

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT GATEHOUSE NO. 1, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, KINGSTON, ON

FHBRO Number: **93-99**
DFRP Number: **09405**
Resource Name: **Gatehouse No. 1**
Address: **Building 2, Royal Military College, Kingston, ON**
FHBRO Status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1884**
Designer: **NA**
Original Function: **Gatehouse**
Current Function: **Private Married Quarters for College staff**
Modifications: **Additions include a front entry (storm) porch, a sun porch on the south side, and a rear room; interior upgrades and renovations.**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Description of Historic Place

Gatehouse No. 1 consists of a one-and-a-half storey, dressed stone house with a gable roof and gabled dormers on both front and rear elevations, as well as a gable-roofed entry porch, a sun porch on the south side, and a central addition to the rear of the building. Gatehouse No. 1 and its eastern mate Gatehouse No. 2 are almost identical in design and controlled the entrances to the Royal Military College for much of College’s existence, although these entrances are no longer in use. Located alongside Highway 2, on the west side of Point Frederick, at the intersection of Frontenac Avenue, Gatehouse No. 1 and its garden are part of a larger landscaped complex associated with the former Riding Establishment and its grounds. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

Gatehouse No. 1 is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

Gatehouse No. 1 is a convenient example of the national historical theme of military officer training and the emergence of a professional armed force in Canada. Gatehouse No. 1 is also associated with the formative years of the Royal Military College after its founding in 1874 at Point Frederick, the former site of a fortified naval establishment and dockyard, and located near the fortifications at Fort Henry. The College was Canada’s first officer-training facility, and in its early years in the 19th century it played an important role in educating both military engineers and future training officers.

Architectural value:

Gatehouse No. 1 is a good example of a typical, vernacular 19th century Ontario house and consists of a symmetrical, well-proportioned one-and-a-half storey rectangular volume with a gable roof, gabled dormers on both the front and rear elevations and end chimneys. Characterized by good functional quality, the building’s

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main elevation consists of three bays, with tall ground floor windows flanking a central doorway, which reflects the interior's centre hall plan with central staircase. Gatehouse No. 1 is constructed of very good quality craftsmanship and materials and is clad in dressed stone, featuring smooth-dressed ashlar blocks at the quoins and pilasters.

Environmental value:

The westerly of the pair of gatehouses, Gatehouse No. 1 is compatible with the College's campus-like setting and is part of a larger landscaped complex associated with the former Riding Establishment and its grounds. Joined by a low stone pier and iron gate to a pair of large stone piers supporting a wrought-iron vehicle gate, Gatehouse No. 1 has a rear yard with a domestic garden and mature trees and is bounded by a head-high, white-painted picket fence along the main road and lower, more open fencing along the college grounds. Located near the Catarqui River and the Memorial Arch, Gatehouse No. 1 is visible from its location adjacent to Highway No. 2, and is familiar to the students and faculty at RMC and the residents of the region including CFB Kingston.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of Gatehouse No. 1 should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the national historical theme of the military officer training and the emergence of a professional armed force in Canada as expressed in:

- Its aesthetic design, choice of materials and prominent location at the former entrances to the Royal Military College; and,
- Its former function as both office and accommodation for sentry personnel.

Its good domestic vernacular design, its good functional quality and its very good quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- Its typical, vernacular 19th century Ontario house-form and symmetrical, well-proportioned three-bay composition with gable roof, gabled dormers with pointed windows and end chimneys;
- Its typical interior layout which consists of a centre-hall plan with central staircase;
- The complementary dressed and roughened stone wall surfaces, including the smoothly dressed stone voussoirs, quoins, and pilasters which frame the modestly rusticated and slightly recessed "panels" surrounding the window and door openings; and,
- The wooden fascias and eaves returns, doors, and window sashes.

The building's compatibility with the College's campus-like setting, as well as its symbolic and visual landmark value as evidenced in:

- Its visual harmony with the surrounding landscaped environment owing to its domestic scale, vernacular design and choice of materials;

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- Its pivotal location in an attractive, visible and historically functional setting and its relationship to its associated gate.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. For further information contact FHBRO.

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