

Kingston, Ontario
Fort Lasalle Dormitory
Royal Military College

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Fort LaSalle Dormitory was constructed at three different periods. The original 1912 portion consists of the long rectangle facing the Parade Ground. The design originated with the Department of Public Works, but was implemented by the Kingston architectural firm of Power and Son. In 1924 and again in 1936, wings were added to the rear. The Department of National Defence is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 89-47.

Reasons for Designation

Fort LaSalle Dormitory was designated Recognized because of its association with the expansion of the military prior to both World Wars, and for its architectural expression, craftsmanship and materials, and its site relationships.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the dormitory is defined by the use of the Collegiate Gothic style in combination with Beaux-Arts planning principles, the exterior massing and materials, and the relationship of the dormitory to adjacent buildings facing the Parade Ground.

Fort LaSalle exhibits the Collegiate Gothic style established as the uniform style of architecture for the Royal Military College at the turn of the century. The centrally-located crenellated tower with Tudor entranceway, parapetted side gables, buttresses and carved stone drip-moulds and shields are typical of the style. The use of axial symmetry, and the consistency of style and materials – rock-faced Kingston limestone – in the original dormitory and the additions, exemplify the Beaux-Arts principles of functional efficiency, expandable design, and unity of form. The austere appearance of the main facade was considered appropriate for a military academy at the time. The interior layout and finishes are original.

The combination of planning principles, architectural composition, and materials and detailing is essential to the heritage character of this building and should be preserved. If not already in place, a program of regular inspection and maintenance should be instituted.

Fort Lasalle retains its original relationship to the Parade Ground. It is linked to the later Yeo Hall by an enclosed archway. This arrangement of buildings is reminiscent of cloistered English universities, and is an integral part of the academic character of the environment. The building is a local landmark, and its relationship to its setting should be preserved.

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