

Sherbrooke, Quebec
Armoury
Belvedere Street

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The armoury was constructed in 1909, to plans prepared by the federal Department of Public Works under the direction of architect T.W. Fuller. It was designed to serve as the regimental headquarters of the local militia and continues to fill this function. The custodian is the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 90-56.

Reason for Designation

The armoury was designated Recognized because of its historical association with the development of the Active Volunteer Militia during the period preceding the First World War, and its particular significance as a regional headquarters, because of the quality of its architecture, and because of its landmark status.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by its composite form, by the richness of the entrance pavilion, by those aspects of the interior substantive of its military function, and by its relationship with the site.

The external appearance of the armoury suggests a military purpose. The articulate main wing presents a monumental facade to the street, reminiscent of a fortification. As the dominant element, the entrance pavilion reinforces this image with soaring chimneys, crenellated turrets, and a massive troop doorway. The bulk of the drill hall remains discernible beneath an expansive sloped roof. It is important to respect the aggregate nature of the design.

The juxtaposition of colour and texture, and uniform detailing, are part of the basic design vocabulary. Throughout, quarry faced stonework contrasts with fields of flat brickwork. A network of horizontal bands created by the foundation, string courses, and copings unifies the overall composition.

The interior was designed to accommodate a variety of military functions. Of special interest is the voluminous drill hall, its floor space totally unobstructed owing to the provision of an overhead Fink truss system. The significance of other interior features should be evaluated, as a preliminary to any proposed intervention. Modifications which alter important spatial characteristics, or which affect historic fabric, should be implemented in a reversible manner.

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-2-

Sherbrooke, Quebec
Armoury (Continued)

The corner site and generous setback from the street counterbalance the structure's heavy mass, providing an appropriate setting. Although the former parade square

serves as a parking lot, the existence of flat open grounds adjacent to the drill hall perpetuates a traditional relationship.

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