

FHBRO Number 88-161

city of Québec, Québec

Men's Barracks (Building No. 17)

La Citadelle, city of Québec

The Men's Barracks were built in 1952. The plans were drawn up by the private firm Barret, Marshall, Montgomery and Merret for the Department of National Defence, which carried out the construction work. The building is located on the former site of Mann Store No. 2 on the south side of the parade ground near the throat of the Dalhousie Bastion. It is part of the Citadelle of the city of Québec, a national historic site. The building is owned by the Department of National Defence. Refer to FHBRO Report 88-161.

Reasons for Designation

Building No. 17 was designated a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building for its historical value and its architectural and environmental qualities.

The Men's Barracks are associated with the defence of Canada when its operations were being expanded during the years after World War II. In 1949, Canada signed the North Atlantic Treaty. Because of the country's considerable commitments to NATO, the number of enlisted in the Armed Forces increased from 47,000 to 104,000 between 1950 and 1953. The need to house this military personnel led to the construction of some 26 barracks, Building No. 17 among them.

Building No. 17 is fully compatible with the architectural context of the Citadelle, yet is not a slavish copy of the older buildings on which it was patterned. Compared with the other barracks built at the time, it is attractive in terms of both design and detail. Its standard plan and steel structure make it a building that epitomizes the 1950s. Its fine state of conservation attests to the quality of the materials and construction techniques used.

The Men's Barracks site has retained its integrity. Through its materials, its size and its function, Building No. 17 reinforces the historical and military character of the parade ground. The Men's Barracks, together with its neighbouring buildings, the Military Mess and the Blockhouses, form a striking architectural whole.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage value of Building No. 17 lies in its architectural and functional design, its decorative details and materials, and the integrity of the site on which the building stands.

Building No. 17 is a long, two-storey masonry building (a third of the building is three storeys high as it conforms to changes in grade) built following a rectangular plan and topped with a hip roof covered in sheet copper assembled with wood batten seams.

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The very structured elevations reflect the designers' concern for symmetry. On the front and back, the windows (with small panes like windows of other Citadelle buildings) are laid out in pairs over nine bays. The west elevation has doors on each floor – on the upper floors, the doors open onto balconies. The east elevation has blocks of windows similar to those on the back. Copper gutters and downspouts divide each elevation symmetrically. It is recommended that this architectural feature remain intact and that no additions be built, as they would disrupt the balance of the composition.

The elements that define the decorative character of Building No. 17 are: the stone frames around the ground-floor French windows and doors; the transoms and sidelights at the entrances; and the projecting course of stone that delineates the ground floor. The smooth finish of the stone on the front façade contrasts with the more rustic finish of the sides and back. Two chimneys cleverly hide air intakes. The integrity of these decorative elements should be preserved. Replacement elements should be based on period elements in terms of material, colour, texture and type of device. This applies to all elements that play a key role in defining the heritage character of the building, including: masonry elements, roofing materials, doors, windows and gutters.

Building No. 17, which was intended to house 100 single men, was based on a standard plan. On both the first and second floors, rooms opened off either side of a long centre hall. The only special detail was a balcony at the west end of each above-grade hall. The stairwells are located equidistant from the ends, with the bathrooms opposite. The clarity of this design should be preserved.

The relationship between the Men's Quarters and its setting, the access routes and the parade ground is an integral part of the heritage value of the building. The integrity of the setting should therefore be preserved.

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

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