

Vancouver, British Columbia  
**Armoury**  
Beatty Street

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The armoury was constructed in 1899-1902, as the regimental headquarters for the local militia, and continues to function as a drill hall. It was designed by the federal Department of Public Works. The custodian is the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 90-1 37.

### **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 distinctive form, by the treatment of the Beatty Street facade, and by aspects of the interior substantive of its military function.

The armoury is an amalgam of two distinct structural units: a massive drill hall, spanned by an immense gable roof, and a flanking auxiliary wing, detailed to represent a medieval castle. It is important to retain the clarity of this simple design concept.

The Beatty Street facade expresses a military purpose with its symmetrical composition and evocative detailing. The rhythmic fenestration, quarry faced stonework, crenellations, decorative chimneys, and the rounded towers guarding the main door, are features which should be preserved.

A coating applied to the brickwork has altered the original character of the building, however, masking the colour contrasts inherent in the masonry and diminishing the effect of the stone detailing. The foundation remains a strong visual factor, particularly so for the rear elevation, and should be carefully maintained.

The interior is distinguished by a 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 would alter the existing internal configuration, or affect historic fabric, should be implemented in a reversible manner.

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Vancouver, British Columbia  
**Armoury (Continued)**

Because of its prominent location and conspicuous appearance, the armoury is an important local landmark. The huge bulk of the drill hall benefits from the clearance

afforded by the street on one side, and on the other, by the flat expanse of ground which currently serves as a parking lot.

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