

Quebec, Quebec
Garrison Club (Former Royal Engineer's Office)
97 St. Louis Street

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Garrison Club, a prominent stone building associated with the military elite in Quebec, was originally built in 1823 as a Royal Engineers' Office. It was enlarged in 1893, to the designs of Eugene-Étienne Taché, to serve as a home for the newly-formed Garrison Club. A "ladies' wing" was added in 1921 and extended in 1948. Other alterations occurred in 1906, in 1920, and as the result of fires, in 1954 and 1956. The Department of National Defence is custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 87-112.

Reason for Designation

The Garrison Club was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its design and its contribution to its urban environment.

Its initial historical associations are with the early nineteenth-century presence of the Royal Engineers in Quebec, at a time of increased British military activity in Lower Canada. From the late nineteenth century on, it is associated with the evolution of the Garrison Club, a prominent establishment within the military and social milieu of Quebec City. Its design, in a restrained Chateausque style, manages to be coherent while retaining traces of the various stages in the building's development. It is an important element in maintaining the historic urban character of the walled city.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by the St. Louis and Citadel street façades. These façades provide a continuous record of the building's history and use, and help the building establish the historic urban character of the area.

These façades are marked by a consistent use of well dressed masonry walls with regularly spaced, carefully trimmed openings. The later additions have ornamental quoins string courses and pedimented dormers which add a restrained decorative aspect to the design. All masonry work should be carefully conserved through a program of regular maintenance, and periodic restoration or repair as required. Subtle distinctions between the various periods of masonry work should not be obscured.

The other elements of the façade, including the flat seam and batten metal roof finishes, the windows and doors, and the eavestrough and downspouts, are in some cases original, and in other areas replacements for earlier material, either because of normal wear or because of new stages in the building's evolution.

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Garrison Club (Continued)

They should be maintained as is, and changed only if historical research indicates a more appropriate and well-documented treatment consistent with the building's fully-evolved status.

The principal, or east, entry is of particular historic interest, since it incorporates one of the original 1803 hipped-roof pavilions of the Sewell House. This pavilion is thus a remnant of the pre-military use of the site, and an interesting reminder of the stylistic use of side pavilions in Palladian residential design. Even minor repairs to this area should be controlled to ensure that traces of this element's historical evolution are not inadvertently destroyed.

Most of the interior finishes were redone after the fires of 1954 and 1956. Consideration should be given to preserving earlier finishes or decorative treatments that have survived. In terms of layout, the traces of the original Royal Engineers' Office, particularly the massive exterior walls now incorporated within the ground floor layout, should be maintained both for historic and structural reasons.

In terms of site development, the traditional urban relationship of the building to St. Louis and Citadel streets should be maintained. No in-fill should be permitted behind the building that would visibly affect its silhouette.