

Kingston, Ontario
Yeo Hall
Royal Military College

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Yeo Hall Mess Building was constructed in 1935, to provide dining and recreation facilities for the college. The function remains the same, although the gymnasium is now used for dances and drills only. The Department of National Defence is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 89-47.

Reasons for Designation

Yeo Hall was designated Recognized as a result of its site relationships, and the quality of its architectural design, craftsmanship and materials. The Hall was constructed in the Depression, despite general fiscal restraint, as part of a pre-Second World War military building campaign.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined by its combination of aesthetic expression with functional design, its use of materials and detailing, and its siting with respect to adjacent buildings on the Parade Ground.

The design of Yeo Hall combines the Collegiate Gothic style, expressed in mullioned segmentally-arched, oriel, and bay windows, in buttresses, and in its Gothic Revival with Beaux-Arts planning principles here exemplified in the symmetry of its plan and the expression of internal function in external form represented in the variety of window sizes and shapes.

Although constructed during the Depression, the design of Yeo Hall maintains and elaborates the style, materials and craftsmanship of earlier adjacent structures, in the use of skillfully-carved Kingston limestone, stained glass, copper roofs and, in the dining room, a decorative vaulted ceiling. The planning, architectural composition, and materials and detailing are essential to the heritage character of this building, and they should be preserved in any future work. If not already in place, a program of regular inspection and maintenance should be instituted.

Yeo Hall retains its formal relationship to the Parade Ground and to the neighbouring buildings to which it is linked by enclosed archways. The arrangement, derived from the cloistered groupings found in English universities, is an integral part of the academic character of the environment, and should be preserved. The building is a local landmark.

