

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

KINGSTON, Ontario
FHBRO Number **93-99**
DFRP Number **09405**
Building 27, Royal Military College (RMC)
Panet House

Panet House is a two and a half storey brick house with a gable roof, dormer windows and a deep front porch. It is attached to a compatibly scaled gymnasium. It was constructed in 1903, as part of a series of buildings to house the expanding College, to accommodate the staff-adjutant, the officer responsible for the cadets and their military training.

Reasons for Designation

Panet House has been designated 'Recognized' for its architectural significance, its historical associations, and its environmental qualities.

Historical significance

The Panet House was one of a series of constructions promoted by recently arrived commandant Major Raymond N.R. Reade, a British officer sent to the RMC in 1901 at the urgings of the Colonial Office in London, which had argued at that time for a Briton in command so that the British War Office would be more amenable to accepting RMC-trained officers for Imperial duty. Among other initiatives intended to improve both educational programs and facilities, Reade authorized construction of a gymnasium, a hospital, an electrical plant, and a permanent accommodation for the staff-adjutant and his family. Its first occupant, Captain H.A. Panet, was notable as an RMC graduate himself (1891).

Its associations are accordingly with the period, 1901-1914, during which the College reached a certain maturity as it began to fulfill the early mandate of a training facility for officers as well as their future instructors. The Panet House and the other constructions furthered by Reade are associated as well with recognition that RMC was able to produce officers able to serve throughout the British Empire.

Architectural significance

Panet House was completed in 1903 together with the adjoining gymnasium and other structures nearby. It is, broadly speaking, of the Classical Revival style, with details that make aesthetic connections with architectural precursors at the RMC itself, other defence establishments of the era and region, and contemporary domestic architecture in eastern Canada.

The two-and-a-half-storey house is clad in brick with stone embellishments, and stands atop a random ashlar basement. The site slopes down from the front permitting direct access from grade to the basement at the rear. The structure of the house shares a wall with the adjacent gymnasium, the roof eaves of both are contiguous, and the eave of the broad front porch of Panet House is more or less in the same line as the west wall of the gymnasium.

Apart from its physical connection to the gymnasium, Panet House is a symmetrical block, gable-roofed with a large front-facing gabled dormer and three very spartan shed dormers to the rear. The exposed side gable is truncated to give the impression of a very large dormer on a hip, reducing the apparent width of the house from the side. Eaves and fascia are robust wooden forms throughout. Both the broad and deep front porch and the smaller sun porch at the rear are supported on large panelled-box posts, with large dentils on their eaves. The exposed south end of the porch sweeps in a quarter circle to join the corner of the house.

Environmental qualities

The Panet House is compatible with its formally planned setting where it helps define the east side of the open space containing the playing field and parade square, albeit less formally than the north and west edges. While not a military structure, the house fits comfortably within the domestic architecture of the period in and around Kingston, and complements the adjoining academic buildings as well. In its current use as private married quarters for College staff, it is a familiar landmark at the College.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Panet House comprises the following character-defining elements:

- The domestic appearance and scale of the two-and-a-half storey symmetrical block, with a gable roof, a large front-facing gabled dormer, three shed dormers and a broad front porch.
- The Classical influence seen in its symmetrical gable roof, front and rear porches that are supported on large panelled-box posts, and large dentils that line the eaves.
- The construction materials, including the brick cladding with stone embellishments, the random ashlar basement, and the wooden eaves and fascia.
- Its compatibility with adjoining academic buildings, and the domestic architecture of the period in the vicinity.

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Panet House (continued)

-Its familiarity at the college as a residence for College staff.
For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.