

REVISED (March 24, 2014)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
2 STRACHAN AVENUE
(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)

ATTACHMENT NO. 4

Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks

Former City of Toronto By-law No. 188-99, designating the property at 2 Strachan Avenue (Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act is amended to revise the Reasons for Designation to describe the site's cultural heritage values and attributes as set out in the 2005 amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act.

Description

The property at 2 Strachan Avenue is designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under all three categories of design, associative and contextual values. Located on the south side of Princes' Boulevard, west of Strachan Avenue at Exhibition Place, the building known historically as the Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks was completed in 1841 as a 2½-storey military barracks.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks has cultural heritage value as a rare and unique early 19th century military structure in Toronto and one of the oldest extant buildings in the city. The building is particularly distinguished as an early expression of the Georgian style in Toronto that displays solid stone craftsmanship and both original and restored features. With Historic Fort York, the National Historic Site to the east, the Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks is an integral part of the small surviving collection of historic buildings in Toronto that demonstrates the city's military history.

The Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks has value for the site's historical associations with the Royal Engineers, the corps of the British Army responsible for the design of military installations in Canada prior to 1870. The Officers' Quarters joins Historic Fort York as significant and rare examples of the work of the Royal Engineers in both Toronto and Canada.

Historically, the Officers' Quarters at Stanley Barracks is particularly valued for its associations with the military history of Toronto and Canada, including the events, people, activities and organizations linked to the site for more than a century. The structure was planned as the centrepiece of the New Fort (1841), which was built west of (Old) Fort York after the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837 highlighted the need for a second military installation on Toronto's waterfront. Before Confederation and the subsequent withdrawal of the British military from Canada, the New Fort housed famous

British regiments, including the Royal Artillery. Under Canadian jurisdiction, the New Fort was the base for the Canadian Permanent Force that trained the local militia charged with the defence of the community, followed by the 'C' Company of the School of Infantry (1883) and the Royal Canadian Dragoons (1893). The New Fort played a part in the history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) when the force was formed as the North-West Mounted Police in 1873 and assembled and trained its first troops in Toronto. Renamed Stanley Barracks in 1893 after Canada's departing Governor General, the facility anchored the "Exhibition Camps" of World Wars I and II when the Canadian military took over Exhibition Place to recruit, house, and train troops. Stanley Barracks had a controversial role during the First World War when it processed German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish citizens as "enemy aliens" during that conflict. In times of peace, Stanley Barracks continued to Canadian regiments until 1947, ending over a century of direct military associations with the site. With the demolition of the other structures at Stanley Barracks, the Officers' Quarters stands as an important surviving reminder of the military origins of the property.

The cultural heritage value of the Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks is also reflected in the site's connection to an institution of significance in the cultural life of Toronto during the second half of the 20th century. The Officers' Quarters was occupied by the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame before being restored in 1957-60 as the headquarters of the Toronto Historical Board (1960-1993) and the location of the Marine Museum of Upper Canada (1960-98). The restoration and adaptive reuse of the Officers' Quarters for cultural purposes is credited to Brigadier-General (Retired) J. A. McGinnis (1920-99), the first managing director of the Toronto Historical Board. For his role in preserving innumerable sites of heritage value in Toronto, McGinnis was named a "historic personage" by City Council during the municipality's sesquicentennial celebration in 1984.

Contextually, the Officers' Quarters at Stanley Barracks has cultural heritage value for its historical and visual links to its surroundings at Exhibition Place, which opened on the former military reserve in 1878 as the first permanent fairgrounds for the forerunner to the Canadian National Exhibition. The Officers' Quarters stands as the oldest original structure at Exhibition Place, predating the relocation of Scadding Cabin (1798) to the grounds in 1879. The Officers' Quarters is part of a rare collection of recognized heritage buildings at Exhibition Place, including those identified as National Historic Sites by the Canadian government.

With the building's unique appearance and setting at the south end of Exhibition Place and near Toronto's waterfront where it is viewed from inside the exhibition grounds and from Lake Shore Boulevard West, the Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks is valued as a local landmark on the site and in the city.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the building known historically as the Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks at 2 Strachan Avenue are:

- The placement, setback and orientation of the building on the south side of Princes' Boulevard, west of the Princes' Gates and Strachan Avenue at Exhibition Place
- The scale, form and massing on the 2½-storey rectangular plan above a raised base with door and window openings, which is viewed from the dry moat that surrounds the building
- The stone construction and cladding with stone, wood and metal detailing
- The gable roof, with nine stone chimneys (some of which were reconstructed), stone parapets on the east and west gable ends, and metal cladding (which replaced the original tin and 19th century slate roofs)
- The organization of the extended 16-bay north and south facades, with two entrances placed in the fifth bay from either end on each wall, and the symmetrical fenestration with flat-headed window openings with stone lintels and sills
- The narrow side elevations (east and west), each with a flat-headed window opening with stone trim above the entries in the basement and first storey
- On all four walls, the recessed casement windows with ~~12-over-12~~ sash **with six lights per sash in the basement and three lights per sash in the upper stories**, and the interior wood shutters (the windows on the south façade and the shutters were restored)
- The detailing of the entries on all walls, with single eight-panel wood doors with iron hardware, rectangular transoms and, on the north façade, classical architraves
- On all elevations, the arched stone stairs that extend across the dry moat to access the entrances in the first storey (the stairs on the south and east walls were reconstructed)
- On the interior, which is organized into east and west sections, the stone staircases accessing the cross-halls (south), the two cantilevered stone staircases with iron railings (west), the wide east-west corridors on the first and second floors, ~~six (of the original 39)~~ **eight unmodified fireplaces with and all original mantels and fireplaces**, the original restored wood floors, panelled doors, woodwork and hardware, **and** the original iron coal screen in the second-floor room on the north side near the west end of the building, ~~and the original east iron cook store in the northeast corner of the basement~~
- The archaeological site at Stanley Barracks under Borden registration number AjGu-32 that encompasses the property containing the Officers' Quarters and the East Enlisted Men's Barracks
- The views of the principal (north) facade of the Officers' Quarters, Stanley Barracks from Princes' Boulevard

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