

## **FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT HYMAN HOUSE AND STORE, FORILLON NATIONAL PARK, QC**

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FHBRO Number: **01-66 a**  
DFRP Number: **05132**  
Resource Name: **Hyman House and Store**  
Address: **Forillon National Park, QC**  
FHBRO Status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**  
Construction: **1864**  
Designer: **Caron, carpenter**  
Original function: **Residence and store**  
Current function: **Open to the public for interpretation purposes**  
Modifications: **1918, store added; 1924, ground floor converted to storage space; 1980s, restoration, reconstruction of front porches and conversion to exhibit space**  
Custodian: **Parks Canada**

### **Reasons for Designation**

The William Hyman House and Store has been designated a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

#### Historical value

The Hyman House and Store is associated with the national theme of the cod fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which was the main activity and the driving force behind the Gaspé economy for several centuries. The building was built and inhabited by William Hyman who was an important historical figure in the region. A merchant and exporter, and an influential public figure, William Hyman owned and operated the company William Hyman & Sons which was a major contributor to the local economy. The Hyman House and Store was constructed during the mid-19th century when the fishery was booming and the settlement of Grande-Grave was growing, and as such, it illustrates the pivotal role played by cod exporters and merchants in the settlement of the region. As the boss's house and later a store, the building was the very heart of Grande-Grave, and it bore witness to the social structure that shaped the Forillon area.

#### Architectural value

The Hyman House and Store is a good example of vernacular architecture influenced by Neoclassicism. The building combines elements that are typical of Quebec and American house design, as well as features adapted to suit the particular constraints of the site, and specific functional requirements. The Hyman House and Store is an imposing two-storey building featuring verandas that run the full length of the southwest elevation, and that reflect its original use as a dwelling. Easily adapted to serve as a store and storage facility, it is a carefully crafted building that features fine carpentry detailing, particularly in the ground-floor store where the woodwork is still in excellent condition.

#### Environmental value

The Hyman House and Store reinforces the present character of Grande-Grave which still evokes the former settlement, and blends with the marine landscape of Forillon owing to its imposing size, its position on a bluff near the beach, and its visual connection with the neighbouring buildings. The Hyman House and Store remains one of a string of buildings along the coast that characterize the cultural landscape of the south shore

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of the Forillon Peninsula. Open to visitors, it is a highly visible landmark in the area and speaks to the presence of a former, traditional Gaspé coastal fishing village.

### **Character Defining Elements**

- The stylistic elements that make this building an interesting example of the influence of Neoclassicism on Quebec vernacular architecture including the refined massing of the main two-storey building flanked by an addition, the stone foundation that follows the topography of the site, the symmetry of the gable walls and the division of the other walls into five bays and, the verandas that run the full length of the south wall which were rebuilt when the building was restored;
- The components that illustrate the building methods and techniques that are specific to this vernacular neoclassical tradition, in particular the use of wood as a building material, the shingled roof, the white, painted, lap siding and the coloured exterior trim and, the multiple-light double-hung windows and the board panelling on the interior walls. The shingle siding of the east wall, which is more weather resistant, illustrates the adaptation of this tradition to the constraints of the site;
- The roof line with its bell-shaped eaves, a typical feature of 19th-century Quebec vernacular architecture that was somewhat popular in the Gaspé region;
- Features specific to use of the building as a store including the display windows, the signage and the recessed entry on the west elevation, the single space on the ground floor with its built-in furnishings (shelves and counters), and the partitions that speak to a vault and a root cellar in the basement;
- The great similarity of style, form and materials that creates the overall harmony of the buildings in Grande-Grave;
- The visual and physical link between the Hyman House and Store, the Warehouse, and the site with which it is historically associated as well as, the commanding view of the bay; and,
- The relationship of the house to its setting which consists of a rugged coastline, as well as its relationship to the beach and the spread-out settlement of Grande-Grave.

For guidance on interventions related to this building, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information, please contact FHBRO.

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