



PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURY

10440 - 108 AVENUE NW

CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Prince of Wales Armoury, also known as the Edmonton Drill Hall, is a massive brick and sandstone structure with distinctive corner towers, evocative of medieval castle design. A steel superstructure supporting a large convex interior roof structure accommodates the clear span required for the purpose-built military drill hall interior. Its impressive massing sits comfortably on the five-acre institutional site just north of Edmonton's downtown.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Prince of Wales Armoury is important for its association with Edmonton's military contributions during WWI and WWII. Its design was unique to Edmonton and representative of Canadian military drill hall design of the period.

Completed in 1915 for the Department of National Defence, the Prince of Wales Armoury is significant for its role as Edmonton's long-term training facility for Canada's armed forces and for its contribution to the

organization, and mobilization of Canada's military. It became the home of a number of prominent regiments during WWII, such as the 51st Battalion and the 233rd French-Canadian Battalion. Later, it served as a base for the 101st Edmonton Fusiliers, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, and the 49th Regiment.

Originally named The Edmonton Drill Hall, the building was later renamed the Prince of Wales Armoury in 1921 and was used as a military training site by the Department of Defence until 1977.

The Prince of Wales Armoury is significant for its scale, massing, and medieval castle inspired design. Designed and constructed as a part of a national military training initiative, it is similar to other Drill halls designed by the Federal Department of Public Works.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The heritage character of the Prince of Wales Armoury is expressed through character defining elements such as:

- + the form, massing, and materials;
- + the two-storey front elevation with a prominent central entrance;
- + the projecting central doorway entry with sandstone arch;
- + the flanking brick piers topped with sandstone cannonballs;
- + the name plaque with the words "DRILL HALL" and "AD 1913 ARMOURIES" around a crest which forms part of the parapet;





- + the south-central projecting walls on each side of the main entrance with stone triangular parapet features that sit between the crenellations;
- + the rear doorway with the name plaque “DRILL HALL” in stone banding;
- + the bastion towers with bartizan turrets, brick machicolation detailing, crenellation detail in the battlements, and projecting mock bastions;
- + the stoned arch doorways in the towers;
- + the timber principal exterior doors;
- + the fenestration pattern and window styles such as the recessed four-over-four windows;
- + the stone capped parapets with crenellation features above the towers and turrets and central entrance;
- + the flat arch lintels and stone sills;
- + the continuous smooth stone banding at the foundation level and below the parapet level, and the rough edge sandstone base;
- + the convex roof supported by arched steel trusses and brick gable ends with large multi-paned half arched windows spanning the width of the drill hall; and
- + the flag poles on the east and west towers.



Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 13465 in August 2004.

Designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in January 1979.

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