

Québec, Québec
Former Mess Hall No. 2 and Shed
57 and 57a rue Saint-Louis

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The former Mess Hall No. 2 is part of a residential complex on rue Saint-Louis which served as officer's quarters. Its date of construction is unknown. The complex has been owned by the Crown since 1811 - first by the British army and after 1871 by the Canadian government. The present owner of the complex, the Department of National Defence, is using the buildings as apartments and storage. See FHBRO Building Report 88-1 63.

Reasons for Designation

The former Mess Hall was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its aesthetic qualities and its environmental value.

Like many properties and buildings owned by the federal government in Old Québec, the Saint-Louis complex was purchased and developed for military purposes. Because the building was used to house officers, it is indirectly associated with the defence of Québec.

The building's simple lines, proportions and choice of materials are characteristic of traditional Québec construction.

Along with the other buildings of the Saint-Louis complex, the former Mess Hall contributes to the character of this part of Old Québec. Due to their contiguous façades and the similarities in their exterior construction materials, the buildings in the area create an harmonious atmosphere.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the former Mess Hall resides in its traditional Québec construction, the quality of its materials and craftsmanship, and its relationship to its historical setting.

The building consists of a two-storey structure constructed of rough-coursed stone and covered by a wood-framed hipped roof, from which project two prominent stone chimneys. The building's trapezoid plan may indicate that it was originally built in stages as a stable. The evolutionary character of the building should be respected in future works.

The main façade of the two-storey building is divided into five bays. The window

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openings are symmetrically arranged around the central entrance. The windows are double-hung sash with four over two lights. The pattern and design of the windows and door should be maintained.

The elevation facing the courtyard is covered with plaster. Originally, a whitewash would have been used to preserve the stonework. The masonry work warrants careful maintenance, with the use of appropriate expertise for any repair and repointing.

While the interior has been developed for family apartments, some early 19th-century details survive under recent finishes. Any future work on the interior should be preceded by appropriate investigations to better understand the original form and subsequent evolution of the interior fabric and design.

The building forms part of a complex around a courtyard. The relationship of the former Mess Hall to the courtyard, to the adjacent Monk House, and to the larger historical setting should be preserved.

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