; the North Saskatchewan River is to the left; the straight line to right – today's 101st Avenue – denotes the southern limit of the river lots making up the original Edmonton Settlement. Provincial Archives of Alberta, GR1983.0376.0071a, page 30.

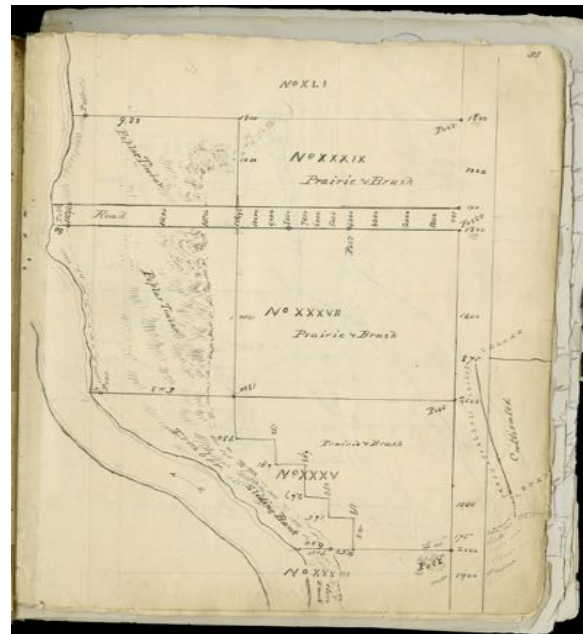


Figure 2: Sketch from surveyor's field note book depicting Edmonton Settlement river lots 33 - 41; the "road" between lots 37 & 39 became 50th Street. Provincial Archives of Alberta, GR1983.0376.0071a, page 31.

Edmonton Settlement was one such community; it was surveyed in 1882 and the plan was authorized the following year. Even numbers were applied to the lots on the north side of the river; odd numbers to lots on the south side. Using present day landmarks as approximate boundaries, Edmonton Settlement stretched along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River from 142 Street in the west to 34 Street to the east – a considerable area for a population of roughly two hundred people.⁷

⁷ M. Deane (DLS), Field Notes, Edmonton Settlement, North West Territories, July 28 – October 28, 1882, PAA, Acc. No. 83.376, Box 3, File 71a.

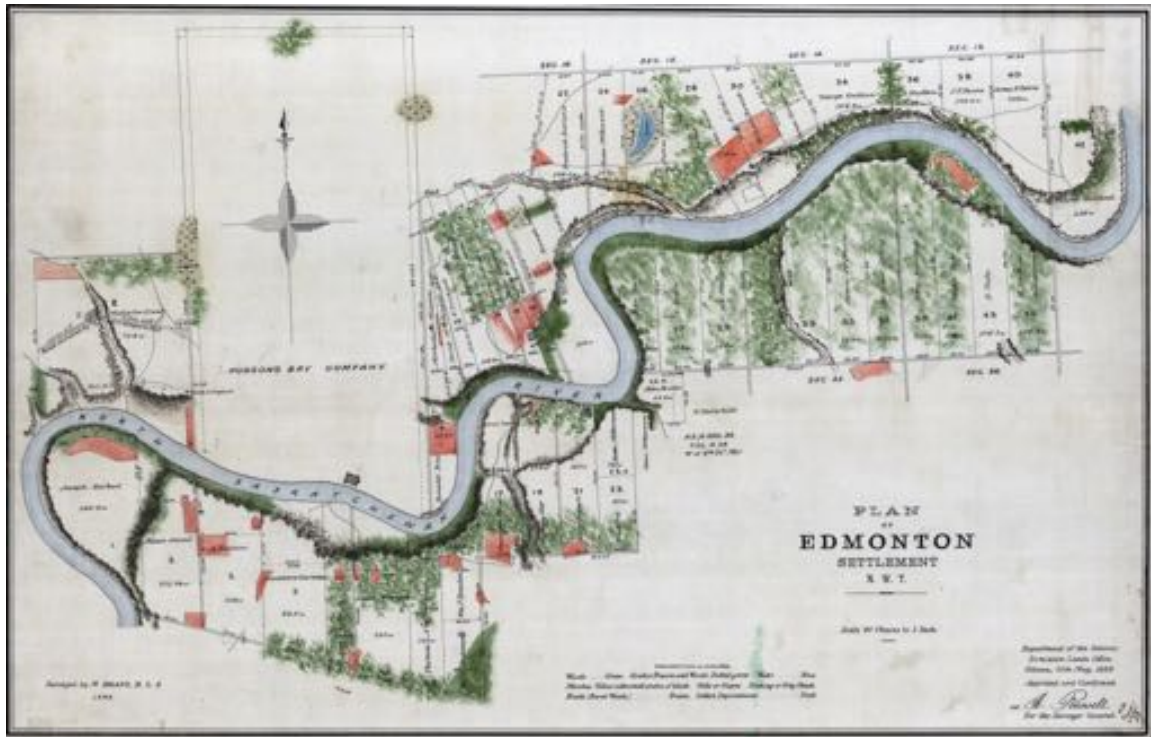


Figure 3: Edmonton Settlement, N.W.T., ca. 1883, had a population of a few hundred people and stretched from present-day 142nd Street in the west to 34th street to the east. Provincial Archives of Alberta, GR2009.0565.

Fulton Place occupies parts of River Lots 33, 35 and 37 of the original Edmonton Settlement. Beginning with the eastern boundary and moving westward, the following contemporary features (roughly) line up with these river lot boundaries. The eastern edge of River Lot 37 equates to 50th Street while its western boundary aligns with 57th Street, and Harry Hardin Park; the eastern boundary of River Lot 35 also abuts the park, and the western border equates with 63rd street (Fulton Road). The rest of the community falls within River Lot 33. 101st Avenue, formerly Clover Bar Road, marks the southern edge of all three of these parcels of land.

What's in a Name?

Fulton Place community is named for the Fulton family. Leander and Harriot Fulton and their 20-year old son, Daniel, moved to the Clover Bar District (south-east of Edmonton) from Truro, Nova Scotia in 1884. The Fultons purchased property north of Clover Bar Road on the easternmost edge of the original Edmonton Settlement. The family eventually acquired upwards of 400 acres that included all or parts of river lots 43 and 45.⁸

⁸ Carol Berger, Naming Edmonton: From Ada to Zoie, (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2004), p. 106; Connie M. Switzer Tappenden, Out of the Mists of Time, November 1999 (unpublished manuscript), pp. 216-221; Cherished Memories, (Ardrossan, Alberta: compiled by Ardrossan Unifarm, 1972), pp. 441-442; "Memories With No Tears," in Imperial Oil Review, April 1956, pp. 14-15; "Clover



Daniel married Elizabeth (Eliza) Omand from the Orkney Islands, Scotland, in 1889. They resided in a log cabin until 1904, at which time they built a two-story, brick house atop a steep ravine with a creek running through its base. Their home was situated at what is today the southwest corner of the Imperial Oil Strathcona refinery property. The Fulton farm became known as Burnside on account of Eliza being from the Orkney Islands where creeks are referred to as "burns".⁹

Figure 4: Daniel S. Fulton, 1904. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-10-669-26.



Figure 5: "Burnside", the Fulton Family house and farm, atop the original Fulton ravine and hill, 1931. The former now known as Gold Bar ravine and the latter no longer exists as the coulee was filled with the expansion of Baseline Road in the 1960s. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-1728.

Bar area loses Pioneer," ([Edmonton?] newspaper article, from the Clover Bar information file, Provincial Archives of Alberta); Untitled article in the Edmonton Journal, October 7, 1983 (City of Edmonton Archives clipping file); "School honors memory of pioneer citizen, trustee," in Edmonton Journal, October 28, 1977; Census of Canada, 1906, 1911 and 1916, Library and Archives Canada website, select specific years: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx>.

⁹ Cherished Memories, (Ardrossan, Alberta: compiled by Ardrossan Unifarm, 1972), pp. 441-442; "Memories With No Tears," in Imperial Oil Review, April 1956, p. 14.



Figure 6: Close up view of "Burnside", the Fulton family home situated on what is today the Imperial Oil contractor parking lot, north of Baseline Road, 1912. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-500-361.

With the onset of the Second World War one of the Fulton's grandsons, Danny Holland, began helping with the operation of the farm. When Daniel Fulton passed away in 1943, Danny Holland took over the farming operation. Elizabeth continued to live in the family home until 1947, at which time she moved to the city. Eliza passed away in 1958 at the age of 97. Despite the sale of the farm to Imperial Oil in 1949, Holland was allowed to continue to raise hay on the property for several years.¹⁰



Figure 7: Looking west towards Edmonton and newly "constructed" Imperial Oil refinery ca. 1950, erected on land purchased from the Fulton family. Provincial Archives of Alberta, BL1527.37.

Sometime in the 1890s locals began using the terms "Fulton Creek", "Fulton Ravine" and "Fulton Hill" to describe the various natural features adjacent to the family's farm. Newspaper articles and federal government documents adopted these names

¹⁰ "Memories With No Tears," in *Imperial Oil Review*, April 1956, p. 15; "Pioneer Dies at 97 Years," ([Edmonton] newspaper article, from the Fulton, Daniel information file, PAA).

as early as 1900.¹¹ Today, the names Fulton Creek and Fulton Ravine refer to those features that run parallel to Fulton Drive, making up the south-western boundary of the present community. It is not known when the application of the Fulton name became associated with these features rather than those further to the east. The “original” Fulton ravine west of the Imperial Oil refinery became known as Gold Bar Ravine when that neighborhood was built in the late 1950s.¹²

A concluding note about Fulton Hill – it was more than just an obstacle to those transporting their produce to Edmonton. It was at times dangerous resulting in numerous accidents and injuries. Locals, including Daniel Fulton began lobbying politicians in the early 1890s requesting funding to build a proper bridge over the creek, to widen and straighten the road, and to reduce the grade and depth of the hill. Frustrated by the lack of action, locals, including Fulton, established a committee and began to make improvements on their own; the provincial and municipal governments of both Strathcona and Clover Bar eventually contributed gravel, an expanded culvert and an improvement grant. Despite being declared a secondary highway in 1927, the provincial government was always slow in providing funding for road improvements.¹³

The district of Clover Bar, where the Fultons and later the Morrisises settled, was named for Thomas Clover, a gold miner who began plying the waters of the North Saskatchewan River in 1860. People referred to his “claim” as *Clover’s Bar*. With the passage of time the name was applied to the area stretching north of the river to Clover Bar (Baseline) Road, and as far east as Highway 216, or Anthony Henday Road.¹⁴ Thomas Clover and his neighbours had grand plans for the area. At one point in the 1880s the Edmonton Bulletin even referred to the emerging community as “Clover City”. Despite all the hype, Clover’s vision of grandeur never came to fruition.¹⁵

¹¹ “Tenders for Bridges: Notice,” in Edmonton Bulletin, August 27, 1900; “School honors memory of pioneer citizen, trustee,” in Edmonton Journal, October 28, 1977; Naming Edmonton: From Ada to Zoie, ([author] City of Edmonton), 2004, p. 106.

