

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

This building, also known as the Victoria Rifles Armoury, is a heritage building primarily because of its very good design but also because it is still compatible with the dominant character of the area and has suffered little change since it was built in 1933. Designed by the Montreal architect David Jerome Spence, the Victoria Rifles Armoury was executed in very correct Tudor Gothic style. Despite its conventionality of design, it represents a well-crafted expression of this stylistic mode. It is a three-storey reinforced concrete and steel building sheathed on the main facade by a rough granite base with random ashlar composed primarily of local grey limestone but with a few coloured stones for variety. The belt course and carved ornaments are composed of a lighter limestone. The side and rear walls are sheathed in brick.. The low ogee arch of the windows and main entrance, the crenellated roof-line and three turrets are motifs generally associated with palace or university architecture of the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and illustrate a most conservation strain of Canadian architecture in the 1920's and 1930's. Situated on a cramped lot and hemmed in on both sides by large structures, the facade presses up against the street creating a flat wall plane. This unmodulated surface is disguised by the form of a projecting tower defined by the two central turrets, balcony and wide entrance with a raised portcullis. The rough, random ashlar, and the rich array of medieval and military motifs lend a sense of variety and texture to the main facade. The continuation of the mullion motif in the spandrels between the second and third floors gives the appearance of one long window that unites the entire facade. Today the Victoria Rifles Armoury, is surrounded by modern office buildings and differs in scale, materials and style from most of its immediate neighbours. But it is still compatible with its area precisely because its textured stonework, richly carved ornamentation, and romantic architectural historicisms provides an attractive visual counterpoint to the surrounding walls of metal, concrete and glass.

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