

FHBRO Number 90-016

Carillon, Québec

Old Barracks

50 Principale Street

The evidence to date indicates that the Carillon Barracks was constructed in 1835-37 for Charles John Forbes, a retired Commissioner of the British Army. For the first 100 years, the building was used as a military barracks, private residence, and hotel. Since 1938, it has housed the museum of the Argenteuil Historical Society. The government took possession of the building in 1939, and Parks Canada is the current custodian. The building is part of Carillon Barracks National Historic Site. See FHBRO Report No. 90-16.

Reasons for Designation

The Old Carillon Barracks has been designated Classified because of its exceptional architecture, its historical associations, and its location on the Ottawa River.

The stylistic quality and construction of the building make it a very fine example of the classic English architecture typical of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa valleys.

The structure is closely related to the history of defence and transportation in Canada owing to its strategic location and utilization. It was used as troop quarters during the construction of the Carillon Canal and the Rebellion of 1837, and later as a residence and hotel. The town of Carillon saw a great deal of cargo and passenger traffic in its day, as it was the terminus of the steamship line from Montréal and the head of the rail line to Grenville.

The Old Carillon Barracks still has a commanding view of the Ottawa River. This feature attracted many holiday travellers in the early 20th century.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Carillon Barracks resides in its very fine state of conservation, the meticulous composition of its two facades, and its excellent quality of construction.

The rectangular structure is in fact comprised of two separate blocks constructed back-to-back, each with its own facade. The east and west blocks are separated by a thick stone wall from basement to attic. There are five chimneys and six dormers.

The facades at either end of the Old Barracks are typical of Georgian houses. Each facade has a large entrance door with depressed-arch transom and, directly above the door in the second storey, a depressed-arch Palladian window with two side windows arranged vertically on both sides. A hip roof surmounts and balances the two facades, with a central dormer, and a chimney near each corner. This symmetry and

FHBRO Number 90-016

Carillon, Québec

Old Barracks

50 Principale Street

relationship must never be altered. The two facades faced in cut stone with quoins provide contrast with the rough stone masonry of the side walls.

The facades have several multi-paned windows. These wooden sash windows are an essential element of the building's heritage character, and they must be conserved.

The interior layout of the building has been unchanged since it was converted to a museum in 1938. At that time, most of the architectural elements that had been added by the hotel owner were demolished, and some interior walls were removed to suit the building's new role as a museum. The original arrangement of the corridors and all original door locations were retained. The simplicity, logic and versatility of the floor plan largely account for its longevity. The floor layouts should be conserved in any future renovation.

Most of the original finishing materials have been conserved. The walls are covered with either boards or plaster, and the floors are wood, except in the basement. The woodwork (mouldings, doors, fireplace mantles, baseboards, staircases) is all original, and has retained its stylistic integrity. All these interior trim components, including the fireplace in the basement and the arched doorway on the ground floor, should be scrupulously conserved.

The view of the building from the road was altered somewhat when Road 344 was raised. The view of the river on the other side of the Old Barracks, however, is splendid, particularly from the verandah. In future renovations, no structures or plantings must be allowed to interfere with the relationship between the building and the river. Landscaping must conform to the heritage character of the property and to the period of construction of the building.

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

1998.03.31

Translation