

92-78

Kingston, Ontario
Bridge Office/Shop
Lasalle Causeway

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Bridge Office/Shop was constructed in 1947-48 to contain the offices and workshop of the personnel who oversee operation and maintenance of the adjacent bascule bridge. Designed by the Architectural Branch of the Department of Public Works, the building underwent renovations between 1983-86, including the changing of windows and doors and renewal of the stucco finish. The custodian is Public Works and Government Services Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 92-78.

Reasons for Designation

The Bridge Office/Shop was designated Recognized because of its environmental and local significance and its architectural importance.

The building is constructed on the Lasalle Causeway which is sited at the junction of two transportation routes, the land route along the St. Lawrence River, and the Rideau canal which links Ottawa with Lake Ontario. Together with adjacent site structures, the building enjoys a prominent location and contributes to the maritime character of the wharf site. It is familiar as a visible part of the complex of bascule bridge, wharf, and recreational waterfront.

The Bridge Office/Shop is a good example of the simple Classical Revival style building typical of the bridge houses and lockhouses which line the canal routes.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Bridge Office/Shop resides in its form, overall proportions, construction materials, surviving interior layout, and relationship to the site and setting.

The building is a simple two-storey rectangular structure with a medium-pitch hipped roof and a central chimney. The simple massing, rectangular footprint, and horizontal proportions are important to the design and should be maintained. The arrangement of the windows and doors on the principal facade creates domestic scale, balance, and symmetrical order. The placement and sizes of windows on the other elevations reflect a function-driven approach that is also integral to the character of the building.

The design of the building is characterized by simple lines and smooth finishes: stucco on concrete block, with slightly recessed windows and stone window sills. The large

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Bridge Office/Shop (cont'd)

expanse of roof is a prominent feature; when re-roofing is required, care should be taken to confirm the appropriate material and colour based on documentary evidence.

Based on the original drawings, the original windows were simple one-over-one double hung units. The existing replacement windows and doors have false muntin grilles which should be removed as they provide unwanted texture in what is a simple utilitarian design.

The interior layout has been maintained except for the creation of a new office over part of a former storage area. Original interior finishes on the upper floor should be maintained and incorporated in any rehabilitation.

The relationship of the building to its site and to the causeway has been maintained. The landscaped area is minimal and located to the front of the building. Plant materials should be low to maintain the uncluttered, functional character of the site.

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