

Regina, Saskatchewan

RCMP Building 14- Administrative "A" Block

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The "A" Block administrative building was constructed at the southwest corner of the barracks square in 1912-13 to designs by newly arrived Regina architect Neil R. Darrach. A large two-storey structure with a full basement, it originally accommodated the depot and divisional offices and a number of other facilities previously located in various different structures. A two-storey brick addition, to house extra offices, was added at the rear of the building in 1937-38. Both the original building and the 1930s annex continue to accommodate the depot administrative offices and a sergeants' mess. The building is the property of the RCMP. See FHBRO Building Report 86-22.

Reason for Designation

The "A" Block has been designated a Classified heritage building on the basis of its historical association with the presence of the Mounted Police in Regina. Its construction marked a major departure in the provision of Mounted Police accommodation. The building is undoubtedly the most architecturally significant of the surviving depot buildings. This is true both because of its own stylistic merits and because its Tudor Gothic styling influenced the exterior design of most of the other larger depot buildings constructed over the next three decades. Well constructed and well maintained, it continues to play an important role in establishing the character of the area.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by the massing of the 1912-13 building, the architectural detailing on the exterior elevations of the original building, by the interior layout and finishes, and by the siting of the building in relation to the barracks square.

The massing and architectural detailing on the building reflect a penchant for a stylized Tudor Gothic design. The strongly projecting central entryway, stepped parapets and crenellated corner towers are softened by their measured scaling and the incorporation of extensive white stone detailing. More modest renderings of the raised, stepped and stone-capped end gables and corner-buttress forms are dominant stylistic elements found in most of the major depot buildings erected before the end of World War II. The exterior of the 1912-13 building has remained largely unaltered over the years, except for the replacement of its original windows and some alterations to its subsidiary north and south entrances. The 1937-38 plain red brick two-storey rear extension erected on the foundation of the 1912-13 sub-grade boiler room is of secondary importance. It is imperative that all four façades of the original 1912-13 building be carefully maintained and that any required repair or restoration be accurate in terms of materials and detailing.

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Although the interior appears to have undergone successive renovations and alterations over the years to meet the changing needs of the force, the original layout and much of the interior woodwork has remained intact. Any changes should respect original design intent and any surviving fabric.

The "A" Block is prominently sited to face onto the barracks square. The square enhances the importance of the building and also maintains the original and most appropriate setting for the building.

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