

FHBRO Number 88-161

Québec, Quebec

**Former Cooperage (Building No. 7)**

Memorial Building

The Citadel, Québec

The Former Cooperage was built between 1842 and 1850 from plans prepared by the Corps of Royal Engineers. In 1964, the 50th anniversary of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment, the building underwent substantial modifications inside and out and was converted to a memorial building; it is now known as the Memorial Building. The Former Cooperage is located immediately east of the Chapel of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment north of the road surrounding the parade ground. It is part of the Citadel of Québec, a National Historic Site. The building is owned by the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Report 88-161.

**Reasons for Designation**

The Memorial Building has been designated “Classified” because of the significance of the historical events and figures associated with it and because of its architectural and environmental features.

As the former Cooperage, Building No. 7 is associated with the final phase of construction of the Citadel (1839-1857). Built to provide space in which to make barrels to store gunpowder, the small structure contributed indirectly to the defence of the fortress. As the Memorial Building, Building No. 7 is dedicated to the memory of members of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment who died in battle in one of the three wars in which the regiment took part. It is also where former Governor General of Canada Georges Vanier is buried; in 1983, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended that Vanier be recognized as a person of national historical significance. Finally, the Memorial Building was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1964.

The Memorial Building is more of a reflection of 20th-century taste than 19th-century military strategy. The architects who oversaw the conversion of the building nevertheless managed to combine modern materials with the original stone masonry.

Located in the heart of the Citadel, the Memorial Building and the Chapel of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment constitute very important commemorative elements. The Memorial Building is familiar to all members of the regiment who have stayed at the Citadel since 1964.

**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Memorial Building resides in two overlaid historic roles. The primary features of the cooperage are the general shape of the building, the clean architectural lines and the location near the Former Powder Magazine. The primary features of the building as a commemorative site are the modifications to the exterior

FHBRO Number 88-161

Québec, Quebec

**Former Cooperage (Building No. 7)**

Memorial Building

The Citadel, Québec

and all elements related to the commemorative significance of the site that define the historical value of the building.

The Former Cooperage was a small, rectangular, one-storey building with a pyramidal roof. Its solid masonry walls with irregular courses blend well with the walls of the Former Powder Magazine (and its protective wall), with which it was closely associated. These formal characteristics, which have survived, are worth preserving.

Elements associated with the commemorative function of the building include the changes made to the shape of the roof in terms of the height and type of construction (a concrete shell faced with smooth stones laid so as to create horizontal bands), the raising of the walls, the rows of small square windows just beneath the eaves and the plaque on the wall opposite the Chapel. These architectural features are an integral part of the historic fabric of the building and should also be respected. However, the small aluminum porch protecting the entrance interferes with the heritage character of the building. A more compatible solution should be considered. An ongoing maintenance program should be put in place to preserve the integrity of the building.

When the Former Cooperage was converted to a Memorial Building in the 1960s, the interior was completely transformed. The lone room of this building now houses a priceless collection of old regimental colours. Modern heating, ventilation and lighting systems should be installed so that the integrity of the Memorial Building and the collection it houses are affected as little as possible.

A close relationship existed between the Former Cooperage and the Former Powder Magazine and its protective wall, just as it does now between the Chapel and the Memorial Building. The area, once military in character, has become a sacred site. It is desirable to preserve the relationship between the buildings, as their heritage value depends on that connection. Landscaping in this place of reflection should be consistent with the overall historical character of the Citadel.

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

2000.02.18