

Kingston, Ontario  
**Fort Haldimand (Building No. 31)**  
Royal Military College

Fort Haldimand was designed in 1948 by the Directorate of Works and Accommodation, Department of National Defence, and completed by 1951. There have been no major alterations. The building retains its original function as a dormitory. The Department of National Defence is custodian. See FHBRO Report 93-99.

### **Reasons For Designation**

Fort Haldimand was designated Recognized for its environmental importance, its architectural design and its historical associations.

Fort Haldimand is an almost exact replica of Fort Lasalle (1912) with which it frames the similarly styled Yeo Hall (1935) along the west border of the parade square. This grouping displays a consistent use and texture of stone and kindred styling and presents a unified elevation to the parade square which is noted for its stylistic diversity.

The building is a late example of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture, a style popular on most early 20th century campuses, which by the 1950s was being supplanted by modern architectural styles. Appropriate to its subsidiary function as a dormitory, the building is an austere interpretation of this style, displaying a minimal amount of detailing.

The construction of Fort Haldimand represents the last phase of the Royal Military College's (RMC) expansion which began in 1910 and which sought to professionalize the military education system and impose a unified stylistic appearance to the campus. This expansion was delayed by the First and Second World Wars, and by federal government austerity plans. The building can also be said to mark the beginning of a new era of expansion due to the beginning of the Cold War, which saw RMC expand and several modern-styled buildings built.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage value of Fort Haldimand resides in its massing, materials and details which, in matching those of its immediate neighbours, contributes to the character of the parade square.

FHBRO Number 93-99

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Fort Haldimand is a U-shaped three-storey building whose symmetrical facade is defined by a central square tower and two slightly projecting pavilions with parapet gables at either end. A large indoor swimming pool, situated behind the front wing and accessed through a corridor in the basement, forms an almost independent structure which maintains the detailing and materials of the main building. Fort Haldimand is faced with rusticated limestone, similar in texture and pattern to other buildings on the square although its imported stone differs moderately in colour. Any changes to the building's roof profile or covering should be based on historical documentation. The stone detailing evident in the coping course above the raised basement level, in the corner and tower buttresses and in the window surrounds of the central tower, represents a competent yet conservative interpretation of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture. The regular placement of window openings and unbroken roof line also contribute to this restrained rendering. The existing metal windows replicate the divided sash of the wood windows on the adjacent earlier buildings and should be properly maintained. Conservation expertise is recommended for any future masonry repairs.

It is the stylistic elements of the Collegiate Gothic, common to the three buildings, that lend a degree of unity to the west border of the parade square, a sense which is heightened by the stone archways that join the three buildings. Any interventions that detract from the symmetry of Fort Haldimand's facade, from the significant features which link it to its neighbours and from its relationship to the formal character of the parade square should be avoided.

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

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