

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

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FHBRO Number 97-29

DFRP Number 13954

### **Recognized Federal Heritage Building**

YORKTON, Saskatchewan

### **Yorkton Armoury**

56 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

The Yorkton Armoury was built in 1939 by the Department of Public Works. It was designed by prominent Saskatoon architect David Webster. The Armoury has been altered by the installation of new windows. The Department of National Defence is the custodian.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Yorkton Armoury has been designated “Recognized” because of its historical, architectural and environmental significance:

#### Historical Significance

The Yorkton Armoury was one of three drill halls built by the Department of Public Works as a result of the reorganization and modernization of the militia in 1936.

#### Architectural Significance

The design of the Yorkton Armoury is notable for its scale, massing, Art Deco details and finely sculpted representational panels. The massiveness and articulated geometry of the front entrance bay recalls the monumental military arches and memorial art of the 1920s. The drill hall is situated behind the front office wing of the building. Its presence is masked from the street, but its axial relationship with the monumental entry continues. The Art Deco surrounds and front entrance are finely designed and crafted, especially the sculpted panels. The panels depict heavy artillery, thereby mimicking common industrial motifs found in public and bank buildings of the period. The decorative treatment of the Yorkton Armoury is atypical of Canadian armouries, many of which feature Tudor Revival elements. The axial, T-shaped layout of the Yorkton Armoury is well-suited to its dual office and drill-hall functions. The Yorkton Armoury was constructed of very high quality Claybank brick, trimmed with stone and terracotta. The detailed stonework--in particular the incised panels and Art Deco motifs--was executed to a very high standard.

#### Environmental Significance

Due to its scale, design, function and location near the centre of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, the Armoury is well-known in the community.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Yorkton Armoury resides in the following character-defining elements:

- The scale and massiveness of the front entrance bay, which together with its incised panels recall a monumental military arch.
- The stone detailing of the front entrance, including the articulated Art Deco geometry on the surrounds, and the sculpted panels depicting heavy artillery

- The exterior cladding of very high quality Claybank brick, trimmed with stone and terracotta.
- The T-shaped configuration of the office section and perpendicularly placed drill hall, providing axial access to the hall while masking its presence from the street.
- The large scale and central location of the Yorkton Armoury in the context of a relatively small Canadian community.

All maintenance and repair work, as well as future interventions, should respect these character-defining elements.

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.