

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

FHBRO Number:	92-25
DFRP Number:	06043
Resource Name:	St. Laurent House
Address:	6 Principale, Compton, Québec
Construction:	1839-1843, main building; 1880-1900, addition; 1980-1990, restoration
Original Function:	Residence
Current Function:	Residence used for interpretation
Custodian:	Parks Canada
FHBRO Status:	“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building

Reasons for Designation

The St. Laurent House was designated a “Recognized” Heritage Building for its significant architectural qualities, its historical associations and its environmental significance.

Historical value

This single-family home, together with the Store-Warehouse located at the front 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. The house 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 19th century.

Architectural value

This one-and-a-half storey house is a fine example of neo-Classical vernacular architecture inspired by American models, the first samples of which were introduced to Quebec by the Loyalists. The St. Laurent House possesses all of the main features associated with such models, such as a specific system of proportion, a low roof slope that creates a silhouette more squat than slender, a central dormer that adds a monumental touch, and symmetrical organization of openings. The plan, with a central hall dividing two symmetrical portions, and the construction materials, in particular the wood clapboard painted white (this type of siding would have been made by New England tradesmen) all belong to the neo-Classical tradition applied to vernacular residential architecture.

Environmental value

Despite a few minor changes to accommodate visitors to this national historic site, the character of the property has been preserved. Even though the architectural style belongs to another era, the St-Laurent House fits in well within the heart of the town core thanks to its

style representative of Eastern Townships houses. It is a definite tourism asset for the village of Compton due to its inclusion as part of a National Historic Site.

Character-Defining Elements

- The stylistic features that make this one-and-a-half storey house an excellent example of 19th-century neo-Classical vernacular architecture; examples include the balanced proportions, the low-sloped gable roof, the dormer window opening onto a small balcony, the main entrance door below, the symmetrical alignment of the openings and the long gallery across the façade.
- Components that illustrate the construction methods and techniques specific to this neo-Classical vernacular tradition, in particular the wood clapboard siding painted white, the multi-pane windows and the decorative brackets on the gallery posts.
- Its plan typical of neo-classic houses, where each floor is divided into rooms of equal size and arranged around a central hall.
- The addition, which was common in this type of house.
- The interior finished with durable but solemn materials, which evokes the period of time the house was occupied by Louis S. St-Laurent and his family.
- The house's visual and relational connection with the store-warehouse and 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 house and the public space.

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