

Québec, Québec  
**Administration Building, National Battlefields Park**  
390, avenue de Bernières

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Administration Building was built in 1940-41 by the National Battlefields Commission to the designs of Canadian architect Charles A. Jean. The custodian is the National Battlefields Commission. See FHBRO Building Report 91-1 94.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Administration Building was designated Recognized because of its historical associations with heritage awareness and the development of the park, its architectural merit as a well constructed building in the Château style, the integrity of its site and its role within its setting.

The Administration Building is associated with an increased federal awareness of nationally significant sites, and marks the completion of an important period of acquisition and park development. A small attractive structure, the Administration Building makes use of many characteristic features of the Château style and is largely unaltered. Its decorative features are executed with sound workmanship and care. The building has housed the function of administration for National Battlefields Park from the time of its construction to the present. The building and its patterns of access remain unaltered by later additions or change of detail at the ground level.

The building is set just within the limits of National Battlefields Park at a location from which several of the key components of the Park can be viewed, and forms a link between the park and the commercial and residential district. The building offers a gradual transition between the city, and the hillocks and monuments of National Battlefields Park. Its scale is similar to that of nearby residences, but its design recalls the historic buildings of Québec. Seen by many visitors to the park who stop at the small information centre located in the rotunda, the building is a neighborhood landmark.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Administration Building resides in its clear evocation of the Château style on a scale which matches adjacent residences, in its materials and details, and in its site relationships.

A single storey stone structure with a steep bell-cast copper roof, decorative dormers and a round corner tower with conical roof, the Administration building is characterized by the asymmetry and visual interest of its massing. This effect is created by the

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angled entrance tower and the irregular placement of windows on all elevations. The composition and materials of this structure should not be altered.

Specific elements of the Administration Building which should be respected in any future renovation or restoration work include the contrast between rough stone walls and dressed voussoirs, lintels and sills; the arched entry; the location and materials of the windows, which are original; the light fixture over the front entry; the front stair and entry banisters; the copper roofing; and the finial, weathervane and dormers on the roofs. Re-construction of the chimney based on physical and documentary evidence is recommended to complete the integrity of the composition. Sash and storms should be retained and regularly repaired.

The interior layout has remained essentially unchanged, apart from modifications to the attic and relocation of washrooms. Any early interior trim and detailing, such as the terrazzo floor of the rotunda, should be identified and retained, as should major circulation patterns and points of entry.

The grounds are modestly landscaped. Any alteration of the grounds should be preceded by research into earlier landscape treatments for this site.

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