



Timeless contributions. Endless possibilities.

Hilltop House

9903 – 103 Street

Built in 1912 by John C. McDougall and his wife, Sophie, the three-storey mansion now known as Hilltop House featured such innovations as piping for natural gas and was valued at \$16,000. It was designed by local architect David Hardie and was a significant addition to the upper middle class neighbourhood that had emerged on the southern edge of downtown.

John C. McDougall was born in 1883, a son of John A. McDougall, one of Edmonton's best known pioneer businessmen, former mayor and provincial MLA who had settled in Edmonton four years earlier with his wife, Lovisa. The population at the time was about 40 and Lovisa's arrival brought the number of white women in the fledgling hamlet to a total of four.

John A. purchased the land where Hilltop House sits from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1891. He lived in a modest home he built on the site until about 1900, when his elegant, two-storey, \$30,000 mansion was completed at what is now the southwest corner of 100th Avenue and 103rd Street. The mansion was replaced in 1973 with a building that became the YWCA.

But the house John C. built has survived the march of time and has endured virtually unaltered with the exception of a billiard room (the current reception area) and a bedroom that were added to the west side of the house in the mid-1920s.

John C. worked for his father's firm of McDougall and (Richard) Secord as administrator and accountant and was instrumental in the company's survival through the Great Depression and the war years. He and Sophie had two children – John F. and Eleanor. John C. passed away in 1952 and Sophie remained in the house until the following year, when the Alberta government acquired the building.

From 1953 to 1987, Hilltop House was used as a drug treatment centre and later as a home for abused women. Some time after these programs closed, the house was restored as office space.

The house is on the "B" list of Edmonton's Register of Historic Resources.

Source: Lawrence Herzog, "It's Our Heritage," Real Estate Weekly, Vol. 21. No. 22