

**FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE (FHBRO)  
HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

<b>FHBRO Number:</b>	<b>90-31 (Part IV: 1901-1920)</b>
<b>DFRP Number:</b>	<b>56522</b>
<b>Resource Name:</b>	<b>Nurses' Residence (Building No. 84)</b>
Address:	Grosse-Île, Québec
Construction:	1912
Original Function:	Duplex
Current Function:	—
Custodian:	Parks Canada
FHBRO Status:	"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building

**Reasons for Designation**

The Nurses' Residence was designated a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building primarily for its architectural qualities and its environmental significance.

**Historical Value**

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Canada's economic boom sparked a wave of immigration unprecedented in this country; the influx of immigrants put huge pressure on the human quarantine station on Grosse-Île. The historical value of the Nurses' Residence resides in its affiliation with the group of buildings erected in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to accommodate the growing number of patients held on the island. The house is part of the Grosse-Île and Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada.

**Architectural Value**

This one-and-a-half storey wooden house is in the "bungalow cottage" or "English cottage" style. At the beginning of the century, such cottages were quite rare in Quebec, although they enjoyed some popularity in the 1930s as the affluent suburbs grew. In the interim, they were built primarily in resort areas like Charlevoix and the Eastern Townships. The Nurses' Residence is unique in that it houses under a single roof two dwellings with reverse plans. It has also retained its formal features and many of its original components, which attests to the fine quality of the materials and techniques used at the time of its construction.

**Environmental Value**

The environmental value of the Nurses' Residence lies in its relationship with the laboratory (No. 81) and residences No. 77 and 79. These three buildings together form a significant complex, which not only defines the current character of the area, an extension of the village, but also illustrates the period of human quarantine on Grosse-Île.

## **Character-Defining Elements**

- Its “bungalow cottage” style, which comes from its gable roof with an imposing gable dormer providing for a roomier top floor; its wide covered verandah (on the front façade) and two sets of doors (front and back) highlighted by a small pediment; and the style of the doors (panels and small-light windows) and windows (shutters and small lights).
- The unique feature of this house – it contains two similar dwellings with reverse plans – is still visible in the symmetrical treatment of the building.
- Decoration and finishing elements that illustrate the style and techniques of residential architecture in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and their relative plainness, which reflects the social standing of the former occupants.
- The contrast in colours (corner boards and boards marking changes of material) and textures (smooth finish on the clapboard, rougher finish on the shingles) on the exterior of the building.
- Use of a different wood sheathing for each storey – the clapboard ends at the top of the windows, and shingles run above this point into the gables to the roof. This combination of shingles and clapboard was used to create the corbelling effect of half-timbered English cottages.
- The relationship between the house and its natural setting is almost intact.
- The relationship between the Nurses’ Residence, the Laboratory and residences No. 77 and 79, as these buildings form a small core of representative structures inextricably related to the period of human quarantine on Grosse-Île.

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

Prepared in February 2002

Edited in September 2002