

**FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE (FHBRO)  
HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

<b>FHBRO Number:</b>	<b>92-25</b>
<b>DFRP Number:</b>	<b>06043</b>
<b>Resource Name:</b>	<b>St. Laurent Store-Warehouse</b>
Address:	6 Principale, Compton, Québec
Construction:	1866, store; 1903-1908, warehouse attached to store; 1980-1990, restoration
Original Function:	Store-Warehouse
Current Function:	Store-Warehouse used for interpretation
Custodian:	Parks Canada
FHBRO Status:	“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building

**Reasons for Designation**

The St. Laurent Store-Warehouse was designated a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building for its historical associations, its environmental significance and its architectural qualities.

Historical value

The Store-Warehouse together with the single-family home at the back of the site, form the heart of Louis-S.-St-Laurent National Historic Site of Canada. The property was acquired by the federal government in the 1970s to commemorate the former Prime Minister’s contribution (1948-1957) to Canada’s political, economic and social history, in the town of his birth. This former commercial establishment also bears eloquent testimony to the colonization of the Eastern Townships by the Americans and the British and the upheaval of its ethnic structure during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Architectural value

The Store-Warehouse is a less typical example of vernacular architecture than the associated St. Laurent House, but it remains an interesting example of neo-Classical derivation inspired by the American models introduced to Quebec by the Loyalists. Despite its hybrid form (a main block with its gable wall facing the street and a perpendicular warehouse wing), the building is easily recognisable as a traditional general store. The excellent condition of the interior, where all details and craftsmanship are of wood, attests to a careful choice of materials and to high quality construction.

Environmental value

Despite a few minor changes to accommodate visitors to this National Historic Site, the character of the property has been preserved. The store’s prime location in the heart of the town core alongside a major artery, and its status as a National Historic Site, clearly contribute to its landmark status.

## **Character-Defining Elements**

- The stylistic features that make this one-and-a-half storey wooden commercial building a noteworthy example of 19<sup>th</sup>-century neo-Classical vernacular architecture; examples include the balanced proportions, the articulated massing, the gable roofs without dormers (in contrast to the house, the gable wall of the store faces the street), the large bay windows on the ground floor and the inviting covered gallery.
- Building materials and techniques, which illustrate construction practices and techniques specific to this vernacular tradition, in particular the wood clapboard siding painted white, the multi-pane windows and the various interior features crafted from fine wood.
- The built-in furnishings and all the other elements that evoke the former commercial use of the building and commemorate the period of occupation of the Prime Minister and his family.
- The visual and relational link of the Store-Warehouse with the St.-Laurent House, which is set slightly back, and with the general site.
- The strong relationship between the style, the template and the materials of the structure, forming a harmonious architectural whole.
- The relationship between the store and the public space, the main village street, and its prominent visibility.

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

Prepared in March 2002  
Edited in September 2002