

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Married Officer's Quarters (MOQ) was built in 1898 or 1898 to house the Superintendent and then the officers of the North West Mounted Police stationed at Fort Herchmer in Dawson City. It was used for this general purpose until after WWI, then from 1923 until 1945 as a radio station by the Canadian Corps of Signals. It then reverted to its original role as housing for RCMP officers until 1966. In 1981-82, the building underwent major rehabilitation and upgrading work by Environment Canada. The MOQ is now a part of Klondike National Historic Sites and is used as staff housing. Environment Canada is custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 87-68.

Reason for Designation

The MOQ was designated Recognized because of its close association with the NWMP and their role in the establishment of law and order during the Klondike Gold Rush and the exercise of Canadian sovereignty in the northern territories, and because of its important role in the development of the community. The building is one of only four surviving structures from the original Fort Herchmer complex. Collectively, this small group strongly reinforces and clarifies the character and previous role of the Government Reserve area.

In 1972, the building was designated of national historic significance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Character Defining Elements

Despite several alterations to accommodate its various uses, the exterior of the MOQ has remained largely unchanged. An addition in 1900 gave the building its present "L" plan.

The heritage character of the property is defined by its low-walled, low-pitched form (including the 1900 addition), the entirety of the exterior elevations, surviving original interior elements, and its setting in the Government Reserve in close visual proximity to two other early NWMP structures. These characteristics should be carefully protected.

The exterior walls are of the original peeled and saddle notched logs. It is essential that these be preserved and that great care be exercised in their maintenance.

The setting of the property, the Fort Herchmer complex, has been modified by the

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removal of most of the other NWMP buildings however, recent site development has clarified the relationship with the other surviving NWMP buildings. Future site development should endeavor to retain or even strengthen this connection rather than diminish it, through the use of historic precedent, compatible circulation patterns or plant material.

Continued use of the building as staff housing will ensure its long-term preservation and protection.

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