

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Commissariat Storehouse
Butler's Barracks

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Commissariat Storehouse was built in 1839, by the Corps of Royal Engineers, as part of the Butler's Barracks facility for British troops. The building was designed by Captain Colin Mackenzie of the Corps of Royal Engineers. The storehouse was later used as a barracks to house Canadian troops in training and, finally, as quartermaster's stores. Environment Canada is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 89-16.

Reasons For Designation

The Commissariat Storehouse was designated Recognized as a result of its long association with the British and Canadian military forces, for its functional architectural qualities, and for its landmark status.

The Butler's Barracks complex was established by the British, after the War of 1812-14, to barrack troops used in the defence of Canada. The Department of National Defence continued to use the facility until 1965. The Commissariat Storehouse, added to the complex in 1839, is associated with the ongoing development and defence of the Niagara region during the 19th century. The Storehouse is also associated with the evolution of the Canadian army and the economic development of Niagara-on-the-Lake as a tourist destination in the 20th century.

The Commissariat Storehouse is a rare surviving example of an early 19th-century wooden warehouse, as designed by the Royal Engineers, and contributes to the military character of the historic site.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Commissariat Storehouse is defined by its simple Georgian architecture, its functional design and materials, and its military character.

The storehouse is a two-and-a-half-storey rectangular structure with a gable roof. The interior is divided into a two-room Commissariat Office and a large warehouse area. The placement of the entrances and loading doors expresses the utilitarian function of the structure while overall balanced massing, shuttered windows, and low-pitched roof indicate a Georgian stylistic influence that is consistent with other buildings in the complex. Typical of Royal Engineer designs, local materials, such as clapboard, wood shingles, and wood framing members on a stone foundation, were employed.

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Butler's Barracks (Continued)

Although interior modifications have occurred over time, much of the historic building

fabric survives in good condition and a continued program of regular inspection and maintenance will ensure its protection over the long-term.

The Commissariat Storehouse survives intact in its original location. Although the area has evolved over time, it continues to maintain its open character. The building is now surrounded by a pleasant well-maintained park. The storehouse reinforces the military character of the historic site.

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Revised