

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

### **Brick Barrack**

Amherstburg, Ontario  
Fort Malden NHS

The Brick Barrack was constructed as living quarters for 70 soldiers in 1819-20. It was designed by Lieutenant H. Wilson of the Royal Engineers, and was restored by Parks Canada in the late 1970s. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 91-181.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Brick Barrack was designated Classified because of its environmental and local significance, its historical associations, and its architectural importance.

The barrack is an important focal point for the character of Fort Malden because of its location, scale, and appearance within the military earthworks of the site. The barrack defines the eastern edge of the former parade square. It is associated with the fort's interpretation program and familiar as part of a national landmark.

The Brick Barrack is a good example of standardized military bungalow barrack design of the early 1800s. It is symmetrical, domestic in scale, with a distinctive verandah on the front facade. Restoration to the 1838-40 period involved reconstructing the chimneys, the verandah, the doors, certain windows, and the kitchen addition.

Fort Malden provided British military presence for the British Indian department along the Detroit frontier. The Brick Barrack reflects the renewed commitment of the British to the defense of Canada after the War of 1812 and the importance of the military to the development of Amherstburg.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Brick Barrack as restored to the 1838-40 period resides in its form, overall proportions, architectural details and construction materials, surviving interior finishes, and relationship to the site and setting.

The Brick Barrack is a long rectangular bungalow structure with a prominent low hipped roof. The design of the facade is symmetrical, with doors, windows, and chimney locations reflecting the internal division into three parts. The long low verandah with its simple support posts is an important feature of the design. The rectangular footprint, simple roof profile and chimney placement should not be compromised.

The building is characterized by the simplicity of its materials and detailing. The exterior,

consisting of red brick walls on a rubblestone foundation, has plain stone sills at window openings. Multi-paned wood double-hung window units and wood doors date from the restoration; they are consistent with the design and should be maintained. The main roof, which sweeps out to cover the verandah, is a distinguishing feature of the building. The natural cedar finish adds to the texture of the building. The kitchen addition of the 1840s features loopholes, reflecting defensive concerns at the time of its construction. These should not be altered.

The original internal layout as a barrack was recreated during the restoration and should be maintained. The simple interior finishes of wood-plank flooring, plaster walls and ceilings are reconstructions except for one original ceiling.

The footprint of the building and the relationship to the enclosing fort embankments should not be compromised. The simple landscape with dirt paths reflects the original simple cleared site and should be maintained without further refinement or embellishment. The reconstructed well with hoisting mechanism contributes to the historic ambience. It would be appropriate to interpret the archaeological vestiges of former outbuildings, as at the nearby latrine.

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

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