

**FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE (FHBRO)
HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

FHBRO:	98-54
DFRP Number:	07248
Name of Property:	Champlain Harbour Station
Address:	901 Cap-Diamant, Quebec City, Quebec
Date of Construction:	1959
Original Use:	Administrative building (offices of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and specialized accommodations for processing new immigrants)
Current Use:	Administrative building (various federal government departments and agencies)
Manager:	Public Works and Government Services Canada
Status of Property:	Recognized

Reasons for Designation

Champlain Harbour Station has been designated a “recognized” building because of its architectural features, the importance of the associated historical theme and its environmental qualities.

Historic Value

Champlain Harbour Station illustrates the predominant role Quebec City has played as a gateway to Canada for millions of immigrants. Built shortly after the Department of Immigration and Citizenship was created in 1950, the building bears witness to a time when immigration policies changed, resulting in a significant rise in the number of immigrants that made it necessary to construct new facilities. Locally, the selection of Anse-au-Foulon as the site for Champlain Harbour Station played a key role in consolidating the westward expansion of the port of Quebec City and helped justify major investment in that part of the city.

Architectural Value

Formally, Champlain Harbour Station is a fine example of the international style in Canada. With its complex aerodynamic massing, its white-painted concrete surfaces with minimal ornamentation, its bands of windows and highly functionalist appearance, this resolutely modern building for its day celebrated the engineering aesthetics. Its originality was initially based on the fact that it housed under one roof all functions related to the reception of newcomers to Canada and that it reflected meticulous planning of circulation patterns linking the different parts with each other.

Environmental Value

Champlain Harbour Station, Shed A (the old reception building erected in 1931) and the railway line (the only one of five to have survived) together form a record that contributes to structure the landscape of the harbour of Anse-au-Foulon.

Character-defining Elements

The formal features that make this building a good example of the international style in Canada, include:

- the massing of the complex, which is presented as an arrangement of boxes placed side by side or stacked on top of another (some on pilings) and of varying height (one to four storeys);
- the emphasis on horizontality and windows laid out primarily in long bands;
- the smooth finish of the cast-in-place concrete walls and the simple ornamentation consisting of a few panels of grooved concrete (an effect achieved by inserting wood dowels in the form prior to pouring);
- the simple forms of the canopies and the flat roofs with no cornices;
- the use of “modern” materials like aluminum, stainless steel, marble, travertine, terrazzo and linoleum;
- the highly functional arrangement of the interior spaces and circulation routes characteristic of the aesthetic of interior layouts in the mid-20th century.

Reminders of the use of the building as a reception facility for new immigrants, wherever possible.

The relationship between Champlain Harbour Station and Shed A, the railway line and the river, on which bear the value of the complex.

For guidance regarding action on this building, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For more information, contact the FHBRO.

March 2002