

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

SUMMARY

The Charron House, constructed in two stages between 1826 and 1841, is a small one-and-one-half storey stone structure, and is notable because it is a rare surviving example of a maison québécoise in the National Capital Region. In addition to its significance in terms of "Typicality," it has environmental value.

ARCHITECTURE

The Charron House is a vernacular building which was probably built by Charron himself, with the help of a stonemason, on land rented from Philemon Wright. It represents a transition between the maison traditionnelle québécoise of the 18th century and the more modern 19th century variety. On the one hand, it has a high gable roof, a low foundation, asymmetrically arranged openings, and a chimney at either end of the gable, all features which are common to buildings in many parts of Quebec beginning in the late 17th century. On the other hand, the height and angle of the roof, and the bell-curved eave on the front of the house are features which are more common to 19th century houses.

Like other examples of maisons québécoise, the Charron House is an utilitarian structure, with hearths for heating and cooking at either end of the kitchen-dining room. A usually large family would spend most of the day, particularly during the winter months, in this one and only large room of the maison québécoise which was built to resist the cold and humid climate. The walls of the Charron House are 2.5 feet thick in the older section, and 3 feet thick in the second part, while a third chimney was added which incorporated a baking oven as well as a fireplace.

HISTORY

The Charron House was somewhat associated with the early settlement of Hull, but more important is its association with Hull's river transportation and shipbuilding industries, which began when it was sold to the Ottawa Transportation Company, by Janet Louisa (Wright) Scott, in 1912.

ENVIRONMENT

The Charron House is located in the middle of Parc Jacques Cartier. Although the site has changed dramatically since the middle of the 19th century, the small scale of the house is compatible with the landscaping of the park and the recreational use of the site. Its public profile has declined, but having been a local landmark for at least 30 years, it is still considered as a significant piece of heritage by the community.

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