

FHBRO Number 96-114
Fort Langley, British Columbia
Northeast Bastion
Fort Langley NHS

The Northeast Bastion was constructed in 1957 to the design of architect J. Calder Peeps as part of the partial reconstruction of Fort Langley by Parks Canada. The building is part of the Fort Langley National Historic Site. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 96-114.

Reasons for Designation

The Northeast Bastion has been designated Recognized for its contribution to the character of the reconstructed Fort Langley site, for its architectural interpretation of the original structure on this site, and for its historical associations with the efforts of Parks Canada to interpret Canadian history through the reconstruction of historical sites.

As part of the reconstructed palisade and corner bastions, the structure is an important element which contributes to recalling the original Fort's character. The character of the site reflects the 1950s interpretation of the original Fort's utilitarian arrangement of structures and landscape.

The Northeast Bastion is a good example of a period reconstruction in its representation of the fortifications of the original Fort. While based on an historical photograph of the original Northwest Bastion, the reconstruction of the Northeast Bastion was not intended to depict an accurate replica of the original structure on the site. The existing structure displays signs of its modern construction, particularly in the interior which includes a staircase leading to the second floor.

The conservation approach typifies Parks Canada's approach to reconstruction in the late 1950s, which emphasized the educational role of historic sites. The Fort Langley site was acquired by the federal government and designated a National Historic Site in 1923, but it was not until the late 1950s that the reconstruction work took place. As part of the reconstructed Fort, the structure illustrates the interpretive programming put in place by Parks Canada, which was based on reconstruction and the concept of "outdoor museums".

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Northeast Bastion resides in the features which contribute to the exterior visual presence of the Fort and to the particular interpretation of the original character of Fort Langley which was directed by the interpretive policy of Parks Canada during the 1950s.

The Northeast Bastion is a two-storey structure built of squared logs and topped with a

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slightly flared, pyramidal roof. The walls on the second level contain small, irregularly spaced square windows and two doors which give access to the galleries on the north and west walls. With its utilitarian form and materials, the structure approximates the character of the original bastion on the site, and contributes to recalling the original Fort's character within the palisade. The arrangement and finishes of the interior spaces reflect an interpretation of the original bastion that also accommodates public access for site interpretation.

As part of the reconstructed fortifications, the Northeast Bastion exhibits a consistency of design, materials and construction techniques with the other bastions, and is sympathetic to the character created by the reconstructed buildings and the exterior appearance of the Fort. Any intervention which would affect the structure's form, volume and materials, or relationships with other buildings and the Fort overall, should be based on an understanding of the basis for the existing design. Modifications which would alter evidence of the building's provenance as a 1950s reconstruction should be avoided. The on-going management and maintenance of the building should support the commemorative intent of the site and respect Cultural Resource Management principles.

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

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