HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

KINGSTON, Ontario
FHBRO Number **93-99**
DFRP Number **09405**

Recognized Federal Heritage Building
Building 36, Royal Military College
Former Stables and Hayloft, RMC Riding School

Constructed in 1930, the former stables and hayloft comprise an addition to the 1916 Riding Instruction Building, augmenting the headquarters and living quarters of the Riding School built in 1908. The three-structure complex and its landscape accommodated training for and exhibition of equestrian skills required of almost military officers before World War II. The building now serves as an annex to the workshop and storage facility for the Royal Military College (RMC) campus.

Reasons for Designation

The former stables and hayloft for the RMC Riding Establishment has been designated Recognized for its architectural significance, its historical associations, and its environmental qualities.

Historical significance

The stables and hayloft building was constructed in 1930 as the apparent culmination of the permanent home for the RMC's equestrian training program.

The building's roles in the program of equestrian training for the officer corps and its associations with, among other things, RMC demonstrations of equitation for the public (including a version of the "Musical Ride"), place the three-building complex and its grounds as a modest but notable component of the RMC's "local" relationships alongside its national military importance.

Architectural significance

The former stables and hayloft attached to the east end of the 1916 Riding Instruction Building (R.I.B.), is a storey-and-a-half brick-clad structure whose gable-end roof is perpendicular to the axis of the R.I.B. In turn, the north end of the stables and hayloft comprises a cross-gable parallel in its turn to the main axis of the R.I.B. The high attic and large ground-level openings are indications of its original purpose — for horse stalls at grade and hay storage above — but the building has been modified some time ago for other uses.

The main bulk of the stables and hayloft building had been constructed as a symmetrical block, but a lateral expansion of the exposed part of the western elevation at ground level is evident. A long shed dormer, almost completely glazed, faces east. A roof ventilator of pyramidal form is in contrast to the series of cylindrical vents on the R.I.B.

The exterior is clad in the red brick typical of the earlier buildings of the complex, with brick arches over the openings, and concrete sills beneath the windows. The loft window of the south elevation has a noticeably higher arch than the more typical relieving arches below. The building sits on a random-coursed stone plinth of one or two courses, topped by a chamfered concrete cap.

Most of the windows are vertical wooden sash, some with subdivided upper panes.

Environmental qualities

The stables and hayloft building, together with the former Riding Instruction Building of 1916 (Building 3) and the earliest structure, the 1908 headquarters of the "Riding Establishment", comprise a cohesive complex of complementing structures at the north end of the RMC campus. The group is axially aligned, and set in a generous landscape of grass and mature trees, visible from beyond the limits of the campus.

The attractive landscape was not a merely aesthetic setting, but an essential component of the equestrian training environment, from the very beginning of the Riding Establishment.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage character of the former stables and hayloft building for the RMC Riding School comprises the following character-defining elements:

- the building's connection to and complementing of the form and character of the former Riding Instruction Building (#3)
- the combination of gable-roofed skyline, brick-arched openings and stone base typical to the buildings of the immediate complex and other structures nearby.
- the surviving wooden details of windows and roof eaves.
- the building's pivotal location in an attractive, visible and historically functional setting.

All maintenance and repair work, as well as future interventions, should respect these character-defining elements.

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