

Halifax, Nova Scotia
Halifax Citadel
North Expense Magazine
Halifax Defence Complex

The North Expense Magazine was constructed in 1863-1865 for the colonial garrison of the Imperial War department based at Halifax, under the command of Major General Hastings Doyle. The Expense Magazine, or more properly the Expense Cartridge Store, a splinter-proof structure sunk into the ramparts of the main work on the north front, was built to receive, store and issue made-up ammunition for rifled ordnance. The Magazine was the work of Lieutenant-Colonel Spencer Westmacott (1861-1866), a member of the Corps of Royal Engineers, who both designed and oversaw the construction. External modifications include: the restoration of the granite flagging and the one quarter turn flight of stairs in the areaway; the restoration of the cut granite coping of the area wall; and the re-sodding of the traverse (1980-1981). Internal modifications include: the breaking of a lamp recess in the partition wall (n.d.); the breaking of a ventilating hole at the top of the rear wall of the magazine chamber (n.d.); the bricking up of the original slotted ventilation openings in the walls of the magazine chamber (n.d.); the removal of the fittings and close boarding of the magazine chamber (n.d.); and the unblocking of the interior slotted openings (1980-1981). The North Expense Magazine is currently the property of Canadian Heritage. See EHBRO Building Report 95-01, Volume 1.

Reasons for Designation

The North Expense Magazine was designated Recognized because of the important theme it illustrates, the qualities of its functional design, and the integrity of the historical relationship between the building and its associated landscape.

The theme identified for the Magazine is the defence of the Imperial naval station during the period of heightened tension following the Trent affair of 1861, and the change in armament technology represented by the introduction of rifled ordnance. Taking the form generally adopted by the British military of the period, the North Expense Magazine constitutes an excellent example of expense cartridge storage in the rifled breach loading (RBL)/rifled muzzle loading (RML) era.

Faced with a complex program for ammunition handling (security under fire, direct and convenient access to the guns, a capacity for large receipts and issues, a dry and well ventilated interior, exterior introduction of lamps, segregation of magazine personnel etc.), the Royal Engineers involved in the construction of the Citadel selected and executed a magazine design of superior soundness and utility.

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The comprehensive restoration of the traverse magazine and ramparts of the north front in 1980-1981 largely recovered the 1869-1871 character of this area. As an integral component of the main body of the work, the North Expense Magazine has a strong, reinforcing influence on the military character of the Citadel.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Magazine resides in features expressing its specialized military function, designed for the receiving, splinter-proof storage and issuing of made-up ammunition for an open RBL or RML battery, as well as the storage of side arms, case shot etc. On the exterior, one of the features which defines the heritage character of this magazine is the secure placement and architectural treatment of the entrance. The magazine chamber is reached by descending a one-quarter-turn flight of stairs contained within a sunken areaway, passing through a door at one end of a thick front wall, traversing a shifting lobby and entering the magazine chamber by a door centered in an equally thick partition wall. As originally constructed the front and area walls are of granite ashlar with a cut granite coping. The outer door is double boarded oak hung in stone reveals and was to have been copper sheathed on the exterior face. Additional character defining features of this traverse magazine are the quarry or beach shingle packed against the outside to aid water in escaping and the sod finish laid header and stretcher alternatively over the drainage material.

The heritage character of the exterior would be best protected by regular repointing of the granite walling and flagging, monitoring the condition of the untrimmed sod covering and keeping the drains clear.

Internally the features which define the heritage character of this magazine are the specialized plan (three adjoining spaces, an areaway to accommodate the stair from the terreplein, a shifting lobby for changing from ordinary to magazine clothes and a magazine chamber for cartridge storage), the splinter-proof construction of the roof (a segmental profile brick vault, 2 feet in overall thickness, a layer of small flat bedded rubble of gable profile laid in mortar, a cement parging, and a 3/4 inch layer of "seyssal asphalte"), and the ventilating arrangement of the magazine chamber (slotted openings in the partition wall, connected by dry channels in the side and rear wall to slotted openings in the brick lining of the magazine chamber). Another feature which defines the heritage character of this expense cartridge store is the plan of the magazine chamber, a deep rectangular space, designed for cartridge shelving on each side wall

with a central passage for receiving and issuing.

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The heritage character of the interior would be best protected by monitoring the performance of the waterproofing over the brick arch, and stabilizing the humidity levels on the interior.

The historic relationship between the North Expense Magazine and its associated landscape on the north front has been enhanced and strengthened by the restoration of the parapet profile, traverse, chimneys and other features on the terreplein. The continued maintenance of these less-permanent elements will preserve the military character of this area.

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For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.
