

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Men's Two-Storey Barracks was built in 1817-18, by the Corps of Royal Engineers, as part of the Butler's Barracks facility for British troops. The Butler's Barracks complex continued to be used to train Canadian troops until 1965. Environment Canada is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 89-16.

### **Reasons For Designation**

The Men's Two-Storey Barracks 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.

Butler's Barracks was built by the British, after the War of 1812-14, to barrack troops necessary to the defence of Upper Canada. The Men's Two-Storey Barracks, built in 1817-18, initially housed British troops. From 1837 to 1965, it was used as a barracks for Canadian troops and is thus associated with the evolution of the Canadian army. The Barracks is also associated with the growth and defence of Niagara-on-the-Lake and its continuing economic development.

The Men's Two-Storey Barracks is a rare surviving example of an early 19th-century wooden barracks, and contributes to the military character of the historic site.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Men's Two-Storey Barracks is defined by its massing, simple unadorned appearance, its materials, and its military character. The barracks is a two-storey rectangular structure with a hipped roof. The rectangular massing, central entrance, balanced fenestration and chimneys, and low-hipped roof, reflects its Georgian antecedents, while its lack of ornamentation expresses its functional nature. The use of local materials - first-storey of timber construction on a stone foundation, second-storey of wood frame construction with brick infill, clapboard siding, and wood shake roof cladding - is typical of the designs employed by the Corps of Royal Engineers. While the building has been recently restored - including window replacement, new clapboard, new roof shingles, new floor and ceiling at ground-floor level - most of the original structural components survive in good condition.

.../2

The barracks is one of four structures surviving from the early 19th-century training facility. It remains in its original location, now in a well-maintained spacious park-like setting.

1992.05.28  
Revised