

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
BARRACK BLOCK, BUILDING H21, DUFFERIN DRIVE
(CFB GAGETOWN) GAGETOWN, NB**

FHBRO Number: **01-062**
DFRP Number: **04089**
Resource Name: **Barrack Building H21**
Address: **Barrack Block, H21, Dufferin Drive (CFB Gagetown), Gagetown, NB**
FHBRO Status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1958**
Designer: **Department of National Defence**
Original Function: **Barrack**
Current Function: **Barrack**
Modifications: **New windows installed (1979) and major interiors upgrades (1977)**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Description of Historic Place

Barrack Building H21 is an imposing 250-man two-storey barracks block with a footprint in the shape of an E that features a monumental portico, a flat roof and modern classical architecture detailing. The large scale of the building dominates the site and is supported by the presence of large areas of flat grass. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

Barrack Building H21 is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value:

Barrack Building H21 speaks to the broad historical theme of the development of a full-time armed force in Canada in the Fifties. CFB Gagetown is especially germane to this theme because it was founded and built in one sustained campaign between 1953 and 1958. Barrack Building H21 is a convenient example of the theme of the development of a permanent peace-time military establishment after World War II. The building was part of an overall master plan for the base. It was constructed in 1957 before the opening of the base in 1958. The barrack is also a convenient example of the founding of CFB Gagetown, coming towards the end of the 1953-1958 building campaign. The construction of the first living quarters represents the founding of the community of Gagetown.

Architectural value:

Barrack Building H21 is an imposing building with good visual qualities and is a good example of Modern Classical architecture. Modernist influences are most visible in the minimal applied ornament, the flat roof, the negative corners and the horizontality of the design. This is a standard design much repeated across the country; the 250-man barracks was the second largest of a suite of standard barracks built in the Fifties and is a known example of the work of the Design Division, Directorate of Works, DND. The floor plan is typical of barracks buildings; it offers a very efficient and straightforward solution for the accommodation of 250 men.

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The efficiency of the original design is also evidenced by the fact that the floor plans have remained essentially unchanged, and the building remains in use as barracks to this day. The building construction demonstrates a solid and competent use of the building technology of the period. The use of stucco on bricks was a bit unusual for the time, however, the building has required very little maintenance over the years.

Environmental value:

Barrack Building H21's large scale and its placement in relation to two other imposing buildings, Barrack Building H23 and Barrack Building D23, create an effect of mutual reinforcement of the military character of the setting. The site is a strong cultural landscape consisting of a large expanse of flat grass carved from the forest with widely spaced buildings set in a very formal layout. Both buildings and landscape convey a very controlled character, which speaks of military culture. Despite the fact that there have been changes to the site over the years, the character of the site has been retained. Barrack Building H21 is well known in CFB Gagetown and in the larger area of Oromocto, of which CFB Gagetown is a part.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Barrack Building H21 should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the historical theme of the development of a full-time armed force in Canada in the Fifties, as reflected in:

- The standard design and scale of the 250-man barracks, the second largest of the suite of standard barracks being built at that time.

Its good aesthetic design with modern classical influences, its good functional design, and its good quality craftsmanship and materials, as manifested in:

- The symmetry of the main façade accentuated by a central monumental portico with projected columns and a recessed entrance;
- The emphasis on horizontality expressed in the long flat-roofed wings on either side of the entrance portico, and the stringcourses and continuous window sills;
- The use of minimal applied ornament such as the pilasters located in the portico to add some monumentality and decorative detail to the design;
- The recessed corners which add a vertical frame to the building's composition;
- The use of stucco to create a smooth, uniform exterior finish;
- The efficiency of its standard floor plan which has remained essentially unchanged;
- The use of simple, standard building details; and,
- The use of a distinctive material at the entry of the building such as the quarry tiles.

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The manner in which the building reinforces the military character of the setting, creates a strong cultural landscape and acts as a familiar neighbourhood landmark, as evidenced in:

- The building's siting on a large areas of flat grass carved from the forest with widely spaced buildings of very formal arrangement;
- The building's large scale and its placement in relation to two other imposing buildings, Barrack Building H23 and Barrack Building D23; and
- The continuous use of the Barrack Building H21 by a large number of people and its familiarity to military personnel.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. For further information contact FHBRO.

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