

Halifax, Nova Scotia
Wellington House
Building S12 Stadacona, CFB Halifax

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Wellington House was built for the Imperial Army between 1852 and 1860 to the designs of the Royal Engineers. It was constructed by the Quebec City firm of Peters, Blaiklock and Peters. It is the property of the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 85-61.

Reason for Designation

On September 10, 1986 the building was designated Classified because of its thematic importance, its representation of a significant phase in the development of Halifax, and the quality of its aesthetic and functional design.

The Wellington Barracks property, of which this building was a major element, reflected an important stage in the development of military architecture towards more healthy and commodious living conditions for both officers and enlisted men. Its construction reinforced the development of its north end neighbourhood into an exclusive residential district. The building is of restrained Neoclassical design, and of considerably larger scale than other comparative examples.

Its brick construction was rare for the time; the establishment of a local brickyard set a precedent for the city of Halifax, and represented a major departure from the traditional practice of importing such materials for permanent construction. It continued to supply local builders for 30 years.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by the exterior façades, the surviving interior detail, and the siting.

The exterior walls, of red brick dressed and trimmed with granite, include a basement storey exposed by a dry moat supported by a stone wall. The roofline is marked by a series of massive chimneys. It is important that all façades, and the adjacent moat, be carefully maintained and conserved. Interior layout reflected the exterior divisions marked by projecting pedimented pavilions, with five distinct areas along a central axis. Remnants of this layout, including original fireplaces, should be protected where possible, and every opportunity taken to reinforce and recover the symmetry and simplicity of the original design.

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The position of Wellington House on a slight rise of ground and bordering on the former parade square gives the structure an isolated prominence within the more recently developed complex of base buildings. The parade grounds are a visual extension of this building and they should be protected; this siting, closely tied to the building's historical significance, must be respected.

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