

Batoche, Saskatchewan
Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Rectory
Batoche National Historic Site

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Rectory was erected by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1883. The design for the rectory was initiated by Father Moulin and built by Ludger Gareau. The building is now part of Batoche National Historic Site and is the property of Environment Canada Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report 88-1 60.

Reasons for Designation

The Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Rectory was designated Recognized because of its historical association, its architectural significance and its environmental value.

The Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Rectory and Church are symbols of the cultural heritage of the Métis population. They represent two historical themes: the early activities and influence of the Oblate order - the dominant Roman Catholic order in the Northwest; and the clash of Métis and white cultures which resulted in the 1885 Rebellion. The buildings are directly associated with people such as Louis Riel and his Métis council, and Major/General Frederick Middleton and the Northwest Field Force, who played significant parts in the Battle of Batoche.

The rectory is an example of Red River frame construction. This technique consists of logs laid horizontally, pièce sur pièce, and slotted into grooved vertical timbers at each end. The building was restored by the Canadian Parks Service to its 1896-1897 appearance.

The Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Rectory and Church dominate their surroundings and set the tone for the Batoche National Historic Site.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the rectory resides in the 1896-1897 restored building, its simple massing and proportions, its construction technique and materials, and in its interior layout and finishes.

The simple yet pleasing proportions of the two-storey rectangular structure with a pitched roof and small storm-porch entrance on the south gable end should not be marred by any new additions. The weather-boarded exterior is plain, relieved only by the pattern of regularly spaced double-hung six over six windows along the side elevations. The ground floor is organized as a waiting area, combined kitchen and

.../2

-2-

Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Rectory
Batoche National Historic Site (Continued)

dining room and a three-room, priest's suite. A staircase in the southwest corner leads

to the second storey, which accommodates a bedroom for the Bishop, the post office, Father Moulin's two-room living quarters and a chapel. This 1896-1897 restoration of the interior layout and finishes should be maintained.

The Red River framing system and the mortise and tenon method of holding the horizontal timbers should be carefully preserved.

All maintenance activities and any new work should respect the spirit of the 1896-1897 restored building.

The site of the rectory, also restored to its 1896-1897 appearance, should be carefully preserved. Any new secondary building on the site should not detract from the historic setting.

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