¹² Berger, Naming Edmonton, p. 118.

¹³ “Tenders,” in Edmonton Bulletin, October 31, 1892; “Tenders for Bridges: Notice,” in Edmonton Bulletin, August 27, 1900; “Fearful Plunge Down Steep Hill In An Automobile,” in Edmonton Capital, September 1, 1913; “Clover Bar Road,” in the Edmonton Bulletin, October 16, 1919; “Improving Clover Bar Road,” in Edmonton Bulletin, October 27, 1917; J.P. Berry, “Clover Bar in the Making, 1881-1931,” (Edmonton: unpublished manuscript), pp. 14-15.

¹⁴ Jane Dodds and Allison Matichuk, Guide book for Sherwood Park’s Heritage Mile: Broadmoor Boulevard, from the Traffic Circle to Main Boulevard, (Sherwood Park, Alberta: Sherwood Park’s Heritage Mile Society, 2001), p. 30; Berry, “Clover bar in the Making,” pp. 3-4; Peter T. Ream, The Fort on the Saskatchewan: A resource book on Fort Saskatchewan and District, 2nd Edition, (Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta: Metropolitan Printing, 1974), p. 203.

¹⁵ “Clover City Booms,” in the Edmonton Bulletin, October 27, 1883.

The Morris Family Arrives in Clover Bar

Charles and Ada Lizzie Morris, originally from England, arrived in the Edmonton area in 1906 preceded by their nephews James, Percy and Albro (brothers) who settled in the Edmonton area. James started a dairy farm operation on River Lot 37 (205 acres) where Charles and Lizzie would eventually settle. Percy is believed to have settled on River Lot 35 (208 acres).¹⁶ These plots measured approximately one mile in length, stretching south from the river to Clover Bar Road, or present-day 101st Avenue.¹⁷ The Clover Bar district was home to a considerable number of dairy farms, boasting modern barns and substantive herds of Holstein milking cows.¹⁸

Like so many others who came to the Canadian West in search of opportunity and “free” land, it is likely the Morrises were enticed by the less-than-truthful description and characterization of the region’s climate and amenities as presented in the ads and pamphlets distributed by the Dominion government and transportation companies. The Edmonton region was booming at the time the Morrises arrived. The expansion and construction of railway networks, the exploitation of natural resources and the arrival of large numbers of immigrants fuelled the economy.



Figure 8: Mrs. Lizzie Morris and her daughter in front of one of the Morris family homes, post-1908. Note the "Alberta Dairy" name written on the gate to the right of the house. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

¹⁶ E-mail correspondence, Marilyn Robertson to Scott Davies, August 18, 2014; E-mail, Robertson to Davies, August 1, 2014; Bob Snyder, "Alberta Dairy – Morris Brothers" draft revised entry, in Dairies of Edmonton, 1905 – 1955, (Edmonton: self – published, publication date, tbd).

¹⁷ Berry, "Clover bar in the Making," p. 10; Edmonton Settlement (1883) map.

¹⁸ E-mail, Robertson to Davies, August 11, 2014;.

Newspaper accounts suggest that the Morris family were among the original organizers of, and suppliers to, the Edmonton City Dairy (est. 1906). Local historian Bob Snyder suspects they sold their retail business to ECD continuing on as suppliers and producers.¹⁹ Charles, and his nephew James, did purchase the Alberta Dairy business from Edwin Smart of Edmonton, officially taking over ownership on January 1, 1908.²⁰



Figure 9: Early days for the Morris family "Alberta Dairy" operations. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

The resulting operation boasted a herd of between 30-40 milking cows.²¹ How long the Morris family operated the Alberta Dairy production and wholesale/retail business is not known, albeit Snyder suggest at least until 1919 when James departed for Richmond, B.C.²²

¹⁹ Snyder, "Alberta Dairy – Morris Brothers" draft revised entry.

²⁰ "Report on City Dairies," in Edmonton Bulletin, December 10, 1908; "Pioneer Dairyman Dies at 85," in the Edmonton Journal, May 27, 1967; "Notice," in Edmonton Bulletin, January 4, 1908; "The City's Health," in Edmonton Bulletin, February 7, 1914; Bob Snyder, Dairies of Edmonton, 1905-1955: Milk Delivery in Edmonton, (Edmonton: 2005), p. 80.

²¹ "The City's Health: Dairy Inspection," in Edmonton Bulletin, February 7, 1908; Report on City Dairies," in Edmonton Bulletin, December 10, 1908; Census of Canada, 1906, 1916 and 1921, Library and Archives Canada website, select specific years: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx>.

²² Snyder, Dairies of Edmonton, p. 7; Snyder, "Alberta Dairy – Morris Brothers" draft revised entry.

Life on a farm at this time would have been rudimentary, routine and demanding. The needs of the herd took priority – milking twice daily, delivering product to town, cleaning and maintaining the barn, equipment and other outbuildings, and a host of other chores. The daily round trips to Edmonton to deliver milk were a time-consuming process. Even with automation and improved transportation networks and motor vehicles the work was continuous and repetitive.



Figure 10: Ed Foged cutting ice, ca. mid-1930s. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

Accordingly, leisure time was limited and pursuits were often homespun, requiring creativity and imagination. For example, one of the Morris' granddaughters recalls hearing tales of family members being pulled on skis across the fields by teams of oxen and horses.²³ Organized activities or teams for children beyond those associated with school did not exist, and radio or other forms of electronic devices had not yet been invented or were not available in the area.



Figure 11: Hayrack skiing on Morris farm, ca. 1940s. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

²³ E-mail, Robertson to Moir, January 18, 2015.

College Heights:

The allure of making a large profit from the sale of their land would have factored significantly in the family's decision to proceed with what turned out to be an ill-timed property development proposal in 1911-12. In the run-up to the First World War Western Canada experienced a land boom of such magnitude it would go unrivalled until the 1950s. Land values skyrocketed - an acre of land that sold for \$20.00 in 1910 was worth \$125.00 at the height of the boom in 1912.²⁴ The rapid growth of Western Canada's population in the two decades prior to the 1st WW was one of the main reasons for the escalating prices. Between 1895 and 1914 hundreds of thousands of people from Britain, Europe and the United States immigrated to the Prairies in search of "free" homestead land and a new life. During the first two decades of the 20th Century, Canada absorbed 3.3 million newcomers; between 1901 and 1911 Alberta's population grew five and half times from 73,000 to 374,000. Edmonton's population increased from approximately 10,000 in 1906, when the Morris family arrived, to more than 70,000 at the outbreak of the war in 1914.²⁵

As land prices increased, agents and brokers flocked to the city and region. At the height of the land boom in 1912, Henderson's directory for Edmonton listed 32 real estate brokers, 135 financial agents (most engaged in land transactions) and 336 real estate agents.²⁶ Ads pronouncing Edmonton "The Fastest Growing City in Canada" appeared daily in the local papers. Requests for approval of building permits reached an all-time high and dozens of development projects were promoted, each encouraging immediate action: "Terrace Heights will be placed on the market ... at a price so low and terms so easy that the entire subdivision will be sold immediately."²⁷ When the Hudson's Bay Company put the last of its reserve lands up for sale in the summer of 1912, 1,500 people waited in line for hours in hopes of acquiring one of 1,300 business and residential lots.²⁸

In 1911 Charles and James Morris put forth a plan to create a new district called College Heights; the development plan was approved the following year. Had the project proceeded, most of the Morris property would have been converted into residential neighborhoods. Several announcements and stories in the local papers between 1911-13 relative to the annexation of land to the south east of the city added credence to this venture. Completion of the East End (Dawson) Bridge in August 1912 dramatically reduced travel time to and from Clover Bar to the city,

²⁴ Berry, Clover Bar in the Making, p. 10.

²⁵ James G. MacGregor, Edmonton: A History, (Edmonton: Hurtig, 1975, p. 327; Palmer, Alberta: A New History, pp. 77-78.

²⁶ MacGregor, Edmonton: A History, p. 196.

²⁷ The Terrace Heights subdivision cited in this ad was scheduled to be developed on River Lot 31. Morning edition, Edmonton Bulletin, March 15, 1912; MacGregor, Edmonton: A History, p. 198.

²⁸ Gilpin, Edmonton, Gateway to the North, pp. 104 & 109.

providing promoters with even more fuel to heighten investor interest.²⁹ The inclusion of a proposed college campus was designed to attract people of a particular ilk and standing within society, adding prestige, credence and value to the development.

Specifically, the plans called for the creation of four subdivisions – Crescent View (RL 35), College Heights and Ridgeway Park (RL 37), Hollywood (RL 39), as well as a new Alberta College campus (RL 43).³⁰

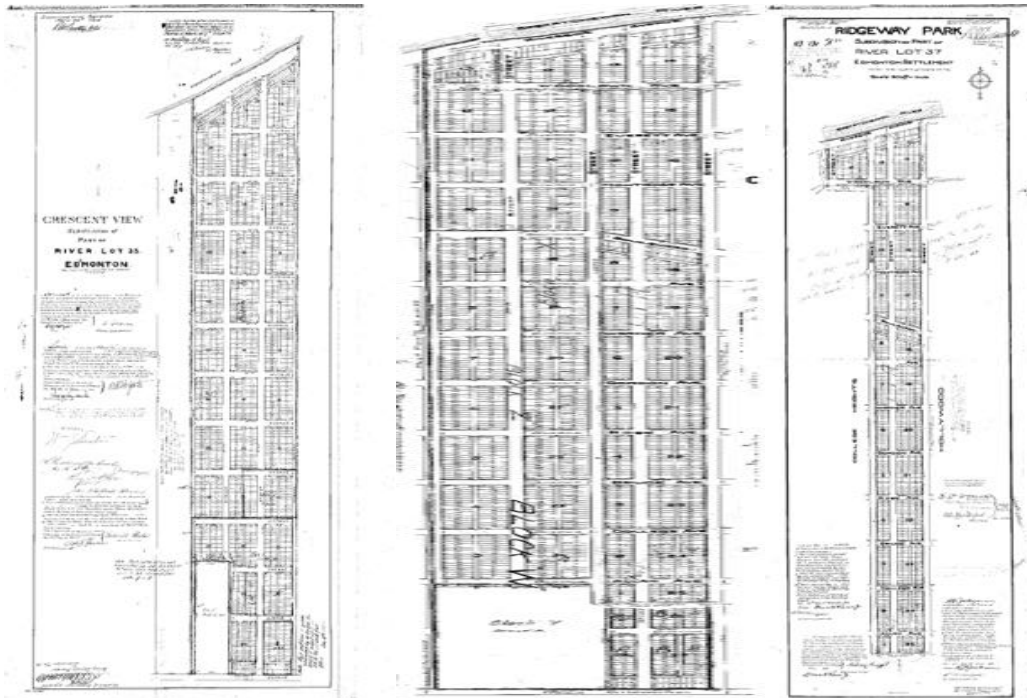


Figure 12: Plans for Crescent View, College Heights and Ridgeway Park, proposed developments on the Morris farm lands, ca 1912. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

Advertisements in Edmonton newspapers advised prospective buyers, “Buy Crescent View Lots and Become Independent!” Similarly, ads lured buyers to

²⁹ Driscoll & Knight Map (1912), City of Edmonton Archives; “History of Annexations, Edmonton, Alberta,” City Planning Department, City of Edmonton, August 1959 (City of Edmonton Archives); Untitled article in the Edmonton Journal, October 7, 1983 (City of Edmonton clipping file); MacGregor, Edmonton: A History, p. 196; “Hollywood” subdivision advertisement, ca. 1912, (PR1987.0142, Provincial Archives of Alberta).

