



# CONNAUGHT ARMOURY

10310 - 85 AVENUE NW

## CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The 1911 Connaught (Strathcona) Armoury is an early twentieth century, two-storey, rectangular brick building located on two lots along 85th Avenue in the historic district of Old Strathcona. The armoury is located just north of the Old Strathcona Provincial Historic Area.

### HERITAGE VALUE

The Heritage Value of the Connaught Armoury lies chiefly in its status as the oldest extant armoury building in Alberta and its long association with the early military activities in the province. The armoury is also significant for its representation of the architectural style characteristics of military buildings in the early twentieth century.

Connaught Armoury was erected in 1911 by the 19th Alberta Dragoons as a permanent home for the 'B' Squadron of the regiment, and named for His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. The armoury became the focal point and strategic base for military activities in Alberta when the Canadian Government established the Alberta Mounted Rifles in Edmonton and Strathcona in 1905. From this armoury, the Dragoons trained and sent soldiers to war in 1914 and again in 1939.



The building continued as an important facility serving Canada's Armed Forces until 1965 when the Regiment was disbanded and it was sold to the City of Edmonton.

Despite its modest size, the Connaught Armoury effectively communicates its military function through its massive appearance and architectural detailing. Its appearance is consistent with the tradition of armoury design established across Canada during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

### CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character defining elements of the Connaught Armoury include such features as its:

- + size, form, scale, and massing;
- + rusticated sandstone foundation and string courses;
- + modest battlemented crenellations on the roofline and entry parapet;
- + ball finials on entry parapet;
- + window opening and fenestration pattern, including its remaining original window frames and sashes;
- + prominent date and name stones located at the focal point of the front façade, reading "A1911D" and "ARMOURY" respectively; and
- + interior elements such as the original banister.

*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 14467 in March 2007.*

*Designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in February 1979.*

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