

92-1 02

Middleton, Nova Scotia
Armoury
150 Commercial Street

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Armoury at Middleton was constructed in 1902. It was likely designed by Thomas W. Fuller under Chief Architect David Ewart for the Department of Public Works. The building was reclad in the 1970s and various internal alterations have occurred. The Department of National Defense is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 92-1 02.

Reasons for Designation

The Middleton Armoury was designated Recognized because of its environmental and local significance to Middleton, its architectural importance, and its historical associations.

The armoury is compatible in scale with the adjacent mixed stock of new commercial and older wooden buildings. It is located on the main business street and is familiar to residents for its use as a community center for military and social groups.

A cruciform-plan building with symmetrical elevations, classical detailing and a central pedimented entrance, the Middleton Armoury is a good example of a small Classical Revival style armoury. Historically, its construction was the result of the militia reform undertaken at the end of the 19th century, one manifestation of which called for new armouries for all units. In the early years of the program, small rural armouries were designed as little more than storage facilities for arms, and possessed neither a drill hall nor a firing range. This is one of few surviving examples, and the only one currently functioning as an armoury.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Armoury resides in the building's form, its overall proportions, Classical Revival architectural details, surviving interior finishes, and relationship to its site and setting.

The building is a simple cruciform one storey structure with a medium pitched hipped roof, well proportioned symmetrical facades, shallow portico supported on Doric columns, and an offset chimney. The low roof profile and simple, balanced massing should be maintained.

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Middleton, Nova Scotia
Armoury (cont'd)

The wood framed and clad building originally featured simple classically inspired features executed in wood, including prominent corner quoins, wide window and door trims, narrow wood clapboard, and entablature and pediment. The building has been re-sided with wide clapboarding that alters the intended texture of the facades. The quoins and entablature may survive beneath. The original features and siding dimensions should be reinstated when the current siding is to be replaced. The Doric columns survive and merit careful preservation.

The original wood multi-paned double hung windows with storms seen in early photographs reinforced the classical character of the design and were appropriate to this all-wood building. The current security grilles and modern storm windows obscure the window detailing. Alternative security and thermal upgrading measures should be investigated. When the doors and windows are being replaced, new units should reflect the original design intent and materials.

The original central corridor plan has been altered to create a large open room, however the axial approach to the entrances survives and new functions should maintain the original patterns of access. Any surviving early interior finishes should be documented and incorporated in future work.

The footprint of the building and its simple relationship to the streetscape should be maintained. The landscape should be formal and symmetrical in character. Historic photographs show lettering in the pediment in lieu of site signage, and a rooftop flagpole; reinstatement of these features would enhance the character of the building.

95.07.31

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