

FHBRO Number 88-161

city of Québec, Québec

Former Expense Magazine

Building No. 42

La Citadelle, city of Québec

The former Expense Magazine (Building No. 42) was built between 1841 and 1855 from plans drawn up by the Royal Engineers. It was used to store a small quantity of ammunition and gunpowder for immediate use. The former Expense Magazine does not appear to have been altered over the years and is currently unused. Building No. 42 is located on the ramparts of Dalhousie Bastion above the Casemates. It is part of the Citadelle of the city of Québec, a national historic site. The building is owned by the Department of National Defence. Refer to FHBRO Report 88-161.

Reasons for Designation

Building No. 42 was designated a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its architectural and environmental value.

The former Expense Magazine is a small, one-storey masonry building with a roof that slopes gently down toward the back. Apart from the voussoirs of its unique door, its appearance is purely functional. Due to its materials, the former Expense Magazine is fully compatible with other Citadelle buildings.

The site of the former Expense Magazine has changed very little over the years. From a military standpoint, it can be said that this small building was well integrated into the other works at the Citadelle and enhanced the defence of the fortress, the Dalhousie Bastion in particular.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage value of Building No. 42 lies in its architectural form, its building materials and construction techniques, and its strategic placement.

The former Expense Magazine is a small, one-storey masonry building built on a rectangular plan and topped with a low-slope copper roof. The front walls of the building are covered with smooth limestone laid in regular courses. At the back, the stones have a more rustic surface and the coursing is irregular. This building is not very visible, as it partly blends into the ramparts. The only entrance, which is under a circular arch marked by stone voussoirs, fails to make one forget the building’s functional nature.

Using the former Expense Magazine for a purpose other than its original purpose should not jeopardize these formal characteristics. It is recommended that an ongoing maintenance program be established to ensure the longevity of remaining period

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materials. The door and door hardware should be based on originals in order to preserve the historical coherence of materials. It is equally important to ensure new replacement joints and stones blend seamlessly into the historical texture of the building and that they be compatible with the original spirit in terms of material, colour, profile and coursing.

The former Expense Magazine had one vaulted room, which was accessed by a stairwell that was also vaulted. The floor and the stone vaults were left bare, as were the brick walls. These architectural characteristics, which are an integral part of the original design, should be preserved. Any restoration of this building should respect the spare, functional appearance that presently exists. To improve air quality inside the building, the original ventilation holes that were later blocked-up could be reinstated.

This small utilitarian building was used to serve a very specific part of the Citadelle. Its heritage value thus lies to a large extent in its relationship with the site and the Casemates of the Richmond Bastion. For that reason, this part of the fortress should be altered as little as possible.

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

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