

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 on 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.

