

New Westminster British Columbia
New Westminster Armoury
6th Street at Queens Avenue

Heritage Character Statement

The New Westminster Armoury was built in 1895 by the Department of Public Works for the Department of Militia and Defence. It is now owned by the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 86-60.

Reasons for Designation

The New Westminster Armoury was designated a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its association with the volunteer militia movement in the 19th century and a renowned militia unit, the Royal Westminster Regiment, a member of which was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1944.

The New Westminster Armoury is most likely the only surviving large armoury built entirely of wood, the construction material traditionally used in the region.

Character Defining Elements

The New Westminster Armoury was constructed entirely of wood and is composed of details, motifs, elements and shapes that are typical of West Coast buildings dating from the late 19th or early 20th century. This building is unique because armouries were normally constructed of stone and brick. The building owes its heritage character to its materials, details, structure and exterior composition.

The primary purpose of an armoury is to provide a large, unobstructed indoor area with associated offices, quartermaster stores and other military facilities. The visible girders, normally made of steel, but in this case of cedar, should be preserved as an essential element of the building’s heritage character.

The exterior of the Armoury is best described by its symmetry and simplicity. Its long, low massing and lack of decoration give it the simple, utilitarian appearance of Edwardian period structures. The impression of austerity is offset by side towers, segment-head windows, slightly projecting gables, and the texture of the wood cladding and shingles. This combination of materials and details should be preserved as an essential element of the building’s character. Identical materials should be used in any future repairs.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information contact FHBRO.

Date (Month/Year)