³⁰ E-mail, Robertson to Davies, August 11, 2014; “Hollywood” subdivision advertisement, ca. 1912, (PR1987.0142, Provincial Archives of Alberta).

HOLLYWOOD HAS EVERY Advantage you could Desire...

Healthfulness, Convenience and Beauty of Situation, at a Most Moderate Price, and on Very Easy Terms.

GREATER EDMONTON

GREATER EDMONTON is a city of 100,000 people, with a population that is growing rapidly. It is a city of opportunity, with a wide variety of business and industrial opportunities. It is a city of beauty, with a beautiful location on the North Saskatchewan River. It is a city of health, with a clean and healthy environment. It is a city of convenience, with a wide variety of services and facilities. It is a city of advantage, with a wide variety of opportunities for growth and development.

Low Prices and Easy Terms

Terms:

1. A cash down payment of 10% of the purchase price. 2. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in 12 equal monthly installments. 3. The interest rate on the balance of the purchase price to be 6% per annum. 4. The first installment to be paid within 30 days of the date of the purchase. 5. The balance of the purchase price to be paid within 12 months of the date of the purchase.

Western Canada Properties, Limited,
Phone Main 4337 and 5331 30 Victoria Street, Toronto.

HOLLYWOOD

EDMONTON'S QUALITY SUBURB IN THE EXCLUSIVE EDUCATIONAL SECTION. YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE AN UNUSUALLY VALUABLE HOMESITE OR INVESTMENT AT A PRICE THAT WILL SEEM REMARKABLY LOW BEFORE EDMONTON HAS GROWN ANOTHER YEAR.

WHEAT SCHOOL

HOLLYWOOD is situated at the eastern edge of Edmonton, in the most exclusive section of the great Alberta Capital, close to the heart of the city. It is a city of opportunity, with a wide variety of business and industrial opportunities. It is a city of beauty, with a beautiful location on the North Saskatchewan River. It is a city of health, with a clean and healthy environment. It is a city of convenience, with a wide variety of services and facilities. It is a city of advantage, with a wide variety of opportunities for growth and development.

GREATER EDMONTON

One of the NEXT STEPS TO EXPANSION will be EDMONTON Plus the Homes of HOLLYWOOD.

EVIDENCES OF GROWTH:

The increase in the city of Edmonton, Alberta, has been rapid. The city has grown from a small town to a large city. The city has a wide variety of business and industrial opportunities. The city has a beautiful location on the North Saskatchewan River. The city has a clean and healthy environment. The city has a wide variety of services and facilities. The city has a wide variety of opportunities for growth and development.

EDMONTON CITY HALL

³¹ Edmonton Bulletin (Morning edition), February 22, 1912; Edmonton Bulletin (Morning edition), January 28, 1913; “Hollywood” subdivision advertisement, ca. 1912, (PR1987.0142, Provincial Archives of Alberta).



Figure 14: Although located on RL 39 - what is today Gold Bar - Hollywood was part of the larger College Heights sub-division proposed by the Morris family and their partners. Provincial Archives of Alberta, PR1987.0142 Hollywood Subdivision.

The College Heights subdivision was to boast 25-foot wide lots, 66-foot wide, tree-lined avenues with 75-foot wide boulevards, and a grand thoroughfare paralleling the river's edge called Riverside Avenue.³² The Morris family planned to retain a few small parcels of land, likely to buffer their existing yard and residence from the new development.

1913 was not kind to those individuals and investors involved in real estate and land development projects, nor was it a good year for those municipalities that had expanded their boundaries in an attempt to keep pace with population growth. A worldwide economic slowdown resulted in a decline in the flow of money and credit. This in turn led to a substantive reduction in railway construction and a decline in the issuance of building permits. Seemingly overnight, interest in real estate dried up and land values plummeted. Many of those who had bought properties in the run up to the crash defaulted on their payments. As was the case with many communities, Edmonton had expanded too quickly and was financially over-extended. Between 1914 and 1916 the city's population declined from 72,000 to 54,000, further reducing the tax base. Some of this can be attributed to men joining the military to fight in the war overseas, but it was also caused by people simply moving on in search of employment. The geographic size of the city would

³² E-mail, Robertson to Davies, August 11, 2014 (re: Plan for Ridgeway Park and river lots 35 and 37).

remain unchanged until the 1950s when Edmonton annexed land to accommodate the development of the Hardisty and Coronet districts.³³ During the 1920s and 1930s the City of Edmonton became the owner of thousands of abandoned lots, many remaining on the books until the end of the 2nd WW. Once full of ads lauding tremendous investment value, city newspapers now printed hundreds of land tax sale notices. In the mid-1930s vacant lots and farmland accounted for a considerable portion of Edmonton's 108 square kilometers.³⁴

A Return to Farming

With the development project stalled the Morrisises once again focused on their farming operations. Charles and James spent many years engaged in lengthy legal proceedings winding down their development plans that involved agents and investors from various parts of Canada and abroad. One notice reported in the January 10, 1921 edition of the Edmonton Bulletin states that the Morrisises – Charles and James – were pursuing payment with the help of the courts from a Mr. Norman L. Nage and unknown others in relation to the purchase of a large number of lots in College Heights.³⁵ The province's Board of Public Utilities Commission formally canceled the sub-division plan in September 1922. Documents in the H.M.E. Evans fonds at the City of Edmonton Archives indicate that investors were glad to be finished with the venture as the ongoing land taxation assessments amounted to more than the value of the proposed residential lots.³⁶ The Evans collection also references the cancellation of the subdivision plans and describes the residential lots as having no value. Further to this point, documents at the Land Titles office, notably those dating from the 1930s, indicate no or only minimal values for those lands "owned" by investors.³⁷

³³ MacGregor, Edmonton: A History, pp. 281-2.

³⁴ MacGregor, Edmonton: A History, pp. 214-15, 240, 246-47, and map insert (no page), "Growth of Edmonton to 1966"; Palmer, Alberta: A New History, p. 168; Gilpin, Edmonton, Gateway to the North, p. 138; W. C. Wonders, "Repercussions of War and Oil on Edmonton, Alberta," in Cahiers de géographie du Québec, volume 3, no. 6, 1959, p. 343, accessed January 12, 2014 via erudit (www.erudit.org).

³⁵ Notice; no title; begins, "Take Notice that James Herbert Morris and Charles E. Morris through their solicitor ...," in Edmonton Bulletin (City Edition), January 10, 1921; H.M.E. Evans Manuscript collection, MS319, Class 4, File 3, (Folder B), City of Edmonton Archives, Legal document dated June 30, 1922, addressed to Miss Maud Anderson, c/o H.M.E. Evans, Esq., "In the matter of the act respecting subdivisions.

³⁶ H.M.E. Evans Manuscript collection, MS319, Class 4, File 3, (Folder B), City of Edmonton Archives, Legal document dated June 30, 1922, addressed to Miss Maud Anderson, c/o H.M.E. Evans, Esq., "In the matter of the act respecting subdivisions.

³⁷ H.M.E. Evans Manuscript collection, MS 319, Class 4, File 3, City of Edmonton Archives; Land Titles, Service Alberta, Government of Alberta (Edmonton; searches on RLs 33, 35 & 37), Spring 2014.

While there was some level of opportunity to prosper from the sale of land in the 1920s, the heady days of the pre-1st WW land boom were a thing of the past not to be repeated for several decades. Individuals with the means to purchase large numbers of lots or vast tracts of land were scarce. It is often said the 1920s “roared” - this they did, but not always for good reason. The decade was turbulent to say the least: it began with a post-war recession, followed by labour strife; farmers struggled in the new free-market environment, devoid of the wartime commodity price controls that had guaranteed them set prices for their goods; and, the return of hundreds of thousands of soldiers seeking work in a depressed economy only added to the woes of those already here trying to make a go of it. The arrival of hundreds of thousands of new immigrants, many displaced by the war, only complicated the situation. These were challenging times, and the few good years most would enjoy during the late 1920s soon seemed like distant memories with the onset of the great Depression in 1929-30. If selling land in the twenties was challenging – attempting to do so in the thirties was almost impossible.

Distribution of some of the family’s property may have occurred when Percy and James Morris moved away from Clover Bar in 1915 and 1919 respectively. The fact the 1921 census cites other individuals as owners of parcels of River Lot 35 suggests the family sold some of this property in the teens or 1920.³⁸ The Metcalfes and van Cowenbergs owned sizeable holdings, 50 and 35 acres respectively, and used these lands for market gardening and dairy farming operations. The Metcalfe property is described as being west - northwest of van Cowenberg’s, and extending south from a point close to the river to the present location of the Fulton Place community hall and St. Augustine’s Anglican Church. Fulton Road, or 63rd Street, north of 101th avenue served as the Metcalfe drive way.³⁹ Long time Fulton Place community resident Paul Palsat recalls that the land to the east of Fulton Road was still being used for market gardening purposes when he moved into his newly constructed home in 1955. That changed following year.⁴⁰

Gustaf van Cowenberg’s land stretched north from present day 101st A Avenue to the community league facilities, and from about 63rd street on the west side to 57th street or the Harry Hardin Park on the east. Gustaf van Cowenberg, or “Staff” as he was known, was from Belgium and operated a market garden. Access to his home

³⁸ E-mail, Robertson to Davies, August 11, 2014 regarding river lot 35, and the 1921 census.

