

**Armoury,**  
10, rue de l'Arsenal  
Lévis, Quebec

The Lévis Armoury was constructed in 1912-14. The unusual plan of the Class "A" facility was designed by the Chief Architect's Branch of the Department of Public Works. The building is currently used as an armoury. The Department of National Defence is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-273.

### **Reasons For Designation**

The armoury was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its environmental significance, and its architectural importance.

The construction of the armoury is associated with the pre-World War I armoury building campaign resulting from the reform and expansion of the volunteer militia. The building belongs to the largest class of armouries with the most complete range of facilities and reflects the federal commitment to provide good training facilities for the militias. The solid economic growth of Lévis during the early 1900s explains its selection as a site for an armoury at this time.

The armoury is a prominent building within the town because of its size and high standards of design and construction. The centralized location of the building reinforces its importance within the community. The armoury has a strong local presence through continued use by the militia and for community activities.

The design of the armoury and the use of local stone and building practices relates it to Quebec buildings of an earlier period. The thick walls, corner towers with castellated turrets, and the small transomed windows are references to medieval military architecture. The simpler massing and detailing reflects changing contemporary aesthetic preferences. The design did not include a drill hall and a compact plan is the result. The administrative offices occupy the lower floor and a large unobstructed lecture hall, which is the most distinctive space, is on the upper floor.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Lévis armoury resides in its overall form, proportions, construction materials, Medieval Revival architectural details, interior planning and volumes, and site relationships.

This is a symmetrical two-storey hip-roofed structure with an "H" footprint. The symmetrical projecting gabled corner pavilions (each with turrets, corner tower

---

pinnacles, and half-finished cock-loft) contribute to the Medieval Revival character of the profile. The picturesque composition of forms is balanced by a symmetrical, regular pattern of windows and door recesses which contribute to the visual richness of the facades.

The character of this building also derives from well-scaled facades executed in rough-faced limestone with carved and smooth detailing, all of which provide subtle colour and textural contrast. The Medieval Revival detailing of the dressed stonework, the bracketed coping trim, beltcourses, arched openings, and the carved stonework should be maintained. The masonry requires an ongoing maintenance program, and conservation expertise in the choice of materials and techniques for repair and replacement. The addition of an asymmetrically located steel escape stair is a modern intervention that introduces an inappropriate material and design. Exit requirements should be addressed in a more sympathetic manner which does not detract from the building.

Copper is used for the roofing, ventilators, fascias, flashings and gable copings and contributes to the visual richness of the Medieval Revival design. The material and forms should be maintained.

The wood sash windows appear to be original. With their relatively heavy members they contribute a prominent fine-scaled pattern to the walls and should be maintained. The medieval military design is expressed in the original wood entrance doors with their panelling, heavy iron hardware and multi-paned glazing; these should be maintained.

The armoury is characterized by compact planning and the large, open space of the second floor lecture is a feature which should be maintained. Original interior materials finishes should be documented and maintained.

The simple ground plane characteristic of the armoury should be maintained to protect the original relationship with the building. The mature deciduous trees should be protected. The symmetrical flagpoles at the entrance serve as a landmark features and should be maintained.

97.03.07

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.

---