

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT JOSEPH GAVEY HOUSE, FORILLON NATIONAL PARK, QC

FHBRO Number: **01-66f**
DFRP Number: **05132**
Resource Name: **Joseph Gavey House**
Address: **Forillon National Park, QC**
FHBRO Status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1865-1867**
Designer: **Unknown**
Original Function: **Residence**
Current Function: **Vacant**
Custodian: **Parks Canada**

Reasons for Designation

The Joseph Gavey House has been designated a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value

The Joseph Gavey House 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 home to one of the oldest families in Grande-Grave, the Gaveys, some of whom worked for the Fruing Company and were clerks for William Hyman & Sons. Its construction in the second half of the 19th century, a time of prosperity that also saw the expansion of Grande-Grave, illustrates the pivotal role played by cod exporters and merchants in the settlement of the region, and the social structure and economic dynamics that shaped traditional Gaspé fishing villages like this one.

Architectural value

The Joseph Gavey House is a good example of a vernacular form that is especially common in Gaspé, where Quebec domestic architecture is influenced by the design of the Neoclassical New England house. The building consists of a storey-and-a-half timber house, with a gable roof and facade with three openings, one of them a monumental entrance topped with a gable dormer. The building's distinctive style illustrates the preservation of a tradition in domestic architecture between the mid-19th and early 20th centuries, and is typical to many of the houses in Grande-Grave. Many of the characteristic elements of this neoclassical vernacular style can be found in both the layout and the elevations of the Joseph Gavey House, and its simple interior is constructed of durable, good quality materials.

Environmental value

The Joseph Gavey House reinforces the present character of Grande-Grave which still evokes the former settlement, and blends with the marine landscape of Forillon owing to its design which is compatible with other buildings in Grande-Grave, and to its siting which is well-integrated with the site's topography. The Joseph Gavey House is one of a string of buildings along the coast that characterize the cultural landscape of the south shore of the Forillon Peninsula. A familiar landmark in the area, the house speaks to the presence of a former, traditional Gaspé coastal fishing village.

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Character Defining Elements

- Features specific to this typical form of domestic architecture, such as the stone foundation which supports the raised frame of the house and follows the topography of the site, the balanced symmetry of the elevations, the roof line broken by a gable dormer, and the gallery running the full length of the façade and the gable wall;
- 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 white, painted, lap siding and contrasting exterior trim, and the interior woodwork;
- The interior layout which is representative of neoclassical houses and consists of four rooms around a centre hall on both floors;
- The attached summer kitchen and its projecting storm-enclosure located at the back of the building, which are a common feature of houses in Grande-Grave;
- 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 house and its outbuildings, the site with which it is historically associated. Its location amid fields and pastures also reflects the varied activities of fishermen-farmers; and,
- The relationship of the house to its setting which consists of a rugged coastline, as well as its relationship to 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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