

Kingston, Ontario
Gatehouse (3)
Royal Military College

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Gatehouse, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario, was built between 1816 and 1819. The original design and designer, although unknown, may be attributable to the Royal Engineers. It is the property of the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 89-137.

Reasons for Designation

The Gatehouse was designated a Recognized heritage building. It was designated because it is one of a select group of structures dating from the years immediately after the War of 1812 still located on Point Frederick, the former site of one of Britain's largest naval bases, and because it is a good example of a standard military design type.

Commemorated in 1973 as part of a National Historic Site, the Gatehouse design was a one-storey hipped roof form, with classically inspired scale and proportion. A pre-1850 addition altered the original proportions and symmetry. The building dates from the first permanent development of the Point Frederick dockyard and reflects Kingston's important role in Britain's defence against the United States after the War of 1812. The Gatehouse helps to create a very distinctive 19th-century military character on the campus.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Gatehouse is defined by the visible exterior elevations including the pre-1850 addition which forms an integral part of the present structure.

The exterior is defined by its solid random-rubble stonework on the side elevations and the coursed rubble main elevation, decorative cut-stone quoins and voussoirs, its attractive multi-pane sash windows and its good proportions and slightly grander scale than the neighboring guardhouse.

Any repair or restoration work that is required on the exterior should be carried out with attention to the original quality and character of the masonry work, the window sash, and the scale and proportion of the original building and the 1850 addition. Any exterior or interior features relating to the original standard plan for the structure should be retained.

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Kingston, Ontario

Gatehouse (3) (Continued)

Its site and setting, with the adjacent guardhouse and stone wall, form a cohesive visual unit of a distinctly 19th-century military character unchanged in configuration since 1820.

The open space around the building should be respected in order to preserve the small scale of the structure, and its site and orientation to the stone wall and guardhouse should be retained for historical continuity.

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