³⁹ E-mail from Neil Lang to Scott Davies, December 10, 2013; Robert “Paddy” Johnson, “East Edmonton – the thirties,” (Edmonton: unpublished paper, 2014), p. 2; “Frederick Metcalfe” obituary, Edmonton Journal, July 7, 2009; Letter from City Solicitor, Alan MacDonald to The Board of Public Utility Commissioners, March 5, 1956 (File #991), acc. no. 77.73, file 28A, PAA.

⁴⁰ Unrecorded conversation between Paul Palsat and Sean Moir, December 26, 2013, Moir household, Fulton Place, Edmonton.

and outbuildings was via a road on the western edge of his property.⁴¹ Mr. Whitehead owned several small acreages north of van Cowenberg's farm stretching west from Harry Hardin Park to 62nd Street. Whitehead sold one parcel adjacent the Morris farm, to the Johnson family in 1935.⁴²

In 1935 one of Charles and Lizzie's daughters, Marjorie, or Marge as she was known, married a Danish gentleman by the name of Ed Foged. Marge and Ed built a home on the south-east corner of River Lot 37 immediately west of what is now the electrical sub-station. The City of Edmonton's *Edmonton Maps, Assessments (by Address)* website states this house was built in 1939, the same year that Marge's brother Andrew moved to the Penticton region of the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia.⁴³ This house is now slated for demolition; the lot to be sub-divided for the development of 2-3 infill houses.

Ed Foged would play a central role in planning and completing the day-to-day work of the Morris farm. While Charles still had a significant say in the overall operation, by the 1930s he was no longer capable of the physical demands required to maintain a dairy farm. Marge's brother Andrew assisted when he could, but he attended Edmonton Technical School, worked for the City of Edmonton and the Lacombe Nurseries, and occasionally travelled to Vancouver for work. Marjorie's other sibling, Beatrice, also married a Danish immigrant, Aksel Lange. Like Ed Foged, Lange came to Canada in the late 1920s/early 1930s in search of land and farming opportunities.⁴⁴

The Morris farm operation was successful and well run. The large barn was equipped with an automated vacuum or "surge" milking system, running water to each cattle stall and conveyers for removing manure.

⁴¹ Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," pp. 1-2; Robert "Paddy" Johnson, hand drawn maps of Morris property and surrounding area of Clover Bar in 1930s, ca 2014.

⁴² Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," p. 1-2; R.W. Johnson, "My Rugged Road," (Edmonton: unpublished manuscript, ca. 1980s, pp. 277-78.

⁴³ Email, Robertson to Davies, August 1, 2014; E-mail, Marilyn Robertson to Sean Moir, January 18, 2015; City of Edmonton, <http://maps.edmonton.ca/map.aspx?lookingFor=Assessments\By%20Address> (type in the specific address to access data).

⁴⁴ E-mail, Robertson to Moir, January 18, 2015.



Figure 15: Morris farms dairy barn, ca mid-1930s. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

The family owned at least one tractor and other mechanized equipment. Milk production from the herd of Holstein cows often exceeded their allotted quota.⁴⁵



Figure 16: Delivery truck taking product to Edmonton for processing. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

The Johnsons, who purchased the acreage immediately to the west of the Morris farm, were able to buy an unlimited supply of milk and one quart of cream each week for the sum of twenty-five cents a day. Young Paddy Johnson, a boy of about five when his parents purchased the acreage, remembers fetching milk from the Morris farm for his mother.⁴⁶

On occasion Paddy's parents did chores for the Morris'. Once when Ed and Marge were both ill with the flu, the Johnsons took on the responsibility of milking the entire herd. Paddy remembers Ed Foged as a friendly, quiet and patient man. His parents' willingness to help the Morrises and Fogeds from time to time led to Paddy "helping" out around the farm. As his physical capability increased, he was given the opportunity to try new and more complex tasks, including stacking bales in the

⁴⁵ Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," p. 3; Johnson, "My Rugged Road," p. 280.

⁴⁶ Johnson, "My Rugged Road," p. 280.

hayloft, milking the cows, cleaning the cream separator and shooting gophers. (Gopher holes are a menace to livestock. They can result in broken legs, often leaving farmers little choice but to put down injured animals.)⁴⁷ As time passed Ed taught him how to drive the John Deere Model D tractor and Ford Model A car. Soon Paddy was ploughing, disking and harrowing fields, and in the fall, operating the binder. Paddy was responsible for ensuring the work was completed and the machinery returned in good order.⁴⁸

Departing Alberta:

As previously noted Charles and Lizzie's son, Andrew left Clover Bar for Penticton in 1939 where he started a dairy operation, was involved in town planning, and real estate.⁴⁹ Several members of the family had long since left Alberta for the warmer climes of the BC coast and interior regions. Percy sold his cattle, poultry and land in December, 1915. James, co-owner of the Alberta Dairy operation, relocated his family to Richmond in 1919.⁵⁰ Another brother, Albro, remained in Edmonton, and operated a west end dairy during the 2nd WW.⁵¹ Charles and Lizzie and the Fogeds sold the farm – land, buildings and animals – in 1948, relocating to the BC interior. Given their age and Charles' declining health the family thought it best that everyone live in close proximity to one another.⁵²

⁴⁷ Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," pp. 2-3; Oral History Transcription, Robert "Paddy" Johnson, May 31, 2014 (Sean Moir interviewer/Scott Davies audio and video), May 31, 2014, p. 6.

⁴⁸ Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," pp. 2-3; Sean Moir notes from meeting with Mr. Paddy Johnson, Spring 2014.

⁴⁹ E-mail, Robertson to Davies, July 13, 2014; e-mail, Robertson to Moir, January 18, 2015.

⁵⁰ "Dispersion Sale By Auction," in the Edmonton Bulletin, December 23, 1915; e-mail from Robertson to Davies, August 1, 2014).

⁵¹ E-mail from Robertson to Davies, August 1, 2014; Snyder, Dairies of Edmonton, page 25.

⁵² E-mail, Robertson to Davies, July 13, 2014.



Figure 17: The sale of the Morris farm, animals and equipment in 1948 attracted considerable attention. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

From Holsteins to Homes: Mr. Holt Buys a Farm:

Joseph A. Holt's decision to purchase of the Morris farm in 1948 was driven by more than an immediate interest of realizing a good deal at a farm auction. In the years following the 2nd WW, Edmonton was once again experiencing substantial growth. Several factors contributed: a large increase in the region's population driven by a return of military personnel; the influx American oil field workers seeking work in a re-invigorated post-Leduc petroleum industry; a new wave of immigrants – many displaced by war; and, the onset of the baby boom! Edmonton's population doubled from 113,000 to 226,000 between 1946 and 1956. This rapid rise in population put pressure on a housing market that had been stagnant for over thirty years. These factors resulted in a growing demand for – and higher prices of – homes and land. For the first time since the 1st WW the city began examining the issue of expansion and annexation.⁵³ The development of new suburban communities would commence in earnest in the mid-1950s and continue unabated for nearly two decades.⁵⁴

In 1952 town planners presented city officials with a detailed strategy to manage growth. Senior planner, Noel Dant authored a memo entitled "Proposed Annexation of Certain Land to the Southeast of existing City Limits." In this document Dant outlined several issues including the optimal geographic size and shape of a municipality in relation to its projected population. A uniform shaped city – oval or square – was thought to offer greater functionality and efficiencies. It was believed that a controlled growth pattern would facilitate construction of a proposed outer ring road and adjacent green belt – both required for Civil Defense and aesthetic purposes. Uniformity of shape did, however, limit the number of river crossings for

⁵³ E-mail, Robertson to Davies, July 13, 2014; MacGregor, Edmonton: A History, pp. 273-280; Berger, Naming Edmonton, pp. xxiii, xxv and xxvii.

⁵⁴ Berger, Naming Edmonton, pp. xxiii, xxv and xxvii.



Figure 18: Aerial photo looking east; northern reaches of river lots 33 thru 41 on the south side of the river are visible. Provincial Archives of Alberta, BL1527.5.

any proposed ring road, and utilization of existing natural coulees was seen as a way to maximize cost efficiencies. Accordingly, Dant intimated that the original Fulton Ravine on the south side of the river, to the east of the city, would well serve this purpose. Development of a ring road in this location would naturally lead to the acquisition and development of the Holt properties.⁵⁵



Figure 19: Aerial photo looking south - southwest, depicting river lots 33-41. The Morris farm yard and buildings are visible to the far left of the photograph, straddling Clover Bar Road. Provincial Archives of Alberta, BL1527.8.

The estimated value of River Lot 37 (205 acres) in 1948 was \$35,000.00. Three years later (1951) that same land was valued at nearly \$170,000.00.⁵⁶ In 1952 Holt agreed to sell the city 300 acres for \$245,000.00: \$816.66 an acre - a record sum at the time.⁵⁷ As part of the deal Holt was allowed to continue to farm the land until it

⁵⁵ Dant to Mayor, City Commissioners and Alderman, March 18, 1952, "Re: Proposed Annexation of Certain land to the Southeast of existing City Limits," RG 11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, file 6, City of Edmonton Archives.

⁵⁶ Land Titles, Service Alberta, GOA (Searches on RLs 33, 35 & 37), Spring 2014.

⁵⁷ Land Titles, Service Alberta, GOA (Searches on RLs 33, 35 & 37), Spring 2014; "Strathcona Farmer Sells Farm To City For \$800 Per Acre," *Edmonton Bulletin* clipping file, January 17, 1952, City of Edmonton Archives; "Decision of Council", January 14, 1952, Addendum to C.R. No. 5, #18 "Purchase of Holt Farm", RG-11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, file 457, City of Edmonton Archives.

was needed for development. As he owned the buildings on the property, he was given permission to access them for three years and at the end of that time he was provided the option to remove them. Lastly, he negotiated a five-year lease on an existing gravel pit situated on River Lot 37 (January 1951 to December 1956).⁵⁸ As part of the purchase agreement, the city acquired Holt's fifty percent interest in all mines and minerals associated with the land. To eliminate any possibility of coal mining in the area, the City of Edmonton paid Andrew Morris \$1,000.00 to acquire his residual coal rights affiliated with the land.⁵⁹ Oddly enough, the following year - 1953 - Andrew Morris and city officials began negotiating an oil and gas revenue sharing arrangement associated with the same lands. The deal fell through when Morris' company, Overland Industries, failed to post a \$10,000.00 performance bond by a stated deadline.⁶⁰

Annexation and Expansion:

Edmonton's willingness to pay Holt such a large sum for the land was driven by the city's need to expand in order to accommodate the construction of new homes. The municipality also wanted to thwart any large-scale industrial development in the area that would depress land values, and render any residual property in the district unsuitable for residential development. Of greatest concern to city officials was the C.I.L. Industries' option to build a chemical refinery on the River Lots 35 and 37. CIL eventually agreed to the City's request to consider other options, settling for a site

⁵⁸ "Memo for City Commissioners", (City of Edmonton Land Department) re Blocks X & Y, Crescent View, Plan 4181 A. J. (R.L. 35): River Lot 37, Edmonton Settlement, Cont. 205 acres more or less J.M. Holt, from Superintendent J. Peterson, May 8, 1952, RG 11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, file 457, City of Edmonton Archives; Memorandum, Blocks X & Y, Crescent View, Plan 4181 A. J. (R.L. 35): River Lot 37, Edmonton Settlement, Cont. 205 acres more or less J.M. Holt from Commissioner J. Hodgson to Supt. J. Peterson, Land Department, City of Edmonton, May 9, 1952, RG 11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, File 457.

