

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
**Armoury**  
10th Street East and 8th Avenue East

### **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Prince Albert Armoury was completed in 1915 by the Department of Public Works in association with the Engineer Branch of the Department of Militia and Defence, to one of the series of standard plans of the period 1910 to 1915. It is the property of the Department of National Defence, and remains in use by "B" Company of the North Saskatchewan Regiment and several cadet units, and by the civilian community for recreation purposes. See FHBRO Building Report 87-1 23.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Prince Albert Armoury has been designated Recognized as an example of a special building type related to a theme of local involvement in national military history, and as a distinctive element in its environment.

One of a small number of examples of "Standard Drill Hall Class 'E'," the Prince Albert Armoury embodies aesthetic and functional characteristics associated with the military developments of the period. A straightforward utilitarian construction with modest architectural embellishment, it represents well the then-current attitude toward reform and enhancement of the status of the militia, providing generous drill space together with classrooms and armouries. Its functional design, little altered, grew directly from a mandate to provide greatly expanded militia training facilities in response to the threat of European war, at a time of tremendous local and national growth.

Its characteristic features of brick, timber and steel construction balance functionality with a dignified public face of baronial Gothic styling. Its arcaded and galleried drill hall is an excellent surviving example of the type.

It is a prominent community landmark, located in the open terrain of Prince Albert's Exhibition Grounds. The oldest surviving federal building in Prince Albert, it has also served as a general community hall on many occasions.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

The external heritage character of the armoury is of a simple, generally symmetrical, low-pitched gable-roofed brick mass terminated at each end with a two-story flat-roofed block, the whole atop a rusticated stone base.

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Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
**Armoury (Continued)**

The exterior is articulated and punctuated with brick piers. The central three bays of

the south elevation are taken up by the main drill-hall entrance and its flanking turrets with crenellated parapets. The entrance itself is a double doorway spanned by a segmental stone arch. A brick-arched window opening above the doorway marks the second-floor gallery within.

The two-story wings reinforce the symmetry of the main elevations. Stone coping surmounts the end-block parapets in a Flemish manner of central arch form between valley elements, breaking up the roof line and reducing the severity of the elevation to the street and the exhibition grounds.

The internal arrangement of drill hall and smaller subsidiary rooms on two floors is evident in the window arrangements on each face of the building. The windows were designed as light metal-framed, multi-paned units typical of industrial construction of the era. Many of the windows have been modified from the original design, though the 6-over-1 vertical sliding units in the turrets have survived.

The notable internal feature is the drill hall itself, with exposed painted steel trusses spanning the full width of the building, overlooked by galleries within round-arched brick arcades at either end of the hall, and a small cantilevered deck over the main entrance. These are important character defining features and should be retained. Consideration should be given to sampling and recording finish, paint and colours, both existing and hidden, before any future refinishing.

As a whole, the building retains almost all of the characteristic features of its original construction, and these should be protected and retained in the course of any future work. It is entirely fitting that its original and existing use continue. As it stands, only replacement windows have altered the external character of the building. The internal character of the building has been well-maintained and little altered. This pattern of care should continue.

The symmetry and clear organization of the building's principal public façades should be respected. There should be no attachment of new exterior elements. Elements such as roofing should be renewed if required with materials and colours that do not intrude upon the heritage character of the building. Should elements such as windows require repairs, consideration should be given to reinstating the original design.

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