

Guelph, Ontario  
**Armoury**  
Farquahar Street

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The armoury was constructed in 1906-07, 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 operate as a Canadian Forces armoury. The custodian is the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 90-155.

### **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, because of the quality of its architecture, and because of its contextual importance.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of this property is defined by its form, by the richness of its exterior elevations, and by those aspects of the interior substantive of its military function.

Its massive form punctuated by jutting towers and battlements, the armoury evokes the image of a medieval fortress. The main entrance is reminiscent of a fortified gate. The rugged foundation, string courses, window trim, and the heavy parapet walls, subscribe to the military theme. It is important to maintain the integrity of these expressive components.

The contrasts inherent in the masonry serve to highlight the detailing and to create a bulkier effect by emphasizing the linear elements of the design. Throughout, quarry faced stonework is juxtaposed with fields of flat brickwork. The interplay of colours and textures is an essential feature which should be carefully preserved.

The rear annex emulates the main building in its use of materials, but appears subordinate due to its position and relatively sober design. The annex's elevations are marked by a strong base, a fluid course of segmental arches, and a rhythmic pattern of structural openings.

The internal layout is based on the standard American armoury. The significance of interior components should be evaluated, as a preliminary to any proposed

.../2

-2-

Guelph, Ontario  
**Armoury** (Continued)

intervention. Modifications which alter important spatial qualities, or which effect

historic fabric, should be implemented in a reversible manner.

Because of its prominent location and conspicuous appearance, the armoury is a familiar local landmark. The sloped terrain reinforces the structure's commanding presence, affording a dramatic approach to the main entrance. The robust iron fencing bordering the property is an asset which enhances the heritage character of the site.

1992.05.05