NATIONAL CARTAGE (JOHNSTON TERMINALS) BUILDING,
EAST YARD, WINNIPEG

Date - 1928-30

Architect - Canadian National Railways Architectural Branch

Builders - Carter-Halls-Aldinger Company, Winnipeg

Original Cost - $134,700.00

Specifications - Four storey brick warehouse, 151'9" x 81'5" in size, with a
1929 addition of four storeys at 96' x 75'. A massive free-standing
structure, it was one of the largest warehouses in Winnipeg at the time of
construction. It is very utilitarian in appearance, is finished on all four
sides, and has one corner notched to accommodate the turning radius of train
cars which stop against its east wall. It is of mill construction, that is,
it has heavy masonry walls with interior construction of very heavy wooden
members.

History - Built for National Storage and Cartage Limited, a wholly-owned
subsidiary of Canadian National Railways, and used by National until 1961.
For the next fifteen years, it was occupied by Johnston National Cartage
Company, later Johnston Terminals Company. It has been vacant since 1977.

Significance/Context - This is probably one of the largest warehouse
structures in Winnipeg, and is one of a few warehouses in Manitoba which is
finished an all four sides - others include the J.R. Watkins Warehouse,
Annabella Street, Winnipeg; the Massey-Harris Warehouse, Brandon. The
building is also significant because of its mill construction, which saw its
primary Manitoba use from the mid-1890s to about 1910, being replaced by steel
frame or reinforced concrete structures. It is therefore a throw-back to an
earlier time.

Finally, the building represents the expansion and diversification of CN
Railway operations shortly after its creation in 1923, and is therefore
related to business history themes.