

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Drill Hall was erected as a riding school in 1929-30 to designs by the architectural firm of Van Egmond and Storey of Regina. It is located to the south of the stable complex, near the site of an earlier riding school destroyed by fire in 1920. With the construction of a new combined stable/riding school at the depot in 1953-54, the 1929 building was converted into a drill hall. A one-storey, flat-roofed annex, housing offices associated with the drill instruction, was constructed in 1978 along the north face of the original structure. The building is the property of the RCMP. See FHBRO Building Report 86-22.

Reason for Designation

The Drill Hall has been designated a Recognized heritage building because of its association with equestrian training, an activity that remained part of the RCMP recruit education curriculum until the 1960s. The attractively styled structure plays an important role in contributing to the character of the depot.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Drill Hall is defined by the visible exterior elevations of the original building and by remnants of the interior layout related to the equestrian function.

The exterior elevations are characterized by stone-capped corner buttresses and raised and stepped end gables capped by stonework copings, features which echo the stylistic forms of other major buildings on the site. The 1929 depot riding school design was marked by a prominent main east entrance, featuring a carved RCMP crest above the main central entry, and a balanced, though more muted, treatment of its west façade. The exterior of the building should be carefully maintained and any repair or restoration that is required carried out with attention to material and detailing. The more recent flat-roofed north side addition is of secondary interest; its compatibility with the original structure should be maintained.

The interior layout of the 1929 riding school appears to have been well-suited to its single functional role. The large open space once used by the riding school should be retained.

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