

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters
Butler's Barracks

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters was built in 1816-17, by the Corps of Royal Engineers, as part of the Butler's Barracks encampment for British troops. The Quarters continued to be used by the Canadian military until 1969. The building has been recently restored. Environment Canada is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 89-16.

Reasons For Designation

The Officer's Quarters was designated Recognized as a result of its long association with the training of troops for the defence of Canada, for its architectural qualities, and for its landmark status.

Butler's Barracks was built by the British, after the War of 1812-14, to barrack and train troops in the defence of Upper Canada. The Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters, built in 1816-17, initially housed British officers. From 1837 to 1969, it was in use by both regular Canadian troops and the militia, and is thus associated with the evolution of the Canadian army. The Officer's Quarters is also associated with the growth and defence of Niagara-on-the-Lake and its continuing economic development.

The Officer's Quarters is an example of an early 19th-century frame cottage, in the Georgian manner. It is a significant component of the historic site and a well-known landmark.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters is defined by its simple Georgian architecture, its materials, and its contribution to the residential aspect of the encampment.

The Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters is a storey-and-a-half gabled-roof structure, linked with the original brick kitchen to the rear. The symmetrical three-bay façade of the house - central projecting entrance, balanced chimneys, shuttered windows and low-pitched roof - reflect its Georgian origins. The use of local materials - wood frame with brick infill on a stone foundation, clapboard siding, and wood shake roof cladding - is typical of the designs employed by the Corps of Royal Engineers.

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Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters (cont'd)
Butler's Barracks

The Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters is one of four structures surviving from the early 19th-century Butler's Barracks training facility. Although the building evolved during its history, it has been generally restored to its early configuration. The current spacious park-like setting is well-maintained. The Officer's Quarters contributes to the character of the historic site.

1992.03.06