

RED DEER ARMOURY

Minimum Documentation

1. Unique f/p/t identifier

4664-0038

2. Jurisdiction

Alberta

3. Name of Historic

Place

Red Deer Armoury /
Fire Hall No. 1

Figure 1: Red Deer Library, Former Armoury and Fire Hall, 1998



4. Location of Supporting Documentation

Red Deer and District Archives
Archivist
City of Red Deer
Box 5008, 4914-48 Avenue
Red Deer, AB T4N 3T4

Files:

Red Deer Fire Department, Clipping File
Red Deer Buildings, Historical – Original Fire Hall, Clipping File
Red Deer Historical Walking Tour, 1983
Red Deer Historical Walking Tours, 1990
Historic Walking Tour(s) plaques
Photo Collections

Alberta Community Development
Cultural Facilities and Historical Resources
Old St. Stephen's College
8820-112 Street
Edmonton, AB. T6G 2P8

File:

Provincial Heritage Inventory Data Base

5. Formal Recognition Authority

Local Governments

6. Statute

Historical Resources Act (AB)
City of Red Deer Bylaw No.2825/83

- 7. Formal Recognition Type**
Municipal Historic Resource (AB)
- 8. Formal Recognition Date**
October 11, 1983
- 9. Owner Notification and Owner Response**
Notification: yes
Response type: yes
- 10. Specific Location of Historic Place**
4905 – 49 Street, Red Deer, AB
- Lat N 52 Degrees 16.09 Min
- Long W 113 Degrees 48.55 Min

Mandatory Documentation

- 10. Specific Location**
4905 – 49 Street, Red Deer, AB
- 11. Description of Boundaries**
Plan 1339 RS, Lot 1.
Excepting there out:
(a) all mines and minerals.
- 12. Area of Historic Place**
11089 m²
1.11 hectares
2.74 acres
- 13. Number and Type of Contributing Resources**
One building
- 14. Historic Place Functional Category (original)**
Defense
- 15. Historic Place Function Type(s) (original)**
Armoury
Military Support

16. Description of Historic Place

Red Deer Armoury / Fire Hall No. 1 is a two and one-half storey rectangular solid brick building in the Edwardian Free Style that was constructed as an armoury in 1913. It is located on the southeast corner of Red Deer's civic square, opposite the Parsons House.

17. Heritage Value of Historic Place

Historical Value

The heritage value of the Red Deer Armoury lies in its association with military preparedness in Central Alberta. Constructed as the regimental headquarters for the 35th Central Alberta Horse, it also has political significance as the outcome of a 1910 election promise by Edward Michener, Red Deer MLA and leader of the provincial Conservative Party. The Red Deer Armoury provides strong evidence of its defense function through two world wars as a recruiting centre, training facility, barracks, armoury, and military offices. It has sentimental associations for the community through its role as an inter- and post-war social and cultural centre. The building also has historical significance in community protection as the location of Fire Hall No.1 from 1961-1992.

Architectural Value

Architecturally, the building is among the most striking examples of Edwardian Free Style in Red Deer and a good regional example of classic armoury design, built with local materials of brick and stone.

18. Character-defining elements

- Form and massing, including the large gabled roof, the six regularly spaced structural bays and the silhouette of the front facade exemplified by features such as: the twin square towers; rib-like buttresses; and gabled parapet above entrance on east facade
- Exterior features/materials such as brick masonry; sandstone detailing
- Original fenestration pattern and the structural openings created in the conversion from an armoury to a fire hall
- Remaining interior features that reflect the adaptive reuse of the building from defense to fire protection, such as the metal roof trusses and fire pole.

19. Photographs/Images

Contemporary Photo

Image Description: Exterior southeast view of the Red Deer Armoury/Fire Hall No.1, December 19, 2003

Image Caption: Southeast view of the Red Deer Armoury/Fire Hall No.1, December 2003

Image Copyright: City of Red Deer, 2003.

Image-Misc. Info. : N/A

Image Type: Exterior Photo



Figure 2: Contemporary Photo, Red Deer Armoury

Historical Photo

Image Description: Exterior southeast view of the Red Deer Armoury/ Fire Hall No.1, 1915

Image Caption: Southeast view of the Red Deer Armoury /Fire Hall No.1, shortly after construction 1915

Image Copyright: Red Deer and District Archives, MG 472-2

Image-Misc. Info. : N/A

Image Type: Historic Photo

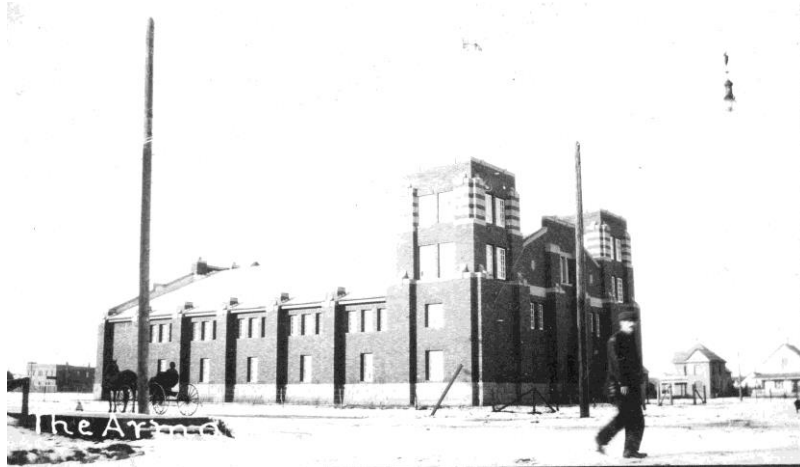


Figure 3: Historic Photo, Red Deer Armoury

Optional Documentation

20. Other name(s)

Red Deer Armoury
Red Deer Public Library
Piper Creek Optimist Club Children's Department
The Children's Library
The Armoury

21. Cross-reference to Historical/Archaeological Collection

22. Ownership of Historic Place (category)

Public - local

23. Historic Place functional type(s) (current)

Education – Library

24. Construction date range

1913 to 1913

25. Significant Dates

1913 to 1961
1961 to 1992

26. Associated event/person/organization/architect/builder

World War I (event)
World War II (event)
C. A. Julian–Sharman (architect)
Nesbitt and Miller (builder)

Edward Michener (person)
35th Central Alberta Horse (organization)
City of Red Deer Emergency Services Department (organization)

27. Theme category

- Governing Canada
- Building Social and Community Life

28. Theme type

1. Military and Defence
2. Community Organizations

29. Web-site link

<http://www.rdpl.org/litleg.html>