

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
MESSENGERS' HOUSE, BUILDING 4
QUEBEC, QUEBEC

FHBRO number: 87-112
DFRP number: 05754
Resource name: Messengers' House, Building 4
Address: 97 St. Louis Street
FHBRO status: "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building
Construction: 1857
Designer: Royal Engineers
Original function: Royal Engineers Office Keeper's Quarters
Current function: Storage
Modifications:
Custodian: Parks Canada Agency

Description of Historic Place

The Messengers' House, Building 4 is a modestly scaled one and a half storey, limestone house. It has a symmetrical, three-bay façade and a medium pitched gable roof, pierced by a central chimney. The building is a part of the notable Garrison Club complex, situated within the old walls of Old Quebec and in the shadow of the Quebec Citadel. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Messengers' House, Building 4, is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, its architectural and environmental value.

Historical Value

The Messengers' House, Building 4, is associated with British military activity in Lower Canada during the mid-nineteenth century. It is a rare surviving building built for the Royal Engineers in Quebec City. It also coincides with the end of the era of Royal Engineer era in the city.

Architectural Value

The Messengers' House, Building 4, is a good example of a Neo-classical building, and is typical of mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture in Quebec City. Regular proportions and a symmetrical disposition typify its design. Its simple design consists of four rooms around a central chimney. Such a compact plan made for an efficient heating solution. Very good quality craftsmanship and materials are obvious in the high quality exterior masonry, which consists of regular coursed, irregularly sized limestone blocks.

Environmental Value

The Messengers' House, Building 4, is compatible with the historic urban character of its streetscape in the Upper Town part of Old Quebec. The building is familiar to the area.

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Sources:

Joanna H. Doherty, Garrison Club Complex, Québec, Québec, Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, Building Report, 87-112.

Character-defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Messengers' House, Building 4, should be respected:

Its association with the end of the Royal Engineer era in Quebec City, as seen in:

- Its scale, composition and details, which usefully illustrate this phase in the development of the town.

Its Neo-classical, domestic aesthetic and functional design and very good quality craftsmanship, for example:

- Its modest scale.
- Its symmetrical facade divided into three bays with a central door.
- Its shingled, medium-pitched roof punctured by a central chimney and two gabled dormers.
- The Neo-classical details above the doors and windows consisting of the rectangular mullioned transom and the radiating voussoirs.
- Its exterior masonry of irregularly sized blocks of limestone, laid in regular courses.

The manner in which the Messengers' House, Building 4, is compatible with its historic setting and is a familiar landmark in the area, as evidenced by:

- Its design, regular proportions and masonry construction which harmonize with the adjacent historic buildings on the streetscape.
- Its association with the Garrison Club, and its situation within Old Quebec's old walls, where it is a component of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

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