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FHBRO Number 88-161

city of Québec, Québec

**Former Armoury and former Powder Magazine (Building No. 2)**

Men's Barracks

La Citadelle, city of Québec

The building that formerly housed the armoury and the powder magazine was built around 1840. The plans were designed by the Royal Engineers and signed by Elias Walker Durnford in 1831. However, since construction of the building did not start until about 1840, it is likely that Lieutenant-Colonel John Oldfield approved the design. In 1949, the building was converted to barracks for military personnel as part of a restoration of the Citadelle. The interior was completely refurbished, and all elements related to the former uses disappeared; the wooden structural elements were replaced with a steel system. The exterior envelope underwent a number of changes, foremost among them the replacement of several loopholes with windows. Building 2 stands facing the parade ground near Building 14 across the throat of the Prince of Wales Bastion. It is part of the Citadelle in the city of Québec, a national historic site. The building is owned by the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Report 88-161.

**Reasons for Designation**

The former Armoury and Powder Magazine was designated a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of the importance of the historical theme with which it is associated, its architectural qualities and its environmental value.

Directly associated with the defence of British North America between 1839 and 1857, the building is more specifically associated with the first phase of improvements to the fortress (1839-1842), which came about as a result of the tension created by the 1837 Rebellion. The building's strategic position in the fortress made it possible to strengthen the line of defence on the southwest front.

Building 2 is an imposing masonry structure that reflects the “utilitarian” style, common to British military buildings constructed in Canada during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its fine state of preservation shows that it was constructed using quality materials and appropriate building techniques.

Because it stretches along the parade ground, the building is one of the most visible at the Citadelle. It thus strengthens the historical and military character of the site.

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**Character-Defining Elements**

The heritage value of the former Armoury and Powder Magazine is based on its architectural form, the materials and techniques used in its construction, and its relationship with the site and other buildings around the parade ground.

Building 2 is a long, rectangular, two-storey masonry building with a hip roof of sheet copper assembled with wood batten seams. A small addition was later built on the rear wall. The main façade of the building is very solemn, with small, multi-paned windows laid out in a regular grid. No additional decoration disrupts the military appearance of the building other than small porches added to mark the two entrances - the only entrance to survive the 1949 restoration. Because it is so regular and so lacking in ornamentation, the building fits the British concept of military buildings. It is recommended that the sombre appearance of the building be respected and preserved.

Originally, the lateral walls had no windows and the rear wall contained only loopholes. In 1949, the conversion of the building to barracks resulted in the creation of windows, and the remaining loopholes were blocked up. These changes to openings responded to requirements of the building's new use; they are part of the building's history and therefore should be preserved. However, it is still important to safeguard the loopholes (or traces of these original elements) that are still in place, as they convey the initial use of the building.

As in many other buildings at the Citadelle, the limestone of the main façade is smooth and even, in contrast to the side and rear walls, where the stone is rougher and laid in irregular courses. In some places, there are noticeable differences in the colour and texture of the stones, which create a decorative effect, which is foreign to the simplicity of the original design. In the future, it would be best to follow the sombre character of the original building. Replacement stones should be similar to the old ones in terms of material, colour, size and type of equipment. It is recommended to adopt a consistent approach for the maintenance of roofing materials, doors, windows and gutters. All of these elements play an important role in defining the architectural character of the building.

The original shutters and inner doors are gone, but some of the hinge-pins are still in place. These iron elements are cast in stone and should be preserved for their evocative influence; they should be rust treated to protect the integrity of the masonry.

The relationship between Building 2 and the parade ground, neighbouring buildings and

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the Prince of Wales Bastion is an integral part of the building's heritage value. It is therefore best to avoid altering the existing associated landscape, in particular by constructing new buildings. It would also be most respectful to avoid introducing any exterior furnishings that would compromise the military nature of the site.

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

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