

## **FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT HYMAN WAREHOUSE, FORILLON NATIONAL PARK, QC**

---

FHBRO Number: **01-66 b**  
DFRP Number: **05132**  
Resource Name: **Hyman Warehouse**  
Address: **Forillon National Park, QC**  
FHBRO Status: **Recognized Building**  
Construction: **1865**  
Designer: **Caron, carpenter**  
Original Function: **Warehouse**  
Current Function: **Open to the public for interpretation purposes**  
Custodian: **Parks Canada**

### **Reasons for Designation**

The William Hyman Warehouse has been designated a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations and its architectural and environmental values:

#### Historical value

The Hyman Warehouse 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 Warehouse 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. Together, the Hyman Warehouse, and the Hyman House and Store were the very heart of Grande-Grave, and bore witness to the social structure that shaped the Forillon area.

#### Architectural value

The Hyman Warehouse is a good example of vernacular architecture influenced by Neoclassicism but differs from the house and store in that it has no elements related to public or domestic use. This simple building built into the slope of the site, has doors on each of its two separate storage levels. Designed to protect merchandise from the elements and support heavy loads, the Warehouse was carefully crafted as evidenced by its excellent condition.

#### Environmental value

The Hyman Warehouse 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 location beside the Hyman House and Store on a bluff near the beach, and its similarity with the neighbouring buildings. The Warehouse remains one of a string of buildings along the coast that characterize the cultural landscape of the south shore 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.

# FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT HYMAN WAREHOUSE, FORILLON NATIONAL PARK, QC

---

## Character Defining Elements

- The stylistic elements that make the building a good example of the influence of Neoclassicism on Quebec vernacular architecture including the refined massing of the building, which follows the topography of the site, and the symmetrical composition of the elevations;
- 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, the coloured exterior trim and the multiple-light windows;
- The roof line with its bell-shaped eaves, a typical feature of 19th-century Quebec vernacular architecture that was somewhat popular in Gaspé;
- Features specific to use of the building as a warehouse including the smaller openings, the versatile open spaces, and the bridge on the north elevation, which shows a clever use of the natural topography of the site;
- The exposed frame of the building, which was designed to carry heavy loads, in particular the wood curves where the beams meet the walls which are reminiscent of shipbuilding techniques;
- 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 Warehouse and the Hyman House and Store, the site with which they are historically associated, and the commanding view of the bay; and,
- The relationship of the Warehouse 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.

March 2002