

89-40

Kingston, Ontario

De Noyan Block

Fort Frontenac

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The De Noyan Block was constructed as barracks for 200 men in 1827 to designs by the Royal Engineers of the British Military. The Department of National Defense is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 89-40.

Reasons for Designation

The De Noyan Block was designated Classified for its historical associations, architectural importance, and environmental and local significance for Kingston.

Fort Frontenac, originally the Tête de Pont barracks, was the first of four British military complexes in Kingston, and played a major role in Britain's defense strategy for Canada. The De Noyan Block is one of the oldest buildings on the site.

The De Noyan Block is a very good example of 19th century military architecture. The building was designed for a dual role as barracks and as part of the fortifications, which accounts for its greater wall mass, loop windows, and defensible entry porches. It is domestic in scale with a simplicity of design, robust use of materials, high standard of workmanship and spare utility typical of British military construction.

The De Noyan Block is a significant element of the fort, and its height, scale, and appearance are compatible with adjacent buildings. It is familiar as one of several buildings comprising Fort Frontenac.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the De Noyan Block resides in the building's form, its overall classically-inspired proportions, construction materials, architectural details, surviving interior layout and finishes, and relationship to its site and setting.

The De Noyan Block is a simple rectangular two-storey structure with a gable-hip roof. The small window openings, rifle loopholes, and defensible porches emphasize the mass and create a fortified appearance for the building. These characteristics should be maintained, as should the well balanced, symmetrically proportioned, tripartite order within the facades. The footprint of the building and the prominent roof profile should not be compromised. The gable end add-on roof and asymmetrical entrances are not compatible with the design of the building.

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The De Noyan Block (cont'd)

The building is characterized by the quality of its masonry. The smooth limestone walls with regular coursing are accented by simple details such as projecting window sills, quoins, and simple entablatures over the windows and doors. These details are integral to the character of the building and should be maintained. The building materials merit appropriate conservation expertise and regular maintenance.

The roof is a prominent feature. Conservation expertise should be sought when re-roofing to confirm appropriate materials and color. The stone chimneys should be maintained.

The regular rhythm of the window arrangement contributes to the sense of solidity, balance, and order and should not be compromised. Window openings which are blocked alter the rhythm and balance of the facade and should be re-instated. The four-over-four wood double-hung windows have replaced earlier six-over-six windows. When replacement is required, a return to the six-over-six configuration in wood is recommended.

The original barracks interior plan is a variant of a standard plan introduced in the eighteenth century. It survives and should be maintained. An investigation of historical precedent for the interior finishes is recommended to define compatible scale and materials for new work. Surviving interior finishes should be identified and protected.

A landscape program in the 1930s improved and refined the site with lawns and trees. Landscape modifications should be limited to low, small-scale landscape material in keeping with the current formal character of the site. The masonry walls should be monitored for potential damage from the vines climbing the facades.

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