

FHBRO Number 88-161

Québec, Quebec

### **Former Hospital (Building No. 1)**

Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment Administration Building

The Citadel, Québec

The Former Hospital was constructed in 1848 by master mason, contractor and architect Archibald Fraser. Fraser's signature does not, however, appear on the plans. The building may have been designed by the Royal Engineers. In the 1930s, the building ceased being used as a hospital. It was then altered to meet the administrative needs of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment; other renovations were carried out in 1950. Some of the more significant changes were the removal of the rear wing that housed the privies and the morgue, and removal of most of the construction related to the building's use as a hospital. The Administration Building of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment is located in Mann's Bastion across from 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 Administration Building of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment has been designated "Classified" because of its historical significance, its fine architectural qualities and its environmental significance.

The Former Hospital is associated with the defence of British North America during the period in which the Citadel was completed (1839-1857) to counter the constant threat of invasion by the United States. It may be the oldest building still standing in Canada that was built specifically as a military hospital.

Because of its neoclassical-inspired decoration, the Former Hospital is considered one of the most elegant buildings in the Citadel. It also has one of the best-preserved facades. Designed before the discovery of the germ theory of disease, the interior of the building was set up to treat disease according to the miasma theory, which held that disease traveled in damp or enclosed air. All the rooms extended the full width of the building and had two big windows on each side, ensuring excellent ventilation.

Built in a prime location along the parade ground facing the Dalhousie Gate, Building No. 1 is one of the most visible buildings at the Citadel. It and the neighbouring buildings constitute a fine architectural grouping.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Former Hospital resides in its architectural form, its neoclassical-inspired decoration and the building materials and construction techniques

used. It also resides in the layout of the spaces and the type of fenestration, which reflect mid-19th-century understanding of the spread of disease.

FHBRO Number 88-161

Québec, Quebec

**Former Hospital (Building No. 1)**

Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment Administration Building  
The Citadel, Québec

The Former Hospital is an imposing rectangular, two-storey, solid masonry building. The copper-clad hipped roof with batten seams is pierced by two stone chimney stacks. The neoclassical appearance of the building comes from the symmetrical composition, the pilasters dividing the facade into five bays, the porch with its broken pediment supported on two pilasters, and the linear treatment of the walls. The composition of the other walls is symmetrical, but the only ornaments are built-up corners and a flat cornice that runs around the building. The annex, which replaced the old wing, blends in because it is faced in limestone similar to the stone used on the rear wall of the main building, which is rougher than the stone on the other elevations.

This architectural treatment should be respected as a whole. Replacement stones should be chosen to blend in seamlessly with the material of the existing walls. The latter includes finely dressed Pointe-aux-Trembles stone on the front and side elevations and Cap-Rouge limestone on the rear wall. The many multi-pane windows that play a major role in the composition of this building should be preserved, because they are associated with the belief held in the mid-19th century that disease traveled in damp, enclosed spaces. Reverting to wood windows would be in line with the materials of the period. The entrance door could also be moved back to its original location on the side of the porch so as to reintegrate the beautiful three-light window, planned by the designer, beneath the glass transom.

The vertical windows placed evenly across the front and back elevations (filled-in loopholes) recall the defensive function of the building. The compartmentalization of the interior spaces and the use of thick walls and vaults show that the designer was concerned about ensuring that the building was bomb-proof. It is recommended that these functional and structural features related to the original defensive function be preserved. Further, all elements still in place which relate to the former medical use of the building should be identified and preserved.

The relationship between the Former Hospital and Mann's Bastion, the parade ground and the neighbouring buildings is an integral part of the building's heritage character. It is therefore desirable that this environment not be altered by building additions or new buildings. The stone curbs should also be preserved, and outdoor furnishings incompatible with the military character of the site should not be introduced.

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

FHBRO Number 88-161

Québec, Quebec

**Former Hospital (Building No. 1)**

Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment Administration Building

The Citadel, Québec

Translation