

Québec, Québec

Manège de la Grande Allée

Avenue Laurier

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Manège de la Grande Allée was constructed in 1887 to designs by local architect and civil servant, Eugene Etienne Taché. Located on the historic Plains of Abraham, its impressive chateausque architecture was atypical of large drill halls constructed across Canada after Confederation. An addition sympathetic in style to the original building was constructed in 1914. The building remains in the custody of the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 86-72.

Reasons for Designation

The Manège de la Grande Allée has been designated a Classified heritage building because of its strong historical associations with the development of the military in Canada, and in particular the role of Voltigeurs de Québec, the Royal Rifles, the 10e Escadron du Genie du Canada, and the 58th Battalion of the 6th Field Regiment. It was also an early and significant example of the chateau style, which became increasingly important in the evolution of Quebec as a symbol of French history and culture in North America. Well constructed and well maintained, it continues to play an important role in establishing the character of the area. It is one of the few drill halls in Canada to retain its central parade ground, a feature which further enhances its landmark status.

The property was designated a national historic site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1986.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by the richness of its exterior elevations, by the interior layout and finishes as they related to its military function, and by the siting of the building in relation to its parade ground.

The exterior elevations are marked by a strongly detailed stone base, with asymmetrical arrangement of turrets, buttresses, and elaborate gable pediments, and by steeply pitched roofs, with decorative ventilators and ridge cresting. The 1914 addition continues the basic vocabulary of the original building, in a less ordered arrangement. It is important that all four façades be carefully maintained, and that any required repair or restoration be accurate in terms of material and detailing.

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The interior reflects the particular drill hall function for which the building was designed. Continued military and ceremonial use may be the best way to ensure the continued preservation of interior layout and finishes; any required changes should be designed to be reversible.

The parade ground, Place Georges V, is one of the few that survive in Canada in a drill hall context. It enhances the significance of the property and also maintains the original and most appropriate setting for appreciating the architecture of the building itself.

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