

FHBRO Number 90-305

Prescott, Ontario

Fort Wellington Latrine

Fort Wellington NHS

The latrine at Fort Wellington was constructed in 1839 as part of the fortification complex developed by the Royal Engineers. The fort is operated by Parks Canada. The Department of Canadian Heritage is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 90-305.

Reasons for Designation

The latrine at Fort Wellington was designated Recognized because of its environmental significance, its historical associations, and its built qualities.

The latrine, as a non-defence component of the fort complex, is nevertheless in keeping with the character of the fort interior and helps evoke a sense of the former garrison community in the 19th century. Its proximity to the blockhouse gives it added prominence.

Historically, the latrine relates to the theme of garrison life during the 1840s. With its separate areas for enlisted men, officers, and women, it reflects the social barriers of the period between the officer class and the rank and file.

The latrine is a modest one-storey building of heavy frame construction, built with pleasing proportion and detail despite its lowly function. Extensively restored in 1991-92 to return the building to an 1840s appearance, the latrine can still be considered a rare surviving example of this type of facility at a Canadian military post of the period.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the latrine at Fort Wellington resides in its form, materials, and site relationships.

The latrine is a single-storey, rectangular building with a shallow hipped roof. The simplicity of the exterior form and massing should not be modified.

Much of the character of the building derives from its materials, predominantly wood, including wood-shingle roofing, clapboard siding, and interior boarding. While siding and roofing have been renewed, interior partitions recreated and reproduction interior fixtures introduced, the character of the building has been respected and the original masonry foundations, heavy-timber framing, interior boarding and some exterior siding survive. These should be protected and maintained.

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The placement of windows and doors is based on documentary and physical evidence and should not be altered without appropriate documentary evidence to the contrary.

The building's visual and physical relationship with the earthworks, the front gate and adjacent structures should be respected. Consideration should be given to reinstating the hard surface suggested by archaeological investigation.

1997.11.06

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