

FHBRO Number 91-038

Québec, Québec

Dauphin Redoubt

Artillery Park

The Dauphin Redoubt in Artillery Park, was constructed in two phases. Work started in 1712, but then the original plans were amended, and it was not completed until 1747-48. Subsequently, alterations were made to suit its changing role. It was completely restored as a museum in 1974-75. Parks Canada is the current custodian of the Dauphin Redoubt, which is part of Artillery Park National Historic Site. See FHBRO Report No. 91-38.

Reasons for Designation

The Dauphin Redoubt has been designated Classified because of its historical and architectural significance and high environmental value.

The Dauphin Redoubt is a prime artifact of the history of the defensive system of the city of Québec, and, consequently, of Canada's military history. It also relates to a period in which pervasive military presence had an undeniable impact on the social and economic life of the city and its development.

As an excellent specimen of French classicism, the Dauphin Redoubt is considered one of the most valuable historic monuments of Old Québec. Because of its age and architectural characteristics, the reputation of its designers (Josué Boisberthelot de Beaucours and Gaspard Chaussegros de Léry) and the vital purposes it served, it occupies a special place in the nation's heritage.

The Dauphin Redoubt is the oldest and most imposing structure in Artillery Park. Now totally restored, it attracts tourists who enter the Saint-Jean Bastion. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recognized its historical significance in 1959. The historic Redoubt is located within Old Québec, and as such, is part of the World Heritage Town.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Dauphin Redoubt resides in features expressing the art of defence, together with classically inspired features. The west facade, joined to a bastioned wall, presents itself as a strictly defensive work. The east facade is designed along more classic lines, a character that was altered somewhat when the British Army added tall buttresses.

The Dauphin Redoubt consists of two sections which follow the rising terrain and have separate gabled roofs. It has been restored to the mid-19th century, with parged masonry walls, multi-paned windows, cut stone around the openings, wood-shingle-clad roof on the south section and metal-clad roof on the north section, which is a

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characteristic technique of historic Québec architecture. These shapes, materials and architectural details should be protected by a thorough upkeep program. The roofing pattern should also be retained, and future repairs executed by skilled metalwork craftsmen.

Inside the Redoubt, the vaulted rooms are an excellent example of stereotomy (the art of constructing vaults), which is typical of French classicism. These spaces should be retained as such. The same applies to what remains of the old plaster, which was left intact in the restoration. The chimneys, fireplaces, and cut stone around the openings also merit special attention. Any future work involving these old masonry components should be supervised by a conservation specialist.

New elements like floors, stairways and interior doors were given a contemporary treatment. The same principle should apply where modern equipment is required. However, all materials and forms used should be consistent with the historic decor and should not be conspicuous. Discreet heating and lighting systems are recommended. The same holds for furnishings and museum displays.

Owing to its heritage significance, the exterior grounds maintenance of the Dauphin Redoubt is of high quality and should continue as such. The low masonry walls should receive constant care, with pointing consistent with period methods.

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

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Translation