⁵⁹ Memorandum, J. Hodgson, Commissioner, to Mr. F. C. Ockenden, City Comptroller, January 11, 1952, "Subject: Purchase of Holt Farm - 300 Acres"; and Memorandum, "Addendum to C.R. no. 5, "Purchase of Holt Farm", Decision of Council, January 14, 1952, (both documents in) RG-11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, file 457, City of Edmonton Archives; "Strathcona Farmer Sells ...," Edmonton Bulletin, January 17, 1952.

⁶⁰ "City Takes Additional Step Towards Oil, Gas Production" and "City Oil Well Deal Fails As Company Withdraws", in Edmonton Journal, April 14, 1953. Having expended considerable funds to acquire the mineral rights for these and adjacent lands, it seems odd that the city would consider an oil drilling program in the same area. One has to wonder if this was a case of "the left hand not knowing what the right hand was doing."

east of 50th Street south of Clover Bar (Baseline) Road.⁶¹ All of which, in hindsight, is ironic given the City of Edmonton's battles with surrounding municipalities over the control and sharing of tax revenues from industry.



Figure 20: The emergence of refinery row to the east of the Hardisty district 1959. City zoning prevented the development of such facilities on the former Morris farm lands, requiring industrial complexes to locate further to the east, outside city boundaries. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-33-203.

The acquisition of the Holt property (300 acres) was part of a larger plan to annex 820 acres from the County of Strathcona; this took place in 1954. All told, the city acquired River Lots 31, 33, 35 and 37, enabling the development of the “Terrace Heights” and “Capilano” neighborhoods within the larger Hardisty district. As an aside, during the early 1950s government officials and developers used the name Terrace Heights to refer to the area that became Fulton Place. River lots 31 and 33 straddled what is now Gretzky Drive; the former, to the west, became part of Forest Heights and West Capilano; the latter, to the east, Fulton Place and Capilano. City Council voted in favour of the Holt transaction on January 11, 1954: the province’s Board of Public Utility Commissioners followed suit on March 2, 1954 (Order no. 15272).⁶²

⁶¹ Macgregor, *Edmonton: A History*, p. 325; “Decision of Council – January 14, 1952, Purchase of Holt Farm”, RG 11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, file 457, City of Edmonton Archives; and, “Strathcona Farmer Sells ...”, *Edmonton Bulletin*, January 17, 1952.

⁶² Macgregor, *Edmonton: A History*, p. 282 and map insert (no page); Berger, *Naming Edmonton*, pp. xxiii, xxv and xxvii; City of Edmonton correspondence, May 19, 1954, RG 11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, File A73-52, f6; “Appendix 1, Re: Annexation Petition of City of Edmonton, Resolution:”, notarized by G.S. Docherty, City Clerk, Accession number 71.80, box 76, Provincial Archives of Alberta; and, Certified True copy of briefing document, “Order no. 15272”, Board of Public Utility Commissioners for the Province of Alberta, March 2, 1954, W.C. Elliot, Secretary, City of Edmonton Archives.

The additional 520 acres were acquired from several owners, including Mr. Alston H. King, owner of River Lot 33, and the van Cowenbergs and Metcalfes, owners of land within the original River Lot 35. King had solicited the city as early as 1949, requesting annexation of his land for the purposes of creating a residential subdivision. The city purchased River Lot 33 from Mr. King sometime after 1953. Fred Metcalfe wrote to the city on April 17, 1953, offering to sell his 50-acres for \$55,000.00. Metcalfe offered the city fifty percent of all mineral rights, stating that he would retain 12.5% “on all mines and minerals, gas included.” This offer was later withdrawn – the reason is not known. The annexation of the 820 acres would accommodate the development of nearly 1,600 fifty-foot wide residential lots; (this was the minimum width permitted by the province for residential lots).⁶³

Fulton Place Takes Shape:

Beginning in the 1950s, the city implemented a modified grid system allowing for greater flexibility in the development of new neighborhoods. This approach called for cul-de-sacs, curvilinear and diagonal streets and the application of names for thoroughfares. These aspects of urban planning represented a significant departure from two long-held policies: first, a very rigid, uniform grid pattern that pre-dated the city’s incorporation in 1904 and dictated lot and block size and shape; and, second, the re-introduction of the use of names into the street numbering system.⁶⁴

⁶³ Letter, City of Edmonton solicitor, Alan F. MacDonald to Board of Public Utility Commissioners, March 5, 1956 (File #991), and Letter, H. N. Lash, Director of Town & Rural Planning (Government of Alberta) to Noel Dant, Town Planner, City of Edmonton, June 20, 1951; various correspondence, dated July – August, 1949, from J.H. Holloway, Director of Town Planning, City of Edmonton to Mr. A. H. King and other city officials, (all documents from) Accession number 71.80, box 76, Provincial Archives of Alberta; Letter “RE: Section 140, Public utilities Act ...”, from Asst. City Solicitor Alan MacDonald to Municipal Offices, M.D. Strathcona, December 24, 1953, accession number 77.73, file 28A, box 76, Provincial Archives of Alberta; Letter, Fred A. Metcalfe to the city of Edmonton, April 17, 1953, RG-11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, file 458, City of Edmonton Archives.

⁶⁴ Berger, Naming Edmonton, pp. xxii - xxv.



Figure 21: Fulton Place ca. 1956 featuring non-linear street organization takes shape. Roads and lanes were gravel and sidewalks were a year or two in the offing. 101st Avenue (Clover Bar Road) is in the foreground. Provincial Archives of Alberta, WS88.2.

The exclusive use of numbers was implemented in 1914 to rein-in the mounting confusion and duplication caused by the rapid development of new neighborhoods during the pre-First World War era, and the amalgamation of Edmonton and Strathcona two years prior (1912). The work of adopting and applying appropriate names became the exclusive responsibility of city officials in 1914. The demand for meaningful and legitimately researched street names in the post-2nd WW era resulted in the formation of the city's Naming Committee in 1956.⁶⁵ Features of the more flexible, modified grid system are evident throughout Fulton Place, notably the use of names such as Fulton Road and Fulton Drive, and winding roads that switch from streets to avenues, and sometimes back to streets, with no hard, ninety degree turns.

⁶⁵ Berger, Naming Edmonton, p. xxv.



Figure 22: Aerial of Hardisty district, including the south-western portion of Fulton, ca. early 1960s, prior to the development of Capilano (Gretzky) Drive and the 106 Avenue bridge. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-33-179.

The construction of new homes in Fulton Place, and the Hardisty district as a whole, began in 1955.⁶⁶ Unlike Gold Bar which was planned and developed by a single company, MacLab Enterprises, several firms and private landholders were involved in the building of Fulton Place.⁶⁷ The two largest builders operating in the new community were G. W. Golden Construction Ltd. and Fekete Construction Co. Ltd. Golden encouraged potential buyers to view the “New Plans Available for Golden Homes in Fulton Place”, while Fekete offered post and beam construction and “New Horizon Styling” for the first time anywhere in Canada.

⁶⁶ Letter from City Solicitor, Alan MacDonald to The Board of Public Utility Commissioners, March 5, 1956 (File #991), acc. no. 77.73, file 28A, Provincial Archives of Alberta.

⁶⁷ Letter from City Solicitor, Alan MacDonald to The Board of Public Utility Commissioners, March 5, 1956 (File #991), acc. no. 77.73, file 28A, Provincial Archives of Alberta; Letter from Claude Gallinger and Sande MacTaggart to Mayor and City Commissioners of Edmonton, November 4, 1956, RG 11, Series 3, Sub-series 3.1, file 7, City of Edmonton Archives.

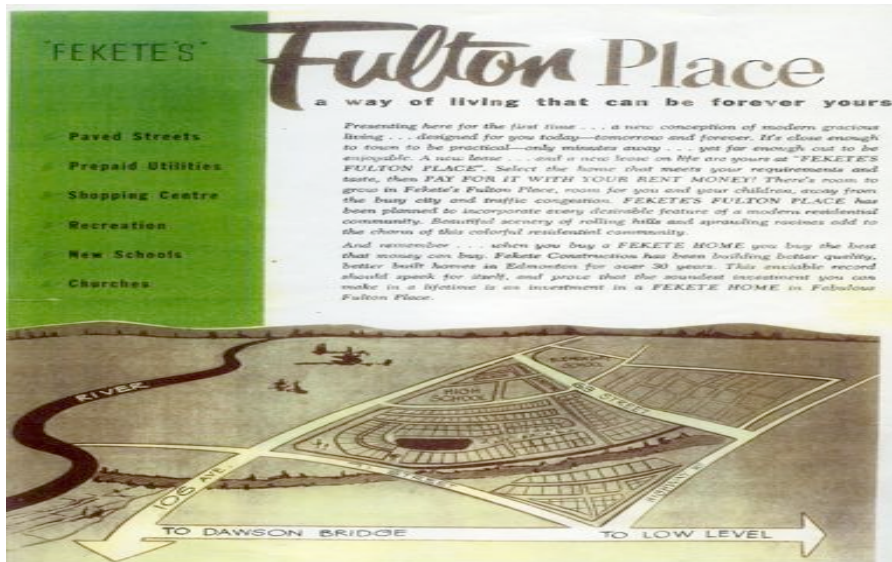


Figure 23: Fekete Construction ca 1954-55 promotional brochure for Fulton Place. FPCL Heritage Committee research files.

Fekete claimed their homes were “strikingly different” with “exciting features” in a community offering “modern gracious living ... designed for ... today, tomorrow and forever.”⁶⁸ It is interesting to note that all of the homes built by Fekete were bungalows – six variations on a basic theme.



Figure 24: The “Fulton” by Fekete Construction, ca. 1954-55. FPCL Heritage Committee research files.

