

FHBRO Number 88-161

Québec, Quebec

Former Powder Magazine (Building No. 15)

Museum of the Royal 22^e Régiment

The Citadel, Québec

The Former Powder Magazine was constructed in 1750 under the French Regime by Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry. It continued to be used as a powder magazine under the British Regime, although vents were pierced in the side walls to improve the ventilation, and a traverse was built along the south elevation so that the gable window could be kept open. At some point, a small vestibule and an addition were built on the north side. Between 1933 and 1935, the protective wall was demolished. Since 1949, the Former Powder Magazine has housed the Museum of the Royal 22^e Régiment. The structure and layout of the building have been preserved. The Former Powder Magazine is located in the gorge of the Prince of Wales Bastion. The building is part of the Citadel of Québec, a National Historic Site. It is owned by the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Report 88-161.

Reasons for Designation

The Former Powder Magazine, now the Museum of the Royal 22^e Régiment, has been designated “Classified” because of its historical significance, its fine design, the reputation of its designer and its environmental value.

Building No. 15 is associated with the defence of New France during the period of the Royal Government, from 1663 to 1759. The building is one of several constructed to enclose the southwest corner of Québec during the campaign of 1745 to 1759, the first major step toward establishing a permanent system of defence in Québec. It is important to note that it is one of the few buildings from the French Regime still standing in Québec.

The Former Powder Magazine is an outstanding example of a magazine based on the standard design developed by Vauban in the 17th century. It has retained most of its essential features, including the rectangular plan, the thick masonry walls, the counterforts, the gabled roof and the barrel vault. During the 40 years he spent in New France, Chaussegros de Léry was involved in all the major public works projects approved by the Royal Government. He was far and away the most prolific engineer in New France, and his many projects bear witness to his great expertise in military engineering. The Former Powder Magazine at the Citadel is one of only two buildings designed by Chaussegros de Léry that are still standing; the other is the New Barracks.

Owing to its value as an historic building from the French Regime and because it houses the Museum of the Royal 22^e Régiment, Building No. 15 is very well known. It is one of the main buildings in the Prince of Wales Bastion and one of the two structures mentioned by name on the HSMBC plaque commemorating the Citadel (located near the Dalhousie Gate).

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Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Former Powder Magazine resides in its functional design and its design as a defensive work, the building materials and techniques used, and the building's relationship with its location.

Rectangular in form, the powder magazine is a solid masonry structure the side elevations of which are bolstered by five large buttresses or counterforts. It is capped with a steep gable roof finished with sheet copper with batten seams. The original entrances and the windows in the north and south gable walls are still intact, although they are partially hidden by the additions. Some iron shutters still grace the small-pane windows. This architectural arrangement defines the heritage character of the building and must be respected.

The three additions, which slightly altered the original shape of the Former Powder Magazine, stand out because the regularly-coursed masonry contrasts with the fieldstone masonry of the main building. The traverse along the south elevation and the vents piercing the side walls are examples of the improvements to the building's ventilation made during the British Regime. These elements are part of the historic texture of the building and must be preserved.

In order to preserve the integrity of the Former Powder Magazine, no new openings should be made. The metal elements (old shutters and ironwork) should be rust treated. New joints and replacement stones should blend seamlessly into the historical texture of the walls, in keeping with the original design (material, colour, profile and bond). The style and manufacture of the windows, doors and roof should reflect the intentions of the designer so as to preserve the historical coherence of the building.

The original structure of the Former Powder Magazine is unchanged, but the interior has been adapted to its new use as the Museum of the Royal 22^e Régiment. The walls and barrel vault have been covered with a protective coating. The old walls should not be pierced for exhibit purposes; it would be better if the museum installations were kept separate from the historical fabric of the building (avoid using the windows as showcases, for example). Elements related to the original use of the building (iron shutters, etc.) should also be preserved, and items that are in storage (iron doors, for example) should be reinstalled to bear witness to the original function of the building. Good building ventilation is desirable in order to preserve the existing materials; modern lighting should be discreet. The installation of electrical and mechanical systems should respect the character and historic fabric of the building (the proliferation of electrical wires should be avoided).

The location of the Former Powder Magazine was chosen based on the principle that a magazine had to be built a certain distance from the town and the gorge of a bastion. To ensure that the relationship between the different components of the defence

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system is not lost, it is recommended that no buildings be built in the immediate vicinity. Landscaping and outdoor furnishings that would obscure the fundamentally military character of the site should also be avoided. Finally, interpretative signs should be discreet and separate from the building so as to preserve the integrity of both the magazine and the site.

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

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Translation