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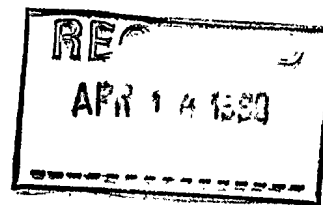
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City Hall  
4310 Queen Street  
Niagara Falls, Ontario  
L2E 6X5  
Tel: (905) 356-7521  
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Doug Darbyson  
Director of Planning &  
Development



April 9, 1998

**REGISTERED MAIL**

Richard Moorhouse  
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1J3

Dear Mr. Moorhouse:

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate  
5049 Victoria Avenue  
Niagara Falls, Ontario**

The Council of the Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls intends to designate the above-noted land and building as property of historic and architectural value and interest under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990. The enclosed notice provides information on the significance of the property and the manner in which objection to the designation may be served. This public notice is being published in the local newspaper in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act on Saturday, April 11, 1998.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Planning and Development Department.

Yours truly,

Alex Herlovitch  
Deputy Director of Planning & Development

AH/am  
Encl.

c: E. C. Wagg, City Clerk

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls intends to designate the land and building at:

5049 Victoria Avenue

as a property of historic value and architectural interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

The property is located on the west side of Victoria Avenue at Armoury Street and is described as Parts of Block 5, Plan 35 in the City of Niagara Falls in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

### HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

#### HISTORY:

The Niagara Falls Armoury is one of eleven drill halls built in Ontario between 1896 and 1918. The construction of the building in 1911 was part of a building campaign undertaken in conjunction with the reform and expansion of the Active Volunteer Militia while Frederick Borden was Minister of Militia and Defense (1896-1911). This was a period of unprecedented reform which turned the Canadian militia from a disorganized, poorly equipped citizens' militia into a competent fighting unit. Thus, the Canadian militia was well prepared for action when the first World War erupted.

The Armoury functioned as both a training and recruitment centre during World War I. Thus, the building quickly became an integral part of the social and cultural history of the City. The Armoury created a strong military presence in the City and generated a significant amount of national patriotism and local pride among those who signed on to serve during the First Great War.

At the time it was erected, the Armoury served the Lincoln militia. In 1935, they amalgamated to become the Lincoln and Welland militia. Since then, the Armoury has had a continuing role in military action through the Second World War and Korean War, right to the present time.

#### ARCHITECTURE:

The architect responsible for the design of the Niagara Falls Armoury was T. W. Fuller. Fuller held the position of Military Architect with the Chief Architects Branch of the Department of Public Works from 1902 to 1918. T. W. Fuller was the son of Thomas Fuller, the Federal architect responsible for the monumental former Post Office and Custom House on Zimmerman Street (former Police Building), which is a locally-designated heritage property. T. W. Fuller's design of the Niagara Falls Armoury is based on medieval fortifications. The building has a substantial architectural form incorporating many details which add to the impression of a significant defense facility. The square plan of the building incorporates wall treatments which step out at the corners to simulate defense towers. The walls incorporate buttresses which add to the image impregnability. The walls terminate in a parapet feature and incorporate a slight crenellation used in the protection of ancient castle design. The walls are further articulated with the use of corbelled stonework in various locations. The front entrance is emphasized with a projecting surround and triple Tudor gothic arch which creates a massive quality. The building is constructed of red brick with stone foundation, sills, window surrounds, corbels, capping and decorative shields. Much of this original character has been modified by a covering of paint.

The Armoury holds an important position on the street, with a spacious front lawn. Thus, it has become a local landmark. The former parade ground at the rear of the drill hall has become a vehicle compound in recent times.

The Armoury is not only an architectural landmark, it also holds important cultural and historical significance to the community.

Notice of Objection to the designation of the above noted property may be served on the City Clerk within 30 days after the date of this notice.

For further information regarding the proposed designation, please contact Alex Herlovitch, Planning and Development Department at 356-7521, ext. 4231.

Dated this 11th day of April, 1998.

E. C. Wagg  
City Clerk