Other builders included Shoquist and Wiekland. Both were granted permits to construct fifteen homes valued at \$12,000.00 each, and Ed Pahud received permission to build ten homes of similar value in 1957. The Johnsons were among those who opted to sell their land privately. Paddy Johnson built his home in 1957 on one of the residential lots created from his parents’ original acreage. The house is located on 101 A Avenue, west of the Morris (Bishop) farmhouse.⁶⁹

⁶⁸ “New Plans Available for Golden Homes”, in Edmonton Journal, April 6, 1957; Fekete Construction Co. Ltd. “New Horizon Styling” brochure, ca. 1956.

⁶⁹ “25 Permits Issued for Hardisty Homes,” Edmonton Journal, April 6, 1957; Oral History Transcription, Johnson, May 31, 2014, pp. 13-14; Unrecorded conversation, Paddy Johnson and Sean Moir, Spring, 2014.



Figure 25: Western reaches of Fulton Place ca. mid-1960s, notably Fulton Drive and ravine areas; streets paved, connecting roads and bridges completed. Provincial Archives of Alberta, J381.1, courtesy the Edmonton Journal.

Most infrastructure, residential and community facility construction was completed by the mid-1960s.



Figure 26: 106th Avenue bridge over Gretzky Drive, ca 1966 (left). Provincial Archives of Alberta J229, courtesy the Edmonton Journal; and, Capilano Tower, 101st Avenue and Fulton Road, ca mid-1960s (right). Provincial Archives of Alberta, J103, courtesy the Edmonton Journal.

The land-use breakdown has changed little over the years:

- Residential – 78.8
- Institutional – 12.5
- Recreation and open spaces – 5.3
- Transportation & Utilities – 1.2
- Commercial & Industrial – 1.1

“Underdeveloped” – 1.1⁷⁰

Single-family homes account for 86% of the total dwelling units, and 95% of all residential structures. The number of original houses that have been completely replaced is quite low; few fall into the “knockdown” category. The vast majority of residents maintain their homes, and accordingly the area has developed a reputation of supporting prices, regardless of broader economic conditions. Typically, demand outstrips supply. A considerable number of the modestly sized (1,100 square feet), three bedroom houses have undergone some level of upgrading – windows, doors, insulation and siding, the addition of decks, etc – but few have been significantly altered or expanded.⁷¹

The Four Pillars of Community: Schools, Facilities and Spaces, Fellowship and Worship, and Businesses:

Schools:

The provision of schools was paramount for the new district; this on account of the large number of families purchasing new homes in the Fulton Place neighborhood and the Hardisty district in general. A temporary structure, referred to by many as “the portables”, officially known as the Fulton School, then Fulton School Annex, and finally the Fulton Child Care Centre, was assembled in the fall of 1956. This facility welcomed its first students on January 3, 1957.



Figure 27: Original Fulton Place School ca. 1956; note the open field in the foreground, where houses would soon be constructed. Provincial Archives of Alberta, PA1275.

This portable structure was only intended to operate until the permanent, “red brick” elementary school opened. Now (2016) showing its age “the portables” have outlasted the expectations of most residents. Demolition, including asbestos abatement procedures, commenced in early 2016, and was completed in August.

⁷⁰ “Colorful history behind a name,” Edmonton Journal, October 24, 1992.

⁷¹ “Colorful history behind a name,” Edmonton Journal, October 24, 1992.

The school's initial intake in 1957 was 100 students, taught by Principal Elmer Gish and two other teachers. Gish projected that number would more than double by the end of the term.⁷² The permanent, brick school structure opened March 25, 1961, with 388 registered students. In a few years that number almost tripled, peaking at 950, more than any other elementary school in Edmonton.⁷³ Fulton Place School served the neighborhood for 49 years, closing its doors on June 29, 2010. It was the victim of a declining student population, diminishing demand for inner city class space, and the need to build and operate new schools in the many emerging Edmonton suburban districts.⁷⁴



Figure 28: Main entrance of the "permanent" Fulton Place Elementary School, 1968. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-20-4859.

The afore-mentioned Fulton Child Care Centre, one of the first daycares in Alberta to become provincially accredited, was opened in the vacated Fulton Place School Annex (portables) in 1974. Governed by a volunteer board of directors made up of parents and community members, it is the second-largest non-profit daycare centre in Edmonton. The pre-school operations of the daycare relocated to the main Fulton school building in 2015; the after-school care component of the agency's operations

⁷² "This Day In Journal History," feature, January 8, 2013 – "Jan. 3, 1957: Temporary school opens in Hardisty neighborhood".

⁷³ "Fulton Place School Opened in Ceremony," *Edmonton Journal*, March 25, 1961; Betty L. Hughes, "A Brief History of Fulton Place Community, 1957-1982," unpublished paper, ca. 1982, p. 3.

⁷⁴ "No More School," *Edmonton Sun*, June 29, 2010.

relocated to Hardisty Junior High school in 2011-12 when it transformed into a K-9 facility. The former Fulton school structure, like many in Edmonton, has begun a new chapter in its life home to several community service agencies.

Fulton's closing did not leave the area completely bereft of schools. As previously noted, the doors of Hardisty Junior High not only remained open but coinciding with Fulton's closure, the institution expanded its mandate to include kindergarten, elementary grades and after school care. This helped alleviate the negative impact the closure of Fulton and Capilano schools had on these neighborhoods with respect to retaining and attracting residents and maintaining property values.

Hardisty Junior High School officially opened May 23, 1958. Boasting the largest footprint for a junior high school in Western Canada. The 1,000-plus student body earned Hardisty the honour of having the highest enrollment among schools of its kind in Canada.⁷⁵ Initially deemed over-budget, several features including the industrial education and home economics shops, and audio-visual and art classes were cut; these were re-introduced into expansion plans subsequent to the school's opening.⁷⁶ Despite its substantial size, by 1967 additional "portable" structures were required to accommodate the burgeoning student population attending Hardisty. These temporary structures remained in place for several years.⁷⁷



Figure 29: Hardisty Junior High School, 1968. "Portables" were erected on the north-west corner of the school grounds to accommodate the massive student population. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-20-2088.

⁷⁵ Hughes, "A Brief History of Fulton ...," p. 3; E-mail Linda Lindsey to Sheila Thompson, December 1, 2013 (attachment of typed and scanned information cards from Hardisty School administration files).

⁷⁶ E-mail Lindsey to Thompson, December 1, 2013 (information cards).

⁷⁷ "Growing Pains: New Portable Classroom Units Won't Be Ready When School Opens," *Edmonton Journal*, August 29, 1967.



Figure 30: Despite being the largest junior high school constructed in Western Canada, temporary classrooms remained in use at Hardisty school for several years (1968). City of Edmonton Archives, EA-20-2087.

At the same time as the school was experiencing a shortage of space, Hardisty Junior High was selected for a pilot project – it was to become Alberta’s first “community” school. The pilot was initiated and funded by the Government of Alberta’s department of Education.⁷⁸ Key to the pilot was the development of the after-hours and summertime Hardisty Family Program or “drop-in” centre. The creation of this “centre” would divide residents, many arguing it was a great place for kids to meet and socialize, others adamant it would foster nothing but trouble, leading to the property damage, vandalism, organization of gangs, use of tobacco, drugs and alcohol and inappropriate underage sexual behavior. The project did result in changes in traffic flow in the area with the installation of street crossings and lights on 106th Avenue, and the introduction of school and city bus routes. Ultimately, those supportive of the project wanted the school to remain “lighted” (open and active) and a place where all generations could mix, mingle and come together to solve issues of concern to one and all.⁷⁹ The project dovetailed with an “Area 13” attempt to examine and develop proposals and plans to address the needs of the larger area as a whole. Of note was the necessity to provide activities and recreational facilities for the large youth population; the need to ensure the safety of citizens, particularly women and girls, with the “Keep Our People Safe” program;

⁷⁸ Hughes, “A Brief History of Fulton ...,” p. 3.

⁷⁹ Hughes, “A Brief History of Fulton ...,” p. 4; “SE residents want family drop-in spot,” June 10, 1969; “Teen drop-in centre angers area citizens,” April 13, 1970; “Neighboring: A new way to get involved,” August 10, 1970; “Community-use project will continue at Hardisty school,” October 14, 1970; and, “Drop-in centre open this summer at Hardisty, a community school,” July 19, 1971: all articles from the Edmonton Journal.

and, the need to offer residents information and opportunities to remain engaged with their communities. All of these were cited as critical if the communities were to be successful in the long run. The two most evident, tangible outcomes of this were the development of the Hardisty Leisure Centre (Pool) and Michael Cameron (Fulton) Arena in the 1970s.⁸⁰

Construction of the Hardisty Pool and Leisure Centre was not without controversy. The city's initial plan was to locate it adjacent McNally High School in Forest Heights. When this issue was being debated in the late 1960s, swimming was a part of the physical education program of senior high students; not so for those in junior high. In addition, precedent dictated the new facility be located next to McNally as was the case with Scona and Bonnie Doon pools. Despite these and other arguments put forth by the Forest Heights Community League, the Area 13 citizen action group (of which Forest Heights was/is a part) successfully lobbied city council to support the Hardisty location. Without question, the latter was more central to the entire district.⁸¹ An overheated Alberta economy driven by rising oil prices, and the collapse of the roof structure during construction resulted in both cost overruns and delays. The Hardisty Pool officially opened June 6th, 1975.⁸²

As an aside, Fulton Place and Hardisty were not the first schools to service the district. Prior to the City's annexation of River Lots 33 through 45, students such as Paddy Johnson attended East Edmonton School (#98), located at the corner of Clover Bar (Baseline) Road and 34th Street. This is notable because school district #98 – East Edmonton, and Fort Saskatchewan were the first schools in the Edmonton region authorized by the North West Territorial Council in 1887.⁸³

⁸⁰ Hughes, "A Brief History of Fulton ...," pp. 3-4.

⁸¹ "Southeast pool site in dispute," October 24, 1972; "Controversial pool remains slated for Hardisty location," November 17, 1972; and, "Council picks location for Hardisty pool," January 23, 1973: all articles from the Edmonton Journal.

⁸² "Official Opening Ceremony – Hardisty Pool," City of Edmonton News Release, June 4, 1975, Hardisty clipping file, City of Edmonton Archives.

⁸³ Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," p. 4; Emma Lien, The Schools of Strathcona County: A to Y, A Success Story, (Strathcona County: Strathcona County Retired Teachers' Association, 1999), p. 1.



Figure 31: Clover Bar School, 34th Street and Clover Bar Road, ca 1930s. “Paddy” Johnson, helper to Ed Foged on the Morris family farm, attended this school thru grade 9. Johnson family Collection.

