

87-112

Quebec, Quebec
St. Louis Barracks
Garrison Club Complex

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The St. Louis Barracks, a rare example of a pre-confederation militia building, was built in 1856 as the Quebec Provincial Armory and Gun Shed. The building was enlarged in about 1860, and in 1887 was converted to stables and sleeping quarters. It is currently used as an administrative center for the Royal Canadian Engineers. The Department of National Defense is custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 87-112.

Reason for Designation

The St. Louis Barracks was designated Recognized because of its historical associations and its contribution to its urban environment.

The building is one of the few tangible reminders of Canada's gradual acceptance of responsibility for its own military defense with the withdrawal of British troops. Built subsequent to the Militia Acts of 1846 and 1855, which provided for domestic recruitment, it was designed for the safekeeping of the arms of the Volunteer Artillery of Quebec and later the Volunteer Rifle Companies. The building was converted to serve the needs of the Royal School of Cavalry in 1887.

The two wings of the building, with a combined length of over 200 feet, contribute significantly to the continued urban presence of the Garrison Club complex within this area of old Quebec.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this building is defined by the three visible façades of the original 1856 wing and the east façade of the c. 1860 wing.

The 1856 wing is a two-storey gable-roofed structure of coursed rubble stone construction. The lower storey of the south façade has been obscured by recent grade changes on-site. The c. 1860 wing is of brick, with all but the east façade hidden by adjacent buildings. It is the masonry work that gives the façades their historical interest and present urban impact. They record the evolution of the building in the pattern of repairs and in-fill, and they should be preserved in their present state with repair and repointing as required. Surviving wood windows and doors should also

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be preserved. If detailed historical research uncovers clear evidence of previous patterns of fenestration or door openings, these patterns could be reinstated if the building's function continues to evolve. However, there should not be any conjectural restoration of these façades.

The site retains very little of its historic character. A landscape treatment more appropriate than the existing parking should be introduced if possible, based on a review of historic documentation.

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