

Kingston ,Ontario
Private Married Quarters, Building 9
Ridout Row
Royal Military College

FINAL

Private Married Quarters Building 9 is a two-storey, eight-unit row house which was constructed in 1908. It was designed by the Department of Public Works, with H. B. Smith, Architect as Clerk of Works. Alterations have been few and include the infilling of rear entryways. The building maintains its function as military row housing and the Department of National Defence is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 93-99.

Reasons for Designation

Private Married Quarters Building 9 has been designated “Recognized” because of its architectural and environmental significance.

Building 9 is a useful example of military domestic architecture, with its classically inspired composition and quality craftsmanship. Of interest is the use of pilasters and pediments at each unit’s entrance, the unusual angled corner entrances, and the dressed masonry detailing at pediments and string courses.

Building 9 contributes to its surrounding landscape by providing a residential enclave within an institution designed for military training and education. Axial planning of the site is reflected in the mirrored arrangement of this and its twin, Building 9a, with a paved pedestrian lane running between them.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of Building 9 resides in its form, massing, classical references, construction materials and site relationships.

The massing of the building consists of a rectangular form with chamfered projecting corners at the front elevation, a projecting central bay, and projecting entrances at each unit. The building has a flat roof with a slightly raised profile at the central bay.

The rowhouse is well constructed of smooth red brick supported on a heavy rock-faced limestone base that is capped with a smooth plinth course. Horizontal emphasis is created through the use of stone at the string course between the first and second floor and above the second floor windows, and by the metal coping which caps the roof parapet. The colour and textural contrasts between these materials is an important component the building’s heritage character.

Classical detailing is clearly evident at the unit entrances, where stylized pediments enhanced with stone mouldings rest on heavy stone lintels supported on brick pilasters.

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The carved stone crest at the pediment above each door and the name stone on the frontispiece distinguish the building and provide colour and textural contrast.

The facade has a strong pattern created by the location of windows and doors. Windows at the ground floor and second floor have stone sills and flat brick arches. The one-over-one windows on the second floor are arranged symmetrically over the entrances. The two-over-two windows alternate with the entrances on the first floor. Wood storm sashes are mounted on the exterior. Smaller wood windows are located at foundation level. They are paired directly under the first floor windows. The doors to all the entrances are wood panel.

The design of the rear elevation of the row house is also of interest, continuing the same theme in brick and stone but featuring classically-inspired two-storey arched recesses that provide rear entrances to the units. Each arched recess was designed to contain a shallow balcony above with a metal guard rail, which is accessible from the interior at the stair landing. In most of the units, the arched recesses have been modified or infilled, in some cases by enclosing the space at balcony level and/or at the ground floor. At the lower level on some units, the entrance door, formerly recessed into the arched space, has been brought flush to the outside walls.

Building 9 fronts onto the main road into the RMC Campus and is located close to the entrance. It is sited with its counterpart, Building 9A, on a large square lot. The site has retained its residential character, with privacy provided by trees and shrubs along the perimeter. The two rowhouses are set back to back, facing outward from a wide paved lane that bisects their private back yards. The site relationship between Building 9 and 9A should be respected.

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

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