The original log structure was replaced in 1915 by a two-room brick structure.⁸⁴ By the 1940s East Edmonton no longer supported high school, so Johnson and several of his class mates began attending “Scona” (Strathcona) High School, now known as Old Scona, located on 87th Avenue near the University of Alberta.⁸⁵

Facilities and Spaces:

The year after Fulton Place School (portables) opened its doors, citizens of the neighbourhood voted to establish a community league. Chaired by Gordon Hood, the board’s first actions were to build a rink and clubhouse/change room for the children. As was common at the time, a ladies auxiliary was formed in 1959, headed by President Jean Anderson.⁸⁶ The hall was constructed the same year, at a cost of \$25,000.00 - the mortgage was “burned” in 1972.



Figure 32: Main entrance, Fulton Place Community hall, 1968. Note the “Cash Bingo” sign on the west wall. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-20-2031.

⁸⁴ Emma Lien, *The Schools of Strathcona County: A to Y, A Success Story*, (Strathcona County: Strathcona County Retired Teachers’ Association, 1999), p. 54.

⁸⁵ Johnson, “East Edmonton – the thirties,” p. 4.

⁸⁶ Hughes, “A Brief History of Fulton ...,” p. 2; Vaughn Bowler and Michael Wanchuk, *Volunteers*, (Edmonton: Lone Pine Publishing, 1986), p. 208.

The playground and sports fields followed shortly thereafter. Along with Michael Cameron (Fulton) Arena, these various facilities became the hub of the community, and remain so to this day.⁸⁷ Over the years the hall has hosted a myriad of events, ranging from informational seminars such as “Buyology – A Layman’s look at Merchandising,” (ca. 1960s) to annual volunteer recognition events, weekly Zumba workout sessions and all night rave parties (ca. 2000s).⁸⁸



Figure 33: Fulton Community hall and rink shack and original playground equipment, 1968. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-20-2036.

The “rink shack” was torn down in the 1990s and the hall was expanded to provide a change room for those using the outdoor rinks. The configuration of the rinks has changed several times over the years. At one point both were oriented in an east-west direction, and both boasted boards.⁸⁹



Figure 34: Fulton Place ice rinks, 1968. The community boasted two full rinks with boards; access was from the east – 56 Street – rather than Fulton Road. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-20-2029.

⁸⁷ Hughes, “A Brief History of Fulton ...,” p. 2; Bowler and Wanchuk, Volunteers, p. 208.

⁸⁸ Bowler and Wanchuk, Volunteers, p. 208.

⁸⁹ E-mail, Davies to Moir, March 26, 2014.

Joan Penny recalls that in years past everyone was a community league supporter. “My brothers - Laughlin, Jim and Jack – all played on hockey teams, and I rarely missed a day, regardless of the weather, skating on the public rink. I usually put my skates on at home and climbed the boards to get on the ice. Ah, memories.”⁹⁰

Places of worship and fellowship:

Perhaps not as prominent in people’s thinking today, these institutions were deemed critical to the moral fabric of all communities in the 1950s and 1960s. While groups of many different faiths have met in private residences and other available gathering spots over the years, Fulton Place is home to three churches representing traditional Christian faiths – St. Michael Resurrection (Catholic), St. Augustine (Anglican) and Grace (United). Members of all three denominations began efforts to establish new parishes and congregations in the mid-late 1950s, and all celebrated the completion and dedication of their respective churches in the 1960s.⁹¹ The first suggestion of the need for a senior’s residence came from Reverend Stan Errett (United) in 1975. Although it took more than a decade to come to fruition, his comments bore fruit in the form of Grace Garden Court.⁹²

Of the three churches, St. Michael Resurrection (Catholic) is perhaps the most architecturally noteworthy, as world-renowned architect Douglas Cardinal was a member of the team that designed the structure. Notable “Cardinal features” include, rounded and finished Tindal stone walls in the sanctuary and a suspended ceiling adding to an open and airy atmosphere, as well as a 3-D cross directly above a circular skylight and the altar.⁹³ For those who are familiar with Cardinal’s body of work, clearly his design philosophy influenced the project. (Regional examples of his work include the St. Albert municipal building, Grande Prairie Regional College and St. Mary’s Church in Red Deer).

Businesses:

Retail businesses and professional services in Fulton Place were originally located in the 7,000 square foot, “T-shaped” Fulton Place Shopping Centre. This is now the site of the Fulton Court adult housing complex. The original shopping centre, with its driver friendly orientation including 100 parking stalls was cited as the best designed in Edmonton. Built at a cost of \$125,000.00, the project managers were

⁹⁰ E-mail, Joan Penny to Scott Davies, July 7, 2014.

⁹¹ Gerry Cork, The Story of Grace United Church, 1958-1983 [booklet], (Edmonton: Grace United Church, 1983), p. 1; St. Augustine’s Anglican Church website, (<http://www.staugustineedmonton.com>) “About” and “Our History” pages; Frank and Jeannette Boulet, et al, St. Michael Resurrection Parish, Edmonton, Alberta, 50th Anniversary Celebration, 1954-2004 [booklet], (Edmonton: 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, 2004), pp. 1-2.

⁹² Cork, The Story of Grace United Church, 1958-1983 , pp. 3-4.

⁹³ E-mail, Sheila Thompson to Fulton Place Community League Heritage Committee members, October 24, 2012

confident it would set a new standard for all such facilities.⁹⁴ Commercial structures of this kind were a phenomenon of the 1950s. Construction began in May 1956; it opened in October 1957. Initial tenants included a Tom-Boy grocers, Corner (Dunlop) drugstore, Fulton Bakery Products, Barbie J. Variety Store, Jim's Hardware, Adler dental services, and a beauty salon and a barber shop.⁹⁵ Adjacent the Shopping centre was a Royalite Gas Station. Eventually purchased, and then operated and closed, by Gulf Oil, the filling station was typical of its time: pumps, repair bays and full service (no "pay at the pump"!).

With the emergence of much larger shopping malls in the 1970s, many neighborhood centres including Fulton Place began to lose business and businesses. As road networks improved and car ownership increased, the proximity of a local store became less important. Companies selling name brands looked to expand their market share, trading on volume at larger centres; many chain stores wanted to locate and re-locate in new facilities in newer parts of the city. The shopping centre – struggling to attract and retain tenants – was sold to Rene and Hector Amyotte in 1979, coinciding with plans to expand the facility. The key to the proposed renovations was the demolition of the abandoned and dilapidated gas station to make way for a 569 square metre (6,000 square foot) addition, as well as a series of second floor residential apartments atop the original section of the mall.⁹⁶ These plans were never realized and the new ownership group operated the facility for about a decade. The mall was knocked down ca 1990 and the seventy-unit Fulton Court condominium complex was built; it was ready for habitation in 1992.⁹⁷

One other business of note was the "Ham Shack" – part household, part eatery establishment located on the small acreage owned by the Johnson family, adjacent the Morris dairy farm. For a time, the Ham Shack held the distinction of being recognized as one of the finest dining establishments in the Edmonton region. The idea for the restaurant emerged over several years and was the brainchild of Thelma and Robert Johnson. They looked to take advantage of the new oil economy in the area..

⁹⁴ "District Operator Serves RCAF Base," Edmonton Journal, ca. October 1957; "Fulton Place Shopping Centre Serves City's Newest District: Convenient Layout Feature of Centre," Edmonton Journal, October 16, 1957.

⁹⁵ "District Operator Serves RCAF Base," Edmonton Journal, ca. October 1957; "Fulton Place Shopping Centre Serves City's Newest District: Convenient Layout Feature of Centre," Edmonton Journal, October 16, 1957.

⁹⁶ "Up for sale," October 18, 1978; "Renovations only in planning stage," January 17, 1979; New plans for Fulton Place Shopping Centre, July 4, 1979; and, "Fulton Place centre expanding," July 20, 1979: all articles in South East Times.

⁹⁷ City of Edmonton, <http://maps.edmonton.ca/map.aspx?lookingFor=Assessments\By%20Address> (type in the specific address to access data).



Figure 35: Thelma and Robert Johnson, 1930. Johnson Family Collection.

When the Johnsons purchased the property in 1935, it came with an old, rather dilapidated house, in need of repairs. The Johnsons cleaned and renovated the house - they even excavated a basement.⁹⁸ After the 2nd WW and the discovery of oil at Leduc, Edmonton evolved into a major refining centre. The refinery, constructed by Imperial Oil at Whitehorse during the war, was dismantled and shipped to Edmonton. It was re-assembled on the former Fulton family property in Clover Bar in 1949. The main eastbound transport route out of Edmonton was Clover Bar Road (Highway 16). This meant a large volume of traffic passed by the city's Terrace Heights bus terminal located in Forest Heights, where Thelma Johnson worked part-time making and selling pies, muffins and other baked goods at the depot's coffee shop. Business was good, and everyone raved about Thelma's baking.⁹⁹

Taking into consideration the popularity of her wares, Thelma decided to open her own coffee shop in her home situated on their acreage just west of the newly assembled refinery. The venture proved to be so popular the menu and number of daily sittings soon expanded from coffee and desserts to fully-fledged breakfast and luncheon offerings. This continued until the demand became overwhelming and Thelma closed the business for several months. After a time she agreed to re-open the restaurant as an upscale dining establishment, bearing the unlikely name, "Ham Shack".¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ Johnson, "My Rugged Road," pp. 277 and 298-99.

⁹⁹ Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," p. 5.

¹⁰⁰ Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," p. 5; Johnson, "My Rugged Road," pp. 320-332.



Figure 36: Cover from original "Ham Shack" menu, ca. 1950s. Johnson Family Collecton.

As an aside, the name was chosen as something of an inside joke among the family members. Their son, Paddy, operated a ham radio in a small shack outside the house, thus the restaurant was christened "Ham Shack" and the menu featured ham "steaks" among other delicacies all prepared from scratch.¹⁰¹ Soon, the Ham Shack developed a stellar reputation, attracting the "who's who" of Edmonton society, including the mayor and members of city council, senior city administrators, Al Anderson (manager of the Edmonton Eskimos) and Sandy Mactaggart and Jean de La Bruyere, founders and owners of MacLab Enterprises.¹⁰² The Ham Shack remained in business until the early 1960s when tragedy struck. Thelma was badly burned in a cooking accident; she never fully recovered and the restaurant never re-opened.¹⁰³ The family home (which housed the restaurant) was eventually knocked down and the land subdivided, accommodating the construction of three south-facing duplexes situated on the north side of 101 Avenue facing the Rex Motor Inn (now Fargos and Starbucks). The first of these new structures – that furthest to the west - was built in 1969; the two units to the east were constructed in 1976.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰¹ Johnson, "East Edmonton – the thirties," p. 5.

¹⁰² Johnson, "My Rugged Road," p. 332.

¹⁰³ Johnson, "My Rugged Road," pp. ????

¹⁰⁴ City of Edmonton,

<http://maps.edmonton.ca/map.aspx?lookingFor=Assessments\By%20Address>
(type in the specific address to access data).



