

Beauport, Quebec  
**Beauport Armoury**  
rue de Manège

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Beauport Armoury was built in 1913-14 to designs by the Engineering Services Branch of the Department of Militia and Defence. The building continues to serve as a drill hall. The Department of National Defence is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-59.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Beauport Armoury was designated Recognized as a result of its environmental qualities, its functional design, and its association with the provision of drill halls for the Active Volunteer Militia under Sam Hughes.

Located on a residential street, the armoury is a dominant presence and a community landmark.

Under threat of war, Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defence from 1911 to 1916, expedited the program of armoury construction initiated by Frederick Borden. In the interests of efficiency and cost reduction, Hughes turned over the design of the majority of armouries to his Engineering Services Branch, who devised a set of five standard plans based on size. The relatively small armoury at Beauport, a Type B, accommodates three companies. In the standard designs, the rectangular drill hall is the dominant feature of the plan, with the administrative block reduced in size. The Beauport Armoury is a good example of the "Type B with Towers" design, which provides additional office space in square corner towers flanking the front facade. The structure exhibits elements of the symbolic fortress motif common in Canadian armouries, but the design aesthetic is more modern than other armouries of its type. It is typical in the use of red brick for the walls, but the flat projecting roofs of the towers, and the geometrical arrangement of windows close to the eaves, suggest the Prairie Style of Frank Lloyd Wright.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Beauport Armoury resides in its massing, functional design, high quality materials and craftsmanship, and the character of the drill hall interior.

The armoury reflects its military function in the distinctive profile of the gable-roofed drill hall and in the fortress motif here expressed in corner towers, limited fenestration, and buttress-like pilasters on all elevations. Disruption of the characteristic profile and composition should be resisted.

.../2

-2-

Beauport, Quebec  
**Beauport Armoury**  
rue de Manège (Continued)

The Beauport Armoury exemplifies the care taken in the construction of these structures despite the threat of war. The armoury retains its original multi-paned windows; they should be carefully maintained, and repaired or replaced in kind when necessary. Repairs to the masonry should be undertaken with the assistance of a masonry expert.

The large, unobstructed interior of the drill hall is achieved through the use of steel trusses. The structural system should be respected in any modification or repair work. The organization of space is characteristic of drill halls designed by the Engineering Branch and should be preserved. Service rooms are located at one end of the drill hall, with additional rooms and a viewing gallery above. All early interior finishes and historic building fabric should be maintained and repaired in kind.

Parking spaces are provided on one side of the building, with a fenced driveway located on the other. Landscaping at the front of the structure is simple and low, and provides an unobstructed view of the major facade; this should be preserved.

1994.10.26