

92-38

Ottawa, Ontario

**Machine Shop (No. 4)**

Central Experimental Farm

**HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Machine Shop was constructed as the Dominion Observatory Machine Shop before 1917. It is assumed to have been designed by the Chief Architect's Branch of the Department of Public Works. There were two significant alterations, one in the late 1940s which extended the basement and one in 1974 which created a side addition. The custodian is Natural Resources Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 92-38.

**Reasons for Designation**

The Machine Shop was designated Recognized because of its historical associations, its architectural value, and its environmental and local significance.

The building is associated with the establishment of the Geodetic Survey of Canada, and with the history of astronomical research and development as the design site for a number of advanced astronomical instruments. The building is also associated with J.S. Plaskett, an internationally known astrophysicist and astronomer.

The Machine Shop is an example of the modest traditional materials and details used for service buildings at the Experimental Farm. It is compatible with the present informal complex of buildings associated with the Observatory Campus.

**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Machine Shop resides in its form, materials, architectural details, surviving interior layout, and relationship to the site and setting.

The building is an "L" shaped one-storey structure with a truncated-hip roof and deep overhanging eaves. The simple massing and roof profile should be maintained. The rectangular proportions and the evenly spaced repetitive window rhythms should not be altered.

The red brick walls on a concrete foundation are simply accented by limestone window sills. The main entrance is protected by an overhanging wooden gable supported on decorative brackets. This feature should be maintained for its picturesque quality in an otherwise simple, utilitarian design.

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**Machine Shop (No. 4)** (cont'd)

Based on photographs, the original windows were two-over-two double hung units appropriate to the modest domestic scale of the building. The current windows consist of large glazing panels without vertical muntins. When the existing windows and doors are at the end of their service life, they should be replaced with units that are compatible with the original design intent.

The early layout responded to the functional requirements of a machine shop by providing two open rooms. This layout should be maintained if possible. Any surviving period finish materials should be identified and retained, and the utilitarian character of the spaces protected in any rehabilitation work.

The immediate site has been modified, with asphalt replacing the simply manicured landscaping. Further increases of the asphalted area should be resisted.

95.07.31

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