Figure 37: Johnson family home that doubled as the "Ham Shack" restaurant, facing 101 Avenue, opposite what is today the Starbucks coffee outlet, ca. 1960s. Johnson Family Collection.

The Morris/Bishop House:



Figure 38: Bishop home, ca 2014. The large trees to the rear date from the early decades of the 20th Century. Originally, this was the rear of the home. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home 1.

The Morris (Bishop) home is the oldest surviving in-situ structure in Fulton Place; the FPCL Heritage committee estimates this structure predates the Foged residence by about 25 years. The true age and character of the former is partially masked by

large trees in the front and back yards, and by the addition of a flat-roofed garage and horizontal painted wood paneling that was added to the front of the house in the 1960s – these features give the property a more contemporary look and feel. In contrast, the Foged house, built in 1939, bears a very recognizable pre-Second World War look, clearly different from the homes constructed during the 1950s.

One of the biggest tasks facing the Heritage Committee is determining when the Morris (Bishop) house was built. Mr. Eric Bishop believes the structure was constructed in 1905 or 1906, and renovated and added to over time.¹⁰⁵ Unfortunately there is no solid evidence corroborating this assertion. Upon arrival in 1905 and 1906 the different branches of the Morris family – first, nephew James and his family – followed by Charles and Lizzie - would have required places to live, and no doubt constructed at least one residence.



Figure 39: An early Morris family home, ca 1910. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

The only evidence currently at hand supporting a 1905/06 build date for the Morris (Bishop) home is a photo (ca. 1910) of a two-story house that neither matches the written and verbal descriptions provided by descendants and long-time neighborhood residents, nor does it align with the configuration of the existing structure. It is the current thinking of the Heritage Committee that the structure shown in the ca 1910 photo (see above) may have been the home of James Morris and his family; this is at best an educated guess. Unfortunately, surviving family members are not able to shed light on this matter, so further investigation of building permits, land ownership and tax assessment records are required.¹⁰⁶

Back to Front:

It is the Heritage Committee's understanding that the Morris (Bishop) house started as a single-story, south-facing structure. This orientation took advantage of the sun, protected the occupants from prevailing northwest winter winds, and afforded the

¹⁰⁵ Sean Moir (member, Fulton Place Community League Heritage Committee) informal interview with Eric Bishop, Spring 2014.

¹⁰⁶ E-mails to and from Marilyn Robertson to Scott Davies and Sean Moir, 2014 & 2015.

family a view of their yard and driveway and Clover Bar road. When the Foged home was constructed, it too faced south, for the same reasons noted here.



Figure 40: The "back" of the house was originally the front. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home 4.

The Morris and Foged homes happened to fit into the 1950s residential grid pattern for Fulton Place, thereby sparing them from demolition. However, they were now located on the south side of a new thoroughfare, 101st A Avenue. This location meant both homes needed north-facing front entrances. Accordingly, what was originally the front of these houses became the back, and the backs of the houses were the new fronts.

The first of the major renovations to the Morris (Bishop) house is believed to have occurred in the teen years resulting in the expansion of the main floor and the addition of an upper level atop the original portion of the structure.



Figure 41: Morris farm house, ca 1920 prior to further renovations that took place in 1928. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

Marilyn Robertson noted her father, Andrew Morris, stuffed socks and other clothes into the cracks between the planks (of the walls) to stop daylight, snow and rain from entering his bedroom.¹⁰⁷ Plank construction of walls was the norm at this time; the widespread use of plywood in Western Canada was still many years in the offing. The original layout of the main floor is not well understood, albeit it included a kitchen and eating area for the family and farm hands, as well as bedrooms. Farmhands used a door and room situated at the northeast corner of the house to enter the building and eat their meals, rest and warm up; this same space is now the main living room. Vestiges of this entrance can still be seen from inside the garage. The new upstairs addition was used for bedrooms. A covered verandah stretched the width of the south face of the house.¹⁰⁸



Figure 42: Original doors and hardware dating from the teens and/or 1920s; these features continue to adorn the upstairs of the house. FPCL. KJC Bishop Home Int - 11.

A second round of major renovations to the home was undertaken in 1928; this included the expansion of the upstairs, excavation of a shallow basement facilitating the construction of a concrete cistern and installation of indoor plumbing and a gravity fed furnace. The basement was dug by hand.

¹⁰⁷ E-mail, Robertson to Davies, August 7, 2014.

¹⁰⁸ Images of the Morris house, ca. 1915-1920 provided to the FPCL Heritage Committee by Marilyn Robertson; Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014.



Figure 43: Ca. Upstairs bedroom door and floor molding detail. FPCL. KJC Bishop Home Int – 24.



Figure 44: Once used to retain rain water, the remnant of the cistern in the basement is now used as a storage space. Note gravity furnace piping, top left of the photo. FPCL. KJC Bishop Home Int - 15.

The work conducted at this time also included the addition of a sun room and an enclosed porch, and the application of pebble-dash stucco to the exterior.



Figure 45: View of the original front of the house showing the enclosed sunroom and entrance, and stucco clad exterior. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home Detail - 5.

The expanded upstairs was used for bedrooms and a bathroom. Ducting was installed to distribute heat throughout the house. These pipes fed into a very oddly configured chimney, part of which ran horizontally above the stairwell to the upper floor. The bricks and mortar were held in place by wood framing, and was eventually taken down by Mr. Bishop as it severely limited headroom when going up and down the stairs.¹⁰⁹



Figure 46: Mr. Bishop removed the horizontal portion of the historic chimney that required one to crouch down when using the stairs; note change in stairwell roof line. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home Int - 27.

¹⁰⁹ Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014.

The chimney may have been constructed in such an odd manner to accommodate the installation of a fireplace in a new main floor sitting room located to the west of the back entrance and kitchen. It is on the walls of this room that Mr. Bishop painted the mural of the Morris farm house and yard (ca. 1935). Most of the interior walls throughout the house are a lathe and plaster finish, while some are covered with wood paneling, corkboard and various trim materials.¹¹⁰



Figure 44: South-west sitting room showing fireplace and mural. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home Int - 5.



Figure 48: Formal Morris (Bishop) sitting room, with cork and **paneling** covered walls. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home Int - 28.

The application of stucco to house exteriors was very much in vogue in the late 1920s; it was one of many Arts & Crafts features readily adopted by home builders

¹¹⁰ Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014.

and owners across North America. The stucco on the Morris (Bishop) home is of a type known as pebbledash; both a method and a variety commonly used from the mid-late 1920s through the 1940s.¹¹¹ Mr. Bishop attests that it is about an inch thick and has proven to be very durable.¹¹²



Figure 45: Detail of pebble-dash stucco exterior. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home Detail – 6.

The single pane, wood framed windows are sealed with putty. Summer screen storm style attachments are held in place with butterfly styled screws.¹¹³

¹¹¹ E-mail, Don Wetherell to Sean Moir, August 15, 2014.

¹¹² Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014; Transcript from formal recorded interview, Bishop residence, August 4, 2014, with Eric and Jean Bishop by Sean Moir and Scott Davies.

¹¹³ Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014; Transcript from formal recorded interview, Bishop residence, August 4, 2014, with Eric and Jean Bishop by Sean Moir and Scott Davies.



Figure 50: Detail of windows. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home Detail - 7.

The garage was added in the 1960s. Mrs. Jean Bishop noted their children spent many hours on the “sun deck” - garage roof- and they all enjoyed a grand view of the neighborhood. In the winter Mr. Bishop would create a small skating surface on the roof of the garage for his young children. Access to this “deck” was by way of a doorway at the front of one of the second floor bedrooms.¹¹⁴

¹¹⁴ Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014; Transcript from formal recorded interview, Bishop residence, August 4, 2014, with Eric and Jean Bishop by Sean Moir and Scott Davies.



Figure 51. When the house was incorporated into the new Fulton Place community in the 1950s, a front door was added where none previously existed; the garage was added in the late 1950s or early 1960s. FPCL, KJC Bishop Home 2.

When the Bishops arrived in Edmonton from England in 1967 they were in need of a place to live – an affordable home for their growing family. They purchased the Morris farmhouse and settled into Fulton Place, their children attending Fulton and Hardisty schools. An industrial arts teacher by training, Eric was able to complete most repairs himself, and there was a fair bit to do! He began by upgrading the insulation in their new home. Over the years he completed a number of upgrades and repairs, opting in most cases to use traditional materials suited to the age of the house.¹¹⁵ With their family grown, and Eric retired from teaching, the Bishops set up and ran a Bed and Breakfast operation for several years commencing in 2000.¹¹⁶ Most recently the Heritage Committee has learned that Eric and Jean have decided to sell their long-time family home, thus a new chapter for them and the Morris (Bishop) farmhouse, awaits.

¹¹⁵ Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014.

¹¹⁶ Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014; Transcript from formal recorded interview, Bishop residence, August 4, 2014, with Eric and Jean Bishop by Sean Moir and Scott Davies.



Figure 52: Jean & Eric Bishop at home, 2014. FPCL, KJC MR&MRs Bishop-2.

Historical Mural:

The painting of the Morris dairy farm ca. 1935 was not the only mural Mr. Bishop painted in their home, nor was it the first one he tackled. His first two works were murals created for his children in the 1970s and 1980s - one depicting a sailing ship, the other an elaborate jungle theme.¹¹⁷



Figure 53: Artist and homeowner, Eric Bishop, 2014. FPCL, KJC 6404-3.

Bishop began investigating the history of his home in the mid-1990s. He tracked down several family members who still resided in the Penticton region of B.C. He interviewed them, and in turn they provided Eric with photos of the family farm

¹¹⁷ Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014.

dating from the mid-1930s. Bishop used these images to create a realistic mural painting of the Morris dairy farm operation including the house and main milking barn.¹¹⁸



Figure 54: Two of the key photos used by Mr. Eric Bishop to create the mural. Marilyn Robertson Collection.

Measuring fourteen by four feet, the mural was painted directly on the walls of the TV sitting room. To begin he sketched the outline of key components of the overall image with pencil; using oil and acrylic paints he then painted various sections. Once the painting process started, Mr. Bishop completed the mural in roughly one week. The selection of colours was determined by his knowledge of what colours were available and used during the era, information he gathered from interviewing members of the Morris family, as well as his own discoveries resulting from the completion of maintenance work. Over the years he scraped away several layers of paint thereby unveiling past colour schemes.¹¹⁹



Figure 55: Eric Bishop mural depicting the Morris dairy farm, ca. mid-1930s. FPCL, KJC Bishop Mural.

¹¹⁸ Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014.

¹¹⁹ (See formal interview transcript for detailed explanation of mural painting by Mr. Bishop.) Notes from informal interview with Eric Bishop (Sean Moir and Scott Davies), Spring 2014.

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- S. Davies to/from J. Penny
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