

## **FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT CURRY BUILDING, CFB HALIFAX (STADACONA)**

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FHBRO number: **97-022**  
DFRP number: **02920**  
Resource name: **Curry Building, Building S-37**  
Address: **CFB Halifax (Stadacona)**  
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**  
Construction: **1942**  
Designer: **probably Ross and MacDonald, architects, Montreal**  
Original function: **offices**  
Current function: **offices and classrooms**  
Modifications: **windows replaced; basement windows bricked in**  
Custodian: **Department of National Defence (DND)**

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Curry Building is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

#### Historical value:

The Curry Building is associated with the enhanced role of the Royal Canadian navy during the Second World War. It reflects the need for permanent shore-based administrative support facilities for the navy, which became apparent during the war. As one of the first administration buildings purpose-built for the naval base HMCS Stadacona, the Curry Building is also associated with the wartime development of Stadacona as a centre for naval training and administration.

#### Architectural value:

The Curry Building reflects the conservative approach to building design that was favoured for federal buildings during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The three storey building is a restrained example of stripped classicism, in which classical features were modified by modernistic tendencies. Its long, narrow profile, with individual rooms arranged along the exterior walls and connected by a central corridor, is typical of early-20th-century office building design. The building was probably designed by the well-known Montreal architectural firm Ross and MacDonald, along with at least three others at Stadacona, but is not representative of their best-known work.

#### Environmental value:

The Curry Building reinforces the prominent and dignified character of the setting. It is located on a steeply sloping site at the centre of the Stadacona base, closely bordered by a sports field and cemetery in front and back, and by adjacent buildings on either side. It shares the base with a mixture of buildings ranging in age from the early 19<sup>th</sup> to the late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including two other contemporaneous buildings of virtually identical design (the Murray and Carrall Buildings).

### **Character-Defining Elements**

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**FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE**  
**National Historic Sites Directorate, Parks Canada**  
25 Eddy Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hull, QC K1A 0M5  
Telephone : 819-997-6740 / Fax: 819-953-6146/ Web Site : [www.parkscanada.qc.ca/federalhb](http://www.parkscanada.qc.ca/federalhb)

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The following character-defining elements of the Curry Building should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the development of shore-based naval support facilities during the war, is reflected in:

- its conformity to typical early-20<sup>th</sup>-century office design, as expressed in its long, narrow footprint with individual offices arranged around the perimeter and connected by a central corridor.

The underlying classicism of its design, modified by modernistic tendencies, as manifested in:

- the symmetrical, flat-roofed massing of the building;
- the division of the facades into base, body and cornice through variations in material;
- the recessed corners on the main facade, creating the effect of a main pavilion with flanking wings;
- the fluted stone pilasters, rising three stories and separating recessed bands of windows;
- the band of brick at the cornice, suggesting an entablature;
- the dramatic contrast between the brick walls and stone panels, emphasizing the colonnade effect;
- the regular rhythm and horizontal effect of the windows and stone spandrels;
- dentillated string courses in stone at the second floor level;
- decorative marine panels executed in tile and concrete at the entablature and on the end pavilions.

The manner in which it reinforces the prominent and dignified character of the setting as evidenced in:

- the size and massing of the building;
- the use of red brick and white stone as exterior cladding;
- the restrained use of classical elements.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the FHBRO Code of Practice. For further information contact FHBRO.

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