

Chambly, Quebec  
**Woodworking Shop**  
Chambly Canal

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The woodworking shop consists of six buildings built between 1883 and the early 1960s. Except for two sections which were built by the Department of Transport, all of the buildings were built by the Department of Railways and Canals. The buildings are presently owned by Environment Canada and are administered by the Canadian Parks Service. See FHBRO Building Report No. 89-05.

### **Reason for Designation**

The woodworking shop was designated Recognized because of its architectural significance as a service building and because it establishes the historic character of the workshop complex which services the Chambly Canal system.

The workshop function related to the operation of the Chambly Canal is entrenched in this particular site. It was traditionally a source of seasonal employment for the regional population and as a result, the complex is a familiar local landmark.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the woodworking shop resides in its composite form in its distinctive internal configuration.

The exterior of the building is marked by a dichotomy of style, expressive of the structure's evolution. Its form speaks to the transitory nature of many of the activities accommodated on the premises, while attesting to the permanence of the workshop function. It is important that the inherent diversity of construction techniques, of construction materials, and of architectural detailing be maintained.

The spaces on the interior are defined by the bearing walls of the individual sections composing the building. This basic configuration should be retained; any requirements for further subdivision should be met in a reversible manner. As is the case on the exterior, interior finishes and materials vary with the different sections, and all are utilitarian in nature. Any attempt to homogenize, or beautify, the appearance of the interior should be resisted.

The west wall of the 1883 section briefly served as an exterior wall, prior to the construction of the adjoining annexe. It is particularly significant because it has survived intact and contains valuable historic elements namely, a 24 over 24 sash window, diagonal wood sheathing, and a double, battened door which is replete with period hardware. Another noteworthy feature is the heavy plank flooring located on the second floor.

Consideration should be given to lowering the grade, providing positive drainage away from the building, and introducing a landscape treatment which would dissipate the runoff from the roof. These measures would favour the preservation of the base of the structure.

A small grouping of older, wood service buildings still stands at the east end of the property. Their presence acts as a foil to the modern influences on the site and enhances the heritage character of the workshop complex.