



# EDMONTON MILLING CO. (RITCHIE MILL)

10171 - SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE NW

## CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The Ritchie Mill is a visually prominent structure consisting of several building segments between two and four storeys in height and is located on the south escarpment of the North Saskatchewan River valley.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Constructed in 1882 and the oldest surviving flour mill in the Province, the Ritchie Mill is significant because of its association with the early agricultural and industrial development of Alberta.

It is associated with early technical innovation, using steam-powered, steel rollers instead of traditional stone wheels that became pitted when grinding hard prairie wheat. Ritchie Mill is also significant because of its association with industrial and agricultural development in an urban setting and with the development of the Strathcona community, one of south Edmonton's oldest settled neighbourhoods, dating from the arrival of the Calgary and Edmonton railway in 1882, which terminated at the North Saskatchewan River Valley. The Ritchie Mill was located at the 'End of Steel' to take advantage of the rail link with the southern part of the Province. Elevators were added in 1895 and 1902 and the building functioned as a flour mill until 1948.



The Ritchie Mill is also significant as a prominent visual landmark on the south end of the North Saskatchewan River Valley. Its tall profile was readily visible from Edmonton across the river valley and as a landmark signified the end of the Calgary and Edmonton railway line in Strathcona.

### CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The early industrial architecture of the building is expressed in character-defining elements such as:

- + form, scale and massing, and location at 'End of Steel' on the south escarpment of the Saskatchewan River Valley;
- + the configuration of the original 1892-93 three-storey rectangular mill building with a regular pattern of fenestration at all floors on both the east and west elevations;
- + the configuration of the south four-storey elevator with no windows and a solid appearance on the west elevation as well as a one-storey former unloading and weighing station on the east side;
- + the configuration of the north partial brick-construction, four-storey building and of the west two-storey addition, perpendicular to the original mill building; and
- + the various configurations of gable and hip roofs.

*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 12621 in June 2001.*

*Designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in September 2003.*

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