

Québec, Québec
Former Mess Hall No. 1
63 and 63a rue Saint-Louis

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The former Mess Hall No. 1 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 former Mess Hall No. 1 consists of a two-storey stone structure (likely built in two parts) with a stone foundation based on an irregular rectangular plan. From the hipped-roof project two wide stone chimneys. The simple lines and proportions of the building should be respected.

Like other buildings on the site, 63 and 63a, rue Saint-Louis features rectangular openings with double-hung sash windows, regularly arranged on the elevations. The

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pattern and design of the windows and door should be maintained.

Originally, a whitewash would have been used to preserve the stonework. The masonry work should be carefully maintained, with the use of appropriate expertise for any repair and repointing.

While the interior has been changed to address changing needs, some interior architectural elements such as window panels and casement sashes survive from the 1820s or 1830s. 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 buildings and to the larger historical setting should be preserved.

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