
FHBRO Number 88-161

city of Québec, Québec

Former Cooperage (Building No. 16)

Museum Office

La Citadelle, city of Québec

The former Cooperage was designed and built by the Royal Engineers, likely between 1839 and 1857. It may have been modified during restoration work in the 1930s, when the protective wall was demolished, or around 1949, when the French powder magazine was converted to a Royal 22nd Regiment museum. The old Cooperage is currently being used as an entrance to the museum next door. It is a component of the Citadelle of the city of Québec, a national historic site. The building is owned by the Department of National Defence. Refer to report FHBRO 88-161.

Reasons for Designation

The former Cooperage was designated a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because it helps define the historic character of the area in front of the gorge of the Prince of Wales Bastion. Through of its materials and architecture, it is fully compatible with the surrounding buildings that form the old French Powder Magazine (Museum of the Royal 22nd Regiment) and the former Armoury and former Powder Magazine (Men’s and Women’s Barracks, Building 2).

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage value of Building 16 resides in its form, its materials and its relationship with surrounding buildings, in particular the former French Powder Magazine.

The former Cooperage is a small, rectangular, one-storey building with a low hip roof. Its walls are solid masonry with regular courses, and in contrast to its neighbours, which have mostly sheet metal roofs assembled with wood batten seams, the roof of the Cooperage is covered with tin sheet metal laid with flat seams “à la canadienne”. The façade of the former Cooperage is pierced by a central door and two windows evenly placed on either side. The window lintels and the window and door frames stand out from the more rustic walls because they are built of smooth stone; the small-paned windows have old metal hinges.

This simple architectural treatment reflects the old utilitarian function of the building and should be respected. It would be of interest to research the authenticity of the door, windows and roof for reference in the event of necessary replacement. The iron components (hinges and other hardware) should be rust protected. Measures should be taken to ensure that new joints and replacement stones are compatible with the historical structure of the walls and reflect the original intent in terms of material, colour, profile and coursing.

The interior does not contain many features that recall the original use of the building. Still, the windows, including their frames and sills, and the floors appear to be of the

period. While the structure of the roof is hidden under a false ceiling, the masonry walls have been left exposed. If the space requires future refurbishment, it would be best to preserve the original architectural features. The same recommendations are made for both the exterior and interior masonry. Electricity, heating and ventilation should be installed in a way that is as discrete as possible to respect period materials. Subtle lighting and heating fixtures should be used, and efforts should be made to avoid the proliferation of conduits.

The heritage value of the old Cooperage is also based on its relationship with the old French Regime powder magazine. It would be of interest to suggest the original relationship between the powder magazine, the protective wall that has since disappeared and the old Cooperage. Alterations should also be minimized in the immediate vicinity of these two buildings. Moreover, efforts should be made to avoid introducing landscaping or exterior furnishings that would obscure the fundamental military nature of the site.

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

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