

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

FHBRO number: 00-051
DFRP number: 06908
Resource name: Louis St-Laurent House
Address: 201-203 Grande Allée East, Quebec City, Quebec
Construction: 1912-13; interior converted to office space, 1974-75
Original function: Single-family dwelling
Current function: Offices and residences
Custodian: National Battlefields Commission
FHBRO status: “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building

Reasons for Designation

The Louis St-Laurent House has been designated a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of the historical importance of its former owner, the Right Honourable Louis S. St-Laurent, and for its architectural and environmental value.

Historical value

This finely constructed former residence on the (boulevard) Grande Allée in Quebec City is associated with Canada’s 12th Prime Minister (1948-57), the Right Honourable Louis S. St-Laurent. It was his principal residence from 1913 to 1941, and again from 1958 until his death in 1973. Major elements of St-Laurent’s legacy include, at the national level, Newfoundland’s entry into Confederation and greater autonomy for Canada within the Commonwealth. At the international level, it was during his term of office that Canada became a full member of the UN, NATO and the new Commonwealth.

Architectural value

Louis St-Laurent House, a two-and-a-half storey brick residence, is representative of the architectural eclecticism that was popular in the early 20th century. Despite numerous interior alterations in recent years, several elements remain which are typical of the period when Mr. St-Laurent resided there.

Environmental value

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE
National Historic Sites Directorate, Parks Canada
25 Eddy Street, 5th Floor, Hull, QC K1A 0M5
Telephone: 819-997-6740 / Fax: 819-953-6146 / Web Site: www.parkscanada.gc.ca/federalhb

Although its environment is now dominated by tall buildings, or perhaps because of it, Louis St-Laurent's former residence has acquired a certain *noblesse* as the last survivor of a time when this section of the Grande Allée was in full flourish.

Character-Defining Elements

- The features that distinguish this building as a fine example of the eclectic architectural style that was common in the early 20th century.

Foursquare style: cubic shape; pavilion roof with large gambrel dormers; chimney on one side; and exterior brick cladding.

Elements reminiscent of an English cottage: symmetrically placed façade openings as well as oriels and sash windows with small panes in their upper sections.

Neoclassical elements: main entrance with a fanlight transom and stained-glass sidelights; door with transom opening onto the second-floor balcony; and the centre hall plan where rooms are arranged around the main hall.

Eclectic brick detailing: porch pillars with decorative rings; geometric patterns on the low wall around the balcony; simulated stone ties, etc.

- The formal and functional interior features associated with the residency of Louis S. St-Laurent, in particular the cupboards and china cabinet with glazed openings, built by the sculptor Siméon Bertrand.
- The commemorative value of the residence, surrounded as it is by very tall buildings (reference to an outdated use of land, on a more human scale and with room for greenery).

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information contact FHBRO.

March 2002