

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Powder Magazines
Fort Mississauga

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The two Powder Magazines were built in 1814, to designs by the Royal Engineers, as part of the development of Fort Mississauga. Since 1969, stabilization and repairs have been undertaken. The Environment Canada Parks Service is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 89-17.

Reasons For Designation

The Powder Magazines were designated Recognized because of their association with the defence of Upper Canada, for their functional design and materials, and for their contribution to the military atmosphere of the environment.

Fort Mississauga was built by the British, for the defence of Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake), after the destruction of Fort George in the War of 1812-14. The Powder Magazines were an important element in the fortification complex. They are associated with the defence of Niagara-on-the-Lake both during and after the War of 1812-14, and with the town's continuing economic development.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of these structures is defined by their defensive design elements, their massing and their craftsmanship.

The Powder Magazines are rectangular internally-vaulted brick structures, dug into the fortification earthworks on either side of the entrance gate. They are functional structures designed to store small easily-accessible amounts of powder and are bomb proof. The surviving brickwork is a good example of the careful craftsmanship exhibited by the Corps of Royal Engineers. Despite years of neglect, the brickwork remains in very good condition. The design details related to the structures' function as a powder magazine should be identified and carefully protected. Given the importance of the materials and craftsmanship to the heritage character of these structures, these elements should be carefully maintained and preserved.

Fort Mississauga overlooks the mouth of the Niagara River. The magazines and the surviving earthworks reinforce the military atmosphere of the site, and are a local landmark.

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